



Crossings

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✠ EPISCOPAL
875 COTTON STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
DECEMBER 7, 2016

Holy Eucharist

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

Nursery

Sunday
9:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday: 9:45 AM

Sunday School

Sunday: 10:00 AM

The Vestry

Reece Middleton, Senior Warden
Gerry Brooks, Jr. Warden
Steve Snodgrass, Secretary
Greg Criddle
Melissa Fowle
Jo Ann Horton
John Hughes
Meredith Lucius
Kendall Raymond

Monty Walford, Treasurer
(non-vestry)

Contact Information

Telephone: (318) 222-3325

Fax: (318) 681-9506

Email: holycrossshr1@bellsouth.net

Please visit our website

www.holycrossshreveport.org

Deadline

Material for *Crossings* must be received by **12:00 Wednesday**.

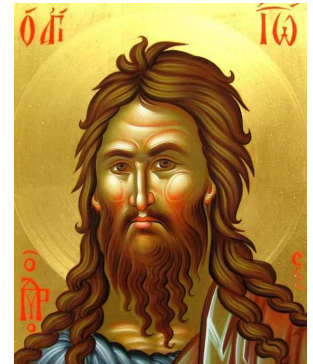
Please send to

lynn.walford@lsus.edu

“Bear fruit worthy of repentance . . .”

John the Baptist is a somewhat terrible figure. At first glance he seems to be a wild man, galloping in from the wilderness where he’s been for who knows how many years. Just to look at him can make the heart tremble. How long has he been away from civilization? Does he remember any of the social graces his mother Elizabeth taught him? Tact? Consideration for one’s feelings? How are his basic sensibilities? It’s clear that he doesn’t suffer fools.

John the Baptist



But this is the man God chose to prepare the little community of Israel of the first century for the One who would come to speak the Truth, One who himself would upset the tender systems of many people who thought they had it all figured out. Jesus calls him a prophet—more than a prophet, God’s messenger—a man as great as any man ever born. And John’s preaching, different as it was from Jesus’, is highlighted at some time in every year of our lectionary cycle.

John’s message to those who would prepare to meet Jesus is a message of *repentance*. He would baptize anyone who repented. He was on the right track: hearts and minds must recognize and turn from sin if they were ready for God’s Son. He was missing one component that Jesus would bring: no one is able to be without sin or to bring about their own forgiveness. God must do that work, and God stands ready to remove sin’s burden. Repentance is not a one-time action. One definition of the verb “repent” given by Merriam-Webster is this: to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one’s life. The operative word here is *turn*. Repentance requires *turning from* the temptations and dark attractions of this world. Toward what do we turn? *Toward God*. Baptism, in John’s ministry, signifies the change in direction.



So John preached repentance, and he was “spot on” when he insisted that a changed life, a life worthy of true repentance, must show evidence of the turning.

“Bear fruit worthy of repentance.” In sacramental language, the outward and visible sign is Baptism; the inward and spiritual grace is the action of the Holy Spirit

that is permitted to cultivate the fruit of a changed life. And the Holy Spirit will almost never act without the express consent of the person who truly desires to live a changed life.

What would be the fruit worthy to show the action of repentance? A conscious effort to put one's own desires second to the needs of others. Not so easy or so simple. Temptation comes daily, several times a day. Repentance is an ongoing decision. *We decide and we will* to let new fruit be cultivated.

Advent is a good season to look at our lives, to look into our hearts. Do we repent several times a day? What is the fruit of our repentance? Luke's Gospel is more specific about that fruit: "Whosoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." With each group of people who asked what they should do, John zeroed in on temptations specific to their vocations that resulted in sin.

How many extra clothes hang in our closets? How much food is wasted daily from our tables? What do John's words mean for us today? Do we *want* to commit fewer of our resources of time and treasure to our own needs and more to the needs of others? Does our prayer show our awareness of our need for God's grace? Do we seek a willingness to turn from plans of our own making and allow God to lead us and mold our lives? Do we make conscious efforts to listen, *really* listen, and seek to understand others?

Desires are born in our innermost hearts, innately seeking our own pleasure and good. John's teaching is not of actions that come naturally or easily. The desire to bear fruit must itself be cultivated. This is the work of Advent.

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.

Frederick Buechner

Daily Feast: Meditations on the Word, Year A

Louisville: Westminster, John Knox Press, 2012



FEASTING
on the WORD™

The Third Sunday of Advent, Year A December 11, 2016

*Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11*

The final words are poignant. "Sorrow and sighing shall flee away." We are not surprised to hear that sorrow will vanish, but sighing? Beyond sorrow, we sigh with weariness and regret; we sigh for beauty we cannot reach and for understanding beyond our grasp; we sigh in our aching desire for union and love, and in our longing for what we do not even know how to name. Perhaps in the end it is all sighing for home. Perhaps it is the sighing of the earth itself—and if biblical faith is true, it is the sighing of God. It will not always be so. The Lord will come and save. The ransomed will come home singing with gladness; and sorrow and sighing, all sighing, will flee away.

Paul Simpson Duke

The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A December 18, 2016

*Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25*

In this psalm the community laments the absence of God, petitioning God to "stir up your might". . . . They see no signs of God's presence in the midst of this disaster, which appears to be the demise of the northern kingdom. To the worshipers, God appears distant or inactive. As the psalmist and this community gather to worship, they do not shirk from exposing the whole range of raw emotions they feel, including hurt, anger, and grief. When injustice prevails, God's people lament. Corporate worship is too important to pretend that God is in heaven and all is right with the world when it is not.

Dave Bland

Calendar for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

Sundays	Informal Eucharist	9:20 AM	Rose Garden or Chapel (depending on weather)
	Choir Rehearsal	9:45 AM	Church Choir
	Nursery	9:30 AM – noon	Education Building
	Sunday School	10:00 AM	Education Building
	Holy Eucharist II	11:00 AM	Church Nave
Saturdays	Holy Eucharist	5:00 PM	Chapel
Wednesdays	Holy Eucharist	12:15 PM	Chapel
Wednesday, December 14	<i>The last Soup Day!</i>	<i>11:00 AM-1:00 PM</i>	<i>Undercroft</i>
Sunday, December 11	Advent Lessons and Carols, Holy Eucharist	11:00 AM	Church Nave
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Eucharist	5:00 PM	Church Nave
Sunday, December 25	Christmas Day Eucharist	9:20 AM	Rose Garden or Chapel (depending on weather)
	Christmas Day Choral Eucharist	11:00 AM	Church Nave
Sunday, January 1	Christmas Lessons Carols, Holy Eucharist	11:00 AM	Church Nave
	The Feast of the Epiphany	6:00 PM	Nave and Undercroft
Friday, January 6	Evening Prayer followed by supper		

Prayer List

Wanda Allen
Michael Breedlove
Jay Colvin
Evelyn Corley
Janice Crawford
Tricia Davis
Ron Dean
Jean Dooley
Elizabeth Eglin
Shirley Enani
Floyd "Buzzy" Farrar
Ed Finuf

Reggie Gant
Lady Martha Garner
Ken George
J. M. Hardwick
Christine Hennigan
Mary Hill
Terry Hutchinson
Kenneth Jordan
Flo Little
Kenneth Lowe
Sherry Lowe
Chris Lowery

Mim McCoy
Paige McCranie
Melody Mhyre
Doug Meshell
Randy Piedrahita
Ila Riggs
Linda Robinson
Sandra Robinson
Jenni Scarce
Brady Sessions
Tommy Simrall
Jack Theuerkauf

Jennifer Theuerkauf
Robert Todd
Cliff Townsend
Mattie Washington
Molly Wilkinson
Roger Wilkinson
Bill Wright
Larry Wright
Mary Wright

We pray for those who serve and are served by The Caddo Council on Aging;
for the people of our country, that we may listen with compassion to those who feel forgotten
and work with renewed purpose to overcome our fears and prejudices; for law enforcement officers and the people they serve;
for people in all places where there is war and fear, and for those who work for peace;
for migrants in Africa and Europe, for all immigrants seeking acceptance and safety;
for people elected to office this year, and for our President and Congress, that they may work together
to pass legislation to end violence and injustice in our country and provide for the needs of the most vulnerable.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for non-parochial and other clergy: the Rev. John Campbell (Sarah),
the Rev. Stephen Caudle, the Rev. Andrew Comeaux (Eydie), the Rev. James Benbrook (Becky),
the Rev. Jon Roberts (Lynne), the Rev. Don White (Kathryn), and the Rev. Kenneth White.

Lord, be with the Standing Rock Sioux today, and with anyone wanting to move us forward toward freedom, justice, and the peace you envision. *Amen.*

Say Ministries

The Third Sunday of Advent Lessons and Carols: December 11, 2016

Sat. 5:00 PM Lector: Larry Wright
Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lectors: Aaron Horton, Nathaniel Means, Jo Ann Horton, Steve Snodgrass
Prayers of the People: Steve Snodgrass
Eucharistic Ministers: Nathaniel Means, Fred Ogunyemi
Acolytes: Joe Evanson, Patrick Raymond, Hannah Wallace
Ushers: Herschel Richard, Tommie Sue Brooks
Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: Margaret Heacock, June Kirkland
Altar Guild Sun. 11:00: Tommie Sue Brooks, Becky Snodgrass

The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2016

Sat. 5:00 PM Lector: Trish Peyton
Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lector: Lynn Walford
Prayers of the People: David Richard
Eucharistic Ministers: Fred Ogunyemi, Kendall Raymond
Acolytes: Aaron Horton, Herschel Richard
Ushers: Monty Walford, Tommie Sue Brooks
Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: Margaret Heacock, June Kirkland
Altar Guild Sun. 11:00: June Kirkland, Jo Ann Horton

Our deepest condolences to the Raymond family on the death of Kendall's mother. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Service Music

The Third Sunday of Advent: December 11 Advent Lessons and Carols with the Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Introit: *O come, thou Wisdom from on high*

Mass: Archangelsky, Schubert, and Hurd

Solo and choral music: J. S. Bach, Joseph W. Clokey, George Dyson, Peter Warlock, and John Scott

Hymns: traditional carols of the Advent Season

Organ: *The Word descending from above*, De Grigny: *Fugue on the Magnificat*, BWV 733, J. S. Bach; *For Advent*, Benoit

Advent Lessons and Carols: Advent III, December 11

At Holy Cross during the Christmas Season, we have customarily done an abbreviated form of the traditional King's College (Cambridge, England) Festival of Lessons and Carols; the service is coupled with the Eucharist. This year we will engage in an Advent Lessons and Carols service, which is the modification of the Christmas Lessons and Carols service. The service on Advent III will include traditional readings of the Advent Season with carols and anthems interspersed between the readings; the liturgy will then move into the Eucharist.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 18

Introit: *O come, thou Key of David*, Plainsong Mode 1

Mass: Archangelsky, Schubert, and Hurd

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18: responsorial, Tonus Peregrinus

Anthem: *Creator of the stars of night*, arr. John Scott

Hymns: 72 Richmond, 54 *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, 66 Stuttgart, 56 *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

Organ: Partita on *Savior of the nations, come!* Heiler; *Savior of the nations, come!*, BWV 659, 661, J. S. Bach



Christmas Poinsettias

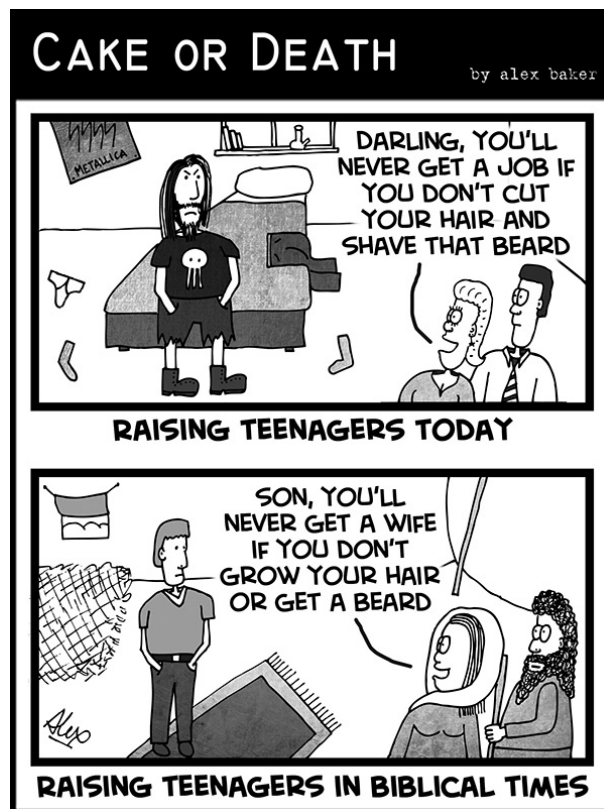
It is our custom to adorn the church at Christmas with seasonal greenery and flowers. If you would like to contribute poinsettias in honor or in memory of someone, please place your check in the offering plate or send it to Holy Cross, PO Box 1627, Shreveport, LA 71165. Enter "Poinsettia" in the memo and attach name(s) you wish to honor. Your contribution may be of any amount.

In the Narthex:

- ❧ *Advent materials from Episcopal Relief and Development*
- ❧ *Pledge cards*
- ❧ *Yellow sheets: Agape Children's Ministries—provide Christmas gifts for children living in the Fairmont*
- ❧ *Green sheets: Fuller Center Christmas Store—help the Fuller Center open a store for people living on fixed incomes to buy gifts for their children*
- ❧ *Flyers with information about Rhythms of Grace, a nondenominational service for families who have children with special needs*

2017 Stewardship Commitments

Thank you for the commitments you have made, are making, and will make to Holy Cross' ministry in 2017! Your vestry and I appreciate so much your love and support of your church. If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so this week so our Finance Committee can have an idea of the church's income next year. Again, THANK YOU!



Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal
P. O. Box 1627
Shreveport, LA 71165-1627

Website: www.holycrossshreveport.com
E-mail: holycrossshr1@bellsouth.net

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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 Austen Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

Forward Day by Day for **November and December**, in both standard and large-print editions, is available in the Narthex and the Undercroft.



The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, 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

XXVII 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