

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.



Second Sunday of Advent - December 7, 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



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

PASTORAL TEAM

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

9 AM - 12 NOON

PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. Vincent Mazurek **Webmaster**

Mr. Roberto Maza **Custodian**

Mr. Joseph Santoro
Office Support Staff

Mrs. Susan Ribeiro **Bulletin Editor**

email: susanr@holycrossrc.org

NEW OUTREACH HOURS: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

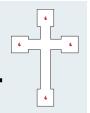
Evening Hours by Appointment Only



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



CYNIC OR SAINT?



Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael

I recently heard a reflection that concluded, the same reality could be the source of two possible responses: becoming a cynic or becoming a saint. A person may respond to the spirit of evil, which is rooted in hatred and fosters self-centeredness, and despair. Or, a person may respond to the grace of God, which is rooted in love and brings about hope and compassion. Guess which one we are called to? Today's Gospel reading sets the groundwork for us to understand the power of God's kingdom which is already available to us. Whatever situation we are dealing with, God's mercy and love can change all things.

In the gospel, we hear John the Baptist say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The word repent can be misunderstood or greatly diluted. For some, "repent" means stop having naughty thoughts and remember to say your prayers. It is far more than that. It comes from the Greek work "metanoia" which translates as "to turn around." It means, at some point in life making a radical change at the way life is seen. The great challenge for us is to trust the ways and places where we will find these truths. It is very clearly stated that it will not be found in the conventional places we want to look. We are told how the message begins with John the Baptist who literally lived on the fringe of society; he came from the desert. He did not wear conventional clothing. He did not eat traditional food. Yet it was this unusual message spoken by an unexpected person in a faraway place that paved the way of truth.

We need to allow this pattern to remind us where truth will be found. The message will not be proclaimed on any major television network. Too much of this becomes a breeding ground for cynics. The truth will not be found in any great event of retail sales. These things are not evil or wrong, they are simply not the gospel by which we are called to live. Your very presence here brings you to the edge of the desert where there is the possibility of hearing God's truth. Remember, in the midst of a decorating frenzy, that we are the people who light single candles on an Advent wreath. Beyond that, we speak a message of new life and hope. As we hear in scripture today, "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse," and "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you." These are the words that raise up saints. I pray I may always preach the truth and depth of scripture. I pray you may be open to hear the truth and depth of scripture.

Spoiler alert, after Christmas we are going to begin using a new song entitled "We Have Been Called." We will sing "a calling of changing our world with God's love." We have to be the people who understand the power and opportunity afforded us. The gift of God's love at work in us and through us can be the power that transforms our lives and our world. All of us can point to areas of life where we wish outward circumstances would change. That is not the crucial issue. What is more critical is, how do we see what is before us and how do we respond? It is much easier to become a cynic. But we are asked to walk the path of holiness; we have the ability to become living saints. Allow the message of the one in the desert to lead us more deeply into the mystery of God's love.



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

Saturday, December 6th	HOLY HOUR
Sunday, December 7thAfter 9:30AM Mass, Worship Area	ANOINTING OF THE SICK
Sunday, December 7th 11:30AM Mass, Fr. Joe Room	CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD
Sunday, December 7th 11:30AM Mass, Atrium	LAST DAY TO RETURN ANGEL GIFTS

Monday, December 8th IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASSES 9:00AM & 7:00PM, Chapel, Worship Area

Monday, December 8th PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED

Wednesday, December 10th GRANDPARENTS' PRAYER 1:30PM, Chapel

Thursday, December 11th WOMEN'S BIBLE CIRCLE 10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room

Saturday, December 13th RITE OF WELCOME 5:00PM Mass, Worship Area

Saturday, December 13th KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SALES 5:00PM Mass, Atrium

Sunday, December 14th KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SALES All Masses, Atrium

1:00PM, Worship Area

Monday, December 8th, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast celebrates God's choice of Mary to be the mother of Jesus. God preserved Mary from the stain of original sin from the moment of her conception. Thus, Mary was the first to receive the benefit of the redemption that her Son would merit for all.

This information is brought to you by Loyola Press. loyolapress.com

CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



DECEMBER 13

5:00 PM FR. MICHAEL

DECEMBER 14

8:00 AM FR. MICHAEL

9:30 AM

FR. MICHAEL

11:30 AM

FR. MICHAEL



SCRIPTURE READINGS for DECEMBER 14

+ Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

+ James 5:7-10 + Matthew 11:2-11

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

Monday, December 8-Immaculate Conception Masses

9:00AM: Eric & Theresa Schwarz **7:00PM:** Scott Seiferlein

Week of Sunday, December 7 9:00AM Masses:

Tues. Joseph Svercel, Biagio Chirafisi

Wed. Roberta Lamb **Thur.** Charles Inghilterra

Saturday, December 13, 5PM Mass

Gregory Wirth, John O'Shea, James E. Guiliano, James Maggio, Marie Howley, Margaret Cortegiano

Sunday, December 14, Masses Third Sunday of Advent

8:00AM People of the Parish **9:30AM** Cecilia Lopes **11:30AM** Anthony DeVito Jr., Bergmann family, Raymond Grasing Sr., Michael DiLoreto, Cathy DiLoreto, Arthur Maus



The **Bread and Wine** for the week have been donated for the intentions and good health of **Ryan Saluzzi** by his loving family.



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

We continue to pray through 2025 for ...

SSGT David Basler
Cpl Brian S. Brophy Jr., USMC
Cpl Richard J. DeKanchuk, USMC
FC2 Lane Dyar
AS Brandon Ferrara
MIDN Jonathan A. Goohs Jr., USNA
WO Christopher Kaminsky
Sgt Michael J. Knipper, USMC
Dr./Cmdr. Eric J. Koch, USNA
SSGT Ryan Mauldin
PFC Ryan McCoy, USMC
Lt Ryan Montvydas

Please let us know if their service is finished or their title has changed. May God bless all who serve our nation. **Pray for peace!**

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

Bob Alderdice Alejandro Astegiano Jo Barry Kathy Barry Alison Bilski Cole Brennan Laurie Bronzino Veronica Buscemi Judy Carlson Mary Champagne Peter Chirafisi William Ciccarelli Stephen Crawford Kimberly Crawford-Arbocus Grayson Danielski Anthony DeGennaro Manuela Diaz Peter DiMauro Ann Egan Lisa Eger Vincent Esposito Ralph Farino Yolanda Fattarusso Sienna Fricke Linda Giordano James Greene Linda Heinrichs Ralph Hughes Ryan Huscher Debbie Jablinowski Kristen Kennedy

Caroline Lazar Carol Leahy Victor Lewandowski Mary Lopez Gerald Losquadro Jeanne Marie Malley Janet Mangano Steve Matonti Olivia Melia Geraldine Muscarnere Loretto Narducci Andrea Nocito Darin Pitkanen Patricia Pitkanen Colleen Prinz Carina Ranieri Bernardine Reichbach Rob Remhild Christine Ridulfo Lynn Rodger Sean Romeo Elaine Ruane Jacqueline Santamaria Casey Schultz Kathy Schwinn John Serri Celeste Sichenze Todd Skala Sue Southard Bill Tanner Calvin Tatone Grace Van Epps Peter Warns

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 remember and pray for the following Holy Cross parishioners who passed away recently:

Robert Houlihan Viola Malek

May they rest in peace, and may their loved ones be consoled.



PARISH OUTREACH



A VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER

TODAY, DECEMBER 7th, IS THE LAST DAY TO RETURN YOUR ANGEL GIFT CARDS OR GIFTS.

Please be sure all Angel items are here by the end of the 11:30am Mass.

This afternoon, our Outreach committee will be sorting and allocating the gift cards for our families so that they have time to shop. The agencies will also be picking up their gift items this week.

We hope you will continue to keep our struggling neighbors in your prayers. Thank you for remembering them during this season of joy, hope and peace.

-Parish Outreach



Pantry Needs for December

For the month of December, Outreach will <u>not</u> be requesting any food items. This is due to your generosity and support of the Outreach Pantry

This is due to your generosity and support of the Outreach Pantry the last few weeks. **Thank you!**

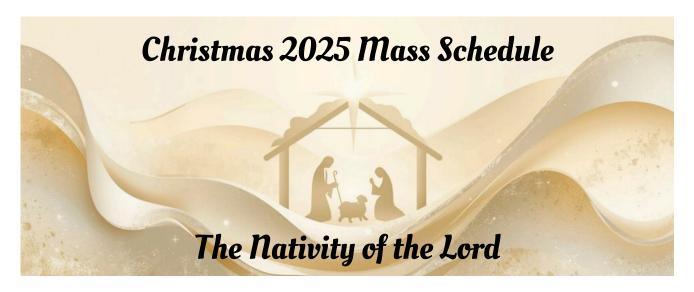
Are you or someone you know in the parish, homebound or anticipating an operation or treatment of cancer?



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.

"It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters."

- Mother Teresa



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

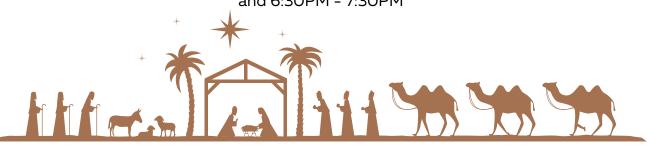
Saturday, December 27th @ 5:00PM Sunday, December 28th @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

Solemnity of Mary

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

Confessions

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:15PM Wednesdays after the 9:00AM Mass Monday, December 22nd: After the 9:00AM Mass and 6:30PM – 7:30PM





RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Level 1 students and family members enjoy crafting their own Advent wreaths as they prepare for the Christmas Season.

























An Advent wreath consists of a frame holding four candles placed inside a circle of evergreens.

The greenery in the wreath symbolizes the promised new life in Jesus.

The four candles denote the four Sundays of Advent.

There are three purple candles and one rose candle.

Purple is a sign of penance, and rose is the color denoting the anticipation of joy.

Light a candle on each Sunday evening of Advent, saying a short prayer or singing a verse of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

The light of the candles represents the light coming into the world as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

This information is brought to you by Loyola Press.

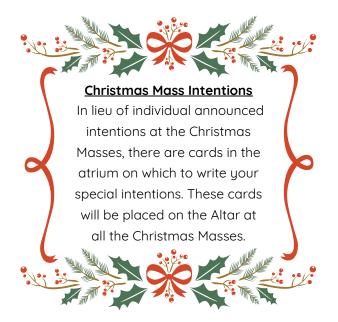
Visit loyolapress.com for more information about the Advent season.

PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY





Next week at the offertory we will also be collecting for the Religious Retirement fund.



Missalettes

If you didn't get a chance to order a 2026 Missalette, you can still purchase one for \$12 in the Parish Office.

In this season of gratitude, we give special thanks to all of our youth volunteers.



Thank you for your energy, your kindness, and your willingness to help others. Bless each of you for the time, love, and effort you give to our community.

May you always know how important and appreciated you are.

May the Lord fill your hearts with joy and gratitude
today and always.

Amen

YOUTH COMMUNITY CARES

YCC youth volunteers at Hospitality after the 5PM Mass on November 22



If you are a middle school or high school student looking for community service hours, we currently have great opportunities for you to share your time and talent!

For additional information, join our Remind group:

rmd.at/ycchc

or please email Angela at:

youthcc@holycrossrc.org

to get a Sign-Up Genius Link



Practice of Charity

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

John the Baptist calls you to "make straight his paths." What are concrete ways to establish Christ's kingdom of heaven here on earth?

This week, strive to "think in harmony" with those in your home, work, and parish. Show hospitality by listening to the opinions of others. Engage in dialogue when problems arise so "that with one accord you may with one voice" arrive at solutions that glorify God.

Spend this week praying for God's guidance to attend to those in need in your family or community. Investigate outreach programs in your neighborhood and parish. Volunteer in a community soup kitchen or shelter.

Check on elderly neighbors who may need extra support or companionship. Is there an elderly family member you can comfort with a phone call or visit? Write an email or send a card to let them know they are loved. Invite them for a family meal so they may feel welcome "as Christ welcomed you."



PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY

Thanksgiving Mass 2025

On Thanksgiving morning, the parish gathered for Mass. Each year, a family is invited to dress the altar and present the gifts of bread and wine. Families are invited to bring an item from their table to be blessed, as well as food items to refill the food pantry. In addition, at the conclusion of Mass, small loaves of bread with a Thanksgiving prayer are given to each family in attendance. Many thanks to the Sexton family for participating in preparing the altar and to the women of our Stitches group for assembling the bread and prayer. We also offer a note of gratitude to our local Handy Pantry in Nesconset for the donation of the loaves of bread and to Barbara Burger for her part in this annual event.



PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY





Banns of Marriage

Alyssa Lebron & John Wolczok



Sunday, December 7th, will be the next date that the Anointing of the Sick will be offered after the 9:30 AM Mass



GRANDPARENTS' PRAYER GROUP

Grandparents fill the world with Love

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, December 10th, at 1:30PM in the Chapel

HOLY CROSS SENIORS



Our next meeting is on
Wednesday, DECEMBER 10th
Join us in the Atrium
from 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM



YOUTH COMMUNITY CARES HOSPITALITY on Saturday, December 13

Our youth volunteers will be serving complimentary refreshments in the atrium after the 5PM Mass.



Holy Cross Welcomes these Children Baptized in November

> Emma Gabrielle Baudo Christopher Michael Clinco, Jr. Nico Rafael Covas Ford Edward Culicerto Matteo Daniel Emery-Aldana Jesse Blake Ferrara Mia Josephine Garcia Leo Enzo Gasparro Kennedy Faith Glanton Charlotte McKenna Inghilterra Jack Peter Kempski Owen Avery Light Jaxon Milton Najarro **Jacob Matthew Pica** Gianna Rose Sadowsky Addison Grace Simione Michael Robert Stegmeier Sofia Francesca Villani

God Bless these Children and their Families. Our Holy Cross family celebrates with you!



Weekend of December 13 & 14

Blessed Sacrament Council #11416 Parish of the Holy Cross

will have a table in the atrium during weekend Masses welcoming parishioners, selling Christmas magnets

Stop by to help support Holy Cross and other charities.

We welcome prospective members to join The Knights
Visit: www.kofc.org for more info

Your kindness and generosity are appreciated in support of our parish and its ministries.

We are offering the opportunity to sign up for automated giving if you have not already done so.

It's convenient and easy to sign up!

You can donate to the parish by ACH. Please complete this form, bring it to the office or email to business@holycrossrc.org

Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road Nesconset, NY 11767 631-265-2200 ext. 110 business@holycrossrc.org

<u>Authorization Agreement for Automated Giving</u>

I,	, hereby authorize the I	Roman Catholic Church of the
Holy Cross, at Nesconset NY, account indicated below and the beginning	to initiate debit entries to	o my Checking () Saving ()
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Depository/ Bank: Name:		
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Bank Account #:		
Please <u>attach</u> to this form a <u>V</u>	<u>Yoided Check</u> if you've ch	osen a checking Account or
a <u>pre-printed savings deposit</u>	ticket if you have choser	ı a Saving Account.
Note : This authorization is to remain received written notification at least fiv		, ,
	(PrintedName)	Date:
(Signature)	(PrintedName)	
Address:	City/	State/Zip:
Phone:		

NOTES:

¹⁻ This form will be seen by the Business Manager only. You may mail it to the Parish of the Holy Cross or drop it at the office in a sealed envelope, **Attention: Karina D'Angelo**.

²⁻ For any questions contact Karina D'Angelo by phone or email at business@holycrossrc.org



HOLY CROSS

MUSIC MINISTRY CONCERT

Sharing the Gift of Music and Community



For over 200 people, the afternoon of November 23rd was one of celebration, music, and joy at the Parish of the Holy Cross. Our community gathered for a small reception before the concert, enjoying light refreshments and engaging conversation with fellow parishioners. Many thanks to our gifted musicians for lifting our hearts in song and feeding our souls. Holy Cross is truly blessed!





























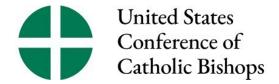












Statement on Immigration from the United States Council of Catholic Bishops

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 Godgiven human dignity.

<u>Catholic teaching</u> 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 <u>accompany and assist immigrants</u> 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 <u>men and women of hope</u>, 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.



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!		
Winter Windfall		
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Winter Windfall		
NameAddress		
Town Phone		



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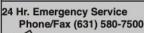
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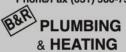






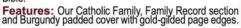
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