

# 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.



**Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22, 2024**  
**The Nativity of the Lord - December 25, 2024**



**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. Holzmann..... 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**

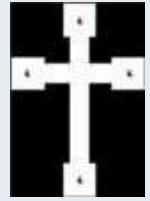


Visit our website at **[www.holycrossrc.org](http://www.holycrossrc.org)**  
for more information on how we can serve you.



## JUST FOR A MOMENT

*Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael*



There is something holy and sacred about the hours that begin late afternoon on December 24 and continue into the evening hours of Christmas day. Life spins on a different axis for this brief period of time. Certainly, for children these hours are magical. Many people bring to life family traditions that have been passed down through generations. People will travel near and far to be with loved ones. Counting calories and eating healthy foods go out the window. The festivities of the day may be many, but most are able to take a step back from the normal routine of life and recognize this is a special and unique time.

Living in the present moment can be difficult. For some, planning or worrying about the future can consume time and energy. If not looking forward, there are some who live in the past replaying memories time and time again. To live in the present moment is a great gift. This is a day that lends itself to allowing the activities of the day to be embraced as they unfold. We are abundantly aware it is Christmas, and we understand the day is special.

There are times when a single moment can stay with us and become a point of reference throughout our lives. Once we have an insight into something that is true, we don't simply forget it and move on with our lives. We allow moments of revelation to become foundational parts of our story. As Celine Dion sings, "Love can touch us one time and last for a lifetime." We all have these kinds of experiences in our individual journey. Although it is a universal experience, it is difficult for all people to be focused on the same event at the same time. Sometimes a tragic event can unite a body of people, at least for a brief time. Christmas is unique. Once a year, the remembrance of God taking on human flesh and dwelling among us is noted by the whole world. We all share in this moment.

Think of the shepherds that were drawn to the child Jesus. It seems they were simply drawn into that moment of new life. They didn't come with questions or agendas. They did not determine if the others who were there were friends or enemies. It was simply a moment of being one with God. That is the opportunity afforded to all of us. We can open ourselves to the power and grace of God that is greater than all the issues that divide us. We are one around our altar. We are one before the Lord.

Christmas day is but a moment in time. But it can become for us the framework of how we embrace all that comes before and after. Christmas is not a promise that our fears and struggles will vanish. It is the assurance that we face the challenges and joys of life in the embrace of a loving God. Receive the gift of the Lord Jesus into your life. And as a newborn child grows, allow that love of the Lord to guide your life.

Christmas joy and blessings to you and your loved ones.





# ON THE CALENDAR

**Tuesday, December 24th.....CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES**  
4:00PM, 6:00PM, & 10:00PM, Worship Area

**Tuesday, December 24th.....PARISH OFFICE CLOSING AT 12 NOON**

**Wednesday, December 25th..... CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**  
8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM, Worship Area

**Wednesday, Dec. 25th - Dec. 27th.....PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED**

**Thursday, December 26th..... DAILY MASS**  
9:00AM, Chapel

## CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



**DECEMBER 28**

**5:00 PM**  
**FR. MICHAEL**

**DECEMBER 29**

**8:00 AM**  
**FR. MICHAEL**

**9:30 AM**  
**FR. MICHAEL**

**11:30 AM**  
**FR. MICHAEL**



## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 29

**+1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28**

**+ 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24**

**+ Luke 2:41-52**

## Celebrants for Christmas Masses:

### Christmas Eve:

**4PM Fr. Michael**  
**6PM Fr. Frank/Dcn. Joe**  
**10PM Fr. Michael**

### Christmas Day:

**8AM Fr. Frank/Dcn. Joe**  
**9:30AM Fr. Michael**  
**11:30AM Fr. Michael**

***“O Come,  
Let Us  
Adore Him”***



## Practice of Faith

(Excerpt from “At Home with the Word 2024”)



Centuries before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Micah foretold that the tiny town of Bethlehem would be host to the birth of the long-awaited Savior. Following the angel's command, Mary and Joseph gave their son the name Jesus, which means “God saves.”

Recall birth stories about each member of your household. Talk about their birthplace and the special reasons their names are chosen.

These few days marking the transition from Advent to Christmas are often consumed with frenzied preparations. Even so, keep Advent. Remember to light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath and put up the household nativity scene.

These days are also a perfect occasion to bless your household Christmas tree. Gather members. Share stories about favorite ornaments. Compose a blessing prayer or find one online to adapt and use.



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  
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, December 22**

**9AM Masses:**

**Mon.** Sophie Burns

**Thu.** Dot Fiedorowicz (living)

**Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve**

**4PM, 6PM, 10PM** All Prayer Card Intentions

**Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day**

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

All Prayer Card Intentions

**Saturday, December 28, 5 PM Mass**

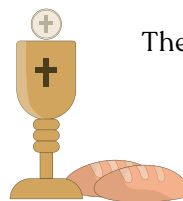
Anne & Paul DiGregorio Sr., Paul DiGregorio,  
Joan Stevenson, Maria Esther Marrero Diaz,  
Eric Schwarz, Theresa Schwarz

**Sunday, December 29, Masses**

**8:00 AM** Charlie Miller, John Peter Weiner,  
Dr. Frank Bonura, Alfonsina Mignone,  
Regina Lynch

**9:30 AM** People of the Parish

**11:30 AM** Deacon David Vallone



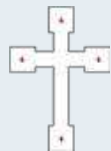
The **Bread and Wine** for the week of December 22-28 have been donated in loving memory of **Anthony DeVito Jr.** by his family.



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



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



## O ANTIPHONS



LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



### *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

As we sing during the Advent season the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," we are joining with Christians across the globe who have waited for Jesus' coming. The dominant theme with the O Antiphons is one of hoping and waiting for Jesus to come. The importance of the O Antiphons is each one highlights a little for the Messiah. How do they help us get ready for Christmas?

The simple word "O" emphasizes the sense of desire, even awe, that surrounds all these prayers. We are expressing a longing in our hearts. Secondly, the O Antiphons highlight different titles for the Messiah and open eyes to who Jesus is. Finally, each antiphon concludes with a plea for Jesus to do powerful work in our lives when he does come. Actually, they are based on Isaiah's prophecies and here they are:

O Wisdom, O Lord, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Rising Sun, O King of the Nations, and O Emmanuel. You can find these titles in the book of Isaiah in numerous chapters.

These antiphons are mentioned as early as the 6th century AD and were used in celebrations in Rome by the 8th century. Sometimes they are called the Greater Antiphons and are recited at Vespers, one each evening between December 17th and December 23rd. These titles also give voice to the Israelites longing for the Messiah, as well as our longing for Jesus both at Christmas and at the Second Coming.

So, as we all are dashing around trying to shop, write Christmas cards, decorate the house, etc., we all need to remember that no matter what happens, the first and most important thing for us is that we have Jesus in our hearts as we sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"!

Have a blessed and calm week ahead!



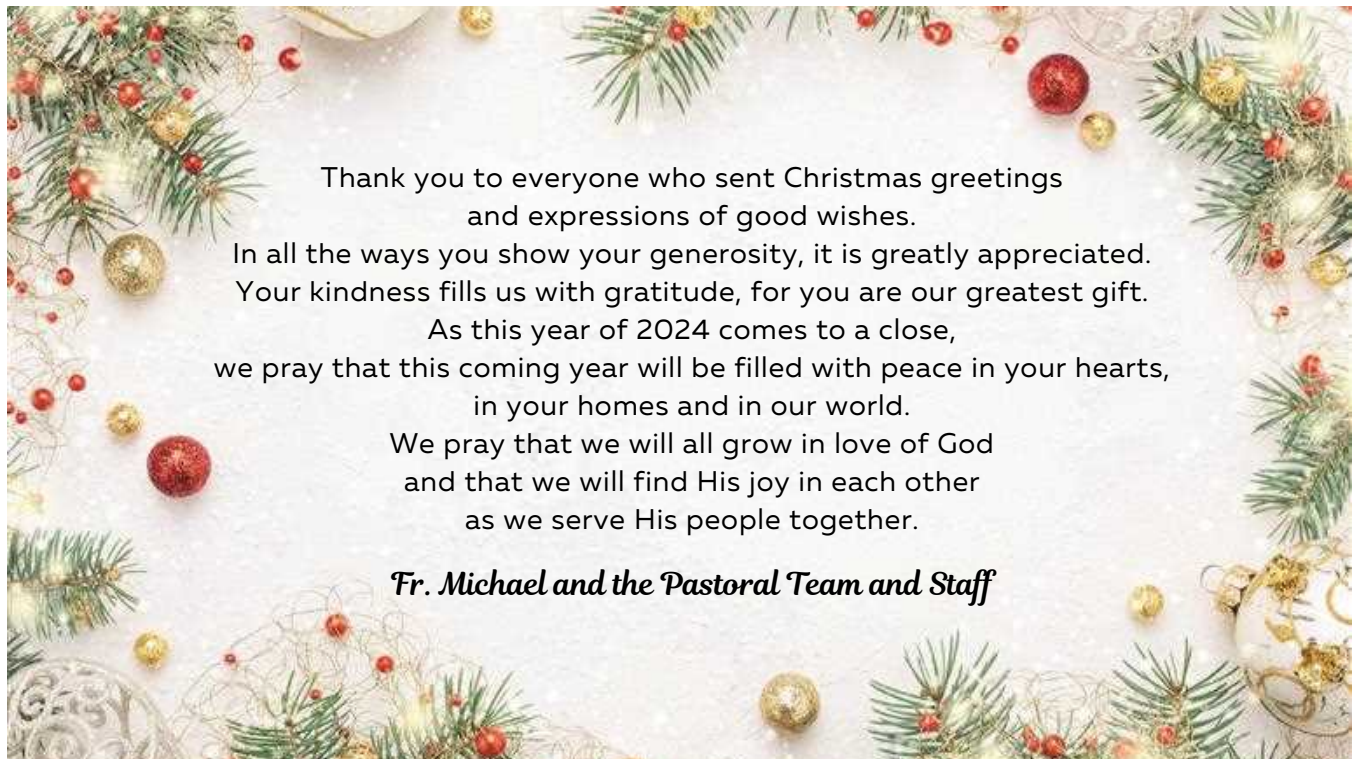
### *Advent Wreath Weekly Prayer & Blessing for Your Home*

This year, why not give some meaning to your Advent wreath to deepen your family's understanding and appreciation for this beautiful Advent season? Set aside a time when the family is together to pray and light the candle for the appropriate week. It is a wonderful way to engage in something prayerful with those you love.

#### **Fourth Week of Advent: December 22, 2024**

Light the three purple candles and the pink candle.

**Pray:** Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.



Thank you to everyone who sent Christmas greetings  
and expressions of good wishes.

In all the ways you show your generosity, it is greatly appreciated.  
Your kindness fills us with gratitude, for you are our greatest gift.

As this year of 2024 comes to a close,  
we pray that this coming year will be filled with peace in your hearts,  
in your homes and in our world.

We pray that we will all grow in love of God  
and that we will find His joy in each other  
as we serve His people together.

*Fr. Michael and the Pastoral Team and Staff*



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."*







This year we were once again blessed with a tremendous response to our Christmas Angel Program. Our struggling households were incredibly grateful for the gift cards for their families. As parents and family members, we can appreciate how good it is to provide for our children's needs. Enabling these moms and dads to do the same accomplishes so much more than just handing them a gift someone else has bought. They can now provide in a way they could not provide before.

**This year we helped forty families with clothing and toys, including forty-five children. We collected enough gift cards to provide each person with approximately \$25 for clothing needs and an additional \$25 per child for their toy requests. Also, each household received supermarket cards to help with their holiday meal. This means, due to your generosity, we collected and distributed over \$4300 in store cards and \$1,500 in supermarket cards.**

***Thank you so much for bringing the Light of Jesus' Birth to those who struggle each day. You are truly special Angels! Christ is born again every time we choose to give to another, walk with another or empower another.***

*In addition, the parish also provided gifts to the following agencies:*

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

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

**211 Gifts for teenagers at Pronto in Bay Shore (Body wash, sweatshirts, ear buds and hair accessories)**

**A \$25 Target gift card for each resident at Talbot House**

This is a phenomenal effort that requires many volunteers to accomplish. An excessively big "THANK YOU" to our angel cutter, Pauline Fanuele, our dedicated pantry stocking teams, all our sorting elves, our volunteer gift deliverers, and those who generously donated money, gift cards and special donations which helped us and our families so much. The words "thank you" cannot capture or express my appreciation for all the support and help I had for this project, but I must say a deep heartfelt "thank you" to you all. I feel grateful and blessed to be part of such a generous, faithful community.

A special thank you to my office partner, Michele Alderdice, who works tirelessly to help make our Christmas Angel Program and all our projects a success. Thank you, Michele!

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

*Peace, Kelley*



# WE GROW IN FAITH



## Religious Education Monday Night Classes



## Congratulations

to our Candidate, Sarah, and to our Catechumens, Tyler, Kevin and Jarrod, who celebrated the Rite of Welcome at the 5:00 Mass on December 14. We offer them our prayerful support as they journey to the Easter sacraments.





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



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

cio  
no

Ruth M. Krowles  
George G. Krowles  
Joseph McNiece Sr.  
Joseph McNiece Jr.  
Josephine Porcelli  
Charles Porcelli  
Diane T. Jones  
John & Theresa Ryan  
James Connolly  
James & Mary Connolly  
Maura Walker Wolowski  
Vincent Corapi  
Matthew Corapi  
Stefano LoPiccolo  
Carol Joles  
Amato Bottoni  
Joel Joles  
Michael J. O'Donnell  
Mary Patricia Gagliano  
Rita Scaglione  
Thomas Morselli  
Julia Morselli  
Anthony Marrazzo  
Grace Marrazzo  
Vivian Amodeo  
Stefano Allocca  
Brian Fiorini  
Christopher Basler  
Vincent Mallia  
Edward Conaty  
Johnny Conaty  
Al Cannuscio  
Alice Cannuscio  
Rosemarie & Peter Gravs  
Elizabeth & David Lampach  
Sallie Petrulli  
Rose Grillo  
Ray & Kay Anzalone  
Tom & Lee Martino  
Annmarie Polizzi  
Eileen Catania  
Yolanda Espiritu  
Gery Baral  
George Sica  
Dennis Kelly  
Maureen & John Kelly  
Margaret & John Dorney  
Colin Dorney  
Mary & Al Brillaud  
Gloria Dandrea  
Ronald Dandrea  
George Grobluski  
Gaetana Grobluski  
Michael Brescia  
Theresa Brescia  
Mary Barone

Adam Kiewicz Family  
Shin Family  
Dennis & Joan Shin  
Frank Perrino  
Alec Ross  
Louis Italiano  
Italiano Family  
Perrino Family  
Joseph Svercel  
Nicholas Svercel  
Bruno Family  
Schreiber Family  
Becker Family  
Lutz Family  
Lipnicki Family  
Peleck Family  
O'Hanlon Family  
Cannizzano Family  
Rosalie Puma  
Zaleski Family  
Michael Verdi  
Stefano LoPiccolo  
Biagio & Rosaria LoPiccolo  
Rosario Carnesi  
Gaetana Pinnolo  
Arthur Rivers  
Kathy Rivers  
Victor Pereira  
Joan Huttie  
Sienna Fricke  
Candice Rause  
Gloria Posimato  
Josephine Posimato  
Nicholas Posimato  
Anthony Posimato  
Bertha Tepedino  
James Lechner  
Patricia Clarke  
Marion Budreo  
Harold Budreo  
Vincent Gallo  
Baby Rose Gallo  
Marie Gallo  
Peter Gallo  
Elisabeth Seri Situmeang  
Salvatore Castronovo  
Vincenza Castronovo  
Theodore J. Koerick  
Marie Koerick  
Annette Palamara  
Salvatore Faraci  
Sottung Family  
Orlando Alvarado  
Giambalvo Family  
Kelly/May Family  
Mendolia Family  
White Family  
Dom Marsicovetere

Duminuco Family  
Gloria Posimato  
Rose Gatto  
Joseph Gatto  
Joseph & Josephine D'Esposito  
Carmela & Michael Terranova  
Thomas Brophy  
John Persich  
Grace Persich  
Gerald Mulderig Sr.  
Elizabeth Mulderig  
Don Pinkerton  
Mary Gildersleeve  
John P. Onofrio  
Rita Monjello  
John Monjello  
Natalie DiFazio  
Sebastian DiFazio  
Frances & John Cooper  
Anna & Joseph Kubicko  
Ann & Dominick Trifiletti  
Anthony & Fanny Mauro  
Salvatore & Bessie Trifiletti  
Clarence & Bessie Kenyon  
Judith Kenyon  
Bruno Lari  
Frank Miraco  
Josephine Miraco  
MaryAnn Saggio  
Frank Saggio  
Julia Geary  
John P. & Elizabeth Geary  
Robert M. Johnson  
James & Kate Dunleavy  
John & Susan O'Sullivan  
Maria Fava  
Louis & Rose Cabasino  
Robert & Patricia Patterson  
Carmina Santorelli  
Concetta Iacono  
Lisolette Funk  
James Pickel  
Damien Pickel  
Conlin Family  
Pickel Family  
Greg Wirth  
Estelle Sternberg  
Douglas Sternberg  
John Sternberg  
Cecil Wirth  
Ann Wirth  
George Talbot  
Paul Talbot  
David A. Green Jr.  
Noelle Green  
Lynda Bascillis  
Serafina Eusepi  
Lillie Millito  
Richard Borrillo



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



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

Muller  
Pelliccio  
Bernick Cardone  
Ida, Frankie & John Kotarski  
Angie, Joe, Tony Frangosie  
Rose Gicola  
Rita & Mark Castelluzzi  
Anne Calia  
Sal Calia  
Geraldine Cammarata  
Guy Plourde  
Peter Filiberto  
Filiberto Family  
Grisanzio Family  
Theresa Weiss  
Thomas White  
Charles Weiss  
Josephine White  
Janis Chieca  
Bruno Santina  
Richard Santina  
Glenn Simpson  
Jason DeLuca  
Bronislaw Marchewka  
Edmund Karwowski  
Anna Karwowska  
Giovanni & Frances Grass  
Vincent & Mildred Serrantino  
Michael Simonetti  
Robert Riccardi  
Pedro Banaguas  
Guillerma Banaguas  
Joseph Ferrara  
David Ferrara  
Anna Tschumi  
Lawrence Tschumi  
Marie Puppa  
Frank Puppa  
Margaret Leptich  
Peter Leptich  
Anthony Johnson Jr.  
Susan Ehr  
Robert Detweiler  
Melba Lotierzo  
Maryanne Detweiler  
Lopez Ballesteros Brothers  
Mario Lopez Norena  
Ballesteros Family  
M/M James Donlon  
Oscar & Nena Zapata  
Celeste E. Babi  
Joseph M. Babi  
M/M W. Kuczaj  
M/M E. Makowski  
Gena Ryan  
Mickie Kubik  
Sam & Virginia Chasinov  
Joe & Lucy Lescinski  
JoAnn Anastasi  
Theresa Medaro  
Anthony Medaro  
Peter Medaro  
Marcella Sims

Chirafisi Family  
John E. Cook  
Frank & Ann Slattery  
Sean Slattery  
Francie & Mae McCutchen  
Bevin Family  
Anna & Sabino Cervone  
Nicholas DeSantis  
M/M William McQuade  
M/M Nicholas Lamb  
Roberta Lamb  
Ellen Brady  
Robert Brady  
Pat, Bessie, Tara LaPorta  
George F. Raplee  
Glenn Raplee  
Benvenuto Monaco  
Frances Monaco  
Paul Collura  
Thomassina Collura  
Elio Parente  
Debra Parente  
Lucia Vitale-Traino  
Bertha Stiso  
Julius Stiso  
Allison Stiso  
Glenn Warren  
Jim Emerson  
Mattera Family  
Frank & Hedwig Akalski  
Eleanor & Stanley Osina  
Fred & Kay Kerner  
Manuel Coelho  
Cecilia Martins  
Luis Simoes  
Maria Simoes  
Vito Orlando  
Andrew Orlando  
Clara Orlando  
Joseph F. Marcucci  
George & Sadie Penzavecchia  
Marcucci Family  
Penzavecchia Family  
John Schultz  
John & Jo O'Shea  
John & Marie Schultz  
Frank & Mary Farkas  
Jean & Pasquale Basile  
Sokel Family  
Scholl Family  
Jelinek Family  
Edwards Family  
Irene & Charles Sims  
Lawrence & Dorothy Zeltmann  
William Flaherty  
Kohler Family  
Reidy Family  
Maria Eannacone  
Rose Marino, Frank Marino  
Linda Marino  
Herbert Eannacone  
Peggy Sullivan  
Edward Sullivan

Vickie DeGrucci  
Ada Agugliaro  
Phil DeNobrega  
Teresa & Angelo Navarra  
Adie & Clement DeNobrega  
William Ryder  
Christopher Cotter  
Warren Cotter  
Sara & James Connor  
Anthony & Margaret Coco  
Emily & Fred Buse  
Catherine Moreno  
Charles Moreno  
Mary O'Connor  
John O'Connor  
Frazier Family  
Sokol Family  
Frank & Patricia Messina  
John & Domenick Abbate  
Holt Family  
Carney Family  
Ferraro Family  
Ann & Jim Brennan  
Arline & Bernie Blanke  
Ray Scacalossi  
Plume Family  
Ryan Family  
Farruggia Family  
Fitzpatrick Family  
Katherine Schneider  
Dorothy Schneider  
James McAllister  
Armand MacGillivray  
Vincent Ingrisano  
Thomas S. Hannick  
Eric Schwarz  
Thomas Brophy  
Giuseppe & Francesca Misiti  
Michael & Carmela Terranova  
Theresa & Ludwig Schwarz  
Charles Inghilterra  
Ralph & Jean Inghilterra  
Michael & Catherine O'Grady  
Terrence & Helen O'Grady  
James Reid  
Mary & Donald Reid  
Joan & Sal DiBernardo  
Lori Aurora  
Margaret Cerbone  
Frank Cerbone Sr.  
Marie Leonardo  
Joseph Cerbone  
Joseph Brindisi Jr.  
Pat Mosca  
Mary Humphries  
John Humphries  
Morton & Dolores Fass  
Henry & Eileen Lichtenberger  
Bernadette Kuczewski  
Cecilia Lopes  
Gorete Martins  
Grandparents of Francisco &  
Rosa Martins





DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## Christmas 2024

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

**Merry Christmas to you and your families!**

Last Christmas, we celebrated the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that glorious and historic night when St. Francis of Assisi arranged the first Nativity creche scene in a small cave outside the Italian village of Greccio in Italy.

St. Francis was inspired to do this after visiting the historical place of Christ's birth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land – the humble stable in a Bethlehem cave.

The large creche set in St. Peter's Square last year commemorated this 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary by having the figure of St. Francis of Assisi expressing adoration, awe and wonder across the Crib from Mary and Joseph.

Last September, we celebrated the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Francis receiving the gift of the "stigmata" – the mystical wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side. In 2026, we will celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Francis' death.

There is always a powerful connection between the Manger Crib and the Golgotha Cross of our Savior. St. Francis of Assisi lived this connection so powerfully.

In *Admirabile Signum*, Pope Francis writes: "Indeed, the place where this first nativity scene was enacted expresses and evokes these sentiments...from the time of its Franciscan origins, the nativity scene has invited us to 'feel' and 'touch' the poverty that God's Son took upon himself in the Incarnation. Implicitly, it summons us to follow him along the path of humility, poverty and self-denial that leads from the manger of Bethlehem to the Cross. It asks us to meet him and serve him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in great need (cf. Matthew 25:31-46)." (3)

As we spiritually draw near to Bethlehem at the end of this year, we pray for those who suffer in the Holy Land and the Middle East, in Ukraine and all war-torn areas of the world.

We pray too for the persecuted Church around the world and we pray for religious liberty in our country and in all countries.



**St. Francis of Assisi understood the problems of the world and more than 800 years later, after he created the first creche, he is still close to the Church and to the world.**

**Many of you have seen the bronze statue of Atlas directly across from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.**

**It was created by the sculptor Lee Lawrie and installed in 1937. The sculpture portrays the mythical ancient Greek Titan Atlas holding the burden of the heavens on his shoulder.**

**St. Francis of Assisi is no myth, but at times he has been compared with Atlas in how, through the centuries, he carried the burdens of the Church on his shoulders with his radical and pure Gospel witness.**

**In fact, Pope Innocent III, after meeting St. Francis, had a dream that St. Francis was holding up St. John Lateran Basilica, the visible sign and symbol of the universal Church, amidst the storms and earthquakes of history and crisis.**

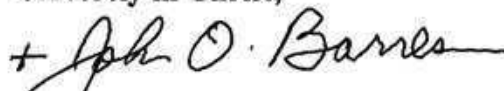
**Configured to Christ crucified and having lived daily with the stigmatic wounds of Christ, St. Francis helps to animate and inspire the mission of mercy of the Catholic Church through the centuries.**

**St. Francis of Assisi intercedes for each of us at every moment to help rebuild the Biblical and Eucharistic evangelizing mission of the Church that Jesus Himself founded on Long Island and beyond.**

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

**May the Light and Love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic Missionary Spirit this Christmas and throughout the New Year.**


**Sincerely in Christ,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. A small cross symbol is written to the left of the first name.

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




# PARISH REMINDERS



**Love**

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

-1 John 4:9



Due to bulletin printing deadlines, names of loved ones from the Christmas flower envelopes will begin to appear in the Christmas bulletin.

If you do not see the name of your loved one in the Christmas bulletin, names will be in bulletins and on the website in the following weeks after Christmas.

Thank you for your understanding.



**Christmas Mass Intentions**

In lieu of individual announced intentions at the Christmas Masses, there are cards in the atrium on which to write your special intentions.

These cards will be placed on the Altar at all the Christmas Masses.



**Christmas 2024 Mass Schedule**

**The Nativity of the Lord**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Saturday, December 21st @ 5:00PM  
Sunday, December 22nd @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

**Christmas Eve**  
Tuesday, December 24th @ 4:00PM, 6:00PM & 10:00PM

**Christmas Day**  
Wednesday, December 25th @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
Saturday, December 28th @ 5:00PM  
Sunday, December 29th @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

**Solemnity of Mary**  
Tuesday, December 31st @ 5:00PM  
Wednesday, January 1st @ 10:00AM

**Confession**  
Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:15PM



Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love



**Missalettes**

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



**Banns of Marriage**

— ♥ —

Elise Easton & Thomas Louro

# 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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## Winter Windfall

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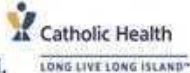
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