



# 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.



"The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, 'I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming.' "

-Luke 3:15-16

## **The Baptism of the Lord - January 12, 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

Reverend Michael F. Holzmahnn..... 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  
**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**

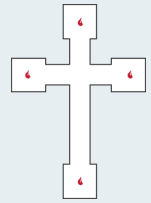


Visit our website at **[www.holycrossrc.org](http://www.holycrossrc.org)**  
for more information on how we can serve you.



# IS IT STILL CHRISTMAS?

*Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael*



*I understand that for most folks your tree has been down, and the decorations have been put away for a few weeks now. But here at the church we still have the creche up and we are singing Christmas carols. In the liturgical year, Christmas season does not end until the Baptism of the Lord. This feast does not always coincide with Sunday; it depends on what day of the week Christmas falls. But, for this year, Christmas lives on for this final weekend.*



The 11:30 Mass will be particularly busy as we invite back all the families who had their children baptized here in the last year. Actually, this year the list of invitations spans two years because last year the Baptism of the Lord did not fall on a Sunday. We will offer the little ones a simple prayer of blessing. I'm sure there will be a chorus of young voices heard throughout the Mass. Rarely is that sound a distraction to me. It is a sound of new life, and we are delighted to welcome the families for this celebration.

This is the first article in about a month that is being written a couple of days before the weekend. The last few weeks, the articles had to be submitted weeks prior due to early deadlines for the Christmas and New Year bulletins. I can now pass along some parish news in a timely way.

Hopefully, by the time you read this column we will have a signed contract for our lighting project. It is a bit of a lengthy process as we need to hire our own lawyer to draw up the contract. This is a requirement of the Diocese that safeguards the interests of the parish. We need to make sure that there is proper insurance in place and that the terms of payment are favorable to both parties. We are looking for the project to begin at the end of January or the beginning of February. The Worship Area is quite dark for the evening Masses and any evening activities. This project is very much needed.

We have not yet hit the "total button" on the Christmas collection. We still receive envelopes and donations for several weeks afterwards. The good news is that we raised almost \$8,000 in the special "Let There Be Light" envelopes. The bad news is that it looks like the overall Christmas collection will be lower than last year. I was hoping for an additional boost for our lighting project in addition to the regular Christmas offering. It appears the same total amount of money will be raised, but it is split between the two collections.

This coming week we have some fun activities planned with our Religious Education children. I offer a "walk-through Mass" for our fourth graders. I don't actually celebrate Mass but rather explain all the details of the Mass to them. I show them the vessels we use and explain the vestments I wear. There are usually a few good questions posed at each gathering. Those questions often don't come from the kids but rather from their parents who are also watching. In addition, our Level 1 children will be given a tour of the church. There are many aspects to the church that the little ones may never have noticed or don't understand. It is a wonderful teaching moment.

Now go home and take down your Christmas stocking if it is still hanging on the fireplace.



|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|    |    |    | 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 |    |

### CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



**JANUARY 18**

**5:00 PM  
FR. MICHAEL**

**JANUARY 19**

**8:00 AM  
FR. MICHAEL**

**9:30 AM  
FR. FRANK/DCN. JOE**

**11:30 AM  
FR. FRANK/DCN. JOE**



### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JANUARY 19

**+ Isaiah 62:1-5**  
**+ 1 Corinthians 12:4-11**  
**+ John 2:1-11**

**Sunday, January 12th** ..... **OCIA**  
**10:00AM-11:00AM**, Fr. Joe Room

**Sunday, January 12th** ..... **BAPTISM CELEBRATION**  
**11:30AM Mass**, Worship Area, Atrium

**Sunday, January 12th** ..... **BAPTISMS**  
**1:00PM**, Worship Area

**Monday, January 13th** ..... **SPECIAL NEEDS**  
**4:00PM-6:00PM**, Worship Area, Atrium

**Tuesday, January 14th** ..... **IN STITCHES**  
**10:00AM**, Fr. Joe Room

**Tuesday, January 14th** ..... **LEVEL 4 WALK THROUGH MASS**  
**5:00PM**, Worship Area

**Wednesday, January 15th** ..... **GRANDPARENTS' PRAYER**  
**1:30PM**, Fr. Joe Room

**Wednesday, January 15th** ..... **LEVEL 1 CHURCH TOUR**  
**7:00PM**, Worship Area

**Thursday, January 16th** ..... **SCRIPTURE STUDY**  
**10:00AM**, Atrium

**Thursday, January 16th** ..... **LEVEL 4 WALK THROUGH MASS**  
**5:00PM**, Worship Area

**Sunday, January 19th** ..... **BAPTISM GATHERING**  
**9:30AM Mass**, Worship Area, Fr. Joe Room

**Sunday, January 19th** ..... **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**  
**11:30AM Mass**, Fr. Joe Room

**Sunday, January 19th** ..... **HOLY HOUR**  
**4:00PM**, Worship Area **PRAY FOR AMERICA**

#### Practice of Faith (Excerpt from "At Home with the Word 2025")



Every time a new Christian is baptized, the Church echoes God's heaven-sent proclamation, "You are my beloved...with you I am well pleased." On this last day of the Christmas season, we are invited to remember our baptism, through which we were welcomed as children of God.

In a family or gathering, pull out baptismal pictures, garments, candles, and mementos, and retell the stories of each person's special day.



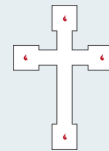
Reach out to godparents and godchildren with a text, phone call, or invitation to dinner. Offer words of encouragement for their journey in faith for the coming year.

As part of grace before dinner, light candles and renew your promise to keep the light of Christ burning brightly through your life.

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



*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  
Grayson Danielski  
Jason DeLuca  
Manuela Diaz  
Ann Egan

Vincent Esposito  
Ralph Farino  
Yolanda Fattarusso  
Sienna Fricke  
Linda Giordano  
Linda Heinrichs  
Debbie Jablinowski  
Kristen Kennedy  
Caroline Lazar  
Carol Leahy  
Jo-Ann Loh  
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, January 12**

#### **9AM Masses:**

**Mon.** Jon H. Stefenson  
**Tues.** June Ruizi, Joyce Pancioli,  
Rosemary Reidy (all living)  
**Wed.** Ellen Brady  
**Thur.** Lorraine Drey & Family (living)

### **Saturday, January 18, 5 PM Mass**

Santo Minutoli, Genevieve Minutoli,  
Capt. James Amature, Thomas Barrett,  
Roberta Lamb

### **Sunday, January 19, Masses**

**8:00 AM** Aubrey Rose Keena & John P. Sibley Jr.  
**9:30 AM** Gloria Posimato, Linda Tonno,  
Angelina Auci, Carman Vazquez Sanchez,  
Rocco Ciurleo, Lena Minici  
**11:30 AM** People of the Parish



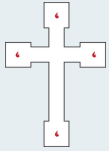
*We remember and pray for the following  
Holy Cross parishioners who passed away recently:*

**Jennie Allocca**  
**James W. Corrigan, Jr.**  
**Margaret Galvin**  
**Eugene Garvey**  
**Felice Serpico**  
**Douglas Sneider**  
**John Stewart**

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



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



# CHRISTMAS SEASON CONCLUDES

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*

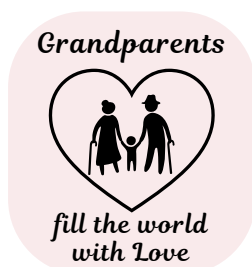


This weekend the Church celebrates the feast of the Baptism of the Lord which traditionally ends the Christmas season. The beautiful decorations of this season will slowly be removed as we enter Winter Ordinary Time and return to the green color. Some years, the way the calendar falls, the Baptism of the Lord does not fall on a Sunday as it does this year. The Baptism of the Lord Jesus is the great event celebrated after the feast of the Epiphany because it is the occasion of the first public revelation of all the three persons in the Holy Trinity and the official revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the world by God the Father. It is also an event described by all four Gospels, and it marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. This year at the 11:30 Mass, we invited the families who had children baptized here within the past two years to join us for a special blessing.

We know from Scripture that Jesus descended into the Jordan River even though he really did not need to be freed from sin. Jesus conferred on water the power of a true baptism which would remove sin. Many points in Jesus' baptism are symbolic of what has happened at our baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our baptism we are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. At Jesus' baptism, Christ was proclaimed the beloved Son of the Father, and at our baptism we become the adopted sons/daughters of God. Today, let us celebrate our first Sacrament with our families and friends!

*Have a blessed, healthy, and peaceful week ahead!*

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." -Luke 3:21-22



**Grandparents Prayer Circle Group**  
next meeting

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15th, at 1:30PM**  
**in the Fr. Joe Room**



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



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

Joseph J. Ross  
Lucy V. Marotta  
Joseph J. Marotta  
Lucy M. Guiffre  
Joseph Guiffre  
Caloger Marotta  
Leonardo Marotta  
Lucia Marotta  
Antonio Marotta  
Jim Emerson  
Carmela & Joseph Pappalardo  
Carl Pappalardo

Anthony Pappalardo  
Anthonet Grivaz  
Caroline Downs  
Thomas Matula  
Eleanor & Edward Kreeb  
Gerard Wylie  
John Fausone  
Lawrence & Josephine Fausone  
Gesualdo & Marianna Gionfriddo  
Elisabeth Nowatius  
Beatrice Hanley  
Maureen E. Jost

Claire Wilczek  
Mary Loneragan  
Joan Rose Marini  
Michael J. Clifford  
Vincent E. Marini  
Jeanette Paoello  
Colleen Hennen  
Brittany Norton  
Janet Stadelmaier  
John Fonda  
Carmela Fonda  
John Fonda Jr.





# "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, Communion, 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."*

  
venmo

  
PayPal

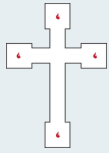
## 2024 Statement of Contributions

A statement of your contributions to Holy Cross for the year 2024 will be sent to you upon request. If you would like a copy, please print your name and address on the form below and drop it in the collection basket or at the Parish Office.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_





# PARISH OUTREACH



We will meet on  
**Tuesday,**  
**January 28th,**  
**1-3PM**  
in the Atrium

Every girl should have the chance to receive, own and wear a new dress. Our Dress a Girl ministry helps make this possible. We gather monthly to lovingly create dress kits at our "Cut-Ups" session. These dress kits are then available to take home, where skilled sewers create beautiful dresses. We hope that each dress symbolizes how special and loved each girl is. Our prayers are with them all.

If you would like to join us, we meet monthly to create the dress kits. If your talent lies in sewing, you are welcome to pick up a dress kit (with instructions) and create a beautiful dress for a girl in need.

*All are welcome to join us. Not sure what you can offer?*

*Our ministry leaders will help guide you as you work alongside others.*

**If you are interested, we ask that you please RSVP to the Outreach Office at 631- 265-2200 so we can prepare for all those who will attend.**

*"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "*

*-Acts 20:35*

## 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?

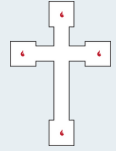
*We are eager to know, in a more personal way, our parishioners who are homebound or hospitalized. Often, we do not hear of a person's illness or inability to join us for Sunday Mass.*

Please call 265-2200 x113 or stop by the office to let Parish Outreach know of these parishioners who are so special to us. We really depend on you.

Parish Outreach sends cards, on behalf of our parish, to those who are ill or hospitalized. Our homebound folks receive friendly telephone calls by Outreach volunteers to keep up the connection and to assess ways the parish can be present to these loved parishioners. At Advent and Easter time a volunteer will visit them and bring a gift from the parish community. Eucharistic Ministers are also available to bring communion to the homebound who desire it.

These are some of the ways 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.

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



**Please note the following important dates for our Religious Education Program:**

## Level 4 – Walk Through Mass

Tuesday, January 14th, at 5pm – Worship Area  
Thursday, January 16th, at 5pm – Worship Area \*\*  
\*\* New Date (replaces Monday, January 13th)

## Level 1 – Church Tour

Wednesday, January 15th, at 7pm – Worship Area



**DATE CHANGE!!!**

## Level 8 – Prayer Service

**\*\* Mandatory for Confirmation \*\***

New Date is

**Thursday, January 23rd, 7pm**

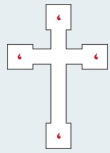
beginning promptly  
in the Worship Area

## Level 5 Bible Blessing & Distribution

Bibles will be blessed by Fr. Michael  
and distributed at all the Masses  
**the weekend of January 25th & 26th**



*"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."* – Titus 3:5-6



# PARISH REMINDERS



## **HOLY HOUR PRAY FOR AMERICA JANUARY 19TH @ 4:00PM WORSHIP AREA**

Come spend an hour with fellow parishioners as we pray  
for our new president and for our nation.  
There will be some music woven into the prayer and the Rosary will be offered.  
(please bring your own rosary beads for prayer)

*First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone,  
for kings and for all in authority,  
that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity.  
This is good and pleasing to God our Savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.  
For there is one God.  
There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself,  
who gave himself as ransom for all.*

1 Timothy 2:1-6

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**



**Join Us for  
Children's Liturgy of the Word  
on Sundays,  
at the 11:30 AM Mass,  
every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.**

During the Mass, children from Kindergarten through 4th Grade will be invited to move to a separate space and hear God's Word in age-appropriate language. Older children are welcome to assist as helpers. Don't miss this special opportunity for the entire family to experience Mass in a more meaningful way.



#### **Missalettes**

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

#### **Low-Gluten Hosts**

For parishioners who have Celiac Disease  
or a gluten sensitivity, Holy Cross has low-gluten  
hosts. If you would like to receive a  
low-gluten host during Communion,  
please inform the Sacristan  
prior to Mass.



**Next weekend we will also be collecting for  
Church in Need which gives assistance to churches  
in Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Africa.  
Thank you for your support!**





# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Winter Windfall

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_



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every transaction"

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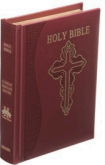
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