



Crossings

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✠ EPISCOPAL
875 COTTON STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
JULY 29, 2015

Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 9:30 and 11:00 AM
Saturday: 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 12:15 and 6:00 PM

Nursery

Sunday
9:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Choir Practice

Sunday: 9:45 AM

The Vestry

Ginger Paul, Senior Warden
Gerry Brooks, Jr. Warden
Becky Snodgrass, Secretary
Monty Walford, Treasurer
Melissa Fowle
Stephanie Hamblin
Robert Henley
Christine Hennigan
Kendall Raymond

Contact Information

Telephone: (318) 222-3325
Fax: (318) 681-9506
Email: holycrossshrv1@bellsouth.net

Please visit our website
www.holycrossshreveport.org

Deadline

Material for *Crossings* must be received by **12:00 Wednesday**.
Please send to
lynn.walford@lsus.edu

Bread for Life; Bread of Life

We are in the midst of several weeks of lessons, both from the Gospels and from the Hebrew Scriptures, of nourishment, sustenance, survival. Israel wanders in the wilderness, starving, and remembers the flesh pots of Egypt. God provides quail and manna, and Israel is revived. Elisha instructs that one hundred people be fed with the first fruits of only one man. God makes it happen, with food left over. The psalmist describes a table spread before him or her. Even in the presence of trouble God provides all that is needed and more: the cup runs over.



Jesus commands that a crowd of thousands be fed with only five loaves of bread and two fish. The people are nourished, with twelve baskets of food left over.

How are we to read these stories? They were important to our ancestors; they held deep meaning for them, and they wanted to preserve their meaning for us. The ancient Hebrew relied on poetry and image and metaphor to express meanings that are impossible to convey in the common language of experience. Are we to discard them, then, as “only” symbolic, “only” poetry? Is the food real or spiritual? We know the hunger is real. Should we try to explain the stories in terms of modern science, psychology, “enlightened” interpretation?

Then, to further confuse the question, in his teaching Jesus tells the people that he is the bread of life. We know not to take that literally—or is that process so easy?

We are taught in elementary school that the essentials of life are food, clothing, and shelter. Of these, food would be at the top of the list. We have to have physical nourishment to survive. Food is essential *for* life. And even beyond that, certain components of food are necessary for the health of bones, teeth, muscles, for the function of our organs. Certain food is necessary for a good quality of life.

But we know also that more than physical nourishment is required for life. Years ago it was established that babies in orphanages who did not receive the care of being held, talked to, nurtured, did not thrive. Some died. Not literally food, but we might consider these nurturing actions to be food *of* life. Food required for a person to thrive, to live. This is the food of love, and we all need it.

So we see that both are necessary, physical and spiritual food. The spiritual needs of every person include being needed, being valued, just for the person he or she is. No strings attached. These are the components of love. This is what Jesus was talking about when he said he was the bread of life. I believe his statements might be theological, cultural language. My own belief is that Jesus would have said love of the unconditional kind, agape, the love that God gives us, the love that accepts and respects and forgives, is the bread of life. The essential *of* life.

In a way, Jesus' statements are the easier ones to read. We can understand what he wanted us to know. It's the more ancient stories (and with them, the stories of Jesus' miracles) that take more thought and prayer. It's these stories, too, that are vulnerable to too many words of explanation. For the most part, they cannot be explained, and we only make their meanings more obscure in attempts to bring them into our time. As we do that, we destroy the one element the storyteller was determined to preserve; the *mystery*. The mystery of what God does and how God does it.

To try to explain God's actions is to try to fit a God of infinity into a place that, in the great scheme of Creation, is tiny: the human brain. With all our understanding and knowledge and fantastic ability, we will never be able to hold God in our grasp. Does it really matter whether the food was physical or spiritual? Do we miss the point if we get too close to it? What do we lose when we let go of the mystery?

We cannot explain clearly and accurately why a piece of music, its progressions and turns, moves us. The connection of beauty with the human emotions is a mystery. We cannot explain how the images of a poem touch us. We don't understand how a piece of art can pull us into it until we are standing in its sunlight or shadows, and we can't even explain the lift of the heart or the tingle of our skin that comes as everything around us fades away. It is all mystery, both to our understanding and to our being. Just as much is lost when we try to explain these things; much, even the essence, is lost when we try to explain the stories of God's actions.

So how are we to read them? We can hold the words loosely while we let them touch us deeply. What are they telling us about God? That God is a magician? That God provides all that we need? That there is something there that is essential to our faith and to our minute understanding of God. That these mysteries are the clearest explanation we have of the bread of life.

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matt. 11:28

Calendar for August

Wednesdays	Holy Eucharist (Enriching Our Worship)	12:15 PM	Chapel
Thursdays	Holy Eucharist	11:00 AM	Hope House Back Yard
	<i>Yum-Yum, La-La, Doodle</i>	11:30 AM	Undercroft, Educ. Bldg.
Saturdays	Holy Eucharist	5:00 PM	Chapel
Sundays	Informal Eucharist	9:20 AM	Rose Garden or Chapel (depending on weather)
	Choir Practice	9:45 AM	Church
	Holy Eucharist II	11:00 AM	Church
Sunday, August 2	<i>The Continuing Feast</i>	after the 11:00 service	Undercroft

Daily Feast: Meditations on the Word, Year B
Louisville: Westminster, John Knox Press, 2012



The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 13, August 2

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

(*Ephesians 4:1-16*) The exhortation of the passage is to encourage the listeners to accept their calling willingly, aware of the sacrifice that such a calling entails. They are called to “lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called (v.1) by “bearing with one another in love” (v. 2). To bear with one another is to sacrifice for the other. It is to help carry the other’s burdens. Love is not an emotion; love is an act of the will. Paul is not calling for the early Christians to feel warmly toward one another, but to act according to their calling. They were to do love by serving one another. The Church is called to be a new community based not on the divisions inherent in the existing social order but on the new humanity in Christ. The social hierarchy has been replaced by the body of Christ. In this new order, all members are essential, and all members are connected. Love, therefore, is neither theoretical nor abstract, but is the glue of community; it is what knits the body together.

G. Porter Taylor

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 14, August 9

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

(*Psalm 34:1-8*) A distinguished Brazilian theologian was shot during a robbery in downtown São Paulo. After several days in the hospital, a fellow priest assured him that he was praying that God would deliver the theologian from his terrible pain. The theologian replied, “Do not pray for me. Pray for those whose lives are in constant peril in the favelas [poor neighborhoods] of our city, suffering from oppression and despair of lack of food, health care, housing—basic human needs.” His fellow priest inquired, “But why should I not pray for you? You have suffered a tragedy, and you have been close to death.” “My esteemed brother,” the theologian tenderly answered, “do not confuse the realities of life with the realities of a life strangled. I praise God for all God has given me, but I don’t need to be delivered from this pain, because it nourishes my solidarity with those who suffer for no reason in this world.” As those in the Judeo-Christian tradition discover the character of God, they also discover the answer to the question, “Who are we?” “My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us all exalt his name together” (vv. 2-3). As we witness and testify to God’s deliverance, we are launched to live our true human vocation. We are agents of praise—no less, no more.

Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi

Singing the *Sanctus*

For over two months we have been singing the *Gloria* written by William Mathias. This has gone so well that now we will attempt to add Mathias’ *Sanctus*, found at S 128 in our hymnal. At the offertory on August 2 the organ will improvise on the *Sanctus* tune, soloist and choir will sing, and then all are invited to sing the tune. Later, at the appointed place in the mass, we will all sing this setting of the *Sanctus*.

Bruce Power
Organist and Choirmaster



Organ playing cat by deemacl

Zazzle

Prayer List

Bill Alexander
Wanda Allen
Margaret Boudreaux
Charlie Campbell
Jay Colvin
Evelyn Corley
Ron Dean
Jean Dooley
Elizabeth Eglin
Shirley Enani
Floyd "Buzzy" Farrar

Lady Martha Garner
Austin Gleason
Elizabeth Joyce
George Love
Mim McCoy
Paige McCranie
Betty McDonald
Laura Rhoades
Brady Sessions
Sandra Robinson
Lonnie Smith

Jack Theurerkauf
Gary Thomas
Jane Thompson
Robert Todd
Cliff Townsend
Mattie Washington
Charlotte Webb
Bill Wright
Larry Wright
Mary Wright

If you would like to request an addition to the prayer list, please call the church office, 222-3325. Our practice is to keep names on the list for six weeks. If we have an update at that time that we continue to pray for them, we leave the name on the list. If not, we remove it, and you can always call and add it again.

We pray for those who serve and are served by Providence House;
for the people of Lafayette and for guidance seeking to end violence;
for all who are homeless or hungry; for the people of Mexico, the Middle East and Ukraine;
for people in all the places where there are war and tension; for all who seek peace;
for the people of our country, that we may find together the way of compassion and peace from our prejudices
and racial tensions; for law enforcement officers and the people they serve;
and for our President and Congress, that they may work together to pass legislation to lessen the danger of
violence and injustice in our country and provide for the needs of the most vulnerable.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Hardtner Camp and Conference Center, and for Jason Ezell (Amie).

God who reigns over heaven and earth, heal and renew our bodies, minds, and spirits that we might find safety and trust in Your loving care. May we find in You the solid rock upon which to build our earthly communities. *Amen.*

Say Ministries

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 2, 2015

Exodus 16:2-4 ☞ Psalm 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16 ☞ John 6:24-35
Sat. 5:00 PM: Larry Wright, Lector, Eucharistic Minister
Sun. 11:00 AM:
Lector: Reece Middleton
Prayers of the People: Reid Raymond
Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Paul, Fred Ogunyemi
Acolytes: Patrick Raymond, Hannah Wallace, Ian Wallace
Ushers: Herschel Richard, Bill Richard
Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: Margaret Heacock, June Kirkland
Altar Guild Sun. 11:00: Christine Hennigan, Tommie Sue Brooks

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 9, 2015

1 Kings 19:4-8 ☞ Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2 ☞ John 6:35, 41-51
Sat. 5:00 PM: Larry Wright, Lector, Eucharistic Minister
Sun. 11:00 AM
Lector: William Raymond
Prayers of the People: Reece Middleton
Eucharistic Ministers: Kendall Raymond, Reece Middleton
Acolytes: Aaron Horton, Hannah Wallace, Ian Wallace
Ushers: Christine Hennigan, Tom Hennigan
Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: Margaret Heacock, June Kirkland
Altar Guild Sun. 11:00: Jo Ann Horton, Ginger Paul

If you wish to donate altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Laurie, 222-3325, and tell her. This is a beautiful way to contribute to the beauty of our worship and give to the glory of God!

Yum-Yum, La-La, Doodle is Rolling Along . . .

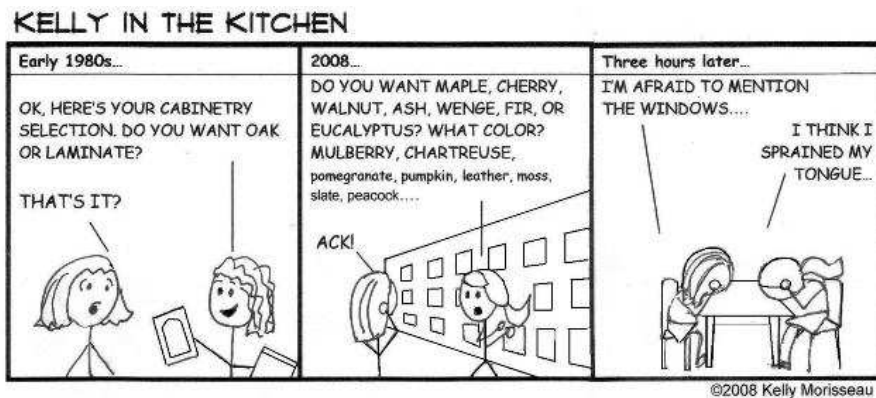
. . . but we can still use more help, especially with the art projects. Monetary assistance is also welcome, so if you can help with the cost of this venture, please send a check to Holy Cross, marked "Yum-Yum La-La Doodle" or "Thursday Class." And please remember to pray for the children of our neighborhood and their parents and grandparents, most of whom are struggling.



Camp is held on Thursdays, 11:30 - 2:30 in the Undercroft and Education Building. Children ages 4-8 are invited, and adults and older children are welcome to help. If you would like to help, please call the church office, 222-3325.

This Sunday, August 2, is the Continuing Feast!

Please remember that the kitchen is still being renovated, so we have no way to heat food or wash dishes. Please bring salads or other cold dishes appropriate for hot summer days, and please bring them in disposable containers or plan to take the containers home to wash. The last "cold" feast was a great success—both the food and the attendance were wonderful! We'll see you in the Undercroft after the 11:00 service this Sunday.



A NEW IDEA FOR THURSDAY LUNCH AT HOPE HOUSE: Hope House gets busier by the day, and some days sixty to eighty people are there to use the services. Since it's difficult for anyone to provide a meal for so many, perhaps a better idea would be for three or four people to coordinate, each one making the same dish for twenty.

- Spaghetti with meat sauce and Parmesan cheese
- Red beans, rice, cornbread
- Tuna-noodle casserole, or any other kind of casserole
- Cold cuts, sliced cheese, mayo, mustard, pickles, bread
- Hearty salads such as pasta or rice salads

Jugs of iced tea or other beverages are optional but always welcome, as are chips, cookies, or other snacks. Hope House supplies plates, cups, napkins, plastic flatware, and water.

Meals can be taken to Hope House early Thursday mornings, or even the day before. Call House Manager Donna Earnest at 318-220-7649 to make arrangements.

HOPE HOUSE CLIENTS TRULY APPRECIATE THESE MEALS!

Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal

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P A I D

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Return Service Requested

Mission Statement: *The Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport, Louisiana, strives to be the presence of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond, through worship of Almighty God, open inquiry, sharing fellowship, valued diversity, genuine inclusiveness, and servant leadership—encouraging all to exercise God's gifts and calling as we share the Gospel of Hope in programs, to serve without regard for religious affiliation, race, or economic status.*

Hope House: There is an ongoing need for coffee, sugar, creamer, laundry detergent, disposable razors, and personal size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.). Donations can be taken to 762 Austin Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

Forward Day by Day for August- October, in both standard and large-print editions, is available in the Narthex and the Undercroft.

If you cannot get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion or a visit at your residence or the hospital, please call the church office at 222-3325, and Communion will be brought to you.

Crossings is now also available via email. Simply send or call in your email address to the office.



The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Ph.D.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jacob Owensby, Ph.D., D. D.

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

The Rev. Sally M. Fox

The Rev. Kenneth W. Paul

The Rev. Donald D. Heacock

Mr. Bruce Power

Mr. Ron Dean

Mrs. Laurie Connell

Mr. Charles Alford

XXVI Presiding Bishop

IV Bishop of Western Louisiana

Rector

Assisting Priest

Rector Emeritus

Director, Holy Cross Child Placement

Organist-Choirmaster

Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus

Office Administrator

Sexton