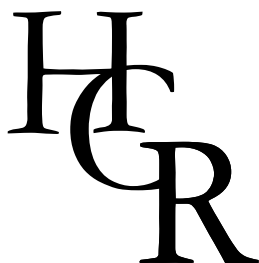




Holy CrossRoads



The Good News from the Parish of the Holy Cross

Happy and Holy Lent

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Soon enough Ash Wednesday will be upon us, and we begin the season of Lent. Normally we don't associate "happiness" with Lent. Traditionally it is a time that calls us to sacrifice and reconciliation, which can be difficult. But in fact there is an invitation for us to grow in holiness and in turn, happiness.

The past few weeks the gospel on Sunday has been from the Sermon on the Mount. That passage begins with Jesus giving a litany of ideas ("Blessed are the poor in spirit...") that are meant to identify the spiritual path we

are to walk. At first glance very few of the ideas Jesus mentions seem to be a source of blessing or happiness. But they reveal an attitude through which we will see the hand of God at work throughout our life. Awareness of God's presence can indeed be a source of blessing and happiness for us when we know that God is by our side.

I invite you to use well the weeks of Lent. Consider a discipline or practice that is going to improve your life. If giving up chocolate is not going to make any difference, then enjoy a Hershey bar and

move on to something that will make you a better person. Perhaps silence, prayer, exercise, building relationships, using time more productively, etc are practices that could make a difference. As you receive ashes this year, allow it to be the beginning of a time that will make you a better person and allow yourself to be closer to God.

By: Fr. Michael Holzmann

COME AND JOIN US:

Mardi Gras Celebration!

Tuesday, February 28th
7:00pm

@ the Holy Cross Atrium

Ash Wednesday (March 1, 2017) Service Schedule:

- 7:00am
- 9:00am Mass
- 12:00pm
- 4:00pm
- 5:30pm
- 7:30pm

"I love Scripture!" Why? Because it is never the same each time I read it. God speaks to me through scripture in different and interesting ways because I am not the same person I was yesterday, last week, or last year. I have moved on and my life experience has changed. When I had a career and was a wife and mother to five children, I heard the scriptures differently than I do now, as a widow with grown children and grandchildren.

Scripture Study

Won't you come and join us for Scripture Study, the first and third Thursday of the month? We offer an early session from 10:00-11:45 am (refreshments of coffee and snacks are served) and an evening session 7:00-8:00 pm. Our session starts with the Saint of the Day connecting us to our roots in faith. This is followed by a guided meditation to open up our hearts and minds to God's word. Then we begin to explore the readings for the upcoming

Sunday. We try not only to understand what God is saying to us, but also to delve into the historical and cultural aspects of the Word.

Sharing is welcomed but never necessary, and all meetings are independent so you can come to as many as your schedule permits. We would love to see you at our next meeting which is always posted in the bulletin and online.

By: Mary Schultz

PARISH OF THE HOLY CROSS

Founded 1988

“Let All Who Enter Be
Welcomed as Christ”

95 Old Nichols Road
Nesconset, NY 11767

Phone: (631) 265-2200

Fax: (631) 265-2229

E-mail: pothc@optonline.net

Office Hours: M-F 9:00-4:00

PASTORAL TEAM:

PASTOR

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann

PASTORAL MINISTER

Deacon Ralph Rivera

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Mrs. Judith Pickel

DIRECTOR OF

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ms. Ellen Fox

CO-COORDINATORS OF

PARISH OUTREACH

Mrs. Connie Calabro

Mrs. MaryAnne McCulloch

PARISH BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs. Elizabeth Shea

YOUTH MINISTER

Mr. Sal Finocchiaro

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. Brian Reich

OFFICE STAFF:

PARISH SECRETARY

Mrs. Jane Wirth

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Pannone

Mr. James Reiss

Baptism Anniversary Sunday

On Sunday, January 15, at the 11:30 Mass, Holy Cross continued our long standing tradition of celebrating “year one” of some of our newest parish members: all the babies that were baptized over the previous year.

Our Baptism Preparation Team, with the support of the Hospitality Committee, helped make this a special day for many young families of our parish. The Baptism Preparation Team, along with Father Michael and Jude Pickel, dedicate their time each month to educate new parents about the sacrament of Baptism. The parishion-

ers who make up the Baptism Preparation Team share their personal experiences on bringing up their own children with a strong faith foundation at Holy Cross. They also explain how they help their children continue to live out their baptisms as they grow up. The Baptism Preparation Team meets with over 50 families a year and briefly gets to know the parents over the course of an evening.

During the annual celebration, each family is called to the altar, the babies are given a special bless-

ing, and the whole parish community shares together in the celebration. Refreshments are served in the atrium after Mass. Our Baptism Preparation Team is grateful to be able to support our young families, and this annual celebration is a wonderful way to close out the previous year and encourage enthusiasm for the years to come.

By: Ken Ulrich



Above: Fr. Michael blessing all the Baptized Babies in attendance from 2016

POTHC Prays for our Nation

On January 19th, about ninety parishioners gathered together for a night of fellowship and Holy Hour on the eve of the Inauguration. The evening began in the atrium around 6:30. The brief opening prayer focused on our strength being found in God alone. While the parish provided the main

course of fried chicken, parishioners brought a variety of side dishes: salads, breads, and desserts. After an hour of camaraderie amongst our community, we gathered in the Worship Area for the exposition of the Eucharist at a Holy Hour. Prayers of petition for our nation and community were offered. The evening concluded with

the community singing “Let there be Peace on Earth.”

The consensus was it was a simple, yet beautiful evening that provided a sense



of peace. We continue to pray for peace and for our nation.

By: Fr. Michael Holzmann



Highlight a Ministry — Being a Catechist

I have been a member of Holy Cross for around 14 years. About four years ago I became involved as a catechist, and have been teaching religion for the last three years. By trade, I am a preschool teacher (which certainly helps but isn't necessary in teaching the children). I have two older children who were taught by other catechists, but felt called to teach my youngest. What most drew me to become involved was the fact that I wanted to be sure my child was excited and inter-

ested in his faith. It is one thing to pass along information from a book; it is another to share faith with your child and their peers.



While being a catechist may seem like a big commitment, it really isn't. Some catechists teach for an hour on a weekly basis, while others teach for an hour and a half on a 16 week program

(approximately every other week). The Religious Education office helps us figure out what is best for the catechists and the students.

It is so much fun to teach. Primarily, it's fun for me as a teacher but in addition to being rewarding, it is great to see the children have fun as they learn about God. Sometimes they ask amazing questions that I don't know how to answer; "Was there room for the dinosaurs on Noah's ark?" The most rewarding thing for me is

when the children understand what I am teaching. You can see the pride they have in coming and wanting to sit and learn.

If you are interesting in becoming a catechist, or assisting in your child's class as a co-catechist, contact Ellen Fox at the Religious Education office. The office is always looking for catechists to teach for the next academic year. This may be where God is calling you to serve.

By: Joanna Fennell

Boy Scout Sunday

In 1908, Robert Baden-Powell began a wonderful youth organization called The Boy Scouts.

Scouts follow the basic principles of the Scout Law and Scout Oath. The Scout Law has 12 points which include being helpful, kind and reverent. In the Scout Oath they pledge "to do my duty to God" and to "help other people."

One hundred and nine years later we still celebrate the anniversary of Scouting by gathering in churches and temples around the world, thanking God and

celebrating Scout Sunday and Scout Sabbath. This year our celebration included 25 scouts from Pack 57 who received the Parvuli Dei and Light of Christ awards.

Holy Cross is blessed to have an amazing group of Boy Scouts from many different troops and packs. Our Scouts have completed spring and fall cleanups around the parish, ran food drives for the pantry and they create the Easter Vigil fire used to light the Pascal candle.

The older scouts have



created projects to help earn the Rank of Eagle Scout. From creating the Stations of the Cross, lowering down the Bell, to the Cross on Nichols Road, Holy Cross Scouts truly

know how to help others and serve their parish community.

From the littlest Bobcat Scout to the older Venture Scout, Scouting has provided young men with

the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors, learn hands on skills and leadership skills, creating the framework to grow into amazing young men at home, in their community and their parish. Andrew and I are blessed to be able to give our "one hour a week" to the boys and our parish.

If you would like more info about scouting, go to www.scouting.org or contact us at akjlb23@optonline.net

By: Kim & Andy Bodor



Parish of the Holy Cross Nesconset, New York 11767

95 Old Nichols Road
Nesconset, New York 11767

Phone: (631) 265-2200 E-mail: potbc@optonline.net

Fax: (631) 265-2229 E-mail: bcreled@optonline.net

Website: www.potbc.org



Check us out on
Facebook!

The 1st Holy Cross VARIETY SHOW is

Saturday, April 1st at 7:00 pm

Dust off your instruments, dancing shoes and comedy skits! All entertainment acts are welcome! Organize your friends for a skit, song, dance or other entertaining two minutes of fun!!

Audition date is:

Sunday, March 19th at 2:00 pm (sign up sheet will be provided)

Rehearsal is scheduled for:

Thursday, March 30th at 7 pm (mandatory run through)

Performance: Saturday, April 1st at 7 pm (set up after 5:00 mass)

I will set up a schedule to work with all acts before the first rehearsal. This will allow us time to fine tune your acts. If you have any questions, please call the office.

- Brian Reich, Director of Music

Question & Answer with the Pastoral Team

Recently Holy Cross catechists were invited to a question and answer social gathering hosted by Fr. Michael and members of the Pastoral Team.

The process for this event began weeks earlier when Catechists were asked to submit their questions to the Religious Education Office. Specific instructions stated that any topic, question or concern that had to do with Church, Scripture, Sacraments, Liturgy and Faith would be addressed. Two gathering ses-

sions were offered and approximately 20 people attended including catechists and their guests. At each session hospitality was offered.

Lively discussions on particular topics like annulments, saints, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the election of a Pope were of central interest. Fr. Michael, Jude Pickel and Ellen Fox offered concrete answers but, as with all things that people are passionate about, more questions arose. Many of the guests shared very personal stories on how the

Church has impacted their own lives and the lives of their families. The socials ended with guests agreeing that they had much to think about and were more enlightened about the Church and their faith. However, all concluded that Holy Cross Parish has a vibrant welcoming spirit. This spirit, coupled with many activities and liturgies for children, teens and adults makes Holy Cross a wonderful faith community.

The Q and A Social was offered for Catechists because of the nature of their ministry to

children and families they are often asked questions about Church and Faith that are not covered in their books. The Pastoral Team stressed that it is always best to go to the right sources for answers. The Pastoral Team is always available to parishioners who struggle with the many issues and regulations of faith and Church. Never hesitate to call the parish office and ask to speak with a Team member.

By: Ellen Fox



Youth Ministry ... Why Retreat?

I'm now a high school senior and I live a pretty hectic life crammed with school-work, clubs, sports, and a job, all the while maintaining a normal teenage social life. I'm sure you can relate to at least some of this stress, and now you ask: Why should I give up a weekend to go out east with some church Youth Group when I could be having fun or getting work done?

First, let me outline the weekend: We arrive on Friday night and after calming our hype with opening festivities, we kick off with our first ice-breaker activity, which will be

some kind of scavenger hunt or obstacle course game. We then break, strategically assigned, into small groups to discuss a religious concept related to the icebreaker activity. Saturday follows this pattern of fun activities and serious discussions that fall into a specific theme. It is broken up by excellent meals cooked by two perennial volunteer chefs and free time to be spent chatting inside the comfortable convent, running around out on the field, or relaxing down by the water. Saturday culminates in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which is a

powerful religious experience that never fails to bring us all closer together. On Sunday we'll have one last activity-discussion session, we'll have "open mic" time to talk about the weekend as a full group, and then we'll wrap up with our closing festivities.

I've been on eight retreats and do not flinch when I tell you that they have been eight of the best weekends of my life. Each and every time, I come out as a better person than I was when I went in, as my perspective broadens with new insights, my Faith grows

stronger through prayer and contemplation, and my friendships strengthen into what feels more like a family.

I wasn't excited about giving up a weekend to go on a retreat with strangers from church when I first went, but there is not a single day that I regret having made the decision to give it a try. No matter who you are, if you are a student in high school, we'd be happy to have you join us. Contact Sal Finocchiaro, our Coordinator of Youth Ministries at: hcyouthgroup@hotmail.com for sign-up information. We look forward to seeing you at our Spring Retreat!

By: Eric Bregel

All Welcome