

# **NEWSLETTER**

## The Crucifer

## Gratitude and Thankfulness

Dear Holy Cross Family,

November is here, bringing thoughts of apples, pumpkins, potatoes—and of course, thankfulness. In a world that rushes from one moment to the next, I've been reflecting on the power of gratitude—how it has the ability to slow us down, reframe our perspective, and open us up to the joy that is already present in our lives... like apple butter, pumpkin spice everything, and mashed potatoes.

December is quickly approaching, and personally, I often find myself overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season—the endless to-do lists, crowded schedules, and the pressure to make everything perfect. It's easy to get caught up in the whirlwind and lose sight of what truly matters. But I've discovered that leaning into the gratitude of November, and practicing throughout my day, is the best way to help me stay grounded and centered. It is like a reset button, helping me pause and shift my focus away from the chaos and back to the present moment.

This practice of gratitude doesn't require grand gestures—it finds life in the simplest, everyday moments. It's in the warm comfort of a cup of tea on a chilly afternoon, the unexpected text from a friend checking in, or the joy of crossing off even one thing from a long to-do list. Gratitude appears in the quiet satisfaction of finishing a good book, the scent of familiar spices while cooking dinner, or the sense of peace that comes with a deep breath after a long day. Life can be messy and unpredictable, but choosing to slow down and notice these small blessings helps us reframe the ordinary as sacred. It reminds us that God's goodness is always present—woven through our routines, interactions, and quiet moments, waiting to be seen and celebrated.

Scripture encourages us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." It doesn't say we need to feel thankful for everything, but it reminds us that choosing gratitude— especially in hard or chaotic times—can shift our focus from what we lack to the goodness of God's presence.

At Holy Cross, gratitude is more than a feeling—it's a way of life we live out together as a community. I see it in the volunteers who show up week after week, offering their time and talents with joy. It's present in your generosity toward our outreach ministries, supporting those in need both near and far. And it shines through in the way you care for one another—through prayer, words of encouragement, and simply being present for each other. These small but meaningful acts weave together to create a culture of gratitude, reminding us that God's goodness is often revealed through community, especially in challenging seasons.

And speaking of community, here are a few exciting events coming up that I can't wait to share with you!

## Sunday, November 3rd: Consecration Sunday

We'll come together for wonderful worship, a potluck lunch, games for all ages, and a chance for kids to dunk Fr. Rob and the staff in the dunking booth!

### Sunday, November 17th: Outdoor Folk Concert

Enjoy music, fellowship, a bonfire, hot cocoa, and apple cider!

# Wednesday, November 20th: Gobble Gobble Game Night and Feast

One week before Thanksgiving, at our annual parish thanksgiving feast together, we will provide optional fun games at each of the tables to add laughter and fun to this evening.

As we enter this season of thanksgiving, may we be quick to notice and slow to forget the many ways God is at work in and through us. Let gratitude not only fill our hearts but shape how we live—reminding us that everything, no matter how small, is a gift from God.

Thank you for being part of the Holy Cross family. I am grateful for each of you and the ways you bring God's love to life in this community.

Love, peace, and potatoes, Janelle

# **Sunday Worship**

10:30am - In Person Worship & Live Stream 8:00am - In Person Worship & Live Stream

Wednesdays: 9:15am - 6:00pm Library Hours Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:30pm Sundays: 9:15 - 12:15pm

**Sunday Classes** 

9:25am - Children's Ministry 9:25am - Nursery

9:35am – Music Reading 2.0 (Nave) 9:35am – Romans (Holy Cross Rm) 9:35am – Women's Book Study (Chapel) 9:30am – EYC Sunday School 9:35am – Resurrection Now (Lanier)





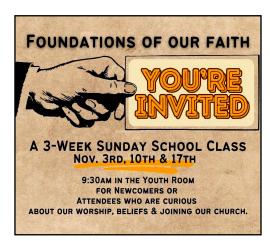


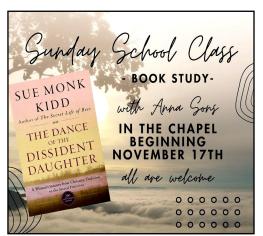
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					6:00pm - ACA Group (Lanier Hall)	9:00am - Library Hours 10:00am - Heavenly Handmade 10:00am - Prayer Shawl /Knitted Knocker (Lanier Hall)
<b>3</b> Consecration Sunday All Saint's Day	4	<b>5</b> Election Day	9	7 ECW Dinner	8	9 ECW Meeting
CLASSES: See Above Outreach Focus: Feed My Sheep 8:00am - Worship 9:00am - Breakfast 10:30am - Worship	4:00pm - Pensacola Philatelic Society 5:30pm - Depression Support Group	6:15pm - AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 10:00am - Worship 10:00am - Hagar's Basket (Rm 3) 5:30pm - Dinner & Classes	5:30pm - Handbells 6:15pm - AA 6:00pm - ECW Dinner @ Mellow Mushroom 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm - ACA Group (Lanier Hall)	8:00am - Brotherhood of St. Andrew (Lanier Hall) 9:00am - Library Hours 9:00am - Daughters of the King (Holy Cross Rm) 10:00am - Private Meeting 11:00am - We Care (Holy Cross Rm)
10	<b>11</b> Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15	16 ECW Monthly Meeting
CLASSES: <i>See Above</i> 8:00am - Worship 9:00am - Hot Delicious Breakfast 10:30am - Worship 3:00pm - Board Games	5:30pm - Depression Support Group	6:30pm - AA 6:30pm -Compassionate Friends	9:00am – Food Pantry 10:00am - Worship 10:00am - Hagar's Basket (Rm 3) 5:30pm - Dinner & Classes	5:30pm - Handbells 6:00pm - Neighborhood Watch 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm - ACA Group (Lanier Hall)	8:00am - ECM Monthly Meeting/ Workday 9:00am - Library Hours 10:00am - ECW Crafts
17 Blood Orive Folk & Fire Concert	18	19	<b>20</b> Thanksgiving Gobble Gobble Game Night & Feast	21	22	23
CLASSES: See Above 8:00am - Worship 8:30am - Blood Drive 9:00am - Hot Delicious Breakfast 10:30am - Worship followed by Guatelamla Mission Presentation 5:00pm - Folk & Fire Concert	4:00pm - Pensacola Philatelic Society 5:30pm - Depression Support Group	5:30pm - Bunco 6:15pm - AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 10:00am - Worship 10:00am - Hagar's Basket (Rm 3) 5:30pm - Gobble Gobble Game Night & Feast	5:30pm - Handbells 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm - ACA Group (Lanier Hall)	11:00am - We Care (Holy Cross Rm) 9:00am - Library Hours
24 Greening of the Church	25	26	27	28 AHAPPY	29	30
CLASSES: See Above 8:00am - Worship 8:30am - Blood Drive 9:00am - Hot Delicious Breakfast 10:30am - Worship followed by Greening of the Church 11:45am - JUST Pensacola 3:00pm - Board Games	5:30pm - Depression Support Group	6:15pm - AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 10:00am - Worship 10:00am - Hagar's Basket (Rm 3) 5:30pm - Dinner & Classes	5:30pm - NO Handbells 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - NO Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm - ACA Group (Lanier Hall)	9:00am - Library Hours

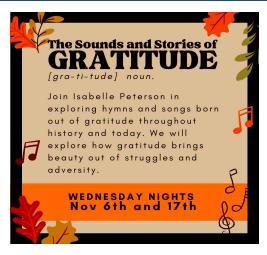
## OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES & BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



















## November Birthdays

- 01 Lily Hodges
- 03 Steve Roberts
- 03 Sarah Tarkus
- 04 Gabe Lukow
- 06 Daniel Cecil
- 07 Diane Henehan
- 10 Samantha Dancer
- 10 Jeff Simpler
- 11 Nora Haight
- 11 Joe Nunnari
- 12 Britt Landrum
- 13 Rena Killam
- 14 Kathy Baggett
- 15 Paige Hotopp
- 16 Tiffanie Coleman
- 16 Camille Lukow
- 16 Faith Smith
- 21 Steve Atha
- 22 Linkon Andrew
- 23 Ed Austin
- 23 Howard Johnson
- 24 Marguerite Byrd
- 24 Dana Wimmers
- 25 Warren Jerrems
- 27 Jonathan Peacock
- 28 Gordon Haight
- 28 Anne Ryan
- 29 Brenda Brown
- 29 Mike Haskins
- 30 Paula Clark



## November

## Anniversaries

- 05 Al & Alla Bressler 19 Yrs!
- 06 Jordan & Leslee Williams 14 Yrs!
- 11 Roy & Lorrie Wilkinson 36 Yrs!
  - 4. Chata O Estas Dalva (26 Year)
- 21 Chris & Erica Dake 26 Yrs!
- 25 Larry & Kaki Chambers 21 Yrs!
- 26 Russ & Carla Hardin 3 Yrs!
- 28 Fr. Rob & Amanda Dixon 16 Yrs!
- 29 Brad & Jen Brennan 29 Yrs!

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