



2026

Thoughts in Print - from Pastor Sue

As we rapidly approach the end of our Lenten journey with the beginning of Holy Week this weekend with Palm Sunday, we are transported from the reflection of Lent, to the celebration of Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to the solemnness of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and back to the celebration of the Resurrection. It's a roller coaster ride of a spiritual kind. To this day I'm not much for riding roller coasters. They scare me. I get that sickening feeling in the pit of my stomach as the coaster rises until it drops and spins and twists... EEK! And I always feel a rush of relief when the coaster comes to a stop. There's a reason why roller coasters are a metaphor for life. There's a reason why a roller coaster is a good metaphor for Holy Week. It's all about managing the ups and downs and the twists and turns isn't it?



Holy Week reminds us of the sacrifice that was made for us so that we can know the hope and promises of God even in the midst of a roller coaster life. Holy Week reminds us that because of Jesus we are never alone no matter what comes our way. And Holy Week reminds us that we are forever loved, forgiven, and set free from our own "stuff" and promised an eternal future.

My hope and prayer is that you will choose to take this journey through Holy Week both physically and spiritually here at Holy Cross. You're invited to once again encounter this Jesus on his journey, and to share in the joy and blessing of Easter! See you there! -

Peace, *Pastor Sue*



*Please 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, Kathy Jacobsen

Special Appeal - WE NEED YOU!

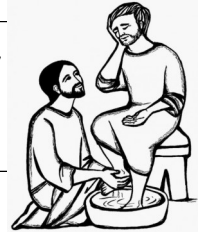


All of us had to deal with the consequences of a snowy winter this year. The church is no exception. Our offerings were lower than usual because the weather impacted folks attending church AND the snow plowing cost has drained the bank account and then some. Please consider making a special/additional donation to help us catch up! Thank you in advance for your support!



Holy Week / Easter Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday – April 2nd
11:00 AM and 7:00 PM
(7:00 pm also live-streamed)



Good Friday
April 3
11:00 AM and 7:00 PM
(7:00 pm also live-streamed)

Easter Vigil



Saturday
April 4th
5:00 pm
(live-streamed)
Break the fast after the service.
DESSERTS ONLY.



REJOICE!

He has been raised.
—Mark 16:6

Easter Sunday
9:00 am and 10:45 am
(Please note - 9:00 service 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 29th.)



We welcome the newly baptized.

*Cameron Cruz Avigone
March 1st*

Son of Lauren and Robert Avignone

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.



Thank you to everybody who made soup for our mid-week Lenten suppers. They were all delicious!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM

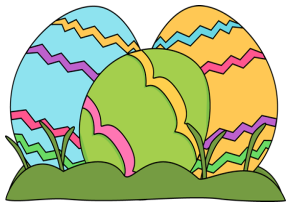
For those in 2nd grade or older who haven't participated in the past.
(New children may join us NO later than April 13th)



- Monday, April 13th - 6:30 - Learning Session 2
- Monday, April 20th - 6:30 - Learning Session 3
- Monday, April 27th - 6:30 - Learning Session 4
- Saturday, May 2nd - TBD - Wrap Up and Rehearsal
- Sunday, May 3rd - 9:30 - Arrival for 1st HC
Worship service at 10:00

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

(PARENTAL/ADULT PRESENCE IS REQUIRED.)



You're invited to -
"IT'S STILL EASTER" EGG HUNT
For our younger children, ages 0 to Kindergarten
and their families.

Saturday April 11th at 10AM—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 FFFM bulletin board.



Job Opening - Preschool Director

We are actively seeking an enthusiastic and experienced Preschool Director to continue the over 30-year success of this outreach of Holy Cross Lutheran Church to our community. The Director will oversee the daily operations and administration of the preschool and related childcare program for approximately 90 students ranging in age from 2 ½ to 4. The Director also serves as the Head Teacher for the school. Candidates must be experienced in the field of early childhood development and the management of a school. Further information available upon request. If you or anyone you know is interested, Please contact Pastor Sue or the church office with contact information. We are seeking to fill this position as soon as possible.



Adult Classes

Adult Study

Sundays at 8:45 AM

We will continue with the study—Wisdom Literature—The Book of Proverbs on April 19th after a short break for Easter week.

Sunday School Help Needed

Each Sunday, we need 4 adults to lead Sunday School for children through 5th grade (2 teachers and 2 helpers). You do not need to commit to every week. For information or to volunteer, please speak with Pastor Sue or Janis Provost.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



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.



Please be sure the office has up to date contact information for you: address, home and/or cell phone numbers and an email address, if you have one, so that we can get the word out concerning updates as quickly as possible! We are missing several email addresses or ones that have been changed.

Thank You!

(Please note - your information will NEVER be shared with anybody outside of church.)



HELP WANTED! - Parish Administrator

In May of this year, Carol Dorn will celebrate 13 years here as Parish Administrator, and with the end of this program year it will be her last as she is planning to retire. She will be sorely missed and we will definitely need to find an appropriate way to say THANK YOU!. But in the meantime we are now in search of a new person to fill the position. Hours are 9-2 Monday thru Friday. Strong computer, administrative, clerical, and people skills required. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be, please contact our Council President, Janis Provost or send an email to info@holycrosstr.com.

preschool registration



Holy Cross Nursery School

is now accepting registrations for the 2026–2027 school year. Church members receive a 5% discount on tuition. Call the school office at 732/255-3112 for information and registration forms.

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Join us for....

SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE VBS

Monday—Thursday, July 13-16, 9 to Noon

Come experience Snowball Mountain Challenge. Our VBS program will be transformed into a mountaintop experience filled with laughter, life lessons, and lasting faith. As children face their challenges and discover their strength in God, you'll hear them say, "Challenge accepted – with God I am strong."

2026 Who's Who on Council

Pastor Susan Jones
sjones@holycrosstr.com

President, Janis Provost
janis1455@aol.com

VP, Janice Hutchison
jjhutchison47@gmail.com

VP, John Burgdorfer
Johnburgdorfer.ra@gmail.com *Discipleship*

Secretary, Karen Brandt
kaybea@comcast.net

Secretary, Nikki Schley
schley33@aol.com

Treasurer Vacant

Karen Brandt
kaybea@comcast.net *Community Outreach*

Al DelaTorre
DAlbertdeli@aol.com *Property*

Peter Riemschneider
riemschneiderrecycling@gmail.com *Worship and Music*

Nikki Schley
schley33@aol.com *Community Outreach*

Paul Stenzel, Jr.
stenzinak219@verizon.net *Property*

Sundays 8:45 AM Adult Bible Study

Thursday, April 2nd, Maundy Thursday
Services at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Friday, April 3rd, Good Friday
Services at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 4th, Easter Vigil
5:00 PM Service, Break-the-Fast follows

Sunday, April 5th, Easter Sunday
Services at 9:00 and 10:45 AM

Monday, April 6th
Office Closed

Sunday, April 12
Grief Group, 11:15 AM

Mondays, April 13th, 20th and 27th
1st Communion Classes, 6:30 PM

Tuesday, April 14th
Church Council, 6:30 PM

 Grief Group meets every second Sunday at 11:15 AM in the Youth Room. All are welcome.

LIFE IS BETTER WITH COFFEE **Coffee hour** - We need people to help out with coffee hours. Coffee, tea and goodies are provided. Sign-up on the bulletin board or talk to Diane McCabe.

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



Church Office: P (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

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 - 2:00
Closed Friday.