HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

✠ SAFETY AND SECURITY MINISTRY ✠

A Message to Our Parish Family

We are pleased to introduce the Holy Cross Catholic Church Safety and Security Ministry, formally convened on March 24, 2026. This ministry was born from our shared responsibility as a faith community to care for one another — body, mind, and spirit — and to ensure that our sacred space remains a place where all may worship, gather, and serve in safety and peace.

✕ WHO WE ARE

Our ministry currently has three dedicated members. Two of our founding members are active law enforcement professionals (Mark Lemon and Jose Morales) with direct experience securing religious and educational campuses similar to Holy Cross. We are grateful for their expertise and commitment to our parish community.

♥ We Are Looking for Additional Members!

Do you have a background in security, emergency medicine, law enforcement, fire safety, or community organizing? Or simply a heart for service and a desire to protect our parish family?

Please speak with Father Okafor or contact the Parish Office to learn more.

✕ WHY THIS MINISTRY, AND WHY NOW?

In January 2026, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security — Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) conducted a professional security assessment of our campus. The assessment identified several areas where Holy Cross can strengthen its safety posture. We are taking those recommendations seriously, and this ministry exists to act on them — thoughtfully, systematically, and faithfully.

✕ AREAS OF FOCUS

□ Safety & Medical ★ FIRST PRIORITY

Acquire Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for our campus and certify parishioners in their use. Being prepared to save a life is our most urgent calling.

□ Physical Security★ SECOND PRIORITY

Upgrade camera systems, exterior lighting, access control, and door hardware to address vulnerabilities identified in the CISA assessment.

□ Security Plans & Training★ FIFTH PRIORITY

Develop a written Facility Security Plan and Emergency Action Plan. Train staff and volunteers — including an emergency response plan.

□ First Responder Partnerships★ THIRD PRIORITY

Establish formal working relationships with Philadelphia Police and Fire Departments, including annual onsite orientation visits.

Volunteer Greeter Corps★ FOURTH PRIORITY Train and deploy Safety Greeters at weekend Masses and parish events — combining warm welcome with watchful awareness.	**Key Control & Access★ SIXTH PRIORITY** Implement a formal key control program and restrict access to sensitive areas of our campus.

⚔ MISSION STATEMENT

> *"Inspired by Saint Michael the Archangel and grounded in the Gospel, the Safety and Security Ministry of Holy Cross Catholic Church is dedicated to protecting the safety, dignity, and peace of all who worship, serve, and visit our campus. We build the partnerships, policies, and preparedness needed to respond swiftly and compassionately to any threat to our parish family. In all that we do, we strive to ensure that every person who enters our doors encounters both the peace of Christ and the security of a vigilant, welcoming community."*

⚔ VISION STATEMENT

> *"A parish where faith and safety flourish together."*

Questions or Interest in Joining? Contact the Parish Office:

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