

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Parish Staff

Pastor

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

Pastoral Care of the Sick

*Deacon Stephen May
(865) 221-1076*

Parish Secretary

*Rebekah Snyder
(865) 429-5587*

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 1:00pm until

10:00am Saturday

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Holy Cross,

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! Indeed, the Lord is near. (Philippians 4:4-5)
These words of the Entrance Antiphon or *Introit* for today's Mass give us another name for this Third Sunday of Advent: *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin imperative to "rejoice!" The priest wears rose colored vestments as a sort of brightening of the spirit of Advent like the rosy hue of dawn that flickers before the rising of the sun. Christ, the Son of Justice, will come this Christmas: *But for you who fear my name, the sun of justice will arise with healing in its wings.* (Malachi 3:20)
We know that cosmologically the sun will begin to share its rays more abundantly with longer days after the coming of Christ at Christmas.

As we get closer to Christmas, the "O Antiphons" appear in the Liturgy of the Hours for the short verse before the Canticle of Mary or *Magnificat*. "The seven "O Antiphons" (also called the "Greater Antiphons" or "Major Antiphons") are prayers that come from the Breviary's *Vespers* during the Octave before Christmas Eve, a time which is called the "Golden Nights." Each Antiphon begins with "O" and addresses Jesus with a unique title which comes from the prophecies of Isaias (Isaiah) and Micheas (Micah), and whose initial letters, when read backwards, form an acrostic for the Latin "*Ero Cras*" which means "Tomorrow I come." Those titles for Christ are:

Dec 17 - ***Sapientia*** - **Wisdom** - Isaiah 11:2-3, 28:29

Dec 18 - ***Adonai*** - **Lord of Israel** - Isaiah 11:4-5, 33:22

Dec 19 - ***Radix Jesse*** - **Root of Jesse** - Isaiah 11:1, 11:10, Micah 5:1, Romans 15:8-13, Rev. 5:1-5

Dec 20 - ***Clavis David*** - **Key of David** - Isaiah 22:22, 9:6

Dec 21 - ***Oriens*** - **Radiant Dawn, Dayspring** - Isaiah 9:2, Malachi 4:1-3

Dec 22 - ***Rex Gentium*** - **King of all nations, King of the Gentiles** - Isaiah 9:7, 2:4

Dec 23 - ***Emmanuel*** - **God with us** - Isaiah 7:14"

For more information about these prayers and other Advent customs,
visit www.fisheaters.com/customsadvent10.html.

These beautiful titles for Christ appear verse by verse in the hymn, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (#650 in our St. Michael Hymnal). Let us sing greetings to Christ each day leading up to Christmas Eve. Come, Lord Jesus!

Meet Our New Office Staff

We are continually improving our parish office to better serve the needs of our parish. This week, our Resource Manager, Michael Landree, installed a new phone system so that calls to the office can be more easily received and directed by our Parish Secretary, Rebekah Snyder. Emergency sacramental calls can be forwarded directly to Father Hendershott's cell phone. We are grateful to our new staff for their hard work and dedication to serve God by serving Holy Cross. By way of introductions, here are their photos, short bios, and job descriptions. Welcome to Holy Cross!



Rebekah Snyder is our new parish secretary here at Holy Cross. She is a Tennessee native and graduated from Knoxville Catholic High School. She grew up playing tennis almost everyday with a group of girls hoping to go professional. Her family is still involved in the professional tennis world, which affords her some unique experiences thereof. She still enjoys playing tennis and all other racquet sports. She has always loved art, graphic design, classical music, and reading. She has been in choirs since elementary school and currently sings in a parish choir. Rebekah first discovered her love for serving in a parish setting through volunteering at her parish. She found it fulfilling to get to put her love for graphic design into practice through creating flyers and newsletters. When a secretary job opened up in the Diocese, she was grateful to God for another opportunity to serve Him in that way. She loves to be a part of God's salvific mission through the sacramental life of the Church. She considers it a privilege to witness and facilitate the faithful's drawing near to the Lord and His drawing souls to Himself.

Our parish secretary, Rebekah Snyder, serves as receptionist to receive general questions about Mass times and intentions, parish events, sacramental records and blessings, parish registration, and meetings with the pastor, as well as bulletin and pulpit announcements.



Michael Landree is our new Resources Manager and he is very thankful to serve our parish. He's a native Tennessean living in his family's homestead from the 1780s in Blaine; Mike was born and raised in Memphis. He's a graduate of UT Knoxville and Christian Brothers University in Memphis where he received his BBA and MBA, respectively. Retiring as a LtCol from the Marine Corps after almost 29 years, Mike served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, North and East Africa, Okinawa, and many other countries during his service. Mike is a cradle Catholic with seven children and two grandchildren who are his main focus outside of the Church. His hobbies include military history, antique vehicles, shooting, outdoor adventures, and leadership development of young men. Mike was motivated to work for Holy Cross out of a sense of love for the Church and a desire to serve God with all his mind, heart, soul, and body.

Our resource manager, Michael Landree, serves to organize maintenance, security, personnel including volunteers, and gift shop needs. He handles purchasing of materials and supplies, invoices, contracts, projects, policies, reimbursements, Safe Environment and insurance paperwork.

We are grateful for the help and support of the Diocese of Knoxville Chancery as we went through the hiring process to find the most qualified candidates to serve Holy Cross. The HR Director from the Chancery, Maura Lentz, came to our parish to join Father Hendershott and John Jabaley, the chair of our Parish Finance Council, to conduct interviews of multiple candidates for both positions after we received resumes for more than two weeks. John recommended and Maura affirmed the hiring of Rebekah Snyder as Parish Secretary and Michael Landree as Resource Manager. Thank you for your service as humble coworkers in the vineyard of Christ!

Mass Intentions & Readings

Saint Lucy

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

Monday of the Third Week of Advent

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a, Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13, Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent

Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17

Thursday of the Third Week of Advent

Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-25

Friday of the Third Week of Advent

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a, Luke 1:5-25

Saturday of the Third Week of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14, 9-11, Luke 1:26-38

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24

Saturday, December 13

Sunday, December 14

Monday, December 15

Tuesday, December 16

Wednesday, December 17

Thursday, December 18

Friday, December 19

Saturday, December 20

Sunday, December 21

† Denotes deceased

5pm For the People of Holy Cross

7pm †Evette Duarte

8am †Jim & †Sue Cunningham

10:30am DellaSantina Family

No Mass

12pm †Walter Choo

12pm Henryka & Wiktor Sokolowski

12pm †Holy Souls in Purgatory

12pm Gloria Gebbs

5pm †Melvin & †Roberta Haines

7pm For the People of Holy Cross

8am †Jimmy Owens

10:30am DellaSantina Family

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.

In your charity, please pray for: Madelyn Exposito & Russel Qualantone

If you would like to submit the name of a loved one to be prayed for, please contact the parish office. Names will be included for one month, unless noted otherwise.

Si desea enviar el nombre de un ser querido para que se ore por él, póngase en contacto con la oficina parroquial.

Los nombres se incluirán durante un mes, a menos que se indique lo contrario.

Upcoming Events

Children's Midnight Mass Choir Practice

Since we are now in the period of joyful preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas, we are planning the Christmas liturgies. There will be a Midnight Bilingual Candlelight Mass on Christmas. If you plan on attending the Midnight Mass with your family and have children interested in singing in a Children's Choir for the Prelude of Carols, your children are invited to stay after Faith Formation this Wednesday for a 30min Children's Choir practice.

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025:

8am English Mass

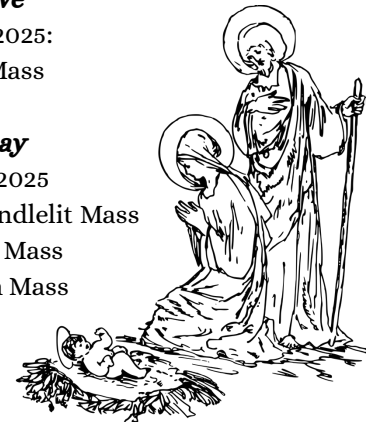
Christmas Day

December 25, 2025

Midnight Bilingual Candlelit Mass

8:00am English Mass

10:30am English Mass



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation

December 31, 2025

5:00pm English Mass

7:00pm Spanish Mass

January 1, 2026

10:30am English Mass

Weekly Events

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@wvlaw.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.

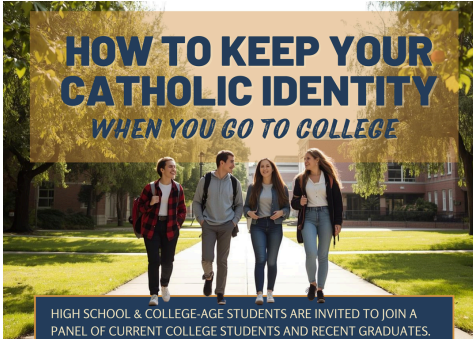
Mass Music Update Actualización sobre la música en la misa

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.




**HOW TO KEEP YOUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY
WHEN YOU GO TO COLLEGE**

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE-AGE STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN A PANEL OF CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES. THEY'LL SHARE REAL EXPERIENCES AND PRACTICAL ADVICE ON TOPICS SUCH AS:

- CULTURE SHOCK AND ADJUSTING TO COLLEGE CAMPUS LIFE
- SECULAR VS. CATHOLIC COLLEGES
- FINDING YOUR COMMUNITY
- HOW TO MAKE THE SACRAMENTS A PRIORITY
- DATING, DISCERNMENT, AND DISCOVERING YOUR GOD-GIVEN CALLING

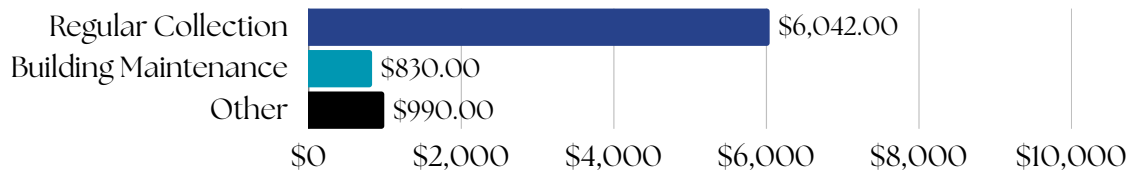
DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED, AND THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND.

DEC 20TH, 2025 AT 6PM
ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC CHURCH | SETON HALL
SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER TO ATTEND



Stewardship

December 6/7



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 and in your will.

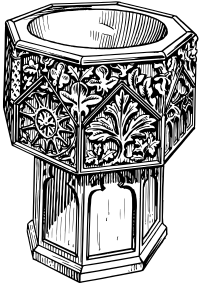
You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God, for the administration of this public service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God...

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 11-12, 15

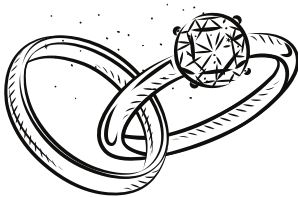
Sacramental Preparation

Baptism



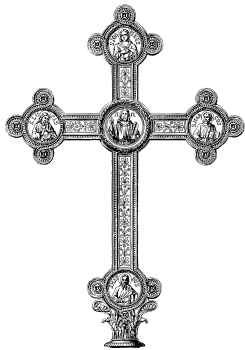
Congratulations on your newborn! In order to prepare for baptism, parents and god parents need to attend baptismal preparation classes before the proposed baptism date.

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.

