

The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +
www.pothc.org + www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset

LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



*Not a single sparrow
can fall to the ground
without your Father's
knowledge. Even all
the hairs of your
head are counted.
So do not be afraid...*

Matthew 10:29-31

Come and pray with us!

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time - June 21, 2020

Vision Statement: *Holy Cross is a vibrant Catholic community striving to maintain a spirit of welcome to all, serving as a guiding beacon to nourish and sustain prayer, work and play.*

We celebrate Eucharist

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM,

Saturday 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

(The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass are live streamed on Facebook.)

We are here for you!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann
Pastor, ext.115

Deacon Ralph Rivera
Pastoral Minister, ext.119

Mrs. Judith Pickel
Pastoral Associate, ext.116

Mrs. Michele Hahn
Pastoral Associate, ext.120

Mrs. Tricia Clarke, ext.112
Coordinator of Religious Education

Mrs. MaryAnne McCulloch, ext.113
Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mrs. Barbara DeStefano
Business Manager, ext.110

Mr. Brian Reich
Director of Music Ministry

Ms. Alexandra Roecklein
Youth Minister

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth
Parish Secretary, ext.122

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Music Minister

Mrs. Mary Pannone, ext.111
Religious Education Secretary
(hcreled@optonline.net)

Mrs. Barbara Shipman
P/T Asst. to the Pastor

Mr. Roberto Maza
Mr. Vincent Matula
Custodians

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra
Weekend Sacristan

Remembering Our Sick

Please pray for those in our parish who are sick, their families and caregivers:

Patricia Becker	George V. Daly
Manuela Diaz	Francesco DiMartino
Ann Egan	Sienna Fricke
Phil Graziouse	Bob Grieco
Chuck Madden	Joseph Santamaria
Marlene Starr	Judy Viskupic

If you would like to have the name of your loved one listed in our prayers for the sick, please contact the Parish Office at 631-265-2200 x122 or email to pothc@optonline.net.

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of June 21st, 9AM Mass

Mon. Damien Pickel
Tue. Walter Kramps
Wed. Marie Ulrich
Thu. Victor Lamarque

Saturday, June 27th, 5 PM Mass

Maryann Follo, Nell Cangiano, Eileen Kamine, Adrienne Reilly

Sunday, June 28th, 13th Sun. in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM Reverend Leslie Calaco, Christopher Cotter, Patricia Roecklein
11:30 AM Josephine & John O'Shea



Scripture Readings for June 28, 2020



+ 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16
+ Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
+ Matthew 10:37-42

The Bread and Wine for the week June 21-27 have been donated in loving memory of
Joseph Pellechi Jr.
by the Whitehead family.



“MY AIRCRAFT”

by Father Michael

These were the words spoken by Captain Chesley Sullenberger on January 15, 2009 after his aircraft was hit by multiple birds shortly after take-off from LaGuardia Airport. Both engines were rendered inoperable, and he faced a situation that had never before been anticipated. At the time of the bird strike, it was the co-pilot who was in command of the aircraft. Within a matter of seconds, Captain Sullenberger assessed the severity of the situation. He understood he needed to consciously take control of what was happening, and so he dutifully said, “my aircraft.” This was his role, and this was a moment he was needed like no other. This flight, of course, came to be known as the “Miracle on the Hudson.”

It was this quote that began my entry in my spiritual journal (purposely echoing his words) on the evening of March 16. I suppose more accurately, I could have said “my parish.” I was in my house, sitting in front of the fireplace, still trying to process the news of the day. The most challenging part of this was looking at the many details of the memo I received from the Diocese: all public Masses cancelled, Holy Week and Easter not to be publicly celebrated, no other Sacraments to take place. Never in all my years would I have imagined a scenario like this. I knew it was going to be hard on everyone, but I also had a sense this would be a situation that could be successfully navigated.

I will look back on these months as the finest days of my priesthood. Never before did I ever feel the power of the gift of priesthood that was entrusted to me to this extent. Never before did I feel the full impact of a shepherd who needed to spiritually guide his flock through a crisis. In some ways I was ill equipped to deal with this crisis. My technological skills are minimal at best, but the internet was now the frontline of ministry. And how ironic that these memorable days of ministry were mostly done apart from physical presence from most of the people I was serving. Yes, I had my share of scary and rough days (a few of which I shared with you.) But the overwhelming experience was that God was giving me an energy and focus I had never had before. Homilies were coming from a deep place that went far beyond me.

It’s funny how the circumstances of life unfold. If this had happened three years ago, much of my energy and effort would have gone to caring for my mother. I’m grateful that she never had to face this crisis. I’m sure she would have once again tapped into the wellspring of courage that was part of her character, and she would have done what was necessary. But not having her to focus on gave me enormous freedom to care for the people of Holy Cross. I cannot tell you how many times I felt her presence cheering me on and saying, “You can do it.”

Continued on Next Page

“MY AIRCRAFT” continued

The only words Captain Sullenberger spoke to his passengers was a very ominous announcement, “Brace for impact.” Happily, I never had to make an equivalent proclamation for us. Rather, it was our communication that kept us on track and moving forward. I don’t think I ever dealt with as many texts, e-mails, and phone calls as I did during those months. (Who knew Zoom meetings would become a tool of ministry?) But it was in conversations that I came to appreciate the many ways in which this crisis was impacting people. Understanding the circumstances allowed me to try to respond in some way that would bring some comfort and hope. I can’t tell you how many times your words kept me focused and on track. There truly was a mutuality in this experience of giving and receiving. That is where we found our life.

The passengers on flight 1549 had a terrifying experience; a 90-million dollar aircraft was destroyed, but every soul walked off that plane. It has been a scary and trying ride for us, but we made it this far. Forty-two years of flying experience allowed “Sully” to make one unforgettable 3-minute flight. For me, 31 years of priesthood and 58 years of life led up to these incredible months.

I realize this is not a perfect analogy. Captain Sullenberger was unmistakably a hero who stood out. I am not trying to make myself out to be a hero. Look around; truly heroic works were done by countless people during these months: health care providers, educators, parents, essential workers, and the list could go on and on. When he used the words “my aircraft,” he did not intend to convey ownership, rather that phrase clarified his role and duties. I fully understand it is not “my parish,” but I needed to state for myself my role and my responsibility.

In subsequent interviews, Sully said he had a feeling that as seemingly dire his situation was, he believed it could be negotiated to have a successful outcome. On that scary March evening, I had a wave of confidence that came from deep within that said we would get through this. Not only would we survive, but somehow it would be a moment of grace where the power of our faith would be proven. Now that we are out of the worst of this crisis, I hope you look back and understand how the Spirit was at work in your life. Some people had tremendous burdens to bear, others may have been more removed from the front line, but that does not mean that a deep inner resolve and strength wasn’t needed to negotiate these long and scary days.

Thank heavens, the worst seems to be behind us. But, as we move forward, let us not lose sight of those moments when the mystery and gift of God’s grace was at work. We may be a bit worn from the journey, but for most of us we are a bit more grateful, wiser and holier. The journey continues . . .

LOOKING BACK

In the middle of March, when we were beginning to hear of Covid-19 and its implications, Fr. Michael suggested keeping a “Coronavirus Journal.” I have used a prayer journal for many years, but since it seemed we were heading into unusual times, I decided another journal would be a good idea.

My journal begins on March 15, the last time Mass was open to the public. The Bishop had just granted a dispensation from Sunday Mass obligation, so attendance was light. While Mass was beautiful (Fr. Michael preached a moving homily, Brian sang “Holy Darkness,” and we heard, “All will be well, and all will be well; all manner of things will be well” as our response to the petitions for the first time), there was a sense of uncertainty in the air. I tried to embrace “All will be well...” as my prayer.

Shortly thereafter, the Pastoral Team was faced with the blow of no public celebrations for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Fr. Michael’s creativity kicked into high gear, and while we had to meet via Zoom, we were relieved that we would still celebrate those holy days, albeit very differently. Ideas were tossed around, plans were made; our team had never felt stronger. The Holy Spirit truly was at work, inspiring and strengthening us. “Come, Holy Spirit” was my prayer.

Then, on March 30, I received news that my son had died of an aneurysm at his home in Maine. All the trials of the pandemic became magnified. My heart was broken; I couldn’t go to Maine, couldn’t gather with family and friends, couldn’t have a wake and funeral. But I could let those close to me know what had happened, and I could receive their love through calls, cards, prayers, food and flowers. Somehow, through God’s grace and the support of all those people, I was able to face each new day. My prayer became, “Jesus and Mary, please help me.”

April and May brought fresh challenges. I made a Good Friday video for the children (a first for me!) and wrote for the bulletin each week. I made phone calls to parishioners, met virtually with folks for Spiritual Direction, participated in Zoom meetings with the Team and my diocesan colleagues, did research, and offered support wherever I could. As our ministries held on to hope, I prayed, “God, you are my strength.”

Now, into June re-opening, my journal ends. What a gift it has been, a true record of an extraordinary three months. But, more importantly, as I re-read it, I can clearly see how God was at work. Sometimes in the moment, that’s hard to recognize. But, in my “Coronavirus Journal,” God jumps out on every page. God was always right there with us, with me. So now my prayer is, simply, “Thank you.”

I pray that, even if you didn’t keep a journal, you can look back and see the same—your ever-faithful God.

Jude Pickel

But you, O Lord,
are a God
merciful and gracious,
always patient and
abounding in steadfast love
and *faithfulness.*

Psalm 86:15



LITURGY BYTES

“We will go to the house of the Lord.....”



From Psalm 122, the psalmist is full of joy at his arrival in the Holy City of Jerusalem. I could not help but think of the above words, as we gathered for Mass last weekend. I am sure most of us were rejoicing in our own way, smiling and waving with our masks on, while maintaining social distance as we moved about the Church.

We were home to celebrate in prayer, whether single, couple or with family, to join our extended Church family after these twelve long weeks.

We learned and observed quickly how the new normal was to be for us, going forward as a community of believers: processions, presentation of the gifts, the sign of peace not being part of our liturgy at this time. Even the reception of Holy Communion would now take place at the conclusion of Mass along with some specific instructions for us to learn in our new normal experience of Sunday Mass.

The spirit was hard to contain as we delightfully embraced Our Lord, once again, in the Eucharist with thankful, happy hearts!

Thank you to one and all who served, assisted, and celebrated at our two re-opening liturgies last weekend. May we continue to rejoice with one another in the house of the Lord.

Have a blessed week~~~~~*Michele Hahn*

PARISH NEWS

Special Collection

Next weekend is the collection for **Peter's Pence**. The collection is the way we unite ourselves to the concerns of the Holy Father as members of the Catholic Church. Through the Peter's Pence Collection, we stand in solidarity with Pope Francis as he reaches out to foster the faith and dignity of people on the margins.

Envelopes may be mailed to Holy Cross, placed in the drop box in our courtyard or basket in the atrium. Thank you for your continued support!

Banns of Marriage - First Time

Yenny Valdes & Philip Claire



Second Time

Angie St. Cloux & Kenneth Orilus
Justine Scheller & James Lang

Thank You!

We would like to extend a very big



to Il Trio Restaurant,
292 Smithtown Boulevard, Nesconset,
for the donation of breads for the Solemnity of
the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

A drive through blessing and bread were given
to each parishioner who drove up last Sunday
between the hours of 10-11AM.

Also, we would like to thank parishioners,
Judy Sykes and Tom Hartin,
who helped our maintenance crew
paint the Worship Area. The church was clean
and freshly painted to welcome back
parishioners last weekend!

Thank you to all!

THE PARISH OFFICES ARE CLOSED: Please call the Parish Office, and we will assist you in any way we can.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER: Mon.-Fri. 9 AM-4 PM

WE CELEBRATE RECONCILIATION: Wednesdays after 9:00 AM Mass & Saturdays from 3:00 PM-4:00 PM or call Father Michael for an appointment.

WE CELEBRATE BAPTISM: Baptisms are generally celebrated twice each month at 1 PM. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

WE CELEBRATE WEDDINGS: Couples should contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date.

FATHER'S DAY MASS REMEMBRANCES

in Memory of...

CHARLES INGHILTERRA	WILLIAM RAMMELKAMP	JOHN J. DALY	HOWARD ALDERDICE
MICHAEL O'GRADY	CARL WOLFARTH	HENRY J. KNIPPER	ARTHUR SICARI
TERRENCE O'GRADY	JOSEPH MARINELLI	PETER V. MILITELLO	SANTO SICARI
HAROLD W. BURGER	ARTHUR J. RIVERS	ANTHONY MAGGIO	CHARLES TORTI
RONALD RAGNO	GEORGE VETTER	JOHN MARONEY	JAMES DIKEMAN
VINCENT DESTEFANO	WALTER V. KUCZWAJ	HARRY LANDINI	JOHN JOST
BENITO TUCCI	EDMUND MAKOWSKI	VINCENZO MAGGIO	RICHARD P. CANALINI
CHARLES SIMS	JOSEPH PELLECHI JR.	FRANK GIAMBANCO	NICHOLAS CANALINI
LAWRENCE ZELTMANN	VINCENZO CHIARELLA	JOSEPH VITALE	ANTHONY CARACCILO
MICHAEL SIMONETTI	JOHN SLEVIN	NICK DIGIOVANNI	MICHAEL TERRANOVA
GIOVANNI GRASS	THOMAS SLEVIN	GENE DOHERTY	THOMAS BROPHY
VINCENT SERRANTONIO	VITO LIGABO	RUBEN VAZQUEZ	LUDWIG SCHWARZ
ROBERT RICCARDI	PIETRO DRAGOTTA	RAYMOND CONWAY	ANTHONY MISITI
VINCENT BRUNO	FRANK PERRINO	WILLIAM CONWAY	JAMES CONNOR
CHARLES G. SCHREIBER	PETER LIPNICKI	HAROLD BIRKINS	WARREN COTTER
LAWRENCE TSCHUMI	KEVIN, BRIAN & HAROLD	NICK MELILLO	JAMES LECHNER
FRANK MARINO	O'HANLON	DAN MARTURANO	HAROLD BUDREO
HERBERT EANNAcone	JOHN M. SCHULTZ	DOMINICK TANZOLA	FRANK FISCINA
FRANK MESSINA	JOHN D. O'SHEA	GEORGE MARINO	ANTHONY FUMAI
DOMENICK ABBATE	DENNIS TRAVERS JR.	FRANK PERRINO JR.	JAMES BRENNAN
TERRENCE MAY	DENNIS TRAVERS SR.	FRANK PERRINO SR.	HARVEY REID
PATRICK KELLY	THURMAN THESTRUP	CHARLES ITALIANO	FRANK REID
LUIS E. FORERO	FRANK SALEMI	FRANK PUPPA	FRANK KELLY
PAUL & TED KRUK	PHIL HOOS SR.	PETER LEPTICH	JOSEPH PAPPALARDO
EDWIN MORRIS	WILLIAM T. FORD	STEPHEN REILLY	CARLO PAPPALARDO
BRUNO CJ SANTINA	HARRY RENCK	MICHAEL BALZER	THOMAS MATULA
GEORGE GROBLUSKI	DOMINICK TESTA	JOSEPH REILLY	MICHAEL TERRANOVA
RONALD DANDREA	ANTHONY DEVITO SR.	BENVENUTO MONACO	THOMAS BROPHY
WILLIAM HENRY	ANTHONY DEVITO JR.	PAUL COLLURA	JIM WINBERRY
JOHN MCCULLOCH	DONALD STEVENSON	WILLIAM SCHNURR	JIMMY WINBERRY
ROCCO CAROFANO	GERALD GRIFFIN	STEPHEN BURSKY	ALFRED ZACCARIA
VITO MINERVA	ROBERT TAVIS	MR. O. DESANTO	ALBERT ZACCARIA
ALBERT MASANGYA	SONNY GARCIA	MR. G. GARGIULO	FRANK WINBERRY
COSIMO CELAURO	NICHOLAS LAMB	WILLIAM HARRIS	VINCENT MATTERA
HAROLD KOHLER	WILLIAM MCQUADE	GEORGE VAN EPPS	JOHN M. SCHULTZ
CHRIS VASILUTH	JAMES CAIN	SONNY GARCIA	JOHN D. O'SHEA
FRANK FERRANDINO SR.	JOSEPH F. DUMINUCO	RAYMOND FICHTER	PHIL DENOBREGA
FRANK SCHIAVONE	GEORGE A. SOTTUNG	GEORGE PRUDENTI	ANGELO NAVARRA

Happy Father's Day in Honor of...

SANTO MINUTOLI	JOE CANGELERI	CHRIS ARK
DENNIS J. KNIPPER	RICHARD LAMB	PETER EMERSON
JOSEPH DUMINUCO	GARCIA MEN	JIM EMERSON
ROBERT SOTTUNG	DAVID P. MALONEY	ED MODZEL
		JOSE JIMENEZ



PARISH OUTREACH

WE ARE LIVING THROUGH VERY HARD TIMES, BUT THERE ARE SERVICES AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE.
WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.

SUFFOLK RESOURCES

Suffolk County General Assistance/Suffolk Cares: 3-1-1

LEGAL SERVICES

The Touro Law Center Helpline can help answer legal questions and give referrals to qualified legal counsel. To speak with an attorney, please call:

631-761-7198

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

If you are experiencing family or domestic violence, there are a number of organizations in Suffolk ready to help today.

LIADV- 631-666-8833
The Retreat- 631-329-2200
Crime Victims Center- 631-689-1800
Brighter Tomorrows- 631-395-1800
VIBS- 631-360-3606
SEPA Mujer- (833) SMAYUDA

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Assoc. for Mental Health & Wellness Helpline is available to all Suffolk residents and can provide info and referrals to resources for anyone living with mental illness, their families, and service providers.

631-471-7242 x2

APPLY FOR SNAP

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), also known as food stamps can provide financial support for purchasing groceries. To learn more or to apply today, please call:

516-505-4437

APPLY FOR WIC

The WIC (supplemental nutrition for Women, Infant & Children) Program access to free healthy food, formula, and services for women & children up to age five, including nutrition counseling & breastfeeding support. To apply, call the Growing Up Healthy Hotline:

1-888-522-5006

APPLY FOR HEALTH INSURANCE

At HWCLI, our certified navigators can help you enroll in free or low-cost health insurance plans through the NY State of Health Marketplace. If you have questions about your insurance or are interested in applying, please call:

516-505-4426

CHILDCARE SERVICES

If you have questions, or to be connected with a qualified provider, call the Child Care Council of Suffolk at:

631-462-0303

APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

If you have lost your job due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you can apply for unemployment benefits by calling:

1-888-209-8124

COMPLETE THE 2020 CENSUS!

The funding that Long Island receives to support many of these resources depends on a full, fair, and accurate Census count. Don't miss out on the chance to be counted – everyone counts, and we are counting on you to fill out the Census today!

BY PHONE: 844-330-2020 ONLINE: MY2020CENSUS.GOV

QUESTIONS? WE ARE HERE TO HELP.
516-483-1110 • LIVOAD@HWCLI.COM • HWCLI.COM

LIVOAD Long Island Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster **HWCLI** a program of Health & Welfare Council of Long Island

Upcoming Workshop

**Online School of
Missionary Disciples
Information Sessions**

Zoom

Tue, June 23, 2020
at 10:00 a.m.
Wed, June 24, 2020
at 7:00 p.m.
Mon, June 29, 2020
at 10:00 a.m.

**Seminary of the
Immaculate
Conception**

Saturday, June 27 at
11:00 a.m.

**Escuela de
Discípulos Misioneros
Sesiones Informativas**

Zoom

Martes, 23 de junio,
2020 a las 7:00 p.m.
Miércoles, 24 de junio,
2020 a las 7:00 p.m.
Lunes, 29 de junio, 2020
a las 10:00 a.m.

**Seminario de la
Inmaculada
Concepción**

Sábado 27 de junio,
2020 a las 11:00 a.m.

**Summer Virtual
Basic Religious
Studies Course Series**

Zoom

Old Testament

June 29 – July 2, 2020
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

New Testament

June 29 – July 2, 2020
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Christology

July 6 – July 9, 2020
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Church

July 6 – July 9, 2020
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sacraments and Liturgy

July 13 – July 16, 2020
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Morality

July 13 – July 16, 2020
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Catechist Training
Level I**

Zoom

Mon, July 13,
Wed, July 15,
Mon, July 20,
and Wed, July 22, 2020

Morning

10:00 a.m.
to 12:00 p.m.

Evening

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Building Intercultural
Competences for
Ministers-BICM**

Zoom

July 14, 16, 21, 23
and 28, 2020

Morning

10:00 a.m.
to 12:00 p.m.

Evening

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Desarrollando
la Capacidad
Intercultural para
los Ministerios-BICM**

Zoom

14, 16, 21, 23 y 28 de
julio, 2020

Mañana

10:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m.

Tarde

6:00 p.m. a 8:00 p.m.

**Catechist
Training Level II**

Zoom

Mon, July 27,
Wed, July 29,
Mon, Aug 3,
and Wed, Aug 5, 2020

Morning

10:00 a.m.
to 12:00 p.m.

Evening

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



www.cffor.org

**Celebrating "Religious Freedom
Week" - June 22-29**

*The Christian Roots of America's
Longing for Liberty*

In the 17th century (1600s), many of the British North American colonies that eventually formed the United States were settled by men and women who, in the face of European persecution, refused to compromise passionately held religious convictions and fled Europe. The colonies of NJ, PA, and MD were conceived and established "as plantations of religion." While some settlers came for secular reasons, the great majority left Europe to worship God in the way they believed to be correct. They enthusiastically supported the efforts of their leaders to create "a city on a hill" or a "holy experiment," whose success would prove that God's plan for his churches could be successfully realized in the American wilderness. ⁽¹⁾

In 1634, a mix of Catholic and Protestant settlers arrived from England at St. Clement's Island in Southern Maryland. They came at the invitation of the Catholic Lord Baltimore, who had been granted Maryland by the Protestant King Charles I. While Catholics and Protestants were killing each other in Europe, Lord Baltimore imagined Maryland, Maryland in honor of Queen Henrietta Marie, as a society where people of different faiths could live together peacefully. Maryland's 1649 Act Concerning Religion, also called the "Toleration Act," was the first law in our nation's history to protect an individual's right to freedom of conscience. ⁽²⁾

Maryland's early history teaches us that, like any freedom, religious liberty requires constant vigilance and protection, or it will disappear. Maryland's experiment in religious toleration ended within a few decades. The colony was placed under royal control, and the Church of England became the established religion. Discriminatory laws, including the loss of political rights, were enacted against those who refused to conform. Catholic chapels were closed, and Catholics were restricted to practicing their faith in their homes. The Catholic community lived under these conditions until the American Revolution. ⁽³⁾

(Library of Congress/Religion & the Founding of the American Republic (1); USCCB/Our First, Most Cherished Liberty(2)(3)