



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.

*Be
Merciful,
just as
your Father
is merciful.*



Luke 6:36

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time - February 23, 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

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY - THURSDAY
9 AM - 4 PM
(closed 12:15-1 PM)**

**Parish Office
FRIDAY HOURS
9 AM - 12 NOON**

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth..... Ext. 122
Parish Secretary

Mrs. Mary Pannone..... Ext. 111
Religious Ed. Secretary

Ms. Karina D'Angelo..... Ext. 110
Business Manager

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Music Minister/Webmaster

Mr. Roberto Maza
Custodian

Mr. Joseph Santoro
Office Support Staff

Mrs. Susan Ribeiro
Bulletin Editor

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

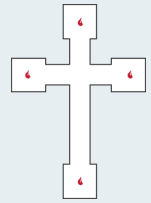


Visit our website at **www.holycrossrc.org**
for more information on how we can serve you.



DISCERNING HOPE (PART 1)

Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael



This article is being written about two weeks ago because of my being away with parishioners attending the Religious Ed Congress in California. On the weekend of February 9, I spoke about the theme of hope. However, because of the snow that day, only about half the usual congregation heard the message. Bear with me, if I am repeating myself. All of this is building off the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope," which the Holy Father offered as a focus for this Jubilee Year of 2025. In particular, we will be looking at how this theme can be a framework for us to enter the season of Lent, and then in turn how we will celebrate the Risen Lord at Easter.

There was an intriguing image used in last week's gospel as Jesus called the first disciples. He told them to put their nets out "into deep water." Deep water connotes an air of the unknown, mystery, or even a threat. But that's where Jesus sends his disciples. That is where the abundance of fish will come from. It ultimately becomes a place of new life. From this moment the disciples begin to understand their new role in working with Jesus. There is a rich opportunity to reflect upon the image of deep waters. What aspects of your life feel like deep waters? Are there any unanswered questions or complex issues you are dealing with? Most of us prefer shallow waters that are easier to deal with, but that's not the scenario we are given. Perhaps as we move closer to Lent, the Lord is asking you to also put into those deep waters and see what new life comes forth. Hear the same words that Jesus spoke to Peter as he grappled with all that was happening to him. He said, "be not afraid."

Along with this challenging and potentially difficult theme was a message of life and hope. We used a song written by Sarah Hart for this inspiration. The song is entitled "In the Living Waters of Hope." (If you are not familiar with it, it may be worth giving a listen to on YouTube or whatever other sites provide music.) Allow the living waters that Christ offers to bring you to a place of new life. Trust in your heart that your greatest hurts can be healed, your sins forgiven, and your very life transformed. The waters of baptism are a symbol of our union with Christ, and may we allow that to be a source of hope for us.

This week we hear Luke's version of the Beatitudes. Although it does not use the image of water, it does make a distinction between passing joy and lasting happiness. Will your joy be rooted in superficial pleasures of this life? Or will your peace be rooted in knowing the power of God's grace to truly nourish us?

Deep waters and living waters may seem to be opposites. One speaks of daring to enter that which may be unknown. The other speaks of being overwhelmed in new life which comes from the Risen Christ. Rather than making a decision as to which one you favor, see them as two sides to the same coin. We are asked to embrace both realms, and in doing so we come to know the wondrous gift of God bringing to us life and peace.



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	

CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



MARCH 1
5:00 PM
FR. MICHAEL

MARCH 2
8:00 AM
FR. MICHAEL
9:30 AM
FR. MICHAEL
11:30 AM
FR. MICHAEL



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MARCH 2

+ Sirach 27:4-7
+ 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
+ Luke 6:39-45

Tuesday, February 25th IN STITCHES
10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room

Wednesday, February 26th SENIORS
11:30AM - 2:30PM, Atrium

Wednesday, February 26th LEVEL 2 RECONCILIATION PRACTICE
5:00PM or 7:00PM, Worship Area

Thursday, February 27th SCRIPTURE STUDY
10:00AM, Atrium

Thursday, February 27th LEVEL 8 RETREAT
6:00PM - 9:00PM, Worship Area

Saturday, March 1st HOLY HOUR
3:45PM - 4:45PM, Worship Area

Sunday, March 2nd BAPTISM GATHERING
9:30AM Mass, Worship Area, Fr. Joe Room

Sunday, March 2nd ANOINTING OF THE SICK
After 9:30AM Mass, Worship Area

Sunday, March 2nd CHILDREN'S LITURGY
11:30AM Mass, Fr. Joe Room

Sunday, March 2nd PALM LEAF BURNING
After 11:30AM Mass, Courtyard



Bring back your old palm

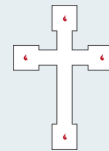
In preparation for Ash Wednesday,
we will be burning last year's palm
on Sunday, March 2nd
after the 11:30 Mass.

Please bring back your palm and
place it in the specially marked basket
in the atrium.

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return"

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

WE PRAY...CELEBRATE...REMEMBER



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

Bob Alderdice
Theresa Arzillo
Alejandro Astegiano
Jo Barry
Kathy Barry
Barbara Bombace
Cole Brennan
Dan Bryan
Judy Carlson
Hank Champagne
Mary Champagne
William Ciccarelli
Grayson Danielski
Anthony DeGennaro
Manuela Diaz
Ann Egan
Vincent Esposito
Ralph Farino

Yolanda Fattarusso
Sienna Fricke
Linda Giordano
James Greene
Linda Heinrichs
Debbie Jablinowski
Kristen Kennedy
Caroline Lazar
Carol Leahy
Jo-Ann Loh
Mary Lopez
Gerald Losquadro
Viola Malek
Jeanne Marie Malley
Steve Matonti
Olivia Melia
Loretto Narducci
Andrea Nocito
Darin Pitkanen

Darin Pitkanen
Patricia Pitkanen
Carina Ranieri
Rob Remhild
Liam Richards
Lynn Rodger
Sean Romeo
Elaine Ruane
Jacqueline Santamaria
Louise Scagnelli
Casey Schultz
Kathy Schwinn
John Serri
Celeste Sichenze
Bill Tanner
Grace Van Epps
Peter Warns
Judith Wimmer
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, February 23,
9AM Masses:**

Mon. Olga Gorman & family (living)

Tues. Lillian Buckhout

Wed. Tricia Maxwell (living)

Thur. Hailey Plunkett (living)

Saturday, March 1, 5 PM Mass

Michelle M. Bonura, James E. Guiliano,
Rodolfo Balbin, Leopoldo Clemente,
John Bellico

**Sunday, March 2, Masses
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30 AM Paul Anthony DiGregorio,
Joseph Ficarola

11:30 AM Debbie Hahn, Dora Libretti,
Joseph Saccone Sr., Garry George Koerick,
Barbara Lee, Joseph Santamaria



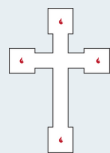
The **Bread and Wine**
for the week have been
donated in loving memory of
Debbie Hahn
by the Preziosi family.



Sunday, March 2,
will be the next date that
the Anointing of the Sick
will be offered
after the 9:30 AM Mass

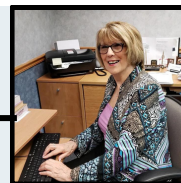


*We thank
the men and women
who serve in our military
for their service.*



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



After writing about the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes last week and mentioning how this day is also known as World Day of the Sick, I thought our next reflection should focus on a misunderstood sacrament which has gone through changes over the years. Today it is under the category of a Sacrament of Healing and is known as the Anointing of the Sick.

Some folks might recall the name *Extreme Unction* which was also referred to as the Last Rites. It was used when a person was in danger of death. Fortunately, with the 2nd Vatican Council revamping how we celebrate sacraments, adding a reference to healing done by Jesus, a refreshing look and understanding was given to Extreme Unction. The sacrament was given a new understanding so people could receive it when they had an illness, an upcoming surgery or advanced age. No longer is this something that is feared and used only at the last minute. Today, it is more commonly known as the Sacrament of the Sick.

In the Scriptures, we see numerous stories of Jesus healing people. Jesus healed the blind, the deaf, the paralyzed and those affected by long-term illnesses such as leprosy and hemorrhage. Jesus healed people regardless of their status in the community: lepers were social outcasts; the centurion, who requested healing for his servant, was a Gentile; and women were healed without regard to their connection to a male in the community. We also know that Jesus healed those who appeared to be his enemies. We also note the use of oil in Mark's Gospel with the casting out of demons and the curing of those who were sick. In the letter of James, we read that the presbyters should be summoned for the sick, and they should pray over the sick and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. So, we learn from the Church historians that the use of oil continued as a practice as the Church grew.

This beautiful sacrament is available to us once a month after the 9:30 Mass or by appointment. It is a beautiful and prayerful experience for those who receive it, and the best part is, you can receive it more than once!

Have a blessed, prayerful, and healthy week ahead!



For the Ride Home..... a Gospel Reflection for adults

What did you hear today in the Scriptures?

- Each time we pray the Our Father, we ask God to forgive us as we forgive others. How do we measure up to this unconditional love God has for others, when it comes to forgiving others?
- Ask yourself, am I able to extend forgiveness to someone who has hurt me?
If so, recall how you felt.

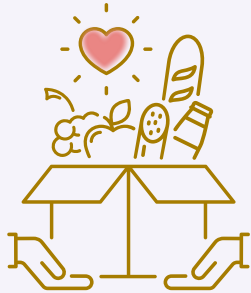
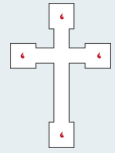


Gospel Reflection for our young people

- Jesus tells us to love our enemies and to be kind to everyone.
How do you try to show that love?
- Think of ways you can make Jesus' love known to family and friends this week.



PARISH OUTREACH



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

The collection will be next weekend March 1st & 2nd.

**Tuna/Chicken in a can - Snacks - Potato flakes
Boxed Cereal - Hot Cereal - Pasta Sauce
Ketchup - Mustard - Jelly - Toilet Paper**

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!

PARISH COMMUNITY



Girl Scout Sunday

Tell your Scouting friends.....All Are Welcome

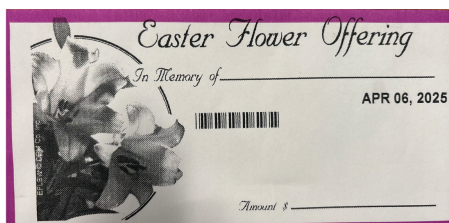
March 16th, 2025 9:30 Mass

Scouts should arrive 15 minutes early
Uniforms/Sashes for scouts & leaders

Please contact
Andy Bodor and Kim Loh Bodor
Akjl23@optonline.net or 516-996-2295

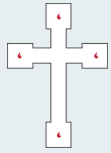
Please let us know
how many scouts & leaders
will be attending by March 10th
so we have enough
reserved seating for your group

*"I alone cannot change the world,
but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."
- Mother Teresa*



A Change to the Easter Offering Envelope

Our envelope company decided on their own to change the look of the Easter Flower Offering envelope. They only offer one line for the name of a deceased loved one. We have over the past several years posted the names of both living and deceased loved ones and will continue to do so this year. Please feel free to list on the envelope as many people (both living and deceased) that you wish to be remembered this Easter!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FEBRUARY

REMINDER

**Retreat starts
promptly
at 6pm
in the Atrium**

Level 8 Retreat Date

**Thursday
February 27th**

*This date is for those
who did not attend
the retreat on Feb. 13th*



Level 2 Reconciliation Practice

**Wednesday
February 26th**

**5pm OR 7pm
in the Worship Area**

Parish of the Holy Cross Religious Education

Catechists Needed for 2025-2026

*We are seeking volunteers
willing to share faith with our parish children.*

Special Need Catechists, Mondays 4pm -6pm

Level 2 Catechists for the following areas –
Cherokee, Wenonah, Bretton Woods, Mills Pond,
Eugene Auer, Mt. Pleasant, Hiawatha,
Slocum and Cayuga

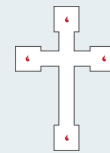
Level 3 Catechists

Level 6 Catechists

Level 7 Catechists

For more information, please contact Jennifer or Mary
at the Religious Education Office at 631-265-2200

LEVEL 8 RETREAT



Our Level 8 students spent an evening with Tony Bellizzi. Tony spoke about his ministry of bringing young people the good news of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ & participation in the life of his church. He also brought the young people together, providing powerful experiences of God's powerful love & truth for them through prayer.

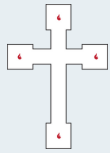
Students are preparing to make their Confirmation this Spring.



Speaker
and facilitator
for the
evening:
Tony
Bellizzi



You can visit Tony's website at:
goodshots.org



WE GROW IN FAITH



Our parish is always in need of more Ministers of Holy Communion...

to serve at the weekend Masses. The Diocese is offering training this Spring. If you are interested, please speak with Fr. Michael, as a letter on your behalf needs to be submitted to the Bishop's Office. Please check below for the Spring Training date and sites. If you have any other questions, please contact Michele Hall at: mhall@holycrossrc.org

Date and Locations for Liturgical Minister Training

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Part A and Lectors (participant chooses ONE ministry in which to be trained)

Saturday, March 29* - Immaculate Conception/Westhampton Beach
Parish Hall; 9 am - noon; EMHC Part A and Lectors

Thursday, April 3 - St. Agnes Cathedral/Rockville Centre
Msgr. Kelly Parish Center; 7 pm - 10 pm; EMHC Part A and Lectors

Tuesday, April 8 - St. Elizabeth/Melville
Msgr. Kane Hall; 7 pm - 10 pm; EMHC Part A and Lectors

*We are offering Part A and B on the SAME day. Those who attend Part A in the morning are welcome to bring lunch or leave for lunch and return for the 1pm Part B session.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Part B

presented in conjunction with Catholic Health:

**Saturday, March 29* - Immaculate Conception
Westhampton Beach**
Parish Hall; 1 pm - 4 pm

**Tuesday, April 29 - St. Elizabeth
Melville**
Msgr. Kane Hall; 7 pm - 10 pm

**Thursday, May 8 - St. Agnes Cathedral
Rockville Centre**
Msgr. Kelly Parish Center; 7 pm - 10 pm

*"Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy."
- Matthew 5:7*

**Holy
Hour**



**Saturday, March 1st
3:45pm - 4:45pm
in the Worship Area**



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

In today's Gospel, Jesus imparts to his disciples, and all of us, a rule of conduct sometimes called the golden rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). Societies are structured to preserve secular justice, while Jesus instructs us to seek spiritual justice.

Learn about the restorative justice approach to resolving conflict and harm done between individuals. Are there elements of the process that you could adopt in your life?

A practice proven to foster forgiveness for someone who has hurt you is to pray for them daily. Stay faithful to the habit and take note of how God transforms your heart.

Follow the Lord's example and embrace the virtue of mercy. Feed the hungry. Clothe the homeless. Visit the imprisoned. It is hard to hold on to judgment for those for whom you perform an act of mercy.

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 _____
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Town _____
Phone _____

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Name _____
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Town _____
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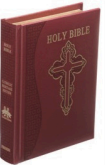
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