



## Autumn Newsletter

### Holy Cross Episcopal Church

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Holy Cross Church, P.O. Box 103, Street, MD 21154



#### **A Note from Rev. Mary**

Context matters! September 17's final score of 5-4 meant more if you knew which team the Orioles beat, and how many innings that took, and maybe the long-term history of the O's. Context matters in Bible readings too. Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers meant more if you know all about his prison time in Egypt—chapters we skipped in August. Moses' leadership struggles will mean more if you know the spin his brother Aaron put on the Golden Calf incident. "I just put some gold in a fire, and this calf came out!" (Exodus 32:24)—though Exodus 32:4, the only version we hear Sunday, says Aaron himself molded the calf.

I love our 3-year schedule of Sunday Bible readings, our "Eucharistic Lectionary." Our Gospel readings show Jesus teaching and modeling the self-giving way of perfect love. Our Epistles reveal the Holy Spirit working powerfully in congregations who are far from perfect!

And our Sunday readings from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) tell stories of very imperfect people, who frequently stray from God's way, yet are still loved by God. The challenge for worshipers and preachers is this: 39 books of the Old Testament can't fit into three years of Sundays! But here's how to appreciate the context of our Sunday readings.

STEP ONE—Take home Sunday's bulletin (or reread Chip's "Join Us" email) to recall what we heard in church. For example, the Oct. 15 bulletin would remind you we heard Exodus 32.1-14. STEP TWO--Open [LectionaryPage.net](http://LectionaryPage.net) (or Chip's next mail) and check out the upcoming Sunday.

For example, on Oct. 22 we'll read Exodus 33.12-33. (Holy Cross uses "Track 1" readings. The older Track 2, which appears in our Prayer Book, skips around different books of the OT to mesh with the themes of that day's Gospel. But Track 1 respects each OT book's scope.)

STEP THREE—To investigate the context of what we'll hear Oct. 22, open your Bible (or [BibleGateway.com](http://BibleGateway.com)) and read the skipped part in between: Exodus 32:15-33:11. The spin Aaron puts on his fellow Hebrews' idol worship reminds us that he was very human, sometimes a frustrating colleague and brother for Moses.

BONUS TIP ONE: Sometimes our Lectionary skips portions of the Epistle and Gospel also. The more you "fill in the blanks" during the week, the more sense Sunday's readings will make.

BONUS TIP TWO: At Holy Cross, we're going to start Advent on Nov. 26 instead of Dec. 3. That way, we can observe Advent 4 on Dec. 17, and just focus on Christmas Eve on Sunday, Dec. 24. So, we'll wrap up "Year A" on Nov. 19, celebrating Christ the King. Then, since Advent is the beginning of the church's New Year, we'll start "Year B," on Nov. 26. (Year A Gospels come mostly from Matthew, Year B mostly from Mark, and Year C mostly from Luke.)

BONUS TIP THREE: Another way many Episcopal laypeople and clergy deepen their familiarity with the whole Bible is to follow the Daily Office 2-year cycle of readings for Morning and

Evening Prayer, p. 934 in the Prayer Book, or <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/daily-readings>. Year One began in Advent 2022, and Year Two will begin in Advent 2023.

Questions? Rev. Jan and I will be happy to try and answer! — Rev. Mary

***"A seed in the ground. A flame in the darkness. A hand outstretched. A child in the womb. Hope starts small... but feeds on outrageous possibilities. It beckons us to step out with the belief that the action will not only bear fruit but in that taking it, we have already made a difference in the world." -Jan Richardson, Night Visions***

### **A Note from Rev. Jan**

A Red and White weekend

Both red and white are celebratory colors in the Church. Red is particularly for the Holy Spirit (think tongues of fire at Pentecost) and White particularly signifies holiness, virtue, reverence (think Christmas and Easter.) Red is often used for ordinations, and white is always used for Baptisms. What a weekend we had in the middle of September! Saturday was Red Day when the Diocese of Maryland and the Episcopal Church ordained and consecrated Carrie Schofield- Broadbent as Bishop in the Church of God at our National Cathedral in Washington DC. Bishop Carrie (as she prefers to be called) is now officially the Bishop Coadjutor for our Diocese. She is already sharing in the governance and life of the Diocese now, and will become our Bishop Diocesan at the end of April when Bishop Sutton retires and formally hands over the crozier aka the reins to her. Holy Cross was represented by the Co-Vicars and also by Emma Scarborough who carried our church banner in the long procession. I urge you to go our Holy Cross FB page to see a wonderful picture of Emma, and to <https://episcopalmaryland.org> for other pictures and articles introducing Bishop Carrie, and about that wonderful day.

Even more importantly the White Day was Sunday at Holy Cross with 4 cousins baptized! That day we welcomed 4 new members of the Laity for the Church – and for our Community of Love. Leo, Logan, Lyla and Mya in many ways are far more important than our new Bishop. As new Lay People they join so many millions of the Baptized to help pass along the message of God’s Love in their own way, as well as to help others by their example to know our God of Love. No matter the age or gifts, all the Baptized have something to offer. And we all, members of Holy Cross, have promised to support them in the new life in Christ, and to support their parents Maria and Gary, Ali and Carlos, and Jose and Monica- along with their godparents. We are delighted to welcome these newest members – and thank you Ruth Covert for bringing your family to join us in this joyous work! Thank you to everyone who helped make that a truly amazing celebration! - Jan +

### **Senior Warden’s Report**

Galatians 6:9,10

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

It's amazing that a year has gone by since our Vicar Transition occurred. A contract addendum is in the works for our Co-Vicars for another year. The Advisory Board and Rev Mary and Rev Jan participated in a Mutual Ministry Review that was led by Rev. Dr. Kristofer Lindh-Payne, Canon for Congregational Vitality on September 20, 2023.

Kristofer opened the Review a prayer and explained that we were to come together to share our concerns and expectations. This was offered by the Dioceses as a tool to look at the challenges and conflicts we face with a change in parish leadership. Relationships work better when people articulate their expectations instead of assuming. It was agreed by all that our parish ministries have been going well within the Church. The successful programs and outreach we do in our community will continue with our support. Discussion about the Worship Hymns took place and all agreed to ask the congregation for their favorite hymns to be included on the proper Sundays. New hymns will also be included to fill our spirits!

Busy times are ahead for Holy Cross with the coming of the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas holidays. Thank you to all involved with keeping our grounds attractive, our building operational, and our spiritual wellness growing and expanding. Many thanks for ALL you do with your time, talent, and treasures. Thank you, Jan and Mary, for your continued spirit and leadership. May God bless Holy Cross at the Rocks.

Chip

## **Guild**

We received several lovely Thank You Notes from the various agencies that we support. Thank you Holy Cross for your generosity. On Thursdays from 9 to ? we will be working on Creating Christmas Crafts for our Green Sales in December. Stop by and join in the fun of making these wonderful items. We are continuing our Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter Adoption Program through Delta. This year we will adopt two Seniors and one family with children. (We love buying gifts for the children) And we cannot forget the Senior Lunch Program on the third Monday of the month at 11:30. This is a FREE meal for any senior. So, if you know a senior who would enjoy a free meal and lots of good conversation, bring them to Holy Cross on October 16<sup>th</sup> and see what a great time it is.

## **Seafarers**

Collection for the Christmas at Sea gift bags for the seafarers will start on 10/8 and continue through to 10/29. We will then pack the 1-gallon zip lock bags on 11/5 after coffee hour. The list of items will be on the church bulletin board. Please sign up with your name and the amount you will be contributing. If you have any questions, please speak to Patty Wilson.

## **Collage and Military**

It is time to start gathering Christmas Gifts for our College Students and Military Personnel. Names and addresses should be sent to Mary Raab, please note any allergies. We will be assembling the boxes on November 26. And mailing the boxes via Postal Solutions on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Sign up will be posted to remind church members the items needed and the total number of packages to be mailed. Thank you, Sue. Along with a Holy Cross Blessing from Rev. Jan and Rev. Mary, plus the Day to Day prayer book, and suggestions for donations to the boxes:

- Candy - i.e. M&M, Twizzlers, GummiBears, Skittles, Jolly Rancher, DumDum Lollipops, leftover Halloween candy
- Microwave Popcorn
- Throat Lozengers
- Snacky food - i.e. Granola/Energy bars, Slim Jim, Keebler Grahams, Nutella spreads
- Gum
- Pens & Pads
- Gloves
- Sticky notes with jokes
- Hot Chocolate
- Cereal on the Go cups
- Animal Crackers
- \*\*\* Warm CRAZY socks

## Calendar

### October

Month long collection for Seafarers

1. Blessing of the Animals
8. Stewardship Sunday

### November

5. Seafarer's Bag assembly after Church Service
12. Homecoming: Potluck buffet after Church Service
26. Advent Series after Church Service
26. Assembling Boxes for College Students and Military Personnel
27. Mailing of Boxes for College Students and Military Personnel

### December

1. Green Sales, volunteers needed.
2. Advent Series after Church Service
10. Advent Series after Church Service
17. Advent Series after Church Service
24. Christmas Eve Service



5-15

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"This leaf was in the Bible. Maybe it's the one Adam wore!"



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Thanks to Paul

HEY HONEY, MY BEST FRIEND IS HERE AND HE SAYS I HAVE TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO FISHING