



Parish of the Holy Cross



Let All Who Enter Be Welcomed as Christ!

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.

“Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:18

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 23, 2026



Come and Pray with Us!

We celebrate Eucharist

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM;

Saturday 5:00 PM;

Sunday 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass are livestreamed on Facebook.

We celebrate Reconciliation

Saturday 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM;

Monday: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Wednesday immediately after 9:00 AM Mass

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



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

PASTORAL TEAM

Reverend Michael F. Holzmah..... Ext. 115
Pastor

Deacon Joseph Maffeo..... Ext. 124
Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Judith Pickel..... Ext. 116
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Michele Hall..... Ext. 120
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Jennifer Miller..... Ext. 112
Coordinator of Religious Ed.

Mrs. Kelley Mowat..... Ext. 113
Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mr. Brian Reich
Director of Music Ministry

PHONE: (631) 265-2200

FAX: (631) 265-2229

EMAIL: parish@holycrossrc.org

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY - THURSDAY
9 AM - 4 PM
(closed 12:15-1 PM)**

**Parish Office
FRIDAY HOURS
9 AM - 12 NOON**

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth..... Ext. 122
Parish Secretary

Mrs. Mary Pannone..... Ext. 111
Religious Ed. Secretary

Ms. Karina D'Angelo..... Ext. 110
Business Manager

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Webmaster

Mr. Roberto Maza
Custodian

Mr. Joseph Santoro
Office Support Staff

Mrs. Susan Ribeiro
Bulletin Editor
email: susanr@holycrossrc.org

OUTREACH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Evening Hours by Appointment Only



**"Rejoice with those who rejoice;
weep with those who weep."**

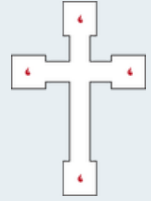
-Romans 12:15

Visit our website at **www.holycrossrc.org**
for more information on how we can serve you.



CALLED FORTH

Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael



Do you remember *The Long Island Catholic*? It was the weekly newspaper that covered local events at parishes, schools and hospitals in our Diocese as well as provided news about the wider Church. One of the weekly columns was a reflection on the scripture readings for the upcoming weekend. During the mid-90s, Fr. Bob Hayden coordinated the scripture column. He would ask priests to write all the columns for a specific liturgical season. Much to my surprise he called me one day and asked if I would be interested in writing a series of columns for several weeks. I never considered myself to be a writer. Composition, vocabulary, and grammar had never been my strongest suits. I had Fr. Hayden as a scripture professor when I was in the seminary. Honestly, I was not his best student. For whatever reason he thought I might be up for the challenge. It took focus and effort, but I found an ability to write in a way which seemed to work. I ended up writing well over one hundred columns spread over the course of the next several years. Fr. Hayden called forth a gift and ability that I was not aware of at the time.

This weekend we hear two stories of individuals being called forth to serve God. Each story involved a change in their lives. In Isaiah we hear about Eliakim being given authority to guide the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Even more dramatically, we hear Simon Peter being called to be the first leader of the Church. Eliakim had demonstrated himself to be a good and faithful steward prior to his being raised to leader. While Simon Peter demonstrated a deep faith and trust in Jesus, he didn't always get it right. He had his share of struggles along the way. Calling forth someone to change demands trust whether you are on the asking side or the receiving side of the invitation. In addition, it brings about a situation in which the Holy Spirit can touch lives and foster great achievements. Invitations to ministry, discipleship or service are not unique to scripture. It is a repeated pattern through human history. The journey of faith demands that there be an openness to more.

As summer winds down, students will soon be going back to school for a new year. Educators and coaches are often in a position of being able to call forth gifts in young people. It's hard to discern how or why, but sometimes there is something at work where a person is invited to discover an ability God has given them. Parents often must do this with their children. Sometimes mom or dad sees who their children are more clearly than the kids themselves understand. What parent has not said, "Come on, I know you can do it"? They support, encourage and draw forth.

God's calling is not limited to kids in school. It continues throughout the entirety of our lives. There will be times when God's invitation comes to us through the encouragement of someone in our lives. There are also times when God may be asking us to draw forth a gift or ability from someone who we encounter. Be open to receive and to give that invitation to enter more deeply into the gift of our faith.

If you like the story of Peter, hang in there. This is a two-part adventure. Next week Simon Peter finds himself being called "Satan" by Jesus. The newly chosen leader of the Church has a rough start. Just because God calls us doesn't mean the path is straight and immediate. It works out beautifully in the end, but it was a long and winding road to get there. We trust in how God works.

2026		AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
						1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
30	31							

ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, August 23rd BAPTISMS
1:00PM, Worship Area

Monday, August 24th LEV. 7 CATECHIST MTG.
6:30PM, Fr. Joe Room

Tuesday, August 25th LEV. 8 CATECHIST MTG.
6:30PM, Fr. Joe Room

Thursday, August 27th LEV. 2 CATECHIST MTG.
6:30PM, Atrium

PRESIDERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



AUGUST 29
5:00 PM
FR. MICHAEL

AUGUST 30
8:00 AM
FR. MICHAEL
9:30 AM
FR. MICHAEL
11:30 AM
FR. MICHAEL



SCRIPTURE READINGS for AUGUST 30

+ Jeremiah 20:7-9
+ Romans 12:1-2
+ Matthew 16:21-27

**THE RELIGIOUS ED. OFFICE WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 6PM THIS WEEK
ON MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND THURSDAY.**



*Thank you Holy Cross helpers
during our parish clean-up week!*



Practice of Faith

(Excerpt from "At Home with the Word 2026")

Today's readings provide examples of the Lord entrusting faithful servants with the mission of faith. We know that the people called by God are flawed yet chosen - recall the adage: "God doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called." Although the servants of the Lord may not get it right every single time, God provides for them; they are faithful and press on even after they stumble. So too should we.

Pray today over Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" What do your words say, and what do your actions say about who Jesus is?

Where is God inviting you to take on the role of prophet or disciple? Invite the Lord to illuminate those places in prayer.

Think back on a time when God has given you the confidence and stability of faith you needed. Hold it next to the examples of the prophets and disciples and thank God for that gift.

Visit our website at www.holycrossrc.org
to find out more about the different ministries we have to offer,
how you can be involved, and when they meet.

WE PRAY...CELEBRATE...REMEMBER



Upcoming Mass Intentions

Week of Sunday, August 23

9:00AM Masses:

Mon. Bob DeFilippis

Tues. Lorenzo Paulino

Wed. Frances Stathis (living)

Thur. Helen Dalamango

Saturday, August 29, 5PM Mass

Jackie Manno, Jeanne Reichert,
Katie Healy, James E. Giuliano,
Ercole Ricciardi

Sunday, August 30, Masses

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM Robert J. Bruno, Albert Garbarino,
Joseph Annunziato

9:30AM People of the Parish

11:30AM Robert Tavis

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

Bob Alderdice
Andrew Arbocus

Alejandro Astegiano

Kathy Barry

Alison Bilski

Cole Brennan

Veronica Buscemi

Norma Capule

Judy Carlson

Michael Castellano

Mary Champagne

Peter Chirafisi

William Ciccarelli

Maria Ciminiello

Justin Curran

Grayson Danielski

Baby Phoenix Dawson

Manuela Diaz

Peter DiMauro

Claudia DiPalermo

Rose Dugan

Ann Egan

Lisa Eger

Vincent Esposito

Ralph Farino

Yolanda Fattarusso

Baby Lorenzo Follo

Sienna Fricke

Linda Giordano

James Greene

Linda Heinrichs

Ryan Huscher

Debbie Jablinowski

Kristen Kennedy

Caroline Lazar

Carol Leahy

Victor Lewandowski

Mary Lopez

Gerald Losquadro

Jeanne Marie Malley

Janet Mangano

Hank McCormick

Loretto Narducci

Kevin Neeson

Andrea Nocito

Darin Pitkanen

Patricia Pitkanen

Janine Pixley

Colleen Prinz

Carina Ranieri

Bernardine Reichbach

Mary Ann Reilly

Rob Remhild

Marcello Ricciardi

Lynn Rodger

Sean Romeo

Elaine Ruane

John Saccenti

Jacqueline Santamaria

Casey Schultz

Kathy Schwinn

John Serri

Dennis Shin

Joan Shin

Celeste Sichenze

Sue Southard

Barbara Swingle

Calvin Tatone

Grace Van Epps

Peter Warns



Banns of Marriage



Brigid Coleman & John Butcher

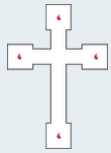


*We thank
the men and women
who serve in our military
for their service.*

**If you would like to have the name of your
loved one listed in our prayers for the sick,
please call 631-265-2200 x122.**

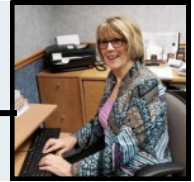
*I lift up my eyes to the
mountains—
where does my help
come from?
My help comes
from the Lord,
the Maker
of heaven and earth.*





CHURCH ETIQUETTE REMINDERS

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



Arrive at Church a little early to find a seat and pray silently before Mass begins.



As you might notice, singing is also a big part of our prayer at Mass. Do your best to **sing along and learn the hymns**. At Holy Cross, the words to the Scriptures and songs are printed on the large screens.



Before you leave your car, **silence your phone** so it does not interrupt Mass.



At the time of Communion, wait until the row in front of you stands and begins entering the aisle before you stand to leave your pew.

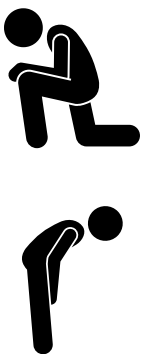


Bless yourself with holy water as you enter the Worship Area. It is easy here at Holy Cross as the Baptismal font greets us as we enter. With young children and babies, bless them with holy water too.



Be respectful as you approach the Priest, Deacon, or Eucharistic Minister for Communion. Bow before receiving the host, keep in mind you are standing before our Lord:

- Respond clearly when the minister says: "The Body of Christ" – you say: **AMEN**. Respond the same if you are receiving the Precious Blood from the Cup.
- Keep in mind when receiving the host in the hand, **place it in your mouth immediately BEFORE STEPPING AWAY**. Proceed back to your seat for your prayer of Thanksgiving.
- **Remain kneeling** until the Priest closes the Tabernacle and puts the remaining hosts away. It is now appropriate to be seated.



Show reverence when entering your pew by genuflecting (the act of bending the right knee completely to the ground), toward the Tabernacle. If you are unable to, bow always facing the front where the Tabernacle is located. Please note it is not necessary to do this at Communion time, just before and after Mass. Respect the movements throughout Mass of standing, kneeling, and sitting at the appropriate times.



Try to sit quietly, participating in the prayers of the Mass and listening to God's Word as Sacred Scripture is proclaimed.



There is usually a short period of time remaining after the distribution of Holy Communion. **Please be sure to remain in Church until the Priest processes out of the Church**. Be sure to greet Father on your way or stay and speak to other friends or when there is hospitality, enjoy a cup of coffee with other parishioners.

Have a blessed and peaceful week ahead!

BASKET RAFFLE FUNDRAISER 2026

We are asking for your support
for one of our biggest fundraisers
of the year, our Basket Raffle!

***We are looking for donations of individual items
to fill and create baskets and
completed themed baskets!***

With your help,
we hope to make this fundraiser a huge success!

**Want to make a themed basket?
Here are a few ideas for baskets:**

- Coffee Basket
- Golf Basket
- Baker's Basket
- Rest and Relax - Spa Basket
- Dinner and a movie basket
- Kid's Basket

**Suggested items for baskets:
New Items only please**

- Gift certificates - (for products and/or services)
- Scratch-off tickets
- Wine/Liquor
- Event tickets - (play, movies, baseball game)
- Hand crafted items - (quilts, jewelry)

DONATIONS NEEDED!

**All completed baskets and all individual donated items
can be brought into the parish office during business hours
from August 15th to September 14th.**

If you have any questions and/or would like to be
on the Basket Raffle Committee,
please call Mary Ann Viscusi at 631-686-5280
or Linda Denninger at 631-265-7111.

Thank you for your continued support!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2026-2027

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

Religious Education Classes will begin in the middle of October 2026.

ATTENTION
PLEASE



**The Religious Education Office is extending its hours
FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 23RD**

MONDAY
August 24
9AM- 6PM

TUESDAY
August 25
9AM- 6PM

WEDNESDAY
August 26
9AM- 12 NOON

THURSDAY
August 27
9AM- 6PM

FRIDAY
August 28
9AM- 12 NOON

**Please check your emails or the parish website for
additional information or for registration forms.**

Additional questions? Please call Jennifer Miller at: (631) 265-2200 ext. 112

Reminder

Catechist Meetings
will be held in August
Please mark your calendar

**You
ARE
LOVED**

Blessing
of Backpacks
at all Masses
on
Saturday, SEPT 5th
and
Sunday, SEPT 6th

MEETINGS

These are TUTORIAL meetings
and all catechists are
encouraged to attend.

Level 7 Catechist Meeting

Monday, August 24th, at 6:30PM
in the Fr. Joe Room

Level 8 Catechist Meeting

Tuesday, August 25th, at 6:30PM
in the Fr. Joe Room

Level 2 Catechist Meeting

Thursday, August 27th, at 6:30PM
in the Atrium



Our Religious Education
Program is expanding and
we are looking for:

Special Needs Teachers (Mondays)

Level 4 Catechists Level 5 Catechists

If you enjoy working with children
and are available for 1 hour a week,
please call Jennifer or Mary at the
Religious Education office at
631-265-2200



PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY

A Message from Fr. Michael...

I'm looking to form a group that I would like to call the Family Life Committee.



This group of parishioners would plan, organize, and run various opportunities for families to gather for primarily fun activities to take place within the context of this faith community. My hope is that we can foster family time together.

Through the years we have offered such gatherings as Trunk or Treat, Winter Carnival and Valentine's Sweetheart Dance. We have a few volunteers who help with these events, but there is a need for many more helping hands. I would like to continue to offer these kinds of gatherings and include even more if there is support for such efforts. A long-term goal would be to organize a large enough group of adult volunteers that we could once again offer a Vacation Bible School.

Please reach out to me by phone or e-mail if you are interested in being part of this committee.

There are many ways to help with a committee like this. Some folks are good at shopping, organizing details, working with children, decorating, social media, etc. Once I see how many folks respond, we can meet and begin making our plans for the coming year. Thank you for your consideration.

phone: 631-265-2200 x115 email: frmholtzmann@holycrossrc.org



Youth Community Cares

"Serving our youth as our youth serve others"

**YCC will be hosting hospitality
in honor of Grandparents' Day
after the 11:30AM Mass
on Sunday, September 13th**

SIGN-UP SLOTS AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

Please register for these events to participate.

To register,
Email Angela at: youthcc@holycrossrc.org
and/or join our Remind group
to receive the SignUpGenius link:
rmd.at/ycchc

Additional information about volunteer opportunities
will be shared through the **Remind App**.



BLESSING BAGS Donation Collection Ends AUGUST 23

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Blessing Bag project. We will be assembling the bags on August 24th. If you would like to still donate, we will be accepting donations for this year's Blessing Bags until August 23rd. Any items (travel size soap, shampoo, conditioner, and hand lotion) donated after will be used for next year's Blessing Bags.

Thank you! -Parish Outreach

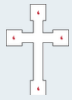


**Our next meeting
is Wednesday,
SEPTEMBER 2
in the Atrium
from 9:30AM - 12 Noon**

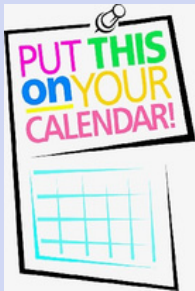
All are welcome to help as we begin another year of constructing much needed clothing for the children of Haiti. We need pattern cutters, sewists, those who like to iron...

If you have the desire to help, we will find a place for you!

**Please RSVP if you are interested in joining us.
Call Kelley in Outreach at (631) 265-2200 Ext. 113**



PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



Save the Date!

Weekend of September 12 and 13 Grandparents' Weekend at Holy Cross

**Bring your grandchildren to Mass or
Grandchildren, bring your Grandparents
with you to Mass**

*Pray together, receive Jesus together and
Celebrate our Faith!*



Holy Cross Parish celebrates Grandparents' Weekend WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 12/13

The weekend of September 12 and 13 is GRANDPARENTS' WEEKEND when we will pray in a special way for all Grandparents. Our Grandparents' Prayer group suggested that this year **we invite Parish Grandparents to submit a picture of their grandchildren which we will display on a large board in the Atrium for GRANDPARENTS' WEEKEND.**

- Please submit your picture in an envelope marked "GRANDPARENTS' WEEKEND."
- *Most importantly, please put your name on the opposite side of the picture, so you may get the picture back after the weekend.*
- The size should be **no larger than 4x6** so we can fit them all on the board! We will leave a basket marked "PICTURES FOR GRANDPARENTS' WEEKEND" on the table in front of the Fr. Joe Room in the Atrium.
- *Please look for the basket beginning the weekend of August 22/23.*
- If your grandchild or grandchildren are close by, have them come to Mass with you that weekend to add to our celebration.

**Together, let us celebrate the honor of being a grandparent
and our grandchildren (both adult and children) who we hold in our hearts.**



For many years the Cash Calendar was a part of the Holy Cross routine, and this fundraiser provided some additional financial support to the parish.

At this time, it is unlikely that we have enough parishioners attending Mass on a weekly basis to support a monthly drawing, so we will continue as we have done for the past few years with our quarterly drawing.

- **\$10 per ticket**
- **Tickets are available for purchase through June, July and August**
- **Drawing will be held SEPTEMBER 1.**

This is the pay scale which will be offered:

- **1 Prize @ \$250**
- **2 Prizes @ \$100**
- **10 Prizes @ \$50**
- **15 Prizes @ \$25**

This formula was based upon selling 250 tickets @ \$10 each.
If more than 250 tickets are sold, the number of prizes will be increased.

Please cut out and use the tickets below.

You may return your entries by placing them in an envelope and depositing it in the basket on weekends, or returning them to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your support!



Summer Cash Sizzle

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

Summer Cash Sizzle

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

Summer Cash Sizzle

Name _____

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Name _____

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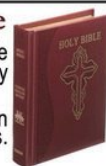
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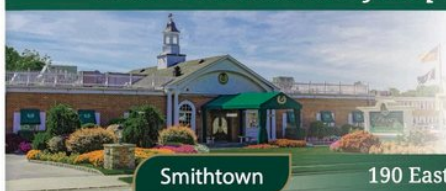
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