



March 2024



Thoughts in Print - from Pastor Sue

This morning as I went to d365.org to read the daily devotion for Lent it opened with these words:

"In a world of death and despair where suffering, isolation, violence, and pain overwhelm us, we are shown a world of rising and living, where hope, healing, love, and justice have the last and final word."

In thinking about this I had to admit that quite often, rather than allowing things to overwhelm us, we actually check out and don't think about some of the things that are going on all around us at all. In doing so we deprive ourselves of what the rest of that statement says and maybe most importantly, we deprive ourselves of the opportunity to live into a world of suffering and pain through the eyes of faith. To be honest, that's what this season of Lent is really all about, and ironically it's what our Lenten midweek theme of Holy Lament is all about as well. We need to acknowledge the darkness both in us and around us in the world and reorient ourselves to work with it, to work through it, to focus on repentance, reconciliation, and relationship - first and foremost with Jesus and secondly with each other. As we head toward the cross of Jesus and beyond once again, we **MUST** do the work of Lent, we **MUST** do the work of faith, we **MUST** focus on the reality of *"hope, healing, love, and justice"* that faith brings in the midst of the darkness. God's will will ultimately prevail, but will we as his people participate in it or hide from both the opportunities and the challenges. To that end I share the following from St. Teresa of Ávila. It also forms the basis for one of my favorite hymns:

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which He looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good;

Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, Yours are the eyes, you are His body.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Blessings as you continue to travel through Lent toward a glorious Easter!

Pastor Sue



Parish Center Update—As we send out this newsletter I'm so thrilled to say that we are making significant progress with the PC rebuild. We have contracted with John Burgdorfer as our Architect, Arvo Prima as our General Contractor and an Engineering Design firm for the detailed engineering work. As of this morning (3/5) there is temporary lighting and power throughout the building, interior walls have largely been removed from the main part of the building, most of the loose and damaged contents have made their way to dumpsters, and anything worth salvaging is being stored in a large storage unit in the parking lot. On Friday I have a meeting scheduled to discuss appliances, etc. in the kitchen. Please continue to pray for our progress and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Peace, Pastor Sue



New Member Information Sessions with Pastor Sue

Saturday, April 27th at
6:15 PM

OR

Sunday, April 28 at
11:15 AM

If you are interested in joining one of these sessions (or know somebody who is), see Pastor Sue.

Lenten Devotional Booklets

Devotionals for the whole family are still available in the narthex.

Take them home today!

Mid-week Lenten Series - "Holy Lament"

Thursdays, 11:00 AM OR 6:30 PM

Join us each week during Lent on Thursdays at either 11:00 AM or 6:30 PM for Conversation Lent focusing on our journey of faith, as both sinner and saint. (We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer service.)



Grief Group

Meets every 2nd Sunday of the month. Our next gathering is Sunday, March 10th at 11:15 AM in the youth room. This is open to anybody and everybody.



Join us for mid-week Lenten soup suppers. Every Thursday, at 6:00 PM (before service). Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board.



From Judy Stenzel

Christine, Paul Jr., their families and I would like to thank our Holy Cross family for your prayers, cards and support during Paul's long illness. Every card meant so much to us, helping to keep us strong. Thank you also for you continued support now that Paul is in the loving arms of our Lord.



"A Tree Grows at Holy Cross"

God has amazing ways to get in touch with us, with me it is usually in a dream. And He told me to plant a tree for Sandy. I don't want just a tree for Sandy but for all our "Heavenly Children." During the spring a tree will be planted around the Memorial Garden. I hope to have a bench with a plaque placed under it for anyone who would like to sit and remember. Once the tree is planted, we will have the dedication most likely after at Sunday Service. This tree will be dedicated to "All Our Heavenly Children."

Thank you, Janis Provost



Keep the following people in your prayers (long-term illnesses)

Cindy Williams, Evelyn Hees, Leah Morgan, Valerie Horlacher, Scott, Maie Currie, Frank Lukasavage, Barbara Carlson, Dee Barbara, Kristine Schley, Susan and Sean Buglio, Jim Goubeaud, Lynn Ortiz

Holy Cross Game Night
Friday, April 19,
6:00 PM

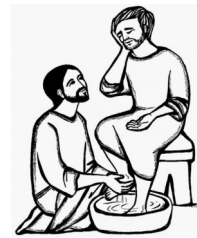


Sign up Sheet in the Narthex. Bring your favorite board game and a snack or finger food to share. All are welcome-bring a friend!



Holy Week / Easter Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday
11:00 AM and 7:00 PM
(7:00 pm also live-streamed)



Good Friday
March 29th
11:00 AM and 7:00 PM

(7:00 pm also live-streamed)

Easter Vigil
Saturday
March 30th
5:00 pm
Break the fast
after the service.
DESSERTS ONLY.



REJOICE!

He has been raised.
—Mark 16:6

Easter Sunday
9:00 am
(Family Friendly)
10:45 am (Traditional)
(Please note - Both Easter services will be live-streamed.)

EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM

Plants are \$9.00 each



Your Name _____
(Please write clearly)

of plants _____ Total amount due _____

DEDICATION:

_____ To the Glory of God _____ In Memory of Loved Ones
_____ In loving memory of _____

Special dedication/in honor of _____



Please place this form, with payment, in the offering plate
or turn in to the office. Thank you!

(All plant orders need to be submitted by March 24th.)



Good Morning, Good Friday

Fun for the whole family.

Friday, March 29th, 9:00 - 10:30 am

For all children age 3 through 6th grade.

(Children ages 3 and 4 must be accompanied by an adult.)

There is a sign-up sheet on the FFM bulletin board. **Come and join us!**



You're invited to -

"IT'S STILL EASTER" EGG HUNT

For our younger children, ages 0 to Kindergarten and their families.

Saturday April 6th at 10:00 AM rain or shine.

This is a time after Easter when we can gather, meet other families, and learn about Jesus in an age-appropriate and fun way.

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board.

Vacation Bible School July 8—12 **8:45 AM to Noon**

Grab your dive buddies for a whale of a good time! At SCUBA, kids plunge into an undersea world brimming with colorful coral, flashy fish and abundant life. Immersed in oceans of fun, kids discover God is a real friend who loves them forever!

Come and join Tad the Frog Fish, Finnley the Dolphin, Fisher the Seal, Waylon the Whale Shark and Octavia the Octopus, as they teach us all about Elijah, Jonah, Jesus and Lydia.

Ages 3 (must be potty trained) through 4th grade; grades 5 and up can be VBS helpers. Please contact Janis Provost at 732-267-1428 or email janis1455@aol.com for further information or if you are interested in helping.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM

BEGINS WITH A BIBLE BLAST
SUNDAY, MARCH 10th AT 11:15 AM

For those in 2nd grade or older who haven't participated in the past.

Sunday, March 10th - 11:15 - Bible Blast

Monday, March 18th - 6:30 - Learning Session 1

Monday, April 8th - 6:30 - Learning Session 2

Monday, April 15th - 6:30 - Learning Session 3

Monday, April 22nd - 6:30 - Learning Session 4

Please send an email to Pastor Sue at sjones@holycrosstr.com, Or Janis Provost at janis1455@aol.com or call the church office if interested in participating or for questions about the program.



2024 Who's Who on Council

Pastor Susan Jones

sjones@holycrosstr.com

President, Janis Provost

janis1455@aol.com

VP, Janice Hutchison

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Secretary, Pam Walter

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Treasurer, George Phillips

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Karen Brandt

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*Worship
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Nikki Schley

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*Community
Outreach*

Andrea Stemmermann

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Fellowship



March 10

Remember when you got an extra hour of sleep in November? Well, it's time to give it back! Spring forward—set your clocks forward before you go to bed on March 9th!



Confirmation Class

Tuesday, March 5th, 5:00 PM

Mid-Week Lenten Worship Services

March 7th, 14th, 21st

11:00 AM and 6:30 PM

(soup supper at 6:00 PM)

Grief Group

Sunday, March 10th, 11:15 AM

1st Communion Bible Blast

March 10th, 11:15 AM

1st Communion Classes

Monday, March 15th - 6:30

Monday, April 8th - 6:30

Monday, April 15th - 6:30

Monday, April 22nd - 6:30

Maundy Thursday Services

March 28th, 11 AM and 7:00 PM

Good Morning, Good Friday

March 29th - 9:00 AM

Good Friday Services

March 29th, 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Easter Vigil Service

March 30th, 5:00 PM

(Break the Fast immediately following)

Easter Sunday Services

March 31st, 9:00 and 10:45 AM

To make an electronic donation using your phone, just scan the QR code.



Church Office: (732) 255-4455

Christian Preschool & Day Care: (732) 255-3112

info@holycrosstr.com

www.HolyCrossLutheranNJ.com

www.facebook.com/holycrosstr

Twitter - @HolyCrossTR

Worship Services:

Saturday, 5:00 pm

Sunday, 10:00 am (and Facebook Live)

Office hours (school year):

Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 2:00