

# The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +

[www.pothc.org](http://www.pothc.org) + [www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset](http://www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset)

**LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!**



**Come and pray with us!**

**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 25, 2019**

**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 A.M. (Chapel)

Saturday: 5:00 P.M.

Sunday: 8:00 A.M. + 9:30 A.M. + 11:30 A.M.

**WE CELEBRATE RECONCILIATION**

Saturday: 3:45 P.M.—4:30 P.M.

or call Father Michael for an appointment.

**WE CELEBRATE BAPTISM**

Baptisms are generally celebrated twice each month at 1 P.M. 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.

# We are here for you!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net  
Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (closed 12:15-1:00 PM)

## PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann  
Pastor

Deacon Ralph Rivera  
Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Judith Pickel  
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Michele Hahn  
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Tricia Clarke  
Coordinator of Religious Education

Mr. Brian Reich  
Director of Music Ministry

Mrs. Mary Anne Mc Culloch  
Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Ms. Alexandra Roecklein  
Youth Minister

## PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth  
Parish Secretary

Dr. Vincent Mazurek  
Music Minister

Mrs. Mary Pannone  
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

## Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses



### Aug. 31st/Sept. 1st

5:00 PM	Fr. Michael
8:00 AM	Fr. Michael
9:30 AM	Fr. Michael
11:30 AM	Fr. Michael

## Mass Intentions Schedule



### Week of August 25th, 9AM Mass

<b>Mon.</b>	Donald Stevenson
<b>Tue.</b>	Rosemarie Grandilli
<b>Wed.</b>	Bob DeFilippis
<b>Thu.</b>	Claire Higgins

### Saturday, August 31st, 5 PM Mass

Jacquelyn Saltarella, Kathy Boncimino, Dave O'Riordan, Neil Gillis, Denise Lamarque

### Sunday, Sept. 1st, 22nd Sun. in Ordinary Time

<b>8:00 AM</b>	People of the Parish
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Kathleen Hughes
<b>11:30 AM</b>	Rosa Savino, Pasquale Savino, Antonio DeCandia, James Wilcenski, Irene McGuire

## Remembering Our Sick

*Almighty and Eternal God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You...*

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

<b>George V. Daly</b>	<b>Phil Graziose</b>
<b>Doreen Hau</b>	<b>Joseph Santamaria</b>
<b>Marlene Starr</b>	

If you would like to have the name of your loved one listed in our prayers for the sick for 4 weeks, please contact the Parish Office at 631-265-2200 or email to [pothc@optonline.net](mailto:pothc@optonline.net).

## Scripture Readings for September 1, 2019



- + Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
- + Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24
- + Luke 14:1, 7-14

# In the Final Stretch

*by Father Michael*

We are coming into the final days of summer vacation. There is still time to accomplish a few more of your summer “hopes and desires.” But, before you know it the kids will be heading back to school. Enjoy these days, because not too far down the road there will be cold weather and snow to complain about.

Thank you to all of you who participated in the Parish Outreach back to school program. Sixty children received the supplies they needed to return to the classroom for a new year. Additional supplies were passed along to other organizations so that they could be distributed to those in need.

My official playtime is finished for the summer. I had two great travel opportunities. (Plus, the unexpected family funeral journey to North Dakota that I wrote about last week.) The first trip was back in May on the parish adventure to Niagara Falls and Toronto. We went to some fascinating places and had lots of laughs and good times along the way. The most recent jaunt was the cruise I just completed with some of my friends. The weather was hotter than blazes, the ports were less than exciting, but we had a grand time. Good food, relaxation, a drink or two, and time to talk and smile can make for a great vacation when you are with good friends. Both of these trips were great blessings. I hope you had some life-giving times with family and friends as well.

Although we are still in the midst of summer vacation, that does not mean that all activity within our Religious Education Office is on hold. During these two weeks we are celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with our (156) students who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on September 26. This is the final preparation for young people who have been preparing for at least two years. At Holy Cross, Confirmation is celebrated for most as they begin their first year of high school.

One of the many aspects of parish life is our liturgy. We have a Liturgy Committee that faithfully tends to preparing for the various liturgical seasons and special celebrations. While we have a faithful group of parishioners who assist in this work, we are hoping to expand the group of those involved. As you recall, I wrote about us adding Michele Hahn as a part-time member to the Pastoral Team. One of the areas of parish life with which she will be involved is liturgy. Please look for her articles in the bulletin and other opportunities for parishioners to assist in enhancing our liturgical life. More to come on this.

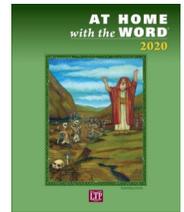
Enjoy these days leading up to the Labor Day Weekend.

# PARISH NEWS



The Parish Office is closed on Monday, September 2nd, for Labor Day. There is a 9:00 Mass Monday morning.

If you would like to purchase a 2020 *At Home with the Word* book, please sign up in the hallway by the Parish Office.



## Anointing of the Sick

In the past, people received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick only when they were gravely ill. However, the Church believes that the Anointing of the Sick should be experienced while we are still able to be aware of God's peaceful presence within us.



You are strongly encouraged to receive this Sacrament if you are having upcoming surgery, are dealing with a chronic or debilitating illness, are suffering from addiction, mental health issues or frailty.

On the first Sunday of each month, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered after the 9:30 AM Mass. **Sunday, September 1st, is the next date the Anointing will be offered.**

## A Friendly Reminder from Religious Education

We are now in the process of setting up classes for our 2019-2020 Religious Education Program.

It is **important** that we have a **registration form for each child** so that they are guaranteed placement in their previous class.

If you haven't registered yet, please do so **ASAP**. Thank you!



## Golden Wedding Liturgy

This fall, couples that have been married fifty years or more will be honored at a liturgy on Sunday, November 3, at Maria Regina RC Church in Seaford. Mass will begin at 2PM. Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski will preside.

Registration forms and complete instructions can be obtained at your Parish Office. Space is limited; registration will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

If you have any questions, please call **516-678-5800 ext. 223**.

# ATTENTION MINISTRY FOLKS



**Diocesan Congress Day –**  
Sat., 9/14 at St. John the Baptist H.S., West Islip

*(Workshops being offered for various parish ministries beyond Religious Ed.)*

A day of fellowship, prayer and learning, including lunch, from 8:30AM to 3PM.  
Check out the workshops at:

[www.drvc.-faith.org](http://www.drvc.-faith.org)

Look for the Congress day information, then contact us to register. If you are one of the first ten interested in attending, the parish will pay the registration fee for you. Workshops will cover Scripture, pastoral music, liturgy, annulments, bereavement, parenting, and youth ministry. Please call the Parish Office today.

## Who Will...join our Flower Garden Ministry?



### To Plant or Not to Plant?

We recently received an estimate for extending our irrigation system to include the area around the signs on Nichols Rd as well as by the entrance driveway. It would be my hope to improve this area by doing seasonal plantings. Having a water supply would be crucial in maintaining any kind of garden. But, in addition to the sprinklers we would need helping hands to plant and maintain these beds. Do you have a green thumb? Would you like to help the parish in this project? If so, please let us know. I do not want to proceed with the expense of sprinklers if it will only lead to a bumper crop of weeds. If we create a happy little “Flower Garden Ministry” (not to be confused with the Community Vegetable Garden Ministry) it will enhance the beauty of our property for us, and all who drive along Nichols Road. *Fr. Michael*

We need you!

*Please fill in the tear-off below, drop it in the collection basket, and someone will contact you:*

I/We would like to join the **Flower Garden Ministry**: *(please print)*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_



# ATTENTION CATECHISTS!

 The Office of FAITH FORMATION  
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

CATECHETICAL CONGRESS 2019  
**Stay With Us**

**Saturday, September 14, 2019**  
St. John the Baptist High School, West Islip

Featuring Keynote Speakers



Dr. Mary Healy



Bishop John

The Parish of the Holy Cross would like to invite our Catechists to attend the 2019 Catechetical Congress on Saturday, September 14th. We will cover the cost for the first 10 Catechists who register with our office.

This year's Catechetical Congress promises to be exciting, enjoyable, and rewarding! The worship, keynote address, and many workshops will touch on every aspect of catechetical parish ministry. It will also be an opportunity for renewal, formation, and fellowship.

The Congress will include: Morning Prayer, Workshop 1, Workshop 2, Lunch, Keynote Address, Special Blessing of Catechists & Commissioning, Opportunities for Roundtable Discussions, Visit to Exhibits and Vendors. There are 50 workshops to choose from!

If you are a Holy Cross Catechist, and interested in attending, please contact Tricia, our Religious Education Coordinator, at 631-265-2200 x112.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



### Liturgical Ministers for Confirmation

The Religious Education Office is looking for volunteers to serve at Confirmation. The Sacrament of Confirmation is being administered to our Level 9 students on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, at 10am, 1pm and 4pm. If anyone is interested in being a Eucharistic Minister or Altar Server, please call the office at 631-265-2200, x111 or 112.

Thank You!

**We are in need of Catechists for Level 3. If you are interested in teaching our children, please contact the Religious Education Office. Thank you!**

# FALL FESTIVAL FUN!



## SAVE THE DATE



September 21st, 2019  
Fall Festival

*Place:* Parish of the Holy Cross

*Time:* 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

*Come join us for a day of Family Fun!*

*(Since this is a family event, children must be accompanied by an adult.)*

If you are planning to attend the Fall Festival, please fill out the tear-off below and drop in the collection basket or return to the Religious Ed. Office. We need an idea of how much food to provide. Thank You!

### Calling All Vendors!

If anyone is interested in taking a table to sell their crafts and/or merchandise (new items only, please) at our Fall Festival on September 21<sup>st</sup>, please stop by the Religious Education Office to fill out a registration form. Price per table is \$50.00. **FIRST COME – FIRST SERVE!!**



We will also be having a Holy Cross table, and we would ask that each vendor be willing to donate one of their items to our table.

Anyone else willing to donate, please call the office (631-265-2200 ext. 111 or 112), and let us know what you would like to contribute.

If you plan to attend the **Fall Festival** on September 21st, please fill out and drop in the collection basket or return to the Religious Ed. Office. Thank you!

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Children \_\_\_\_\_



# FALL FESTIVAL FUN!

## Chinese Auction



We will be having a Chinese Auction for the children at our Family Fall Festival. Anyone willing to donate a new item (toys, books, games, gift cards, etc.), can drop it off at the Religious Ed Office. Items should cost no more than \$15.00. Thank you, as always, for your generosity!!

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS!



Hi everyone! Our Youth Group will be having a **Fall Plant Sale** on the weekend of September 14/15 after all the Masses. And, our **Fall Youth Group Kick-Off** will be held September 22, from 6-8PM. **All new 9th graders who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this September are invited to attend our Kick-Off!** Hope to see you there! Look for more Youth Group information in upcoming bulletins.

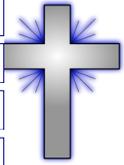
# CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word which is held every Sunday from September to May, except for holiday weekends, will resume at the 11:30 Mass on Sunday, September 8th, in the Fr. Joe Room. Children's Liturgy, for children in grades K-3, allows children to hear God's word in language they can understand and have their questions answered.



We are looking for additional helpers starting in September. Time commitment is dependent on the number of helpers we have. If you are in grades 4 through 12 and would be interested in becoming a helper, please consider joining this ministry. Community service hours and training are available. Please contact **Karyn at 631-648-3594** for more information.

# ATTENTION PARISHIONERS



*Coming in October: Two opportunities for adult parishioners!*

## **Awakening Faith and Journey with Jesus**

These six-week programs of Catholic renewal are built around a simple format: hospitality, input, and small group discussion. The process of conversation and sharing around key topics of faith, in a friendly, non-threatening, and confidential environment, provides a unique path toward spiritual enrichment and growth.

Each program consists of six 90 minute sessions which include prayer, Scripture, information on a topic, small group sharing, and Q & A.

Coffee, tea, and cake are provided.

**Awakening Faith** will be held twice a month on **Wednesday afternoons, Oct. 9, 23, Nov. 13, 27, Dec. 11, and 18, 1:15 – 2:45 PM.**

**Journey with Jesus** will be held on six consecutive **Wednesday evenings, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and Nov. 6, 7:00- 8:30 PM.**

Space is limited to 30 people for each program, and materials need to be ordered, so please get your registration in soon. No prior experience is needed – just a desire to grow closer to God and to one another.

If you have any questions, please call Jude at ext. 116.

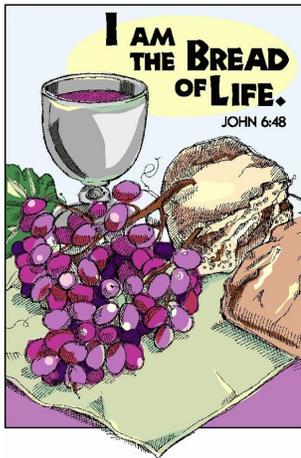
*Please check one, tear off, and return to the Parish Office:*

I want to participate in \_\_\_ **Awakening Faith** or \_\_\_ **Journey with Jesus**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# YOU MAY WANT TO...



Consider a donation of Altar Bread and Wine for a week, especially if your request for a date for a Mass has been taken. Your special occasion or loved one's name will be printed in the bulletin.

Or, you may want to make a monetary donation to Holy Cross in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone living. We now have a Book of Memorials and a Book of Honorees. Your donation will be used to purchase needed items for our church. Holy Cross has a practice of not engraving names on benches and other items, but your donation will be recorded in the appropriate book for all posterity.

Our Parish Outreach also accepts donations in memory or honor of someone and has lovely cards that you can send.

## PARISH OUTREACH

### Homebound and Hospitalized

Are you, or someone you know in the parish, homebound or anticipating an operation or treatment for cancer? We in Holy Cross are eager to know in a more personal way our parishioners who are homebound or hospitalized. Often, we do not hear of a person's illness or inability to join us for Sunday Mass. Please call 265-2200 x13 or stop by the office to let Parish Outreach know of these parishioners who are so special to us. We really depend on you.



Parish Outreach sends cards, on behalf of our parish, to those who are ill or hospitalized. Our homebound folks receive friendly telephone calls by Outreach volunteers to keep up the connection and to assess ways the parish can be present to these loved parishioners. At Advent and Easter time a volunteer will visit them and bring a gift from the parish community. Eucharistic Ministers are also available to bring communion to the homebound who desire it.

These are some of the ways Holy Cross reaches out to the homebound and hospitalized. Please help us by contacting Parish Outreach or a member of the Pastoral Team if you know of anyone we can serve in their time of need.

# PARISH OUTREACH

In the next week or so, a new school year will begin. Sixty students who were helped because of your generosity will start the year with new backpacks filled with all of the supplies they will need. With the help of your donations, we were also able to provide each student with a \$20 gift card to assist with the purchase of sneakers or other items.



We thank Trader Joe's for their continued support and also the children in our Vacation Bible School who donated student folders and also prepared delicious snack bags for each of our students to enjoy.

Without our volunteers who shop, organize and pack the supplies we couldn't make this program happen. Thank you to one and all who helped in any way. God bless you!!



# CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL UPDATE

Here is an update on the status of the 2019 Appeal here at Holy Cross:

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Pledges</u>	<u>Over (Under)</u>	<u># of Donors</u>	<u>% of Goal</u>
\$71,600.00	\$49,235.00	(\$22,365.00)	207	68.8%

When payments reach 100% of our goal, we receive a rebate of 20% or \$14,320. Please help your community and your parish by supporting the CMA!



# ATTENTION PARISHIONERS!

## Help Write Our Prayer

We are familiar with the part of the Mass when petitions are offered. Today it is referred to as the Universal Prayer, although through the years it has also been called the General Intercessions or The Prayer of the Faithful. The prayers that we currently use come about through a variety of ways. Sometimes we write our own. We also have several on-line resources and books that we use in creating the prayers for each week. Additionally, there is a parishioner who assists in writing them.



We are offering the opportunity for parishioners to suggest needs or intentions that could be prayed for at our weekend Masses. Identify issues within our world, nation, community or Church. This would not be the place to mention individual people or private prayers such as “for my cousin, Daisy.” (Our Petition Book in the atrium is available for these special intentions.) Please suggest any prayers you would like to see included in our worship. Keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Be succinct; the prayer needs to be limited to one or two short sentences.
- Normally prayers begin with “For.” *For our nation, . . .*
- This is not the place for prayers of gratitude. *In Thanksgiving for . . .*
- Prayers should not include any particular agenda or personal opinion.

Depending on how many requests we receive, we will try to include at least one intention per week. It may be necessary to edit the prayer so that its format is consistent with the other prayers.

Please feel free to use the tear-off below to submit your prayer. These can be mailed back to us or placed in the offertory basket. You may also e-mail us your request to [pothc@optonline.net](mailto:pothc@optonline.net) .

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### My Suggestion for a Sunday Prayer Intention

Prayer Intention: “For \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

(If you wish you may include your name): \_\_\_\_\_

# CASH CALENDAR



## PARISH OF THE HOLY CROSS CASH CALENDAR AUGUST 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>\$10 Per Chance</b>	<b>31 Chances to Win</b>	<b>\$50 Per Day</b>	<b>\$500 ~ August 15</b>	1 \$50	2 \$50	3 \$50
4 \$50	5 \$50	6 \$50	7 \$50	8 \$50	9 \$50	10 \$50
11 \$50	12 \$50	13 \$50	14 \$50	15 \$500	16 \$50	17 \$50
18 \$50	19 \$50	20 \$50	21 \$50	22 \$50	23 \$50	24 \$50
25 \$50	26 \$50	27 \$50	28 \$50	29 \$50	30 \$50	31 \$50

*Cash Calendar, AUGUST, 2019*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Cash Calendar, AUGUST, 2019*

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*Cash Calendar, AUGUST, 2019*

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*Cash Calendar, AUGUST, 2019*

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*Cash Calendar, AUGUST, 2019*

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*Cash Calendar, AUGUST, 2019*

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# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

<b>Saturday, August 24th</b>	<b>10 AM - 2 PM</b>
• PARISH CLEAN-UP DAY	All Areas
<b>Sunday, August 25th</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
• PRAY THE ROSARY	Chapel
• BAPTISMS	1PM Worship Area
<b>Monday, August 26th</b>	<b>7 PM</b>
• FALL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MTG.	Fr. Joe Room
<b>Tuesday, August 27th</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
• LEVEL 8 RECONCILIATION	7PM Worship Area
<b>Sunday, September 1st</b>	<b>After 9:30 Mass</b>
• ANOINTING OF THE SICK	Worship Area

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Ronkonkoma Cenacle

**Saturday, September 7, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Maude Adams House, 9:30 a.m. arrivals and refreshments**  
**MIND THE GAP/TRANSITIONS**

The space between the past and future can be unsettling and anything but peaceful. We need to know the outcome of situations. Through it all though, God is with us and asks us to be still in our gap, for that is where we are truly transformed.

**Presenter: Joan McGovern, Cenacle Ministry Staff**

**Suggested Offering: \$35 – Lunch included**  
**\$20 deposit required to hold your reservation**

For a listing of September and October programs, please visit [retreat@cenaclesisters.org](mailto:retreat@cenaclesisters.org) or call 631-588-8366 for more information.



# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



## Religious Freedom - Why Does it Matter?

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

Freedom of religion is a cornerstone of the American vision. It is understood to be the exercise of inherent natural rights. "We are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights ..."

The Founders believed that virtue derived from religion is indispensable to limited government and essential to the spirit of self-government. Founder Samuel Adams said, "Religion and good morals are the only solid foundation of public liberty and happiness."

The American model of religious liberty takes a strongly positive view of both private and public religious practice. It assumes that religious believers and institutions will take active roles in society, which include engaging in politics and policy-making and helping to form the public's moral views.

Religious freedom recognizes the right of all people to form their own conscience. This right applies to people who believe in a God as well as for non-believers. Liberty of conscience demands, and ultimately justifies, limited government. Conversely, limited government requires individual responsibility. In a free society, religion is an ally of good government and freedom as it forms the moral character of individuals and communities.

Research confirms that governments that respect religious liberty also tend to respect other freedoms and is strongly related to political liberty, economic freedom, and prosperity. "Whenever religious freedom is high, there tends to be fewer incidents of armed conflict, better health outcomes, higher levels of earned income, and better educational opportunities for women," said researcher Brian Grim.

([heritage.org](http://heritage.org),12/20/19; [democracyweb.org/essentialprinciples](http://democracyweb.org/essentialprinciples); [share.america.gov](http://share.america.gov),2/4/19;)

*"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; ... Just as freedom of religion is often considered a threat to dictatorship, it can be an important safeguard of democratic society."*

UN General Assembly Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948



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