



# 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.



*Behold, the virgin shall  
conceive and bear a son, and  
they shall call him  
"Emmanuel"  
which means*

*"God is with us."*

Matthew 1:23

**Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 21, 2025**  
**The Nativity of the Lord - December 25, 2025**



## **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](http://www.holycrossrc.org) + [www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset](https://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](mailto: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](mailto:susanr@holycrossrc.org)

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

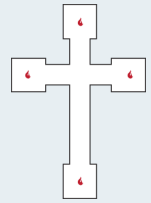


Visit our website at **[www.holycrossrc.org](http://www.holycrossrc.org)**  
for more information on how we can serve you.



## IN THE BEGINNING

*Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael*



One of the options for readings on Christmas Day is the prologue from John's Gospel. The gift of Jesus is a profound new beginning. We hear the very first words that say, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. And the Word was God." It is no coincidence that "in the beginning" is chosen. Those words mirror the very first words from the creation story from Genesis. The nature of God is new life. It's no wonder that God's Son came into the world as a newborn child. The essence of God is the offer of salvation. It's no wonder that the resurrection story begins at an empty tomb. These stories from scripture are not only historical record from the past, but rather the presentation of a great story that we are privileged to share in to this very day.

The promise of a new beginning is always a gift. It's not as though all our headaches and heartaches miraculously go away, but it does give a sense of a new opportunity. Where in your life and in your heart do you need the gift of the Lord Jesus to dwell? In what way does this Christmas day allow you to be renewed in the life and hope offered by our God? There will always be reasons why we may feel unworthy or identify improvements we need to make. None of this negates our ability to experience God. As we hear in the infancy narrative, people from many nations and from all directions came to share in the gift of Jesus. None of them were refused because of who they were or where they came from. Jesus not only touches the pain and sadness in our own lives, he offers hope and comfort to our broken and fragile world.

As joyous as the day is, remember it is only the first step in a great journey. Jesus doesn't remain a small helpless child; he grows. As time goes by, he comes to understand the path his Father has asked him to walk. Jesus brings a message of joy and hope, especially to those who are poor, ill, and looked down upon by the rest of society. Jesus demands that we look at life in a different way. We must grow with the Lord. Jesus extends to us the commandment of love with the expectation that we are to live by that law and be bearers of that gift to one another. Whether we are sitting in our homes, driving down the highway, or watching the evening news, we are a people who are called to look at life through the lens of love. Let us also be mindful of all the corners of the world and all the issues we face where the love of Christ is so desperately needed. At the very least we cannot neglect those who are suffering. May the gift of Jesus bring hope to all.

*May the joy of this Christmas day touch your heart and the hearts of your loved ones.*

*May the promise of this day be felt across our globe.*

*May we become a people who strive to live and become the gift of love that we receive.*

***Christmas Blessings!***



DECEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	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	1	2	3

# ON THE CALENDAR

**Sunday, December 21st** ..... **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**  
**11:30AM Mass**, Fr. Joe Room

**Monday, December 22nd** ..... **CONFESSION**  
 (see box below)

**Wednesday, December 24th**..... **PARISH OFFICE CLOSSES AT 12 NOON**

**Thursday, Dec. 25th & Friday, Dec. 26th**..... **PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED**

## CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



**DECEMBER 27**

**5:00 PM**

**FR. MICHAEL**

**DECEMBER 28**

**8:00 AM**

**FR. MICHAEL**

**9:30 AM**

**FR. MICHAEL**

**11:30 AM**

**FR. MICHAEL**



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**for DECEMBER 28**

**+ Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14**

**+ Colossians 3:12-21**

**+ Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**

## Celebrants for Christmas Masses

### Christmas Eve:\*

4PM Fr. Michael

6PM Fr. Frank/Dcn. Joe

10PM Fr. Michael

### Christmas Day:

8AM Fr. Frank/Dcn. Joe

9:30AM Fr. Michael

11:30AM Fr. Michael

*"O Come, Let Us Adore Him"*

\*Please Note: There is NO morning Mass on December 24th



## Confession Times This Week

Monday, December 22nd: After the 9:00AM Mass,  
 2:00PM - 4:00PM and 6:00PM - 7:30PM

**in the Chapel**

There will be no confession on Wednesday, the 24th



## Practice of Faith

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

How do we approach God with a pure heart amid the chaos of this busy pre-Christmas season? Joseph teaches us to focus on what truly matters. He obeyed the message from the angel and took Mary as his wife.

How can you prepare for Christ's second coming? Spend time in quiet prayer this week and allow the Holy Spirit to counsel you.

Joseph gave the gift of family to Mary and Jesus by welcoming them into his home. Beyond gifts, how can you show hospitality to someone having difficulty?

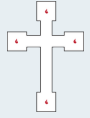
Joseph also serves as a model of trust in God. Spend time in prayer asking God for the grace to trust in his promises. If you are having difficulty trusting God and are experiencing doubts about your faith, make the effort to address your doubts in prayer and spiritual direction.

Visit our website at [www.holycrossrc.org](http://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, December 21**

**9:00AM Masses:**

**Mon.** Cathy Pezner, Francis & Frances Giambanco

**Tues.** Sophie Burns

**Christmas Eve Masses**

**4PM, 6PM, & 10PM**

All Prayer Card Intentions

**Christmas Day Masses**

**8AM, 9:30AM, & 11:30AM**

All Prayer Card Intentions

**Saturday, December 27, 5PM Mass**

Gerald Pisapia, James E. Guiliano, James Maggio,  
Margaret Cortegiano, Harriet Frances Cople

**Sunday, December 28, Masses**

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

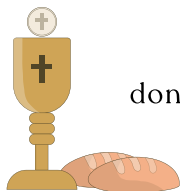
**8:00AM** People of the Parish

**9:30AM** James W. Corrigan Jr.

**11:30AM** Bernard Farkas, Peter Buscemi,  
Charles Speidell, Paulette Graffeo,  
Luigi Cirelli

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

Bob Alderdice	Caroline Lazar
Alejandro Astegiano	Carol Leahy
Jo Barry	Victor Lewandowski
Kathy Barry	Mary Lopez
Alison Bilski	Gerald Losquadro
Cole Brennan	Jeanne Marie Malley
Laurie Bronzino	Janet Mangano
Veronica Buscemi	Olivia Melia
Judy Carlson	Geraldine Muscarnere
Mary Champagne	Loretto Narducci
Peter Chirafisi	Andrea Nocito
William Ciccarelli	Darin Pitkanen
Stephen Crawford	Patricia Pitkanen
Kimberly Crawford-Arbocus	Colleen Prinz
Grayson Danielski	Carina Ranieri
Anthony DeGennaro	Bernardine Reichbach
Manuela Diaz	Mary Ann Reilly
Peter DiMauro	Rob Remhild
Ann Egan	Christine Ridulfo
Lisa Eger	Lynn Rodger
Vincent Esposito	Sean Romeo
Ralph Farino	Elaine Ruane
Yolanda Fattarusso	Jacqueline Santamaria
Sienna Fricke	Casey Schultz
Linda Giordano	Kathy Schwin
James Greene	John Serri
Linda Heinrichs	Celeste Sichenze
Ralph Hughes	Todd Skala
Ryan Huscher	Sue Southard
Debbie Jablinowski	Bill Tanner
Kristen Kennedy	Calvin Tatone
	Grace Van Epps
	Peter Warns



The **Bread and Wine**  
for the week have been  
donated in loving memory of  
**Anthony DeVito Jr.**  
by his family.

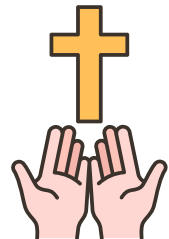
**If you would like to have the name of your  
loved one listed in our prayers for the sick,  
please call 631-265-2200 x122.**



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

*May my prayer be set before  
you like incense; may the  
lifting up of my hands be like  
the evening sacrifice.*

Psalm 141:2





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 39 families with clothing and toys, including 44 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 \$2,100 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:*

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

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

**198 Gifts for teenagers at Pronto in Bay Shore (footballs, soccer balls, baseballs and baseball mitts, plus sweatshirts and sweatpants)**

**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, to all our weekly 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! A special thank you also to Mary Beth Bonacorsa for all her hard work during the Christmas Angel program. I am so grateful for all your help.

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

*Peace, Kelley*



## *Christmas Flowers in Honor / Memory of...*

*We remember and pray for all our loved ones -  
those living and those who have gone before us.*

Barry Armandi  
Rocco Armandi  
Anne Armandi  
Edward Philapavage  
Barbara Philapavage  
Paul DiGregorio  
Anne DiGregorio  
Paul A. DiGregorio  
James Pickel  
Damien Pickel  
Pickel Family  
Conlin Family  
Alfred Izzo  
Laura Izzo  
Louis Romeo  
Anne Romeo  
Vincenzo Zezima  
Louisa Zezima  
Pat DelPrete Jr.  
Sottung Family  
Duminuco Family  
John McMahon  
Mary McMahon  
Oscar B  
Jo B  
Kathy B  
Barry Family  
Rende Family  
Law Enforcement  
All Religious  
Friends & Family  
Ann Trifiletti  
Dominick Trifiletti  
Salvatore Trifiletti  
Bessie Trifiletti  
Anthony Mauro  
Fanny Mauro  
Bessie Kenyon  
Clarence Kenyon  
Judith Kenyon  
Joe Brindisi  
Mary Humphries  
John Humphries  
Lucia Vitale Traino

Rita Osipowich  
Pat Mosca  
M/M O. DeSanto  
M/M G. Gargiulo  
Roberta Lamb  
M/M Nicholas Lamb  
M/M William McQuade  
Dolores Fass  
Morton Fass  
Eileen Lichtenberger  
Henry Lichtenberger  
Kristen Johnson  
Bernadette Kuczewski  
Frazier Family  
Sokol Family  
D'Agostino Family  
Frank Akalski  
Hedwig Akalski  
Eleanor Kerner  
Fred Kerner  
Stanley Osina  
Vito Orlando  
Clara Orlando  
Andrew Orlando  
Maryellen Klaus  
John Persich  
Grace Persich  
Elizabeth Mulderig  
Gerald Mulderig Sr.  
Bruno Family  
Schreiber Family  
Sam Chasinov  
Virginia Chasinov  
Joe Lescinski  
Lucy Lescinski  
Anne Rudnicki  
Edward Rudnicki  
Diane Rudnicki  
Sarah Moore  
Patricia Messina  
Frank Messina  
Domenick Abbate  
John Abbate

Jim Emerson  
Anne Mattera  
Vincent Mattera  
John Mattera  
Stephen Mattera  
Julia Ann Geary  
Vincent Pelliccio  
Greg Wirth  
Estelle Sternberg  
Doug Sternberg  
John Sternberg  
Ann Wirth  
Cecil Wirth  
Jim Reid  
Mary Reid  
Joan DiBernardo  
Sal DiBernardo  
James White Family  
Mendolia Family  
Irene Kucz waj  
Walter V. Kucz waj  
Ed Makowski  
Virginia Makowski  
Giovanni Grass  
Frances Grass  
Vincent Serrantonio  
Mildred Serrantonio  
T.J. DiMarco  
Michael Simonetti  
Robert Riccardi  
Brian Grass  
Officer Vincent Pelliccio  
Dominick Cardone  
Rose Cardone  
Frankie Kotarski  
Ida Kotarski  
John Kotarski  
Madeline  
Joe Frangosie  
Angie Frangosie  
Tony Frangiose  
Rose Gicola  
Mark Castelluzzi  
Rita Castelluzzi



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.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Level 1

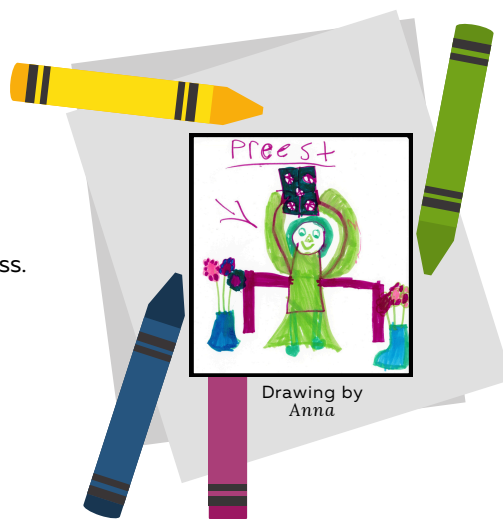
**Draw what you see at Mass  
the weekend of January 3rd & 4th.**

Please come to Mass  
on either Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the 5PM Mass or  
on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, at the 8AM, 9:30AM, or the 11:30AM Mass.

Before Mass starts, please pick up a crayon and a piece of  
paper from the assigned baskets in the atrium.

During Mass, draw what you see in church  
and then after Mass, please place your picture  
in the basket labeled "Completed" out in the atrium.

You may put your first name on the picture.



Drawing by  
Anna

All pictures will be displayed for everyone to see the following weekend, at all Masses on January 10th & 11th.

**THURSDAY  
JANUARY 8th  
at 7:00PM**

**LEVEL 2  
Movie Night**



**"Ten Commandments"  
by Brother Francis  
will be held in the Worship Area**

Thank you to everyone who sent Christmas greetings  
and expressions of good wishes.  
In all the ways you show your generosity, it is greatly appreciated.  
Your kindness fills us with gratitude, for you are our greatest gift.  
As this year of 2025 comes to a close,  
we pray that this coming year will be filled with peace in your hearts,  
in your homes and in our world.  
We pray that we will all grow in love of God  
and that we will find His joy in each other  
as we serve His people together.

***Fr. Michael and the Pastoral Team and Staff***



# PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



## Congratulations

to our Catechumens, Bonnie, Vincent, and Sean, and to our Candidates, Alexandra, Dan, Ryan and Nicole, who celebrated the Rite of Welcome at the 5:00 Mass on December 13. We offer them our prayerful support as they journey to the Easter sacraments.



## HOLIDAY SCAMS

Every day, people across the United States fall victim to scammers who are looking to take advantage of the vulnerable. Suffolk County is not immune. During this holiday season, please be aware of the most common scams that are reported to the Police Department.

Please visit, online:

<https://suffolkpd.org/Information-and-Policies/SCAM-Alerts> to educate yourself and your family.

More importantly you will find those prevention tips to help keep you from becoming a victim.



**Knights of  
Columbus®**



**Blessed Sacrament Council #11416  
Parish of the Holy Cross**



Congratulations to our lucky parishioner  
who won \$1,000.00  
by purchasing one of our raffle tickets!



**We welcome prospective members to join The Knights**  
Visit: [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) for more info



## Practice of Faith

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



## Christmas Readings

Isaiah 9:1-6  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14

The readings for Christmas invite us to adore the Lord Jesus.

Know that "God is with us" and spend time this week with Him in silent prayer. Meditate on His name, "God-Hero." How is Jesus the hero of your life?

Pray the ancient prayer of lectio divina. Using the Bible or a prayer app, read or listen to the Gospel twice. Imagine being in Bethlehem on Christmas night long ago. You see Joseph and Mary struggling to find shelter. Mary is showing the stress of labor. Perhaps you are a shepherd tending your flock and you behold a bright star shattering the darkness. Follow the star to the manger and adore the Messiah and Lord. Speak tenderly to him and let his heart speak to yours.

Follow the example of Mary and Joseph by sharing the radiance of Jesus with strangers. Hold a door open, let someone into your lane of traffic, treat service workers with kindness.



# PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY

## Christmas 2025 Mass Schedule

### *The Nativity of the Lord*

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 20th @ 5:00PM  
Sunday, December 21st @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

#### Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th @ 4:00PM, 6:00PM & 10:00PM

#### Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

#### Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 27th @ 5:00PM  
Sunday, December 28th @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

#### Solemnity of Mary

Wednesday, December 31st @ 5:00PM  
Thursday, January 1st @ 10:00AM

#### Confessions

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:15PM  
Monday, December 22nd: After the 9:00AM Mass,  
2:00PM – 4:00PM and 6:00PM – 7:30PM  
*There will be no confession on Wednesday, the 24th*



# Love

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

-1 John 4:9



#### **Please note:**

that due to lines missing on the back of some **"Christmas Flowers" offering envelopes**, loved ones' names can be added to the back of the envelopes if desired.

Please print clearly.

Names will appear in future bulletins as they are received, due to printing deadlines.  
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 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 2026 Missalette, you can still purchase one for \$12 in the Parish Office.

# PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



## Youth Community Cares

**"Serving our youth as our youth serve others"**

Thank you to all our youth volunteers who are making a difference in our church community!

**Hospitality after Mass**

On Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, our youth volunteers served refreshments at the last YCC "Hospitality after Mass" for the year of 2025.

Throughout 2025, the Youth Community Cares Ministry has been involved in helping at various events, engaging our youth in parish life. We are so thankful for each and every one of these young people who have participated. We want them to know how important they are in our church family and how much we appreciate their effort in making a difference in our church community.

Thank you to our YCC Coordinator, Angela Wichtendahl, for organizing these events for our young volunteers, and thanks to the adult volunteers who help Angela supervise YCC sponsored events that are building our community of faith with service!



*Pictured: YCC volunteers serve as parishioners (and Fr. Michael) attend Hospitality after Mass.*

***If you are a middle school or high school student, you are welcome to join YCC!***

For additional information, join our Remind group: [rmd.at/ycchc](https://rmd.at/ycchc)  
or please email Angela at: [youthcc@holycrossrc.org](mailto:youthcc@holycrossrc.org) to get a Sign-Up Genius Link

***There are more opportunities to sign up for Hospitality dates in 2026. Join us!***

*thank you*



Thank you to  
**Michele Cleaners**  
located at  
65 Smithtown Blvd.,  
Smithtown,  
for their generosity  
in laundering  
our vestments and  
Altar linens.

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for

behold, I bring good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:8-11







DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2025

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas!

Throughout this year, we have marked many significant milestones in the life of the Church leading us to the Lord's Nativity and this holy season of Christmas, most especially the passing of Pope Francis at Easter and the election of Pope Leo XIV in May.

What a gift it has been to walk these months with our new Holy Father, to learn from his teaching, and witness his example.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo released his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexit Te - I Have Loved You*. It is a profound meditation on love for the poor and speaks powerfully to the mystery of the Lord's Birth and the grace of this season.

The Holy Father reminds us: "The Gospel shows us that poverty marked every aspect of Jesus' life. From the moment he entered the world, Jesus knew the bitter experience of rejection. The Evangelist Luke tells how Joseph and Mary, who was about to give birth, arrived in Bethlehem, and then adds, poignantly, that 'there was no place for them in the inn' (*Lk* 2:7). Jesus was born in humble surroundings and laid in a manger; then, to save him from being killed, they fled to Egypt (cf. *Mt* 2:13-15). At the dawn of his public ministry, after announcing in the synagogue of Nazareth that the year of grace which would bring joy to the poor was fulfilled in him, he was driven out of town (cf. *Lk* 4:14-30). He died as an outcast, led out of Jerusalem to be crucified (cf. *Mk* 15:22). Indeed, that is how Jesus' poverty is best described: he experienced the same exclusion that is the lot of the poor, the outcast of society. Jesus is a manifestation of this *privilegium pauperum*. He presented himself to the world not only as a poor Messiah, but also as the Messiah of and for the poor." (n. 19)

Before these words of Pope Leo, we recall the wonderful truth: Christ became poor so that we who are poor might become rich (cf. 2 Cor. 8:9). This is the good news of Christmas. We are not alone. We are not left to ourselves. A Savior has come - Christ the Lord.

As we celebrate the Christmas season, we remember with Pope Leo that "Christian holiness often flourishes in the most forgotten and wounded places of humanity." (n. 76)

How beautifully the followers of Christ have responded to the cry of the poor and looked with love upon the most vulnerable among us. As we rejoice in Christ's Birth, we renew our commitment to love others as he has loved us.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

On Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we will conclude our Jubilee Year of Hope.

We thank both Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV for igniting hope within our families, the global mission of the Church, and the human family, and we contemplate the light and grace that radiates from the refugee Holy Family (73) and that radiates to every family.

Our Catholic biblical and sacramental worship, especially at the Catholic Mass, focuses and ignites both our global mission to the poor (n. 42) and our humble openness to being evangelized by the poor (n. 102), the treasures of our Church (n. 38).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

May the Light and love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic missionary spirit this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *John O. Barres*  
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre





United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

## Statement on Immigration from the United States Council of Catholic Bishops

As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care. We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.

Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks.

The Church's teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God's compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (Zechariah 7:10). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (Luke 10:30-37), and we see the One who is found in the least of these (Matthew 25). The Church's concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord's command to love as He has loved us (John 13:34).

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26). You are not alone!

We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already accompany and assist immigrants in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration reform.

As disciples of the Lord, we remain men and women of hope, and hope does not disappoint!

(cf. Romans 5:5)

May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all in her maternal  
and loving care and draw us ever closer to the heart of Christ.

November 12, 2025



# 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 December, January and February.**
- **Drawing will be held FEB. 26TH**

**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!**



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