



## **Church of the Holy Cross**

**30 Ward Avenue. Rumson  
New Jersey 07760**

**Rev. Michael Lankford-Stokes, Pastor**  
**Rev. Joseph Tizio, CSsR, Weekend Assistant**

Susan Symington, Sacristan  
Chris McGrath, Music Director  
Chuck Lada, Business Administrator  
Eileen George Secretary/Bookkeeper  
Sallie Kabash, CRE  
Maryrose Cooke, Online Giving

### **Church Hours:**

**Monday - Friday**

**8:30 am until 4:00 pm**

**On weekends, the church is open  
for masses only**

**Weekday Mass: 9:00 am**

**Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm**

**Sunday Masses:**

**8:00 am, 10:30 am and 5:00 pm**

### **Eucharistic Adoration:**

**Wednesday 9:30 AM - Noon**

**Confessions: Friday 9:30 am  
(732) 842-0348**

**[webmaster@holycrossrumson.org](mailto:webmaster@holycrossrumson.org)**



Dear Parishioners:

Today we celebrate the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord also known as Candlemas**. The theme of Light which we hear in our Gospel passage for this feast and the presentation of Jesus to the world by Simeon and Anna reminds us of yet another Epiphany where again Christ is made known as the Light of the World and savior of humankind. Thus, the blessing of candles is associated with this celebration as a token of that grace and light given us in Christ Jesus. With this feast, the Christmas season comes to its final close.

This past Sunday we began Catholic Schools Week. Holy Cross Academy held an open house last Sunday and has had programs all week long focusing on such themes as: Parish and families, Celebrating Community, Celebrating Students, Celebrating the Nation, Celebrating Spirit, and Celebrating Teachers. Catholic Schools Week concludes with the Polar Bear Plunge (12:30PM) at Sea Bright Beach. We thank all of you who participated and helped make Catholic Schools Week a success.

Talking of success. . .The Holy Cross Community Spaghetti dinner was a fantastic success. We had excellent attendance and great fun. Many members of our Holy Cross community contributed to making it the great evening it was.

Thank you to all!

This Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> we celebrate the Memorial of St. Blaise the patron saint of those with throat ailments. The traditional throat blessing will take place after the final blessing of the Monday 9:00AM Mass.

Lastly, we still are in need of men and women to usher at the Masses. And we are also in need of altar servers. Please see Sue Symington if you would like to assist.

*In hoc signo vinces!*

Fr. Michael

## **Holy Cross Church/School** **Calendar of Events**

**Saturday, February 1, 2025**

***Social Concerns Committee Food Collection***

***5:00pm Mass***

**Sunday, February 2, 2025**

***Presentation of the Lord— Candelmas Day***

***Social Concerns Committee Food Collection***

***CSW Polar Bear Plunge - Sea Bright Beach***

**Monday, February 3, 2025**

***Feast of St. Blaise—School Mass 9:00am***

***~Throat blessing following Mass***

***AA Open Meeting 7:30pm***

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

***Choir***

**Wednesday, February 5, 2025**

***Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 9:30am***

***Social Concerns Committee Meeting***

***6:00pm SJMR***

***Women's Study Group - new 'True Reformers'***

***7:15pm SJMR***

**Thursday, February 6, 2025**

***Men's Group Meeting - 7:00pm SJMR***

**Friday, February 7, 2025**

***Confessions 9:30am***

**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

***5:00pm Mass***

**Sunday, February 9, 2025**

***World Marriage Day***

***Family Rosary***

### **Social Concerns Committee** **February Food Collection**

*This weekend, February 1st and 2nd is our Monthly Food Collection and we ask for your support to help our neighbors need.*

*Please bring the following items to be collected in the main Gathering Space in the back of the Church:*

Coffee  
Tea  
Mac & Cheese  
Pasta  
Pasta Sauce  
Rice  
Cooking Oil  
Canned Vegeables  
Condiments (Mayo, Mustard, Ketchup, Salad Dressing, Green , Olives)  
Toilet Paper  
Detergent

*You can also help by donating using the Parish's Online Giving Portal/Food Pantry or by Check denoting Food Pantry in the memo field.*



***Sunday, January 19, 2025***

**Offerings: \$ 9,064.00**

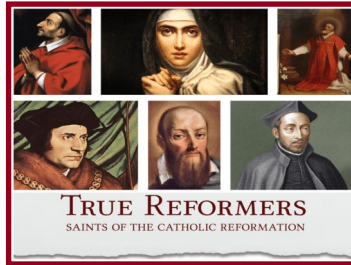
**Online: \$ 3,764.00**

*Leaving money to your church in your will or trust is a way to support the church's future work and give thanks for your faith. It can also be a way to help your church members feel more connected to the church community*



**The Holy Cross Men's Group  
meet on Thursdays at 7:00 pm  
in the St. Joseph Room of the  
Church basement.  
Please join us!**





*The HC Women's Study group will start a new series, Titled, **"True Reformers"** which is about 6 Saints during the time of the Protestant Reformation. Please join us Wednesday at 7:15, the following 6 dates: Feb.5, 12, 26, March 12, 19 and we will finish this series April 9. Please join us in the St. Joseph's Room as we learn of these great Saints. For more information, please contact Julie at (609) 636-5556.*

### ***Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!***

***On January 12th, Religious Education families gathered together to celebrate Mary, the Mother of God. Mrs. Jane Shaheen told Mary's story revealed to us in Scripture. We learned about her most famous apparitions, by highlighting her beautiful wardrobe, miracles and message to love her Son and to help others do the same. We ended our evening with students creating a centerpiece for a Marian Shrine in their home.***





## Mass Intentions

February 1	5:00 pm	Stanislaw & Marianna Bors	Pearl Lynch and Family
February 2	8:00 am	Kathy King	Mr. and Mrs. Martin Patwell & Family
February 2	10:30 am	Stephen Tropiano	Richard Bonanno
February 2	10:30 am	For the Parishioners	Parish
February 2	5:00 pm	Marie Cottrell	The Modin Family
February 3	9:00 am	Jacqueline Picard nee Devillers	Frank Arlinghaus
February 4	9:00 am	Basil S. Kasimis, MD	Fr. Michael Lankford-Stokes
February 5	9:00 am	Marie Cottrell	Denise Devine
February 6	9:00 am	Leslie Parent	Denise Devine
February 7	6:00 am	Charlie Letko (votive candle)	The Funck Family
February 7	6:00am	James Rafy (votive candle)	The Leo Family
February 7	9:00am	Marie Cottrell	Patty and Aynsley Thaler
February 8	5:00 pm	Edward J. Leddy, Jr.	The Sauer Family
February 9	8:00 am	Joseph Rusbarsky	The Rusbarsky Family
February 9	10:30 am	Nancy Dickson	Ann Marie Lynch
February 9	10:30 am	For the Parishioners	Parish
February 9	5:00 pm	Wade Davis	The Liberi Family



*The Blessed Virgin Mary and  
Saint Joseph Votive Candles  
are available*

*To reserve the votive candles for your  
loved one or for a special occasion,  
please call the  
Parish Secretary at  
(732) 842-0348 Ext. 208  
(\$10.00/candle)*

PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO HOLY CROSS PARISH THROUGH

## ONLINE GIVING

Scan this QR CODE using your mobile device to access the Holy Cross Church Online Giving Portal



Please make a one-time or recurring donation.  
Thank you for your generosity!

"Practicing charity is the best way to evangelize." - Pope Francis



Thank You to everyone who supported  
the Holy Cross Spaghetti Dinner

Thank You to our Sponsors



Bill Kenney  
The Little Silver Bottle Shop



PAUL DAVID PARTYWARES

#### Spaghetti Dinner Committee & Other Volunteers

Trish Brennan  
Dana Canberg  
Mairead Clifford  
Stacye DeJulius  
Margie Dooley  
Christina Durney  
Jill Gjakaj  
Taphy Harcsar  
Eileen Hickey

Siobhan Hogan  
Peter Hogan  
Jeanine Malara  
Tiffanie Salerno  
Tina Scarrone  
Fran Stromsland  
Debbie Sullivan  
Annmarie Woods

*Special thanks to all the cooks and bakers who helped make this event a delicious success! Also thank you to the Knights of Columbus and the many CYO, CBA & Holy Cross students who helped.*

*Grazie!*

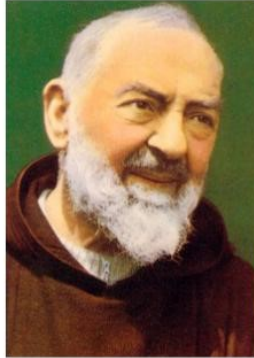


***Please join us today, at the Sea  
Bright Public Beach for the  
annual HCA Polar Bear Plunge  
where we are freezin' for a reason!  
The plunge is at noon and we will  
have our before and after party  
from 11am to 4pm at Woody's in  
Sea Bright. All are welcome!  
[hcarumson.org/plunge](http://hcarumson.org/plunge)***





## *St Padre Pio Prayer Group of St Ambrose Parish*



*Come join us in prayer as we celebrate mass together in honor of St Padre Pio by Celebrant Fr. Jack C. Grimes. Mass will be celebrated on Saturday February 15, 2025 at 9:00 AM followed by veneration of a first class relic of St Padre Pio.*

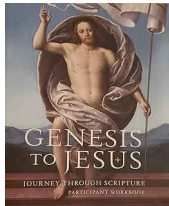


*St Ambrose Parish  
83 Throckmorton Lane, Old Bridge NJ  
08857  
(732)679-5666*

*Join us for one of our inspiring **Spring Bible Studies:**  
**The Bible and the Virgin Mary and Genesis to Jesus***



***The Bible and the Virgin Mary begins March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm est.*** If you are looking to deepen your love for the Blessed Virgin Mary, to grow in knowledge of Catholic teachings on the Blessed Mother, and most importantly understand her role in our lives today, then this course is for you.



***Genesis to Jesus begins March 20<sup>th</sup> at 8pm est.*** It will cover key questions such as: What is the Bible? Where does it come from? What is its purpose? The course surveys the principal covenants that God made with his people through figures such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David and how each of these covenants points forward to—and is fulfilled by—Jesus Christ and his Church through salvation history.

*Each course will last twelve successive weeks and will be on Zoom and presented by Andrew Bustillo.*

***For more information contact: Andrew Bustillo at 917-324-4861 or [andrew@redbankreinsurance.com](mailto:andrew@redbankreinsurance.com)***

**JESUS CHRIST**  
*28th Annual*  
**CATHOLIC MEN  
 FOR JESUS  
 CHRIST**  
 CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025 | 8 AM - 3 PM**  
 St. Mary, Mother of God Church | 19 Cherry Tree Farm Road | Middletown, NJ  
 Doors open at 8 AM for Bagels and Coffee; Lunch also included

**TRENT HORN**  
**MATTHEW ARNOLD**  
**ELVIS GRBAC**  
**BISHOP DAVID M. O'CONNELL, C.M.**

**\$60 ONLINE REGISTRATION  
 \$60 AT THE DOOR  
 \$20 FOR STUDENTS**

Order tickets Online at  
[CatholicMenForJesusChrist.org](http://CatholicMenForJesusChrist.org)  
 or send your check with a self address envelope to:  
[CatholicMenForJesusChrist](http://CatholicMenForJesusChrist.org)  
 PO BOX 266 Clarksburg, NJ 08510

***CATHOLIC WOMEN OF ZION CHAPTER 1**  
 A Ministry to Catholic Women Young and Older Alike  
 at The Church of St. William the Abbot  
 36th Year Anniversary Retreat Day*

**YOU ARE INVITED TO CWOZ CHAPTER 1: The day consists of Mass, Music by: *Joyful Praise*,  
 speaker, sharing, networking and prayers for healing.  
 This month's speaker: Ana Maria Garcia is a Catholic lay evangelist.**

**Ana Maria invites us to join her as she shares:  
 "Behold, I Make All Things New" Rev 21:5**

**Date: Saturday, February 8, 2025  
 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Mass-9:00am. will be celebrated by Fr. Thomas Maher  
 Place: St. William the Abbot Church  
 2740 Lakewood Allenwood Rd  
 Howell, NJ 07731**

**Admission: \$25.00 includes Box lunch - pay at the door  
 Come and bring a friend!**

**Reservations: are necessary-must select a Box Lunch from  
 Selections listed on CWOZ Website [www.cwoz.org](http://www.cwoz.org)**

**You can also register by phone-please leave your phone number,  
 tell your last name and selection of Box Lunch  
 at 732-475-7113 no later than Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

**Mary Ann Collett, Co-founder/Director of Catholic Women of Zion [cwoz@cwoz.org](mailto:cwoz@cwoz.org)**





## Francis House of Prayer

84 Walnford Road, Allentown, NJ 08501

609-877-0509

Please check [www.FHOP.org](http://www.FHOP.org) for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings!

**Francis House of Prayer** serves the people of the Diocese of Trenton and beyond by providing a contemplative environment for ongoing spiritual growth which fosters the deepening of relationship with God, self, others and the world.

### Upcoming Retreats

#### **PERSONAL RETREAT DAY**

Wednesday, February 5 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Come to Francis House for silence, personal prayer and optional spiritual direction. The day begins and ends with a brief prayer together. Please bring a bag lunch. Donation: \$10; \$40 with spiritual direction.

#### **WRITING AND JOURNALING DEEPEN OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD**

Wednesday, February 12 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Writing and journaling can be a conversation with God! Enjoy a gentle day with God's guidance as we reflect on graces received in our lives by using writing prompts that bring us deeper into sacred stillness and love. Please bring a notebook or journal. Donation: \$30, includes lunch. Zoom: \$25.

#### **ABANDONMENT TO DIVINE PROVIDENCE**

Tuesday, February 18 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

I am going to summarize the essence of this classic by Jean Pierre de Caussade so that you can enjoy and internalize his message of complete abandonment to the care of Divine Providence. We seem to need that more than ever and I so desire to acquaint you with his wisdom in pointing to the Providence of God in all things. Donation: \$25, includes materials and lunch. Zoom: \$20.



Programs are offered to enrich, renew and deepen one's interior communication with the Lord in an atmosphere of prayer, quiet and solitude. The scenic environment of the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay provides additional contemplative opportunity. Please check out upcoming retreats: <https://www.sjbsea.org/>



**RETRouvaille: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE** Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on.

Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held February 14 - 16, 2025 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit- [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or

800-470-2230.

## St. Alfonso Retreat House

### WOMEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT 2025

**Theme: "Being Nurtured as the Child of God that You Are!"**

**DATES & TIMES: 7 PM Friday, February 28 – 1 PM Sunday, March 2**

**PLACE: San Alfonso Retreat House, located on the ocean in Long Branch, NJ**

**COST: \$315\***—includes the full retreat program, overnight accommodations, meals, and fellowship with women in our faith community. Mass and lunch are included on Sunday.

The retreat was organized by the Spiritual Life Committee of The Church of the Precious Blood, and we welcome all female parishioners of Precious Blood and St. Dorothea's, as well woman parishioners from other local catholic parishes . Come join us for a weekend of reflection, prayer, and discovery. There will also be opportunities for those who would like to share in our discussions.

**Please fill out the registration form below and drop it off in our parish office or mail it. Our address: Church of the Precious Blood, 72 Riverdale Ave., Monmouth Beach, NJ 07750.**

**Reservations and full payment are due by Sunday, February 23.**

Direct questions to **Marion Maloney** at [mjmaloney1@yahoo.com](mailto:mjmaloney1@yahoo.com) or **732-403-1825**.

**Reservation form:**

Please print clearly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish:     \_\_\_\_\_ Precious Blood     \_\_\_\_\_ St. Dorothea's     \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Any notes for the committee: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



All those in parish ministry are invited to attend the Diocese of Trenton's **Faith Formation and Parish Ministry Conference** on **March 29, 2025** which will be held at St. John Vianney High School in Holmdel. We will have over 30 workshop speakers in both English and Spanish. Our keynote speakers will be Chris Padgett (English) and Fr. Agostino Torres, CFR (Spanish). Bishop David M. O'Connell will be our celebrant for Mass. There will be something for everyone, from catechists to OCIA teams, to pastoral care ministers. **Registration opens Sunday, December 29th with an early registration fee of \$25.00.** Go to [www.dioceseoftrenton.org/hope2025](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/hope2025) for more info.