

December 2025

Thoughts in Print - from Pastor Sue

For the last couple of days I have been immersing myself in everything I need to work on as we enter into the holiday season. I'm not really sure how the year has gone by so fast but at least I don't feel a time crunch quite yet to get everything taken care of. I'm also very aware that I need to make sure I remember the "reason for the season" and to not get so caught up the busyness and the business of everything. This is really and truly a special time of year. It's a time to be thankful and to gather with family and friends, as well as a time to not only celebrate the birth of Jesus, but to also seriously consider what his coming into the world really and truly means for us deep down inside where faith lives, where the light of God's love burns bright. It's also not lost on me as we prepare to share Thanksgiving Dinner here at Holy Cross with those in need that

this can be a difficult time for many both emotionally and physically. I will manage to get the business taken care of. Somehow I always do. But my hope and prayer for myself and for all of you is simply this... "May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever. Amen."

Peace, Pastor Sue



Thanksgiving Dinner Update -

Thanks to all who made this happen—
those who contributed food and/or
money, those who cooked, those who
served, those who cleaned up. A

special shout out to Nikki Schley, Pastor Sue (head turkey-carver), Carol Dorn, Karen Brandt, Chef Toni and Keith who organized the feast. A total count of meals served will be forthcoming.



Blessed are those who die in the Lord.

Robert A. West September 4

Marga Bruderek - November 9

Rest eternal grant them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.



Sunday Morning Adult Forum (8:45 AM) Come join us for a special Advent related study during the season.



Family and Adult Advent Devotionals

Be sure to get your devotional for the Advent season. You can find them on the table in the narthex.

(small and large print copies available)



Blue Christmas Sunday Bec. 21 at 3PMA "Blue Christmas" or

"Longest Night" service is a reflective worship service during the holiday season

providing comfort and support to those experiencing grief, loss, or difficult times. A space for acknowledging pain, finding hope, and experiencing God's presence amidst sorrow.

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

Arline Chapman, Cindy Williams, Evelyn Hees, Leah Morgan, Valerie Horlacher, Maie Currie, Frank Lukasavage, Barbara Carlson, Dee Barbara, Lyn Fenwick, Marge Herr, Kristine Schley, Susan and Sean Buglio, Jim Goubeaud, Carole and Jerry, Anna Ricciardelli, Jim Hardesty, Lynn and Paul Owens, Carol Sims, Jackson, Deborah Gerstler, Carol Brink, Diane Corbett



We welcome the newly baptized.

Tyler John Currie - October 5 Son of Stephanie and Walter Currie

Anthony Thomas Palombí - October 26 Domíníc Charles Palombí - October 26 Sons of Alexandra and Michael Palombí

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We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

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PLEDGE CARD SUNDAY

December 13th and 14th
Bring your pledge cards with
you to worship. During the
service, we will dedicate
our pledges. Extra pledge
cards are available.

If you have already sent in your pledge card, thank you. They will be included in the dedication during the service.

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POINSETTIM ORDER FORM

Deadline for listing in Christmas Eve bulletin is Sunday, December 21st.

Poinsettias are \$9.00 each.

name:	(please print clearly)
ants ordered:	Amount due: \$
T(s) DEDICATION: (please p	orint clearly)
To the Glory of God	
In Memory of Loved Ones: _	
Special dedication:	
	T(s) DEDICATION: (please page of the Glory of God In Memory of Loved Ones: _

Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve-Wednesday, December 24th

4:00 PM

Family Service with Holy Communion (This service is VERY kid friendly!)



7:00 & 9:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion (choirs at the 7:00 service only)

(The 4:00 and 7:00 will be broadcast on Facebook Live.)



<u>Christmas Day</u> <u>Thursday, December 25th</u> 10:00 AM (in-person only)

1st weekend after Christmas

Saturday, December 27 / 5:00 PM
AND

Sunday, December 28 / 10:00 AM Service of Lessons and Carols





We need ushers for Christmas Eve services. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board.



Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candle

Sign-up charts for 2026 are on the bulletin board. Altar flowers are \$25 per arrangement. Sanctuary candle dedications are \$12 for 2 weeks or \$24 for the entire month.



FUN CHRISTMAS

Festive traditions around the world



Japan-Many people eat fried chicken from KFC for Christmas dinner, a popular tradition that requires booking months in advance

Iceland—The tradition of the 13 Yule Lads, who are like Santa's mischievous younger brothers, leads up to Christmas. Each one has a unique day to visit.

Austria—Many Austrians observe Krampusnacht the night before Christmas Eve. Krampus is a horned, demonic figure who punishes children who have misbehaved.

Sweden—A giant straw goat, the Yule Goat, is erected in Gävle, Sweden, and has become a popular Christmas attraction. It is also a tradition in Sweden to watch Disney's "From All of Us to All of You" on Christmas Eve.

Ukraine—Finding a spider or cobweb on a Christmas tree is considered a sign of good luck. Ukraine was once famous for its intricate, artificial spiderwebs that decorate trees.

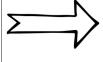
Catalonia—In this region of Spain, many homes have a "caganer" figurine, a small statue of a person defecating in the nativity scene, which represents good fortune for the coming year.





During worship service on December 7th, we will welcome our new members with a "Meet and

Greet" at the Advent Event immediately following. Come and say "hi!"



December 7 immediately following church in the Parish Center.

Advent Family Event

Everybody is welcome to come! We will have crafts, games and other fun "stuff". Lunch will be provided.

Stewfest 2026 Sunday, January 25 Following the Annual Meeting in the Parish Center Stay tuned for more information!



Angel Studios is releasing their long awaited movie, "David", in time for Christmas. Holy Cross is considering a group outing to see this movie, possibly a Saturday matinee, with a lunch before or after the movie. Saturday, Dec 20, at the Regal Movie Theater in Manahawkin, is the proposed date. Talk among friends and look out for a future announcements.



Inclement weather In case of bad weather, church

services will NOT be cancelled unless a state of emergency is declared by the governor. As always, use your best judgement and keep safe!



Do you like to sing but can't commit full-time to the Sanctuary Choir? Come join the "augmented" choir for Advent and Christmas. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:30. See Jean Heidorn for more information.



2024 Who's Who on Council

Pastor Susan Jones

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President, Janis Provost

janis1455@aol.com

VP, Janice Hutchison

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Secretary, Pam Walter

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Treasurer, Vacant

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and Music

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Outreach

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stenzinak219@verizon.net

Property



Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a VERY happy and healthy New Year.

The office will be closed
Thursday and Friday,
December 25-26
and
Thursday, January 1st.



Sunday, Dec. 7, 10:00 am Receiving new members

Sunday Dec. 7

Advent Family Event following 10:00 service

Sunday, Dec. 14

Pledge card Sunday

Sunday Dec. 21 3PM

Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 - Family Service

7:00 and 9:00 - Traditional Candle Light

Services

Thursday, Dec. 25, 10:00 am Christman Day Service



Annual Meeting Sunday, January 25, 2026

Immediately following the 10:00 service.

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:

Monday - Thursday

9:00 - 2:00

Closed Fridays.