

Holy Cross Catholic Church

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

Parish Staff

Pastor

*Father Michael Hendershott,
S.T.L.*

Pastoral Care of the Sick

*Deacon Steve May
(865) 221-1076*

Parish Secretary

*Rebekah Snyder
office@holycrosscatholicchurchtn.org*

Resource Manager

*Michael Landree
resources@holycrosscatholicchurchtn.org*

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00am-2:00pm

Gift Shop Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00am-2:00pm

Weekends

After all Masses



Mass Schedule

Tuesday-Friday

12:00pm

Saturday

5:00pm English
7:00pm Español

Sunday

8:00am English
10:30am English

Confession

Saturday

3:00-4:00pm
6:30-6:55pm

First Saturday

8:30-9:30am

Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

First Friday 9:00am until
9:00am Saturday

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Holy Cross,

It is a grace to wish you a very Happy New (Liturgical) Year! With the beginning of Advent, we start a new liturgical year wherein we contemplate and relive the mysteries in the life of Christ, which are our mysteries. We really and truly participate in the mysteries of Our Lord and Our Lady because, as the Church, we are the Mystical Body of Christ. Thus we can say with St. Paul the Apostle, "For to me life is Christ, and death is gain." (Philippians 1:21) May we live the life of Christ this new year.

Since we cannot love or live what we do not know, let us make resolutions this new year to know Christ better, so to love and serve Him more and thus be happy with Him forever in heaven. Doing this, we will fulfill the purpose of why God made us. Perhaps we remember this from our Catechism lesson, "Why did God make you?" Answer: "God made me to know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this world so to be happy with Him forever in heaven."

Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ in the flesh, His Holy Incarnation. In order to prepare room for Christ, we need to empty ourselves of self to make room for the Christ Child. I want to share my favorite excerpt from *The Reed of God* by Caryll Houselander as reflection on the purposeful emptiness of Advent that helps prepare our hearts for Christ. May Our Lady be our model of Advent preparation, and may our Advent Penance Service be our practical way of emptying our hearts of self to make room for Christ this Christmas.

Emptiness

That virginal quality which, for want of a better word, I call emptiness is the beginning of this contemplation.

It is not a formless emptiness, a void without meaning; on the contrary it has a shape,
a form given to it by the purpose for which it is intended.

It is emptiness like the hollow in the reed, the narrow riftless emptiness, which can have only one destiny: to receive the piper's breath and to utter the song that is in his heart.

It is emptiness like the hollow in the cup, shaped to receive water or wine.

It is emptiness like that of the bird's nest, built in a round warm ring to receive the little bird.

The pre-Advent emptiness of Our Lady's purposeful virginity was indeed like those three things.

She was a reed through which the Eternal Love was to be piped as a shepherd's song.

She was the flowerlike chalice into which the purest water of humanity was to be poured, mingled with wine,
changed to the crimson blood of love, and lifted up in sacrifice.

She was the warm nest rounded to the shape of humanity to receive the Divine Little Bird.

...

Our own effort [this Advent] will consist in sifting and sorting out everything that is not essential and that fills up space and silence in us and in discovering what sort of shape this emptiness in us, is. From this we shall learn what sort of purpose God has for us. In what way are we to fulfil the work of giving Christ life in us?

Are we reed pipes? Is He waiting to live lyrically through us?

Are we chalices? Does He ask to be sacrificed in us?

Are we nests? Does He desire of us a warm, sweet abiding in domestic life at home?

These are only some of the possible forms of virginity; each person may find some quite different form, his own secret.

I mention those three because they are all fulfilled in Our Lady, so visibly that we may be sure that we can look at them in her and learn what she reveals through them.

...

The purpose for which human beings are made is told to us briefly in the catechism. It is to know, love, and serve God in this world and to be happy with Him forever in the next.

This knowing, loving, and serving is far more intimate than that rather cold little sentence reveals to us.

The material which God has found apt for it is human nature: blood, flesh, bone, salt, water, will, intellect.

It is impossible to say too often or too strongly that human nature, body and soul together, is the material for God's will in us.

...

Although human nature is the material which God has made for the fulfilling of His will in us, and although human nature is something we all share, and although we each have the same purpose of knowing and loving God, we do not all achieve that purpose in the same way or through the same experiences; in fact no two people have exactly the same personal experience of God; there seem to be rules of love like the rules of music, but within them each soul has her secret—with God.

Mass Intentions & Readings

Saturday, November 29	5pm 7pm	For the People of Holy Cross Parish Jan & Maria Majerczak+	Daniel 7:15-27, Luke 21:34-36
Sunday, November 30	8am 10:30am	Al & Dee Heloubek+ DellaSantina Family	Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:37-44
Tuesday, December 2	12pm	Pauline Schumacher+	Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday, December 3	12pm	Al & Dee Heloubek+	Isaiah 25:6-10a, Matthew 15:29-37
Thursday, December 4	12pm	Al & Dee Heloubek+	Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27
Friday, December 5	12pm	Nicolas Crespo+	Isaiah 29:17-24, Matthew 9:27-31
Saturday, December 6	5pm 7pm	Rev. Ron Stone+ For the People of Holy Cross Parish	Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26, Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday, December 7	8am 10:30am	Diego & Samuel T. DellaSantina Family	Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12

Pray for the Living & the Dead

Oremos por los Vivos y los Muertos

Recalling that praying for the living and the dead is one of the seven spiritual works of mercy, let us pray for one another, especially for those in need of our prayers.

Recordando que orar por los vivos y los muertos es una de las siete obras espirituales de misericordia, oremos unos por otros, especialmente por aquellos que necesitan nuestras oraciones.

If you are ill or know of someone who is ill and should be included in our prayers, please contact the office.

Si usted está enfermo o conoce a alguien que esté enfermo y deba estar incluido en nuestras oraciones, comuníquese con la oficina.

Parishioners/Miembros de Nuestra Parroquia: Jessie Baach, Bill Bohaczek, Thomas Broadbent, Tommy & Barbara Bye, Belva Cundy, Stephanie Curtis, Katherine Daily, Lucille Dunn, Joe Fricano, Phyllis Gerth, Rosita Juan, Peg Kaatz, Annette Kahl, Tom Kane, Mickey Langan, Clarissa and Juan Palfone, Joe Poland, Norman & Paulette Schultz, Carolyn Stecher, Teresita Jenkins, Hal & Sheila Johns, Martha Schelski, Kathy Kane, Bruce Analie, Rosa Perez, Frank Bailey, Cathy Peto, Josie Lemmings, Joan Fricano

Other Family & Friends/Otros Familiares y Amigos: Will Aldridge, Dorothy Bone, Ronda Ceechin, Carolyn Chatlos & family, Cheyenne & Javier Chicas, Kena Darby, Luigi DeBono, John Devane, Mark Decorte, Antoinette & Johan Dinkelmann, Sharon Durm, Judy Duvall, Evans family, Kelsie Lee Ann Epperson, Don Eversman, Daniel Festa & family, Teresita Fajardo, Flavia and Noah, Greg Frerking, Sally Grady, Scott Hansen, Mary Hartnett & family, John Hedrick, Jane Hinkly, Anna Johnson, James Johnston, The Jost family, Jack & Thomas Ketterer, Kody Klimek, Calvin Lane, Kennedie Margarida, Jessy Martinez, Nikki May, Jennifer McCarter, Ciel McCormack, Jerry McGarvey, Mackenzie M. McGowan, Randy McKinney, Eloise Morrison, Geneva Ogle, Mike Ogle, Mr. Proper, Mary Raasch, Paul Rogers, Ollie Sexton, Lisa Schulte, Amy Smith, Joseph Smith, James Speiser, Olivia Sweeney, Chuck & Vicky Thomas, Craig & Stacey Toenjes, John Tolliver, Kim Webb, Mary J Whaley, Hayden Whaley, Dorothy Wienick & family, Charles Jones, Natalie Freeman, Heather Roth, Catolina Cerna-Aldridge, Robert Seeley, Anna Barrera, Bruce Cantrell, Nicolas Hernandez, Adrian Hernandez, Nancy, William Walker, Jonathan Shultz, Cathy Price, Naomi Gupka, Calvin Lane, Belva Cundy, Diane Rucker, Maria Perez, Millie Walsh, Phill & Marie labbe, Willy Downs, Christine Dytrych, Judy Leatherman, Crissy Fisher, Brenda Diane Poland, Eva Gabriel, Melissa Gabriel, Emily Opalka, Mark Kurisko, Chris & Judy Hazlett, Jim White, Eden Moses Ben Barrett+, Claire and Michael Schmelzer, Kendra Gould, Brett Laird, Kathy and Edward Donahue, Joan Fricano, Greg Witkemper

Upcoming Events

Altar Boy Training

An altar boy training session will follow the 10am First Saturday Mass until 12pm on December 6. You are invited to come and serve the First Saturday Mass in honor of Our Lady, and then stay for the practice afterward. Please contact Tylor Starkey for more information: t.starkey88@gmail.com

Our Lady of Guadalupe *Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*

All parishioners of all language groups are invited to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, 2025! The festivities will begin with a procession at 5pm, followed by a play re-enacting the beautiful story of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Holy Mass will follow, beginning around 6:30pm. All are welcome to join for a reception after Mass. We will enjoy delicious food and continue the festivities at Sun Outdoors: 1004 Parkway, Sevierville, TN 37862.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena *Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Novena*

Miércoles 3: Rosario por la infancia 8pm.

Jueves 4: Juan XXIII 7pm.

Viernes 5: (Hora Santa después del rosario) 7pm.

Sábado 6: (después de la misa) 8pm.

Domingo 7: Rosario en inglés. 7pm.

Lunes 8: Comunidad Guatemalteca. (después de la misa) 8pm.

Martes 9: Comunidad Hondureña (después del Servicio de Penitencia) 8pm.

Miércoles 10: Rosario por los jóvenes. 8pm.

Jueves 11: Comunidad mexicana. 7pm.

Viernes 12 de diciembre:

5am: mañanitas a virgen

6:30am: desayuno comunitario

5pm: Procesión por las calles con la Virgen

5:45: Escenificación de las apariciones guadalupanas alrededor de las 6:30pm. Santa misa (Bilingüe)

8pm. Recepción en el salón:

Sun Outdoors Pigeon Forge
1004 Parkway, Sevierville, TN 37862

Advent Penance Service

Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento

Holy Cross will be hosting an Advent penance service on December 9, 2025 from 7pm-8:30pm.

Tendremos un servicio de penitencia de Adviento el 9 de Diciembre de 2025 de 7pm a 8:30pm

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception *Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción*

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation, and it falls on Monday, December 8.

5pm English Mass

7pm Spanish Mass

La Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción es un día de precepto, que se celebra el lunes 8 de diciembre.



Upcoming Events

First Friday Adoration **Adoración del primer viernes**

First Friday is coming up this week: December 5.
Please remember to sign up to spend one hour with
the Lord!

*Esta semana se acerca el primer viernes: 5 de
diciembre. ¡Recuerda registrarte para pasar una
hora con el Señor!*

*"When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He
said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one
hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test.*

The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

~Matthew 26:40-41

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025:

8am English Mass

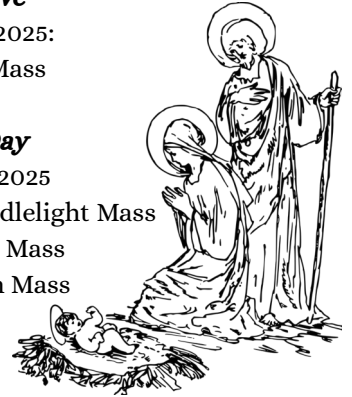
Christmas Day

December 25, 2025

Midnight Bilingual Candlelight Mass

8:00am English Mass

10:30am English Mass



Weekly Events

Spanish Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory **El Rosario en Español para las Almas del Purgatorio**

*Todos los lunes a las 7pm nos reunimos a rezar el
santo rosario para pedir por las almas del purgatorio,
los esperamos a todos, se les sugiere traer los
nombres de sus fieles difuntos anotados en un papel
para que todos nos unamos en oración por su eterno
descanso.*

Bible Study

Join our Pastor in a contemplative study of the Word of
God in Sacred Scripture on Thursdays at 9:30am in the
Family Life Room. Father Hendershott provides
scriptural commentary as we read through Genesis
and meditate on the Providence of God through
salvation history.

High School Youth Group **Escuela Secundaria Para Grupo Juvenil**

Grades 9-12 meeting on Tuesdays from 6-8pm in the
Family Life Room. All high school and soon to be high
school students are welcomed to attend. There will
always be food provided and fun activities to do. For
more information, contact Nick Sisto at:
nlsisto@wlvlaw.net

*El grupo de jóvenes de secundaria, de los grados 9 -12 se
reúnen los martes de 6pm a 8:00pm Siempre va a ver
comida y diversión. Alentamos a todos nuestros
estudiantes de escuela secundaria y futuros
estudiantes de escuela secundaria que asisten. Para
obtener más información, comuníquese con Nick Sisto.*

Announcements

Faith Formation & OCIA **(Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)**

There will be no Faith Formation or OCIA on December 24 or December 31 due to Christmas break.

Mass Music Update **Actualización sobre la música en la misa**

We will be returning to the Latin Gloria that Father Ron Stone introduced to the parish. During Advent & Lent, we will be learning the Kyrie, Sanctus, & Agnus Dei that go along with this Mass setting. The scores and mp3 recordings for the Kyrie & Gloria are available on our website. If you would like these texted to you, please text "Mass Parts" to (865) 771-4929.

Retomaremos el Gloria en latín que el Padre Ron Stone introdujo en la parroquia. Durante el Adviento y la Cuaresma, aprenderemos el Kyrie, el Sanctus y el Agnus Dei que acompañan a esta misa. Las partituras y las grabaciones en mp3 del Kyrie y el Gloria están disponibles en nuestra página web. Si desea recibirlas por mensaje de texto, envíe un mensaje con la palabra "Partes de la Misa" al (865)771-4929.

Bible Study

There will be no Bible Study on Thursday, December 25, 2025 or Thursday, January 1, 2025.

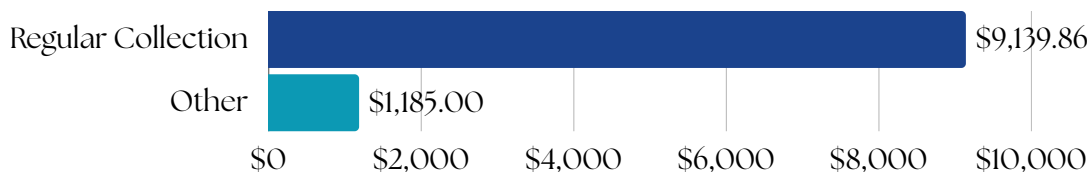
Email Scam Alert **Alerta de estafa por correo electrónico**

The Parish Office has become aware of email scams being sent to people impersonating our Pastor and Staff. Please check the sender's email address to make sure it is actually from our Parish's domain name:
@holycrosscatholicchurchtn.org

*Tenga cuidado con los correos electrónicos fraudulentos. La oficina parroquial ha detectado correos electrónicos fraudulentos enviados a personas que se hacen pasar por nuestro párroco y personal. Por favor, verifique la dirección de correo electrónico del remitente para asegurarse de que provenga de nuestro dominio:
@holycrosscatholicchurchtn.org*

Stewardship

November 22/23



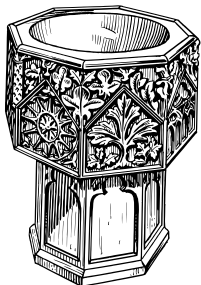
Since on average 3 out of 5 Mass attendees are visitors, we invite our guests to consider a sort of "timeshare" stewardship with our parish. Our website has a donation link, and donations can be set to match *the time you share with us*.

As our monthly expenses are \$25,000, please consider Holy Cross in your donations.

You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God, for the administration of this public service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God...Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!
2 Corinthians 11-12, 15

Sacramental Preparation

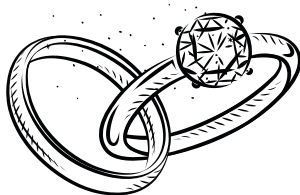
Baptism



Congratulations on your newborn! In order to prepare for baptism, parents and god parents need to attend baptismal preparation classes before the proposed baptism date.

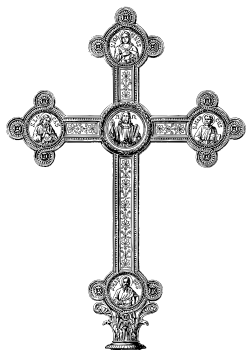
Si necesita información para bautizos en español, por favor comuníquese con el señor Alejandro Mondragón, El está encargado de la preparación para los bautizos. Su numero de teléfono es: (865) 227-9380.

Matrimony



Congratulations on your engagement! Please contact the parish office to make arrangements for your marriage at least four months before your desired wedding date.

Catholic Faith Formation Classes



We have Faith Formation classes on Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30pm. Our religious education teachers prepare children in grades K-12 to receive their sacraments. For more information, please contact our Director of Religious Education, Gianfranco, at gdellasantina@yahoo.com.

Are you interested in becoming Catholic?



Holy Mother Church welcomes you! For more information, please contact our OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) teacher, Tylor Starkey, at t.starkey88@gmail.com.



Bulletin Notes

Bulletin Submission Deadline ***Fecha límite para la presentación de boletines***

Please submit requests for weekend bulletin or pulpit announcements to the Parish Office email address by 5pm on Monday.

Por favor, envíen las solicitudes para los avisos del boletín o los anuncios desde el púlpito del fin de semana a la dirección de correo electrónico de la oficina parroquial antes de las 5 de la tarde del lunes.

Advertising Opportunity ***Oportunidad publicitaria***

If you would like to advertise your business on the back of our Holy Cross bulletin & provide a donation to help cover the weekly printing costs, please contact the Parish Office.

Si desea anunciar su negocio en la parte posterior de nuestro boletín de Holy Cross y hacer una donación para ayudar a cubrir los costos de impresión semanales, comuníquese con la oficina parroquial.