



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.



Third Sunday of Advent - December 15, 2024



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 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM;

Wednesday 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. Holzmann..... 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
Music Minister/Webmaster

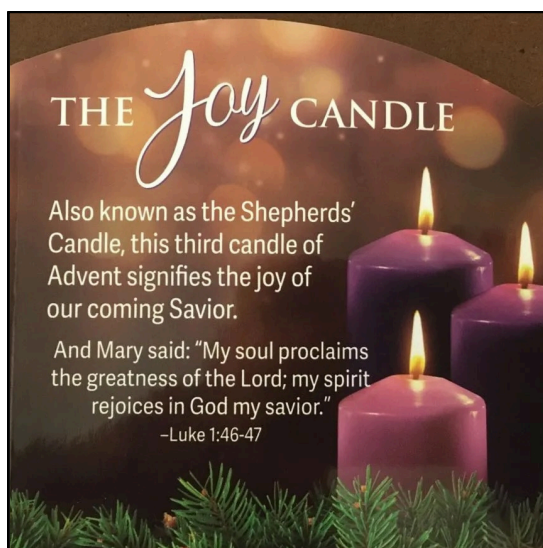
Mr. Roberto Maza
Custodian

Mr. Joseph Santoro
Office Support Staff

Mrs. Susan Ribeiro
Bulletin Editor

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

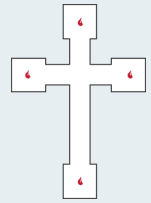
Visit our website at **www.holycrossrc.org**
for more information on how we can serve you.





A DAY OF JOY

Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael



The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. It is one of only two days in the Church year when the color of the vestments is rose. The focus on the day is meant to be joy in the midst of the season of waiting. But our lived experience doesn't always coincide with the liturgical calendar. Allow me to share with you some of what happened on the second Sunday of Advent.

As sometimes happens, there was a convergence of several events that created a busy, but abundantly life-giving weekend. I was able to host a parish family for dinner on Saturday evening, which is something I enjoy doing. I was called to anoint a parishioner who is in Stony Brook hospital. We busily distributed all the pre-ordered Christmas wreaths and other items as well as sold a few extra ones. We welcomed three baptism families at the 9:30 Mass. In between Masses I offered a blessing to a couple who have been married sixty years. I was pleased with the way my homily came together. An endless array of gifts cards and presents were dropped off as part of our Outreach Christmas Program. Outreach volunteers put on Santa hats and sorted and organized all the gifts. It was a whirlwind of a day.

On Sunday night as I relaxed at the house, I felt filled by a wave of peace and contentment. This was a weekend in which I believe we touched the hearts of many people. Be it through the prayers of the Church or a spirit of welcome and generosity on the part of many parishioners, we created an environment where good and holy things could take place. I went to bed happy.

There is one thing that happened on Friday that may have enhanced my perspective on everything that was to happen in the following days. I went into the city to meet my niece, her husband, and my grandniece who were visiting from Florida. Whenever I go to the city, I stop at St. Francis Church on 31st Street. Often, that is where I celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the midst of my conversation with the priest he said three simple words that exploded with life. He said, "You are good." Franciscans have the ability to say the simplest of things with authenticity and power. I'm still good, even though I have sinned. At that moment it was not the priest who was offering that message, it was God. It was a moment of grace. I'm still delighting in what happened in the celebration of that sacrament.

I'm not trying to be a Pollyanna. I know there are some people who find themselves in the midst of challenging circumstances and have heavy burdens on their hearts. Yet the Lord can transform all things. There is wisdom in the Church's invitation to "prepare the way." What can we do to allow God's life to touch our hearts? Perhaps, is it Reconciliation or time in silent reflection? Perhaps it is letting go of hurt or resentment. Joy is not reserved for a few lucky chosen ones. It is a gift offered to all of us. May we allow this season to open our hearts with new life.

"You are good."



ON THE CALENDAR

CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



DECEMBER 21

5:00 PM
FR. MICHAEL

DECEMBER 22

8:00 AM
FR. MICHAEL

9:30 AM
FR. FRANK

11:30 AM
FR. FRANK



**SCRIPTURE
READINGS
FOR DECEMBER 22**

+Micah 5:1-4a
+ Hebrews 10:5-10
+ Luke 1:39-45

Saturday, December 14th..... **RITE OF WELCOME**
5:00PM, Worship Area

Saturday, December 14th..... **YCC HOSPITALITY**
After 5:00PM Mass, Atrium

Sunday, December 15th **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**
11:30AM Mass, Fr. Joe Room

Sunday, December 15th **BAPTISMS**
1:00PM, Worship Area

Monday, December 16th..... **CONFESSION**
After 9AM Mass and 6:30PM-7:30PM, Chapel

Monday, December 16th..... **SPECIAL NEEDS**
4:00PM - 6:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium

Tuesday, December 17th..... **IN STITCHES**
10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room

Tuesday, December 17th..... **CANCELLED**..... **DRESS A GIRL**
1:00PM - 3:00PM, Atrium

Tuesday, December 17th.....**PARISH OFFICE CLOSING AT 3PM**

Wednesday, December 18th..... **GRANDPARENTS' PRAYER**
1:30PM, Chapel

Thursday, December 19th..... **SCRIPTURE STUDY**
10:00AM, Atrium

Practice of Hope (Excerpt from "At Home with the Word 2024")



As the pink candle in the Advent wreath is lit this week, we are reminded that Advent is a season of rejoicing as the coming of Christ is anticipated. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday (*gaudete*, meaning "rejoice"), and the prayers and readings call us to be joyful.

Make time for prayerful rejoicing. Attend an Advent lessons and carols service. Check your parish bulletin or local Catholic college for opportunities.

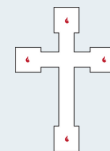


From December 16 to 24, *Las posadas* (from Spanish meaning "the inns"), a widely observed Advent tradition, celebrates Christian hospitality. The posadas symbolize Mary and Joseph's difficult search for a place to stay where Jesus could be born. Through the celebration we are reminded that by welcoming the poor and needy, we also welcome Jesus.

The "O" Antiphons are traditionally sung or recited to introduce the canticle of Mary (the Magnificat) at evening prayer from December 17 to December 23, but they can be easily incorporated into any aspect of daily Advent prayer. Based on Isaiah's prophecies, the antiphons echo ancient titles given to the long-awaited Messiah. Reflect daily on the "O" Antiphons this week. These invocations keep us focused on the One whose coming we are joyfully expecting in the midst of the commercialism of Christmas.

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



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

Bob Alderdice
Kimberly Crawford Arbocus
Theresa Arzillo
Alejandro Astegiano
Jo Barry
Kathy Barry
Barbara Bombace
Cole Brennan
Dan Bryan
Judy Carlson
Hank Champagne
Mary Champagne
William Ciccarelli
Jason DeLuca
Manuela Diaz
Ann Egan
Vincent Esposito

Ralph Farino
Yolanda Fattarusso
Sienna Fricke
Linda Giordano
Linda Heinrichs
Debbie Jablinowski
Kristen Kennedy
Roberta Lamb
Caroline Lazar
Carol Leahy
Mary Lopez
Gerald Losquadro
Charlotte Lynch
Viola Malek
Jeanne Marie Malley
Steve Matonti
Olivia Melia
Loretto Narducci

Darin Pitkanen
Patricia Pitkanen
Carina Ranieri
Rob Remhild
Liam Richards
Lynn Rodger
Sean Romeo
Elaine Ruane
Louise Scagnelli
Casey Schultz
Kathy Schwinn
John Serri
Celeste Sichenze
Bill Tanner
Grace Van Epps
Peter Warns
Emma Zeidman

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.

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Week of Sunday, December 15, 9AM Masses

Mon. Biagio Chirafisi
Tue. Steve Matonti (living)
Wed. Matthew Fiore (living)
Thu. Joanie Stevenson

Saturday, December 21, 5 PM Mass

Grace Kosch, Mary Forgione,
Constance Curcio, Ozzie Cruz,
Richard Akalski

Sunday, December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto
9:30 AM Michael Corcoran, Manuel Coelho,
Gloria Posimato, William J. Boucher,
Deborah Parente
11:30 AM People of the Parish



Banns of Marriage

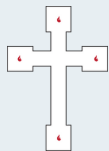
Elise Easton & Thomas Louro



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

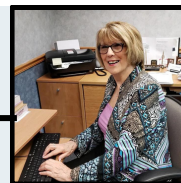


Now may the Lord of peace
himself give you peace at
all times in every way.
The Lord be with you all.
2 Thessalonians 3:16



GAUDETE SUNDAY

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



Here we are on the 3rd Sunday of Advent when the rose or pink candle is lit on the Advent wreath. You will notice the 3rd banner has been hung in the sanctuary with the word JOY on it. This reflects the name of this day, known as Gaudete Sunday, which means simply to REJOICE. The priest and deacon also don their rose-colored vestments for the weekend Masses.

This week provides a break midway through the season and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming at Christmas. While the season of Advent has us focusing on the coming of Jesus in three ways - His first, His present and His final one - Gaudete Sunday focuses on rejoicing in the Lord. Even the Holy Father tells us it is the SUNDAY OF JOY. That should be our focus and not on all we still have not done for Christmas. He also added that we should think about all the good things life has given us. This is great advice to embrace.

A Prayer of Rejoicing

Heavenly Father, this third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth brings us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy is not dependent on what is going on in our lives, in our world, or the people that we are with. It does not depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from you. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing. Flood our hearts with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Advent Wreath Weekly Prayer & Blessing for Your Home

This year, why not give some meaning to your Advent wreath to deepen your family's understanding and appreciation for this beautiful Advent season? Set aside a time when the family is together to pray and light the candle for the appropriate week. It is a wonderful way to engage in something prayerful with those you love.

Third Week of Advent: December 15, 2024

Light two purple candles and the pink candle.

Pray: Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during the busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with our hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

“Let there be Light”



After 30 years, the lighting fixtures in our Worship Area are failing and need to be updated. In addition, the obsolete dimming and control panel must be replaced.

For this reason, we are doing a special fundraiser to cover the \$98,200 cost of the project. We need to be able to make this improvement without utilizing our limited savings. This is an expensive undertaking, and we need your help.

*We are grateful for your support as a faithful community,
together assisting in maintaining the facility,
so we can offer Masses, Baptisms, Communions, Confirmations,
Weddings and Funerals here at Holy Cross.*

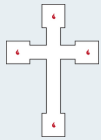


You can find envelopes for the “Let there be Light” fundraiser in the atrium, or you can do a direct donation using the Venmo or PayPal QR code.



If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Parish Office.

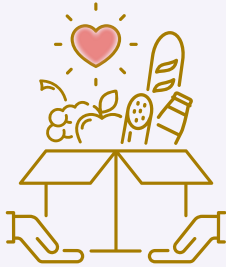
God bless you and Thank You for being part of “Let there be Light.”



PARISH OUTREACH

Outreach is currently in need of the following items for the food pantry.

**The collection will be this weekend
December 14th & 15th.**



**Toilet paper
Mayo - Rice
Peanut butter - Jelly
Mac and cheese
Snacks - Soup
Coffee (small cans)
Chicken in a can
Shampoo / Conditioner
Toothpaste**

Thank you for checking expiration dates before donating.

*Thank you for the donations of bags for our pantry.
We are not accepting any more at this time. Thank you!*

Thank you for your continued support!



Local Outreach - Can you help?

LIFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND

LIFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND has reached out to parishes across Long Island. They are asking for Winter Donations for all four of their centers. They are in need of gently used and new winter clothes for boys and girls in sizes Newborn through 4T, along with other baby care needs.

The four centers accepting donations are located in **Hempstead, Massapequa, Deep Park, and Smithtown.**

If you would like to help, please visit their website at **www.lifecenterli.org** for information on how to contact the centers, and other ways you can help. Thank you!



Homebound Ministers - We invite you to join this vital ministry!

Can you see yourself ministering to those who are homebound? Can you see yourself sharing a half an hour a week visiting, praying, and delivering the Eucharist to those who are, at times, forgotten?

Our Homebound Ministry is growing, and we need your help! A small-time commitment and a loving heart are all that are needed. We invite you to be part of this vital parish ministry that supports and ministers to those who are unable to join us at Sunday Mass. We are asking for your help in serving those we are called to serve. The impact you will make on a person's life is far beyond the time given. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Outreach Office at (631) 265-2200 ext. 113 for more information and any questions you may have. Thank you!



**Are you or someone you know
in the parish, homebound or
anticipating an operation or
treatment of cancer?**

*We 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.*

We need your assistance and invite you to help us see those in need and make the connection to our loved parishioners. Please call (631) 265-2200 ext. 113 or stop by Parish Outreach to let us know of these parishioners who are special to us. Thank you!



This year we were once again blessed with a tremendous response to our Christmas Angel Program. Our struggling households were incredibly grateful for the gift cards for their families. As parents and family members, we can appreciate how good it is to provide for our children's needs. Enabling these moms and dads to do the same accomplishes so much more than just handing them a gift someone else has bought. They can now provide in a way they could not provide before.

This year we helped forty families with clothing and toys, including forty-five children. We collected enough gift cards to provide each person with approximately \$25 for clothing needs and an additional \$25 per child for their toy requests. Also, each household received supermarket cards to help with their holiday meal. This means, due to your generosity, we collected and distributed over \$4300 in store cards and \$1,500 in supermarket cards.

Thank you so much for bringing the Light of Jesus' Birth to those who struggle each day. You are truly special Angels! Christ is born again every time we choose to give to another, walk with another or empower another.

In addition, the parish also provided gifts to the following agencies:

122 Gifts to our friends at Olsen's Rest Home (socks, hairbrushes, and tissues)

A \$25 Target gift card for each resident at Mercy Haven

211 Gifts for teenagers at Pronto in Bay Shore (Body wash, sweatshirts, ear buds and hair accessories)

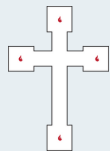
A \$25 Target gift card for each resident at Talbot House

This is a phenomenal effort that requires many volunteers to accomplish. An excessively big "THANK YOU" to our angel cutter, Pauline Fanuele, our dedicated pantry stocking teams, all our sorting elves, our volunteer gift deliverers, and those who generously donated money, gift cards and special donations which helped us and our families so much. The words "thank you" cannot capture or express my appreciation for all the support and help I had for this project, but I must say a deep heartfelt "thank you" to you all. I feel grateful and blessed to be part of such a generous, faithful community.

A special thank you to my office partner, Michele Alderdice, who works tirelessly to help make our Christmas Angel Program and all our projects a success. Thank you, Michele!

Wishing you all a Very Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Peace, Kelley



PARISH REMINDERS



Christmas 2024 Mass Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 21st @ 5:00PM
Sunday, December 22nd @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24th @ 4:00PM, 6:00PM & 10:00PM

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25th @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Saturday, December 28th @ 5:00PM
Sunday, December 29th @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM


Solemnity of Mary
Tuesday, December 31st @ 5:00PM
Wednesday, January 1st @ 10:00AM

Confessions
Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:15PM
Wednesdays after the 9:00AM Mass
Monday, December 16th: After the 9:00AM Mass
and 6:30PM to 7:30PM





Joy

May the God of hope
fill you with all JOY
and peace in believing.
-Romans 15:13



Due to bulletin printing deadlines,
names of loved ones from the Christmas
flower envelopes will begin to appear
in the Christmas bulletin.
If you do not see the name of your loved one
in the Christmas bulletin,
names will be in bulletins in
the following weeks after Christmas.
Thank you for your understanding.




Christmas Mass Intentions

In lieu of individual announced
intentions at the Christmas Masses,
there are cards in the atrium on which to
write your special intentions.
These cards will be placed on the Altar
at all the Christmas Masses.



Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love



This weekend at the offertory
we will also be collecting for our
Renovations and Major Repairs fund.
Thank you for your continued support!



Missalettes

If you didn't get a chance to order a
2025 Missalette, you can still purchase one for
\$12 in the Parish Office.

Winter Windfall

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 December, January and February.
- Drawing will be held **February 28**.

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 use the tear-off 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!

Winter Windfall

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Winter Windfall

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Winter Windfall

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

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Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____



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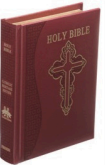
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Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____



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