

#### Parish of the

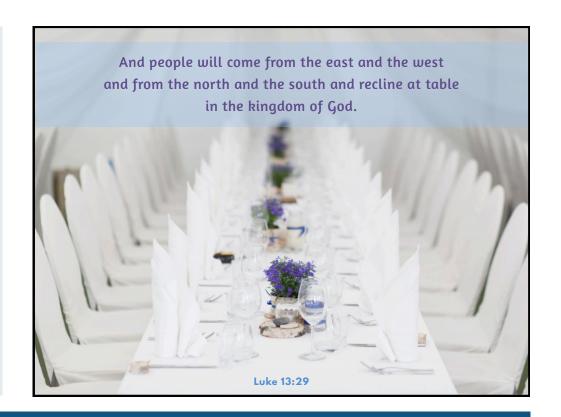
## Holy Cross



#### 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.



#### 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 24, 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

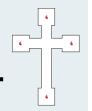
**Evening Hours by Appointment Only** 



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



#### **HELPING JESUS**



#### Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael

As I have shared with you in the past, my favorite outdoor activity at this time of year is trimming back the trees and shrubs that are part of our property. Mother Nature is beautiful, but once she wants to start taking back the space around walkways, buildings, and driveways, that's when I start fighting back to open the space again. With the size of our property, there is always some corner that needs attention (always looking for helping hands with this). Sometimes I feel like Don Quixote battling windmills, but I find it both energizing and calming.

When I am in the midst of these gardening sprees, it is often prayerful time for me. One day recently I was working around the edge of our parking lot. While I was cutting and trimming, I was thinking about various parishioners to whom I had the opportunity to minister. I was thinking of several funerals, weddings and baptisms at which I had recently officiated. There was a litany of names and faces that were running through my mind. In the midst of my gardening blitz, I was feeling thirsty and tired, so I sat down to rest for a few minutes. I sat on one of the benches in our outdoor Stations of the Cross. As I looked up I was in front of the fifth station. The sign said, "Jesus is helped by Simon." It's a simple caption, but for some reason at that moment it was a profound revelation. I felt humbled and affirmed in thinking of my priestly work and applying those words to it. It's one thing to take personal satisfaction in our work and achievements. It is something else to realize it is the spirit and grace of God at work through us.

I try to never take for granted my priestly ministry. I understand that I can play a vital role in people experiencing God at important moments in their lives . But somehow, I never apply the idea that I am "helping Jesus." It is such a simple idea that it almost feels childlike, but there is truth in those words. The only way the presence of Christ will be known in the lives of others is if we are the ones to be the bearer of that gift. Never underestimate the impact our words or actions can have in the life of another. If we make a connection to be the helping hands of Jesus, then what we do takes on great meaning and purpose.

Yes, at a critical moment in his life, Jesus was helped by Simon. On a summer afternoon I was given the insight that Jesus was helped by Michael. Guess what, the ball is in your court. Think of the ways Jesus was helped by you. Don't dismiss your actions as being too simple or insignificant. There are times when the work of our hands becomes the work of Jesus. Ask for God's strength and insight that as you move forward Jesus will always need help. As Mother Theresa once said, "I can do things you can't. You can do things I can't. Together we can do great things for God." May each of us be an instrument of his kindness and compassion and, in doing so, help to build his kingdom among us.



GU:	ST			20	25
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30
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#### ON THE CALENDAR

BAPTISMS	Sunday, August 24th 1:00PM, Worship Area
CIRCLE OF FRIENDS	Monday, August 25th 2:00PM, Fr. Joe Room
IN STITCHES	Tuesday, August 26th 10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room
LEVEL 2 CATECHIST MTG	Tuesday, August 26th7:00PM, Fr. Joe Room
BLESSING OF BACKPACKS	Saturday, August 30th 5:00PM, Worship Area
BLESSING OF BACKPACKS	Sunday, August 31st All Masses, Worship Area



#### Save the Date!

We will honor all the Founding Parishioners on the weekend of

September 13 & 14, 2025 The Exaltation of the Cross

#### CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



#### **AUGUST 30**

5:00 PM FR. MICKEY BANCROFT

#### **AUGUST 31**

8:00 AM FR. MICKEY BANCROFT

9:30 AM

FR. MICKEY BANCROFT

11:30 AM

FR. MICKEY BANCROFT



SCRIPTURE READINGS for AUGUST 31

- + Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
- + Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
  - + Luke 14:1, 7-14

#### FAITH &

#### **Practice of Charity**

**WORKS** (Excerpt from "At Home with the Word 2025")

When it comes to salvation, we may feel confident about our odds. By virtue of our baptism, surely we are the saved. Jesus is warning us not to be complacent - there will be "people...from the east and the west, the north and the south" at God's table whom we least expect to be there.

Learn more about this Gospel through this reflection by Harry Dudley, DMIN, on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website (https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-weteach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/year-of-faith/theological-reflection-dudley).

Pray to the Holy Spirit to conform your faith to God's desires.

Evangelize this week with an act of charity to a person or group outside your faith community.

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

#### WE PRAY...CELEBRATE...REMEMBER



#### **Upcoming Mass Intentions**

#### Week of Sunday, August 24 9:00AM Masses:

Mon. Lorenzo Paulino

Tues. Antoinette & Joe Pico, Louie Maddaloni,

Maria Collaro (all living) **Wed.** Neal & Concetta Romano

Thur. Helen Dalamango

#### Saturday, August 30, 5PM Mass

Arlene Segerdieck, Robert Tavis, Gerald Pisapia, John Strafford, Richard Paolone Sr.

#### Sunday, August 31, Masses

8:00AM People of the Parish

**9:30AM** John, Joseph & Charles Armstrong **11:30AM** Thomas DiMarco Jr., Elaine Vogel,

Claire Wachsmuth,

Jacqueline Aurrichio Navan,

Bernadette Antonelli



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

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

Bob Alderdice Theresa Arzillo Alejandro Astegiano Jo Barry Kathy Barry Cole Brennan Veronica Buscemi Judy Carlson Mary Champagne William Ciccarelli Kimberly Crawford-Arbocus Grayson Danielski Anthony DeGennaro Manuela Diaz Ann Egan 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 Viola Malek Jeanne Marie Malley Steve Matonti Olivia Melia Loretto Narducci Andrea Nocito Darin Pitkanen Patricia Pitkanen Colleen Prinz Carina Ranieri Rob Remhild Liam Richards **Amy Rivers** Lynn Rodger Sean Romeo Elaine Ruane 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.



Banns of Marriage

Jillian Montvydas & Daniel Martinico

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



#### PARISH OUTREACH

Outreach is currently in need of the following items for the food pantry. The next collection will be **September 6 & 7**.



Snacks Tuna / Chicken in a Can Mayo Soup Peanut Butter & Jelly

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!

"Good works are links that form a chain of love."

-Mother Teresa





## School Supplies for Success

#### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to all who donated so generously to our School Supplies for Success Drive this year. With your support, we provided 27 students from 17 families back packs (in their choice of color) filled with school supplies appropriate for their grade level. Thank you!

Also, thank you for the generous financial support given. With your donations, we were able to also include gift cards to purchase more school supplies (if needed) and/or new clothes or sneakers for each student. Thank you!

A special thank you to all the volunteers who helped sort, organize and distribute all the school supplies to our Outreach families. Thank you to Donna Akuntius, Mary Inghilterra, Tracy Reilly, Susan Lampach, Mary Anne McCullogh, Michele Alderdice and Diane Palermo. We could not have done this without you!



#### HOLY CROSS BEREAVEMENT

When Your Journey Continues

We will begin our 4 consecutive week program starting on Wednesday,

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 1:30-3:00PM

in the Father Joe Room.

We are starting a bereavement group for those who may be further in their grief journey but who are still struggling with an unresolved loss.

This group is NOT for newly bereaved. Our next newly bereaved support group will begin in November.

If you are struggling and do not feel you have made much progress, please consider joining the support group. The group will focus on helping you understand the grief process and your own individual reaction to loss. By learning coping strategies, you will be able to manage your grief better and begin the critical process of adjusting to living in a world without the deceased. The group is not therapy but simply a discussion group where you will meet other people who have also suffered a loss. Through sharing life experiences, you can learn from one another which will help in your grief journey.

Space is limited, so if you are interested in joining, please contact Kelley Mowat at the Outreach office by calling 631-265-2200 or by email at <a href="Moutreach@holycrossrc.org">Outreach@holycrossrc.org</a>. You will be mailed a registration form. Please complete the form and return it to Kelley by August 27th. Once we receive your registration form your seat is reserved.



## SIGN UP FOR A FREE CLASS TO LEARN ABOUT PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

With severe weather events becoming more frequent and more extreme, it is more important than ever that New Yorkers are prepared for disasters. The NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program teaches residents to have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to normal conditions. This training course will provide an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Each family that attends will receive one preparedness kit.

WHERE: Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road Nesconset, NY 11767

WHEN: Monday, September 15, 2025

1:30PM

**REGISTER:** 

Registration is required to attend the event. To register visit www.prepare.ny.gov scan the QR code





THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY GOVERNOR HOCHUL IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



and Parish of the Holy Cross

## Holy Cross Parish celebrates GRANDPARENTS' WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 6/7

Gather up those special people we call grandchildren and come to Mass together that weekend, or grandchildren, invite your grandparents to Mass here at Holy Cross.

A special blessing will be given at all the Masses. Hospitality will be offered after the 11:30 Mass.

In the meantime, we are inviting grandparents to write in two sentences or less what being a grandparent means to them.

Write on the slip below and drop it in the box outside the parish office.

Please submit by August 25th.			
What Being a Grandparent Means to Me			
Submitted by:	Please Print Clearly		



#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Please mark your calendars for the following

#### Religious Ed. Grade Level Meetings:

Books and folders will be distributed, and we will go through the curriculum.

Level 1 - Monday, October 6, 2025, at 1:30pm or 7pm

Level 2 - Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 7pm (only) Parents and Students

Level 3 - Monday, September 29, 2025, at 1:30pm or 7pm

Level 4 - Monday, September 29, 2025, at 1:30pm or 7pm

Level 5 - Tuesday, September 30, 2005, at 1:30pm or 7pm

Level 6 - Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 1:30pm or 7pm

Level 7 - Monday, September 8, 2025, at 7pm (only) Parents and Students

Level 8 - Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 7pm (only) Parents and Students

## All Religious Ed. classes start the week of October 12th (Columbus Day weekend)

Special Needs Religious Ed. Classes start on Monday, October 20th

## Kick off Masses for Religious Education

will be on

Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, at the 5PM Mass and Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, at the 11:3OAM Mass



All Religious Education Children and Catechists are invited to join us to celebrate the beginning of the 2O25-2O26 Religious Education year. Please join us at one of these special Mass times.



#### Thank You

Special thanks to all our volunteer catechists. We appreciate your dedication to our youth in sharing and teaching them about our faith.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Religious Education Department.

Thank you!

Jennifer and Mary

Religious Education Department Parish of the Holy Cross 631-265-2200

#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**





#### LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS FRIDAY, <u>SEPTEMBER 5TH</u>

#### CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

The Religious Education Office is planning ahead for the 2025 - 2026 Formation Year.

Families who are currently enrolled in our program will receive Re-Registration form through their email. All children who plan on continuing in our program must be re-registered each year.

Children need to successfully complete their current Religious Education level before they can move to the next level.

+++++

We are currently accepting new registrations. If you are new to the Parish, please call the main office at 631-265-2200 x111.

Once we have your email address, we can send you a new registration form.

++++

The Religious Education department at Holy Cross will begin the current session October 2025. All catechists will be trained during the summer once we have the program in place. We are dedicated to bringing the same service to our young parishioners that we have had in the past. Textbooks will be distributed only after your child is registered. Please register even if you are not paying at this time to secure a spot for your child in a class. SPACE IS LIMITED!

++++

Religious Education Registration Forms are found on the R/E Forms Page of our website.

# We are asking for your support for one of our biggest fundraisers

of the year, our Basket Raffle!

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

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

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

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

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

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

## DONATIONS NEEDED!

All completed baskets and all individual donated items can be brought into the parish office during business hours from August 18th to September 14th.

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

Thank you for your continued support!

#### **PARISH HAPPENINGS**



#### RCIA/OCIA

#### WHAT IS RCIA/OCIA?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), recently renamed OCIA, or Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, is the process by which adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church.

If you know someone who might be interested in OCIA, please pass this information along.

If you wish to participate in OCIA, or if you have any questions about it, please contact Jude at (631) 265-2200 x116 or jpickel@holycrossrc.org

#### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

OCIA is open to:

- anyone who is unbaptized and has a desire to learn about the Catholic faith;
- anyone who was baptized in another Christian denomination and wishes to explore membership in the Catholic Church;
- Catholics who have been baptized but have not celebrated the Sacraments of Eucharist (Holy Communion) and Confirmation.

#### WHAT CAN ONE EXPECT AT OCIA?

Individuals who go through the OCIA process can expect:

- · to know themselves and God better,
- to be supported in prayer by the entire parish community,
- · to understand Catholic teachings and practices more clearly.

All that is required is openness to grow and learn.



#### The Chosen, Season 5

**The Chosen** is a film series portraying the life of Jesus through the eyes of those who met him. Based on the Gospels, this series illustrates the stories of everyday people and the profound impact Jesus had on their lives.

Join us as we view all eight episodes of Season 5.

Wednesdays, Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12 from 7:00 PM – 8:45 PM

Thursdays, Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 20 from 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM

Each episode is followed by small group discussion.

Participation in Seasons 1 - 4 is not required for attendance at Season 5. However, if you haven't seen any of Seasons 1 - 4, it would be a good idea to download <u>The Chosen</u> app (for free) to view it and catch up.

Fill in the tear-oft below and ret	turn it to the Parish Ottice by <u><b>Sept. 21</b>ª</u> . Please print clearly!
I would like to attend <b>The Chosen</b>	on Wednesday evenings / on Thursday afternoons.
Westa like to diferia	on vicanesady evenings / on morsady unemeens.
Name:	Phone:
Email:	



#### PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



#### Youth Community Cares

"Serving our youth as our youth serve others"

YCC will be hosting hospitality in honor of Grandparents' Day after the 11:30AM Mass on Sunday, September 7th

## SIGN-UP SLOTS AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

\*Please register for these events to participate.\*

To register,

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

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







## Prayer Blanket Ministry

Many thanks to the wonderful parishioners who have been sewing, knitting, and crocheting Prayer Blankets for the past 19 years. To date, over 1,500 people have been comforted by

a Prayer Blanket received from Holy Cross.

Our supply is running low and we could use more help.

If you sew, knit, or crochet, please consider joining this special ministry. There are no meetings to attend; work is done at home.

Interested? Call Jude at ext. 116 for details.



## 2025 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish of the Holy Cross

We will celebrate the opening of our Worship Space and Offices at all Masses on the weekend of September 13 & 14, 2025

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

At the 5:00 PM Mass, we will honor Founding Parishioners and enjoy hospitality following the Mass. Please join us.

#### **PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY**











#### **Dress A Girl Blessing Weekend**

As we enter into our fourth year of Dress a Girl Around the World, I would like to thank all that participated in the past year in any way that helped bring *over 160 dresses* to fruition. If you donated fabric, cut a pocket, a binding, or a dress, or used your talent to sew one dress or 20 - thank you! This amazing ministry could not exist without any of you. A special thank you to the leadership team of Ceil Muscarello, Gerri Schreiber, MaryAnn Viscusi and Donna Akuntius who offer direction, their sewing knowledge and a kind smile to all who donate their time to us.

We will be sending our dresses on their way to Friar Suppliers who will then ship them to Haiti. Every girl should have the chance to receive a beautiful new dress. We provide this opportunity as we create each dress with love. We hope the dress symbolizes how special and loved they are. Our prayers are with them all.

If you would like to join us, we meet monthly for "cut ups" where we cut each dress out and create dress kits for volunteers to sew. 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 and participate! Thank you again to all who are part of Dress a Girl. I hope you know the impact you make on the life of a girl.

"Do small things with great love."- Saint Teresa of Calcutta



#### PARISH OUTREACH THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated all the travel size items to complete our **Blessing Bags** for the homeless. The project was a big success and we are grateful for all your support. We could not have done it without you! Thank you so much.

A special thank you to all our youth volunteers who sorted and filled **over 150 Blessing Bags** which will be donated to the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless at the end of summer.

#### Our youth volunteers are:

Maya Bruno, Max Bruno, Olivia Caminiti, Mia Caminiti, Emily De Los Santos, Kenneth Hayde, Jade Lerner, James Wichtendahl Juliet Shankles, Jason Shankles & Juliana Gandarillas

We will start collecting items for next year's Blessing Bag project starting September. Please keep us in mind on your travels. **Thank you again for all your support of the Blessing Bag project!** 



YCC Volunteers (Youth Community Cares)
making a difference by sorting and assembling
Blessing Bags for Outreach.



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 Roman Cathol	ic Church of the
Holy Cross, at Nesconset NY	the depository named below to debit the	ng ( ) Saving ( )
I choose to have my account de	ebited for this amount: Check one:	
Bi-Weekly \$(Multiply we	eekly by 2) Monthly \$ (Multiply w	weekly by 4.33)
Depository/ Bank: Name:		
Address: _		
City/State/	/Zip:	
Banking Transit-ABA #:(9 dig	gits located on the bottom left of your chec	ck)
Bank Account #:		
Please <u>attach</u> to this form a	Voided Check if you've chosen a check	ing Account or
a <u>pre-printed savings deposi</u>	<u>it ticket</u> if you have chosen a Saving Ac	ecount.
	n in full force effect until the Roman Catholic Chur five business days in advance of the desired termina	-
	Da	ate:
(Signature)	(PrintedName)	
Address:	City/State/Zip:	
Phone:		

#### NOTES:

<sup>1-</sup> 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**.

<sup>2-</sup> For any questions contact Karina D'Angelo by phone or email at business@holycrossrc.org



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

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

- \$10 per ticket
- Tickets are available for purchase through June, July and August
- Drawing will be held AUGUST 28TH

This is the pay scale which will be offered:

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

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

#### Please cut out and use the tickets below.

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

Thank you for your support!				
Summer Cash Sizzle	Summer Cash Sizzle			
NameAddress TownPhone	Address Town			
Summer Cash Sizzle	Summer Cash Sizzle			
NameAddress	Address			
TownPhone	Town Phone			

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CENTRAL ISLIP 130 Carleton Avenue (631) 234-6000

**BOHEMIA** 1320 Lakeland Avenue (631) 589-1500

PORT JEFFERSON STATION

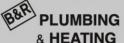
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