

EXALTATION *of the* HOLY CROSS



**HOLY CROSS
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

September 13, 2026

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**P.O. Box 249 • 4900 Strathmore Avenue • Garrett Park, Maryland 20896
301-942-1020 • www.hcrosschurch.org • parishsecretary@hcrosschurch.org**

Rev. Stephen P. Wyble, *Pastor*
swyble@hcrosschurch.org

Deacon Matthew A. Konieczny
mkonieczny@hcrosschurch.org

Deacon Ron Hansen
rhansen@hcrosschurch.org

Deacon Robert E. Hubbard



Holy Cross School is a co-educational Catholic school serving children in Pre-K-8th grade. Our school is a diverse, faith-centered community that was recognized in 2013 as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. We are an inclusive learning community that strives to achieve each student's full potential and develop a positive attitude toward learning.

www.hcross.org

Mrs. Lisa Maio Kane, *Principal*
301-949-0053

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

Sunday 7:30 am, 9:30 am & Noon

Monday-Saturday 8:30 am

Holy Days As Announced

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 9:00 am - 10:00 am
or by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday in Church from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
*Contact the office at 301-942-1020
if you would like to be a regular adoror.*

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm



Scan the QR code to make a donation to the church or enroll for a recurring gift through ParishSoft Giving.

And He said to all, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

- Luke 9:23

Parish Staff

Michelle Ilagan

Parish Secretary, Parish Life Coordinator
301-942-1020 ilagan@hccrosschurch.org

Kathryn Harrington

Coordinator of the School of Religion
301-942-1020 x 160 kharrington@hccrosschurch.org

Mariana Mihai-Zoeter, PhD

Director of Music
203-435-2993 music@hccrosschurch.org

Angela Draley

Administrative Assistant
301-942-1020 x 140 adraley@hccrosschurch.org

Danilo Linos

Facilities

Parish Registration:

New parishioners are welcome! Registration forms are in the back of the church and on the parish website: <https://hccrosschurch.org/registration-form>

Baptism:

Please call the office to request a date for baptism. The parish offers baptismal preparation as part of the process.

Weddings:

You must meet with the Pastor at least 6 months prior to your requested wedding date.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA): If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the faith, contact the office at 301-942-1020.

Ministry to the Sick & Homebound: Deacon Ron Hansen, rhansen@hccrosschurch.org, 408-390-6496

Social Concerns: For information, contact socialconcerns.hc@gmail.com.

Parish Bulletin Deadline: Submission for the inclusion in the bulletin are due to the **Rector** by noon on Friday--10 days before the weekend you want your article to appear. Contact the Parish Secretary parishsecretary@hccrosschurch.org, 301-942-1020 if you have any questions.

September 14 – 20

Monday

8:30 am Parish of Holy Cross

Tuesday

8:30 am Fr. Joseph Perkins (L)

Wednesday

8:30 am ☩ Nicholas Heinrich-Barna

Thursday

8:30 am ☩ Phyllis Downey

Friday

8:30 am Special Intention

Saturday

8:30 am Frida Sondereger (L)
5:00 pm ☩ Betty and John Finn **Fr. Park**

Sunday

September 20
7:30 am People of Holy Cross **Fr. Wyble**
9:30 am Jose and Thelma Alde (L) **Fr. Park**
12:00 pm Nalini Corcy (L) **Fr. Wyble**

L = Living ☩ = Deceased

MASS INTENTIONS. To schedule, email parishsecretary@hccrosschurch.org or call 301-942-1020.
Mass Celebrants subject to change.

Parish Devotions

Monday-Saturday:

Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet after the daily Mass.

Wednesday

Eucharistic Adoration in church from 9am-7pm

Thursdays:

Gospel Sharing (Bible Study) in Rectory Basement from 9:00am-10:15am

First Friday:

Prayer to the Sacred Heart and Benediction after the daily Mass.

Sundays:

Sunday Gospel Group meet after the 9:30 am Mass in Lewis Hall.
(during the SOR school year)

Please keep the sick and elderly of our parish in your prayers, especially...

Melinda Alde, Carmen Aliaga, Mark Anderson, Bill Articola, Andy Bagnall, Carolina Gianna Baker, Teresa Basso, Msgr. Joaquin Bazan, Jerry Behnke, James Behrend, Albena Borisnova-Petkova, Paula Brady, Paula Caldwell, Michael Chettle, Joyce Choi, Tom Choi, Young Choi, Chris Claudy, Luis Alejandro Guevara Coello, Jennifer Colmus, Darryl Compton, David Davies, Aaron Dikel, John Paul Durkin, Karen Dwyer, Casey FaJohn, Gorgonia Ferrer, Joe Gagnon, Kathleen Gagnon, John Garlington, Demos Georganas, Alvina Glasco, Dennis Gorden, Michael Gouzoulis, Susan Grisby, Eileen Haggart, Carlos Hernandez, Evan Hilburn, Catherine Hunter, Stephanie Hipsley, Dan Johnson, Erica Johnson, Jamie Kaufmann, John Laske, Mary Lee Leonard, Peyton Lucas, Stephen Martin, Palmer Jane McNeill, Markie Mlynarczyk, Richard Moellerling, Jr., Meghan Morin, Nelson de Melo Dias Neto, Estelle Nguyen, Noreen Nosel, Sue Numrich, Vivian Porro, Silvia Pugliese, Dan Reinwall, Jessica Ringler, David Roberts, Bettie Rodriguez, Wilfredo S., Carolyn Shawaker, Rebecca Shepherd, David Skola, Monica Tinker, Annamarie Vincent, and Philip Wright.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE PARISH FEAST MISSION

SEPTEMBER 14 AND 15 FROM 7:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

St. Francis of Assisi: *Praise that Holds Back Nothing*

The Parish Mission will include an opportunity to venerate the relic of the cross and a time to pray *The Office of the Passion of St. Francis*.

**FEATURED SPEAKER: BROTHER THOMAS PIOLATA,
O.F.M. CAP., PH.D.**



Br. Thomas Piolata is a Capuchin friar of the Province of St. Augustine. Currently, he is on the faculty of theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. After completing his undergraduate studies at Saint Louis University, Br. Thomas joined the Capuchins friars; in 2018, he professed solemn vows and shortly thereafter began further studies in Rome. Then, in 2021, he began his doctoral studies at the Antonianum (Rome) and Durham (UK). In 2024, he completed the degree and joined the faculty at CUA. His doctoral research focused on St. Bonaventure's theology of the Holy Spirit. He attributes his love for theology to, among others, Pope Benedict XVI, whose writings inspired him to "share Jesus with others." In addition to his academic interests, Br. Thomas is a drummer, golfer (wishes he could play more), and martial artist. Having grown up in an Italian-American household, he also admits to a potentially pathological love of pasta.



Parishioner of the Year: Erin Walsh

The Parish of Holy Cross recognizes Erin Walsh as this year's Parishioner of the Year and recipient of the *Simon of Cyrene Award*.

Erin has been a member of Holy Cross since 2023. A cradle Catholic, she experienced a profound renewal of her faith in recent years. She is spending this season of her life in spiritual growth, quality time with family, and works of love.

That faithful love is evident in the many ways Erin serves our parish community. She is a daily Mass attendee, lector, and Eucharistic Minister to the Homebound. She volunteers for the monthly liturgy at the nursing home, serves as a catechist for the 6th-grade class, and sings in the choir at the Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass. She serves meals at the New Leaf shelter on behalf of the parish and is joining the new team for youth ministry. Erin is also one of the Sisters of the Seven Sisters Apostolate, dedicated to praying for our parish priest. She faithfully spends time in adoration and supports fellow parishioners in times of need.

Professionally, Erin works in biomedical research, developing programs that support scientists on their career journeys. She loves being outdoors, often going for walks while praying or listening to Catholic podcasts. She is an animal lover who enjoys caring for her two cats, Felicity and Marjorie, and also works part-time with a local pet-care company. Most of all, Erin loves discussing the Catholic faith, Scripture, and theology with anyone who will listen!

Erin believes that a parish is not simply a place for people who have it all together, but a community where each person, struggles and faults included, is called to be part of Christ's living Body. As St. Leo the Great reminds us, "Not in this life, it is true, but only in eternity will God be all in all, yet even now he dwells, whole and undivided, in his temple the Church."

Through her prayer, service, and generosity, Erin embodies the spirit of the Simon of Cyrene Award, faithfully helping to carry the burdens of others and serving the Holy Cross community with love.



COMPASS Youth Group

A Night of Fun, Faith & Friends

**Come Join the Holy Cross
COMPASS High School Youth Group!**
Guiding Each Other to Jesus
Meeting the 3rd Saturday of each month
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Open to students grades 8* through 12

Kickoff Event is September 19!

- *8th graders participate in service projects and attend select COMPASS nights.
- Parents, please join us at 6:00 PM on September 19 for a brief welcome and introductions.
- \$75 registration fee—waived if registered for confirmation



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Discovering Christ – A ChristLife Experience

Discovering Christ gathers six people around a table for seven Thursday evenings, over dinner, to talk about faith the way we rarely get to: out loud, with people who are working it out alongside you.

The first session is September 24 in Lewis Hall. Each evening opens with a catered dinner at 6:30 pm. Then a half-hour talk on video, followed by conversation with the small group at your table. Nobody is put on the spot, and listening is a perfectly good way to spend the hour.

The series is open to any adult, whatever you do—or do not—believe at the moment. Some who come have been at Mass every Sunday for decades. Others have never belonged to a church at all.

The invitation is worth passing on. Consider inviting a neighbor, a brother-in-law, or a son or daughter who stopped going after college. Ask them to come along with you.

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 PM · September 24 to November 12 (no session October 29) · There will be a retreat on a Saturday with a date to be determined later. Adults 18 and over - Free, including a meal and materials each session.

Register your interest at hcrosschurch.org/christlife or scan the code. We will be in touch to confirm your place.



Want to put your pro-life beliefs into action?

The Gabriel Project Cluster urgently needs women to be Angel Friends to befriend and deliver resources to struggling pregnant moms. Within the past 2 weeks, 42 clients have requested assistance. Twenty three of these have been assigned to Angel Friends. We hope to assign Angel Friends to 19 more clients in the next few weeks. The time needed to serve as an Angel Friend averages 30 minutes or less per week. We also need men to deliver and assemble cribs. We need 27 cribs to be installed in the next 6 weeks. We want our little ones to have a safe place to sleep. Some recent volunteers are husband-and-wife teams. To learn more about how you can help, please visit our Website

at www.gpmoco.org or contact Cindy Kratz at cmkratz@hotmail.com.

MULHOLLAND FOOD DRIVE AND BACKPACK COLLECTION

A huge "Thank You!" to everyone who participated in the Mulholland Food Drive and Backpack Collection. Your generosity made it a great success!

More than 100 bags of food were collected, nearly filling the Mulholland Van. The food has already been distributed to inner-city food pantries. Donations to the Poor Box will help purchase additional perishable foods for the pantries.

The backpacks and school supplies have also been delivered to Gabriel Project and Title I schools, helping students who began the school year without the supplies they needed. The variety and generosity of the donations were greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to the 20+ Holy Cross volunteers who helped unload, sort, re-bag, and reload the food. Your time, generosity, and kindness truly made a difference!

Gratefully,
Social Concerns Committee.



Order of Christian Initiation OCIA



Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Are you—or someone you know—interested in becoming Catholic? Contact the parish office to learn more and register for OCIA sessions beginning this fall.

What is OCIA?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a welcoming process for those who are exploring the Catholic faith and considering becoming part of the Catholic Church. It offers time to learn, ask questions, encounter God, and grow in faith.

Who is OCIA for?

- Those who have never been baptized and wish to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- Those baptized in another Christian tradition who wish to enter full communion with the Catholic Church.
- Baptized Catholics who have not yet completed their initiation through Confirmation and Eucharist.
-

Registration for CYO Cross-Country is Now Open!

Calling all runners! The SportsPilot system is open and ready to accept registrations for the fall Cross-Country season for children in 1st through 8th grade. Registration cost will be \$100 this year.

Practices are TBD and the meets are on Sunday afternoons in various locations throughout DC, Montgomery and PG counties.

Currently we have a coach for grades 3 to 8 and we are still in need of a coach for grades 1 to 2. Please reach out to Mike Bur if you are interested in coaching. Reminder: coaching fulfills your 20 volunteer hours requirement and you must be Virtus compliant to coach. We will also put out a call for volunteers to attend practices on a "one-off" basis to support the coaches as needed, specifically to escort children to/from After School Care and practice. This is another great way to earn volunteer hours!

Please register your children now!

<https://reg.sportspilot.com/106394/login>

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Bur at hcrosscyoxc@gmail.com or mjcbur@hushmail.com.

Poor Box

THIS WEEK'S POOR BOX will go towards Rebuilding Together as they improve homes and lives of low-income homeowners and service residences. Next week's Poor Box will go to Mid-County United Ministries which provides emergency food and financial assistance to Montgomery County residents.

Care for Creation and Environmental Stewardship:



Climate knows no borders and neither do our prayers for victims, their families, responders/search and rescuers involved in recent climate disasters: wildfires in Canada, Spain, France; floods in Hawaii, Texas, Indiana, Nepal; earthquakes in Venezuela and Colombia.

Please consider supporting organizations providing help: Catholic Relief Services, Cross Catholic Outreach, CARE USA, International Rescue Committee, or others.



Remember in Prayer those who have died... Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

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