



HCR

The Good News from the Parish of the Holy Cross

Celebrations That Can Change Your Heart

Inside this issue:

<i>Soup Supper</i>	1
<i>Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults</i>	2
<i>Highlight a Ministry — Parish Outreach</i>	3
<i>Youth Ministry Retreat</i>	3
<i>Level 6 Seder for Religious Education</i>	3
<i>Moms' Group</i>	4
<i>Mardi Gras Party at Holy Cross</i>	4

There are some rituals and celebrations in our culture that gain interest in popularity, such as the Academy Awards or March Madness. While these events may be entertaining, they are unlikely going to make any real difference in anyone's life. What we offer in the church during these days is very different.

The time from Palm Sunday through Holy Week, leading up to Easter are the greatest celebrations in our church year. We recall the defining moments in Jesus' life. As

we reflect on all that He endured, we are invited to share in the story.

We are probably familiar with details of each of the events we recall during this week. But it is more than just recollection of what took place. We tell these stories with a consciousness of what is happening in our lives, the lives of those we love and what is happening throughout the world. We then open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit to allow our hearts to be touched with Jesus' message of love.

We invite you to be part of these holy days. We can truly receive forgiveness, peace, comfort, strength and hope through these celebrations. May the gift of our Lord and Savior touch your heart that you may be renewed in His love. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

By: Fr. Michael Holzmann

Save the Date:
Holy Cross Blood Drive
 Tuesday, July 25th
 2:30pm-8:30pm

Soup Supper

On March 15th, despite the bitter cold weather, approximately 88 parishioners and guests entered the Atrium greeted by the aroma of fifteen hot, scrumptious, homemade soups prepared by members of our Liturgy and Art and Environment Committees. Crockpots were filled with a variety of soups such as Potato, Corn Chowder, Chicken

Noodle, Butternut Squash, Vegetable Tortellini, Split Pea and several others. We were pleased to see so many folks return for seconds to try a variety of the soups.

Our thanks to our Youth Group and their leaders who assisted with serving, providing water and cleanup.

Containers of "to-go" soups were provided for some who wished to take some home.

Unfortunately, our guest speaker had to cancel at the last minute, but all who attended agreed that it was definitely a wonderful reason to gather as a community, and all look forward to making this an annual Lenten event.

By: Barbara Burger

Vacation Bible School Camper Registration



April 25th 5:00-7:00pm in the Atrium. Registration forms can be found on our website under "Forms"

PARISH OF THE HOLY CROSS

Founded 1988

“Let All Who Enter Be
Welcomed as Christ”

95 Old Nichols Road
Nesconset, NY 11767

Phone: (631) 265-2200

Fax: (631) 265-2229

E-mail: pothc@optonline.net

Office Hours: M-F 9:00-4:00

PASTORAL TEAM:

PASTOR

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann

PASTORAL MINISTER

Deacon Ralph Rivera

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Mrs. Judith Pickel

DIRECTOR OF

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ms. Ellen Fox

CO-COORDINATORS OF

PARISH OUTREACH

Mrs. Connie Calabro

Mrs. MaryAnne McCulloch

PARISH BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs. Elizabeth Shea

YOUTH MINISTER

Mr. Sal Finocchiaro

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. Brian Reich

OFFICE STAFF:

PARISH SECRETARY

Mrs. Jane Wirth

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Pannone

Mr. James Reiss

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – A Journey of Faith

At our Easter Vigil on April 15th, Holy Cross will be welcoming three new members:



My name is **Victor Amanfoh**. I'm married to Stephanie Caroleo, a member of Holy Cross Church, and I am blessed with 4 children: Deanna (17), Sean (16), Jonathan (13), and Gracie (5).

For the last 6 months, I have been a recruiter for the NY Army National Guard. Prior to that, I served as a helicopter repairer at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Ronkonkoma at Islip Airport. On the civilian side, I was a kitchen manager for Appleby's in Farmingdale.

Stephanie is a Catholic and we are raising our children in the Catholic faith. As the head of our household, I feel that I may better serve our family by converting from a Presbyter-

ian/Methodist to a Catholic. I want to be able to better guide our family spiritually, as a Catholic, by sharing the same faith as the rest of my family. I would also like to have our wonderful marriage blessed in the Catholic Church, for our 20th wedding anniversary, 3 years from now.

I look forward to accomplishing this journey of renewing my religious faith through Holy Cross Church.



My name is **Tiffany Bacigalupo**. My husband is Anthony and we have one daughter, Olivia. I work as a Registered Nurse in an outpatient Dialysis Clinic.

Although I was baptized in the Lutheran Church, I have been coming to Holy Cross for many years. My husband's family belongs to this parish, so naturally, my daughter was baptized here. As Olivia entered into Religious Education, I began to consider becoming Catholic. My desire grew

stronger as her upcoming First Holy Communion drew near.

I have had a wonderful journey through the RCIA. This positive experience has allowed me to learn and grow deeper in my faith. I am grateful to those who have guided me through this journey.



My name is **Michelle Keane**. I am married to James, with two young daughters, Kaylee (7½), and Jenna (4). I am currently an elementary school reading teacher. My family belongs to Holy Cross, and has for some time.

I decided to become involved in RCIA because I wanted to be able to participate in the Mass. I was raised a Methodist, and my husband and I are raising our daughters to be Catholic.

I look at this as an opportunity to become closer to God, and to be able to share Holy Communion with my family.



Holy Week for Children

During the holiest week of the Church year, we remember what Jesus did for us at the Last Supper and on Good Friday. Children and their families are invited to commemorate these two important days at special prayer services, designed especially for our youngest parishioners.



Children, Parents, Families, please join us:

Children's Holy Thursday Prayer Service, April 13, 4:30 PM
Children's Good Friday Prayer Service, April 14, 12:00 PM

Highlight a Ministry — Parish Outreach

During Lent, Parish Outreach sponsored a parish wide food collection to benefit Long Island Cares. We thank all our parishioners who donated food to feed the hungry families on Long Island.

Every year Parish Outreach volunteers visit homebound members of our community during the Easter season. At each meeting, these special

members of our congregation are reminded that they are still in our thoughts and prayers. They also receive a spring tulip plant as a gift from our parish. If you are aware of anyone who you think might like to be on our friendly contact list, please give a call to the Outreach Office.

Our parish Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, July 25th.

Look for further information in upcoming parish bulletins.



Some parish outreach volunteers spend time in our outreach office working directly with those seeking our assistance. These core workers are

compassionate, non-judgmental and are trained in case management skills. Perhaps you are feeling the call to help the struggling in our midst. If so, and you are available during the day, you can attend Catholic Charities training. If you feel you have a sensitivity to these households, please call Mary Anne or Connie at 631-265-2200 ext. 13

By: Mary Anne McCulloch

Youth Ministry Retreat

My name is Kayla Rickles, and I have been in the Holy Cross Youth Group for several years. The Youth Group has two retreats a year for all teens who made their Confirmation.



Retreat is one of those indescribable kind of experiences. It isn't everyday that you get to spend a weekend away from your everyday life with people who share the same values that you do. Notice I didn't use the word reality, because "retreat is reality, and everything else is just distractions."

The theme of our spring retreat was "Glory Revealed." This can be interpreted in many different ways, but our main focus was the

different faces of Christ. For example, one discussion we had was about denial and redemption. We were able to see this in Jesus' life as well as our own lives. One of my personal favorite ideas that we talked about was the comparison of Jesus' divinity and His life as a human. Specifically, we read the scripture where "Jesus wept" from John 11:35. It was truly eye opening because Jesus' life as a human is often overlooked by all of His divine actions He performed while on earth. Retreat is

the only place where you can dive this deep into your faith while also having fun with your friends. Thank you to the Youth Group core team for all of their hard work as they revealed Jesus' glory to Holy Cross' teens.

If you are in high school, and you made your Confirmation, I urge you to come to one of our youth group events and meet us! Open your hearts to the endless possibilities that Christ has for you!

By: Kayla Rickles

Level 6 Seder

In early spring, all Holy Cross Religious Education Level 6 classes participated in a traditional Jewish Seder. The Seder is a prayer and meal that celebrates The Passover, Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt and into the Promised Land.



(Pesach is Hebrew for Passover)

Students made the connection that Jesus was raised in a Jewish home and each year, celebrated a

Seder with His family. The Last Supper was a Seder Meal when Jesus gave us the Eucharist. The Seder celebrated in the Holy Cross Atrium was just a small sampling of what a tradi-



tional Jewish Seder is. As you can see by the photo, students enjoyed the celebration.

By: Ellen Fox



*For those reading our paper copy of the **Holy CrossRoads**, please sign-up for our parish-wide e-mails by calling the office.*

*Interested in writing for or editing the **Holy CrossRoads**? Call the office!*

Parish of the Holy Cross
Nesconset, New York 11767

95 Old Nichols Road
Nesconset, New York 11767

Phone: (631) 265-2200 E-mail: potbc@optonline.net
Fax: (631) 265-2229 E-mail: hcreled@optonline.net
Website: www.potbc.org



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The 1st Holy Cross VARIETY SHOW
HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED
for Saturday, June 10th at 7:30 pm



Dust off your instruments, dancing shoes and comedy skits! All entertainment acts are welcome! Organize your friends for a skit, song, dance or other entertaining, two minutes of fun!!

Audition date will be announced in future bulletins. Stay tuned!

Mandatory Rehearsal is scheduled for: Thursday, June 8th.

Performance: Saturday, June 10th at 7:30 pm (set up after 5pm Mass)

I will set up a schedule to work with all acts before the first rehearsal. This will allow us time to fine tune your acts. If you have any questions, please call the office.

- Brian Reich, Director of Music

Moms' Group

Motherhood is a journey of blessings, challenges, joys and discoveries. Share the highs, lows and all of the in-between moments of this incredible experience with other mom parishioners by joining our Moms' Group. We typically meet on the

second and fourth Thursdays of each month, from September through June, at 11:00 am, here at Holy Cross.



All moms are welcome, no matter how young or old your children may be! Infants, toddlers and preschool-aged children are welcome to accompany you to our meetings, too. Our gatherings include thoughtful discussion, friendly encouragement, group

prayer, support and conversation. At times, we also enjoy having book discussions, listening to music and much more! If you're interested in joining us and want to learn more, please contact Jude Pickel, our Pastoral Associate, at the parish office for more details.

By: Christine Farrugia

Mardi Gras Party at Holy Cross

The night before Ash Wednesday, we had a night of fellowship by celebrating Mardi Gras here at Holy Cross! Enjoy these pictures of the night's festivities.



MARDI GRAS



All Welcome