

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

“Discovering the Sacred Within”

Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Year Of The Grace Of Yes

December 24, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY

OF
Advent

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me
according to your word.

Luke 1:38

DECEMBER 24, 2017

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415 Robley Drive, Lafayette, Louisiana 70503

Web Site – www.holycrosslafayette.com

Office: 337-984-9636



**HOLY CROSS
CHURCH**
WELCOME HONOR EMPOWER



PARISH INFORMATION



Welcome to Holy Cross Catholic Church

PARISH STAFF

Administrative Office

337.984.9636

FAX 337.988.3790

Pastor: Fr. Howard Blessing Ext. 1006

shepherd@holycrosslafayette.com

Parish Manager: Deacon Robert Klingman Ext. 1001

rklingman@holycrosslafayette.com

Deacon Scotty Baudoin

Deacon Jim Kincel

Office Manager: Kathy Borah Ext. 1000

kborah@holycrosslafayette.com

Parish Facilitator: Teri Broussard Ext. 1003

tbroussard@holycrosslafayette.com

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ccox@holycrosslafayette.com

Adult Faith: John Schexnaildre Ext. 1202

jschexnaildre@holycrosslafayette.com

Bulletin Editor: Lillie Long

llong@holycrosslafayette.com Ext. 1007

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 8:30 AM—Noon, 1 PM—4 PM

Friday 8:30 AM—Noon

Disciple Formation Office

337.984.9643

Director of Disciple Formation: Kristi Graham Ext. 1104

kgraham@holycrosslafayette.com

Noemi Perillo Ext. 1101

nperillo@holycrosslafayette.com

Joel Sandridge Ext. 1100

jsandridge@holycrosslafayette.com

Youth Minister: Kyle Melancon Ext. 1103

kmelancon@holycrosslafayette.com

Linda Blessing Ext. 1102

lblessing@holycrosslafayette.com

Little Shepherds ELC

(Early Learning Center)

337.984.2636

Principal: Sandy Gallo Ext. 1300

little-shepherds@holycrosslafayette.com

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Holy Cross Catholic Church is to Awaken, Enrich and Enliven the Sacred Within

Our Core Values

We Joyfully, Prayerfully and Lovingly:

✠ *Embrace all we encounter*

✠ *Honor the journey of others*

✠ *Empower all to discover the sacred within*

*Through this
discipleship of Christ
we serve others*

BAPTISMS: Are celebrated after the 11:00 am Mass on Sundays. Parents must be registered, practicing Catholics and attend a Baptismal Workshop. Godparents must be at least 18 years of age, confirmed, practicing Catholics and attend a Baptismal Workshop.

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

Weekdays 30 minutes before mass

Saturdays 2:15—3:45 pm

And by appointment

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Held the 1st Friday of each month after the 9:00 am Mass— 12 Noon

WEDDINGS: Please call the church office 9 to 12 months in advance.

RCIA Would you like to become Catholic?

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the Catholic faith and if you would like to enroll in the RCIA program, please call the church office 337-984-9636, Ext 1202 or Adult Faith Formation Office at 337-654-9671.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Grand Knight-Gus Gallo

337.984.6159

a.gallo@cox.net

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:00 pm (Anticipated Mass)
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am & 5:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Wednesday, 9:00 am
Thursday, Friday 5:30 pm
Tuesday

Fourth Sunday of Advent
A Year Of The Grace Of Yes

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29;
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

During the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Tuesday: St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins

Wednesday: St. John

Thursday: The Holy Innocents

Friday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket

Saturday: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Homily Recording on Website
Explore our Website

Are you aware that we can access a recording of the Sunday Homily on our website? Please visit our website www.holycrosslafayette.com and click on the broadcast icon that links to the Sunday homily recording. We also have an Events calendar. Please take a look.



337.984.9636
Ext 1000

Monday, 12/25

9:00 AM: Dorothy McCrary, Ernest Monteilh, Rita B. Keller, Wilton Larriviere, Margaret Larriviere, Scott Domingue, M/M Phillip Bourque, Matthew Joseph Simon, Cheryl Bordelon, Jody Boudreaux, Mattie Hudson, Shirley Stutes, Paul Lawrence Miers, Elrida Breaux, Paul Cormier, Shirley Dubois, Aline Cormier, Aimee E. Comeaux, Glenn Laviolette, Carolyn Laviolette Hays, Dustin Draughon, Gloria Sellers, Shawn Christopher Mayeux.

11:00 AM:

Tuesday, 12/26

5:30 PM: Ethel Lowery, Chad Newgebevar.

Wednesday, 12/27

9:00 AM: Scott Artigue.

Thursday, 12/28

9:00 AM: Dorothy McCrary, Carol Bowles, Gloria Sellers, Dustin Draughon, Silvia P. Aldana, Gayle Harrington, Sal Diesi.

Friday, 12/29

9:00 AM:

Saturday, 12/30

4:00 PM: Blair Harden, Ed Bourgeois, Jr., Beverly Colomb, M/M Bruno Kidder, Mattie Hudson, Shirley Stutes, Helen Titre Mouton, M/M Lefiad Simon, Kim Simon Palmer, Intentions for Scott Gallagher, Intentions for Donny Gallagher, Ray Hession.

Sunday, 12/31

9:00 AM: All Parishioners.

11:00 AM: Rita B. Keller, Bob Buniva & Family, Larry Smith, Julie Jardell, Joe & Ida Simon, Lisa & Clayton Verret.

5:00 PM: Donald Usie, Shirley Schexnider, Grace Simon.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

December 17, 2017—

Thank you for your generous spirit of giving.

An Advent Family Blessing

Dear God,
We thank you for all of the miracles in our lives, the small ones that sometimes we don't even notice, and the big ones. Help us to remember this Advent that you are a God of miracles who can bring light into our darkness. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your greatest miracle. Amen



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Fourth Sunday of Advent ushers in our listening to the **Gospel of Luke** in the Lectionary **Cycle B** for most of the coming liturgical year.

In today's Gospel reading we hear proclaimed the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God's messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into a dialogue, then unconditionally obedient. Mary's acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the incursions of divine life into the normal course of their daily lives. How open are we to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord?

www.catholicstewardship.com

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) Monday December 25, 2017

In today's Christmas Mass at dawn we hear from the Gospel reading that God has entered quietly into the world. Not into the great city of Jerusalem, but into a small village about five miles south. Not into a noble family, but to an outcast couple keeping the newborn in a manger. Not announced by royal edicts, but to common shepherds, the first human heralds of Christ's birth.

As Christian stewards we simply allow Christ to live in us no matter what our circumstances happen to be. We allow Christ to share his love with us and reflect that love out to others. We now are the heralds of Christ's Incarnation. What an unimaginable gift from a generous Lord. Good stewards rejoice in this gift and give glory to God.

www.catholicstewardship.com

Prayer for Families

Loving God,
During this holy season of Christmas,
we ask for your blessing on all
families.
Let Mary's openness to your
wondrous ways be an inspiration
to place all trust in you.
Let Joseph's courage provide hope
during times of anxiety and
uncertainty.
Let Jesus' life ignite all families with
a spirit of light and love.
May the grace that encircled the
Holy Family widen to embrace all
families.
For this we pray.
Amen.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

The child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35



WHAT WILL YOU SAY **YES** TO IN **December?**

- Leaving your comfort zone to change
- Three Random Acts of Kindness
- Praying with family once a week
- Listening more and speaking less
- Praying with Scripture
- Moving or exercising a little more
- Seeking out spiritual opportunities
- Offering compliments to people you meet each day



THE ANGELUS

The **Angelus** is a short devotion **in honor of the Incarnation**, repeated three times each day, morning, noon, and evening, at the sound of the bell. It consists essentially in the triple repetition of the "Hail Mary", to which in later times have been added three introductory short verses, and a concluding verse and prayer.

The devotion derives its name from the first word of the three verses, *Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariæ* (The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary). The origins of the Angelus are somewhat obscure, but it seems clear they are rooted in monastic prayers of the hours, and even in its earliest form included the three "Hail Marys".

Though the practice of saying the Angelus declined in the latter half of the twentieth century, many parishes continue the tradition of ringing the Angelus bells (triple stroke repeated three times with a pause between), traditionally at 6:00 a.m., noon and 6:00 p.m.

Here at Holy Cross the Angelus bells ring at noon each day.

ATTENTION TO ONE AND ALL **CONCERNING MASS SCHEDULES**

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

SAT. DEC 23RD MASS AT 4PM AND 6PM

SUN. DEC 24TH MASS AT 7AM AND 9AM
THERE WILL BE NO 11AM OR 5PM MASS

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS VIGIL
IS AS FOLLOWS:

SUN. DEC 24TH MASS AT 4 PM IN CHURCH
MASS AT 4 PM IN FAITH HALL
MASS AT 6 PM IN CHURCH

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY
IS AS FOLLOWS:

MON. DEC 25TH MASS AT 9AM & 11AM
NO 5PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY



Disciple Challenge: Advent- A Season of Readiness and Service!

Complete one or more of these activities at home
to help prepare your heart for the coming of our King!



Week One- December 3rd

Do something at home as a service for your parents and/or siblings without being told. For example, make your bed or take out the trash!



Week Two- December 10th

Donate food, clothing, or toys to people that are in need. Ask your mom or dad to bring you to Goodwill or somewhere that accepts donations. Your act of kindness will make someone's Christmas a little brighter!



Week Three- December 17th

Get ready for the coming of Jesus by watching a video about the birth of Jesus such as The Nativity Story (for older kids) or find a movie here: <https://www.thoughtco.com/top-religious-christmas-movies-for-children-2108007>

Talk with your family about your favorite part of the movie and what it means to you knowing that Jesus came into the world because of His love for us!



Week Four- December 24th

Conclude this beautiful season by attending Mass with your family. Holy Cross Mass times can be found here:

<http://www.holycrosslafayette.com/File/Press/525337November192017.compressed.pdf>



CONFIRMATION



WINTER RETREAT JANUARY 12-14th

Registration forms can be accessed via Google Docs. To access please email: kmelancon@holycrosslafayette.com Registration is \$75 dollars a teen. Open to any high school student. Mandatory for 9th and 10th registered in Discipleship Formation. Partial Scholarships offered. Please contact Kristi Graham.



Around the Diocese



Centennial Year

Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel encourages parishioners to

participate in all of the upcoming Centennial events of 2018. Information can be found in upcoming bulletins and by going to the Diocese of Lafayette's Calendar of Events page on their website: <http://www.diolaf.org/>.

Centennial Celebration Opening Mass (South Deanery Celebration)

Please join Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel for this special Mass which will serve as the opening celebration of the Diocese of Lafayette's Centennial Celebration. Live stream access will be available at diolaf.org for those who are unable to attend in person.

Thursday, January 11, 2018, 6:30 PM
St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church
in St. Martinville

This date commemorates the January 11, 1918 Proclamation given from Rome by Pope Benedict XV for a new diocese to be erected in Lafayette.



You may turn in your Heifer forms and/or banks anytime between now and the end of the year. For more information on the Heifer project, visit their website at www.heifer.org.

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

If you are a parishioner of Holy Cross Church and would like to have Communion brought to you because you are unable to attend Mass, we have a group of ladies and gentlemen that can bring Communion to you. Please call Betty Herring at 984-2286 or the Holy Cross office at 984-9636.

Coming to our community in January

Alpha

What Is It?

The Alpha Course is a practical introduction to the Christian faith, where guests have an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. The course meets once per week for 11 weeks. Each session, people enjoy a simple meal, laughter and learning about the person and teachings of Jesus in a fun and non-threatening atmosphere where no question about life or God is too simple or too hostile. There is no charge to attend the Alpha course. In the middle of the course there is a Saturday retreat.

Who Is Alpha For?

Alpha is for anyone: all backgrounds, religions and viewpoints. Everyone is welcome. The Alpha course has proved to be an effective tool for awakening faith in people who are on the fringe of parish life, faithful Catholics and those outside the faith.

More than 16 million people in 168 countries around the world have taken the Alpha Course already, and it is being offered by Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant churches. The basic truths of Christianity are presented with energy and enthusiasm, and Catholics should not have to go to other churches to hear that message.

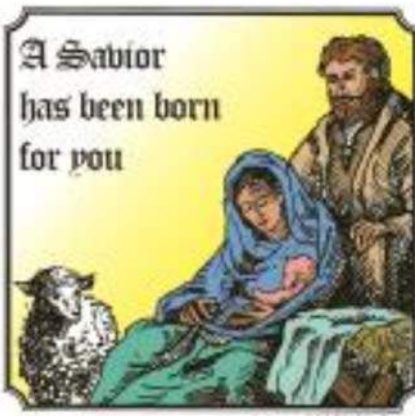
Catholic Endorsements?

Although it originated with an Anglican parish in London, the Alpha Course has received enthusiastic endorsements from Catholic cardinals, bishops and archbishops. One of its strongest supporters is Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher to the papal household for Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

You have questions?

Please contact Stuart Clark by email: sgclark4@aol.com or cell: 337-298-9050.

Stay Tuned.



GIVING TREE GENEROSITY

Thanks to your generosity, Holy Cross was able to deliver Christmas gifts to over 100 nursing home residents. In addition, we provided gifts for eight families and 54 homebound Holy Cross parishioners. Holy Cross paired with the Diocese of Lafayette's Office of Justice and Peace to provide over 354 gifts to children whose parent/parents are incarcerated.

	Mon, Dec. 25	Tues, Dec. 26	Wed, Dec. 27	Thurs, Dec. 28	Fri, Dec. 29	Sat, Dec. 30	Sun, Dec. 31
Priests	Rev. Rodney Kissinger, SJ	Rev. Clifton Labbe	Rev. Donovan Labbe	Rev. Keith LaBove	Rev. Paul LaFleur	Rev. Keith Landry	Rev. O'Neil Landry
Seminarians	Brent Didier	Cameron Domingue	Phillip Domingue	Rev. Mr. Blake Dubroc	Casey Dugas	John Dugas	Adam Fenstermaker
						Sacrament of Reconciliation 2 :15—3:45 PM	Heifer Project Second Offering St. Vincent de Paul

Adult Faith

John Schexnaildre
jschexnaildre@holycrosslafayette.com

THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Timeline

Don Berkowicz will continue to facilitate a 24 week study of The Bible Timeline, on Wednesday mornings, through March 2018, 9:00-11:00am in the Grace Meeting Room, bldg A, Administration building.

The Epistle of James

Debra Carroll will facilitate a 10 week study of the Epistle of James on Tuesday evenings, beginning January 2, 2018, 6:30-8:00 pm in the Grace Meeting Room, bldg A, Administration building. The cost of the study guide is \$20.

The Book of Psalms

Debra Carroll will facilitate a 10 week study of the Book of Psalms on Wednesday evenings beginning January 3, 2018, 6:30-8:00 pm in Grace meeting room, bldg. A administration building. The cost of the study guide is \$20.

Please call the Holy Cross office at 337-984-9636 to register for the sessions. You can also register online at the Holy Cross web site. Just click on events then The Great Adventure. There will be fliers in church for all these sessions.

OREMUS—LET US PRAY

Do you find it easy to pray? Is prayer an integral part of your day? Do you hear God's voice in your daily life, and know how to respond accordingly?

For many of us, the answer to these questions is, "no." We all desire an intimate relationship with God. But, since learning to "say our prayers" as children, we never moved beyond rote recitation to an authentic conversation with God.

The Oremus study program teaches you the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. Over the course of eight weeks you will discover how God speaks to you, even in the smallest encounters. Following the Tradition of the Catholic Church and the wisdom of the saints, you will learn how to express yourself to God in prayer, and how to hear his voice.

Holy Cross is offering an eight week study on prayer every Tuesday morning, from January 9, 2018 through February 27, 2018, 9:00-10:30 am in the Grace meeting room bldg A. The facilitators will be John Schexnaildre, and Karen Goodrich. Call the Holy Cross office to register, 337-984-9636. The cost of the student workbook is \$15.00.