

Crossings

Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal
875 Cotton Street, Shreveport, Louisiana
September 15, 2021

Services

(until further notice)

Please see calendar.

The Vestry

David Richard, Senior Warden
Ginger Paul, Junior Warden
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Donna Neal, Co-Secretary
Georgiana Gleason
Rick Hadwin
Marshall Middleton
Reid Raymond
Jackie Songy
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(non-vestry)

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Church of the Holy Cross
Shreveport

Contact the Editor

Please send material for articles,
along with ideas, suggestions,
or complaints to
lynn.walford@lsus.edu

Behold the Cross

The feast of the Holy Cross will be September 14, but since it is our parish's name day, it's being transferred to the following Sunday, September 19. As we approach this day, I encourage you all to examine with me the meaning of the cross.



In the nineteenth century, Hans Christian Andersen wrote a short story that most of us are familiar with. In this story two con men pose as tailors and convince the emperor that they have new fabric that will appear invisible to all those who are unworthy of their position, or who are “hopelessly stupid.”

The emperor, in his vanity, believes the con men. So they deliver their wares, and the emperor immediately begins to parade them around the city. He's actually naked, but everyone is far too afraid to say anything. Except for a small child who exclaims, “But he isn't wearing anything at all!”

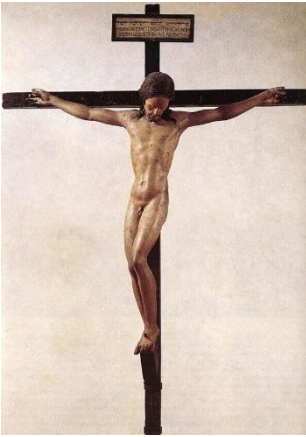
There's an assumption, however, that the story actually hinges upon: We tend to know a person's station by the clothes they wear. The idea of a naked emperor is ludicrous. It's embarrassing. In this story it's meant to be hilarious. “Oh look! The emperor, the powerful man, he's not wearing anything at all! How silly!”

The assumption is built upon the oft-seen practice of those with the most money and power spending their money on the outward appearances to reinforce their power. They wear the finest clothes, golden crowns, silken suits, and so on.

The appearance of power and control is important, because the dirty little secret about the powerful is that they are not intrinsically so. Beneath the fine linens and perfumes and the like is the same flesh as that of you and me.

And so they need the charade of nice clothes, big guns, big walls, big cars and planes, because, much like the playground bully, the so-called powerful depend upon our collective timidity to maintain their power. They kill and imprison to ensure that the challenges to their power are squashed. Andersen's naked emperor is an absurdity for this reason. An emperor running through the streets of the city doing the full monty would give away the game—the game that the powerful aren't so in and of themselves.

Michelangelo: Crucifix



It's easy for us to hear Jesus' words today about being lifted up, and thinking of it relating to his ascension, but as the text says, it refers to his being lifted up upon the cross. The throne from which he judges the world is not made of gold, but wood. And he does not sit upon it, he hangs.

It's common to see depictions of Christ's crucifixion where he's wrapped with a cloth covering his waist, but the practice of crucifixion was normally done with the victim being completely naked. And so this king is not wrapped in silk, but is exposed. But real power is such that it can accept the pain and tribulation of life, the indignity of a naked cross. Behold the vision of true power, but he isn't wearing anything at all.

Real power is coming down. Soon. And is already here. Real power is coming down from the lofty high places and dwelling in vulnerability because real power does not need to be puffed up, reassured by the tenderness of its fabrics or the weight of its crown. What use does the Word have of laurels and crowns? The Word, through whom the stars were birthed, through whom the oceans were filled, through whom the heart received its first beat?

We tend to rely on our existing visions of kingdoms and kingship to imagine what the Kingdom will be like. Our stained-glass churches reflect a King Jesus robed in glorious majesty. We see him, sitting on a throne, vested as a King, holding his scepter. And while I'm not against these images, they're showing Jesus' power in ways easier for us to understand, and not necessarily as he showed us power. You want to see Jesus on his throne? **Behold the cross.** You want to see Jesus robed in glorious majesty? **Behold the Cross.** You want to see the kingdom in the fullness of its might? **Behold the cross.**

And so it's not unfitting that Jesus tells the people gathered, tells *us*, that the Kingdom is coming when he will be lifted up. It's also why he has been so insistent that we too take up our cross and follow him. The scandal of it all. That God would be known in such a humiliating form. But we should be used to it by now.

We see God in the humblest of forms. Beyond the splendid images of Christ in his glory, we see the devastating reality of Christ on his cross. He comes to us as broken crumbs of bread. And yet this humble servant-God has overcome the powerful. God in God's fullness has overwhelmed the conqueror, cast down the mighty from their thrones. In essence, he's said, "The emperor has no clothers." Not in accusation of those who believe they're in power, but as a declaration about himself.

Death, the last tool of the tyrant, couldn't hold him. Not even the father of all tyrants, the Devil, was a match for the raw, incomprehensible, naked power of the naked God. Christ's bruised heel shows us that much. And in rising from the dead, he showed us all that true power was not what we thought it was.

And all of that posturing, all of that so-called security, and the misery brought about by the self-proclaimed rulers and tyrants of this world, will unravel like the threads of their precious vesture. It will be so because we will be transformed by the renewing of our minds to see afresh that all of this chaos clad in the uniform of worldly power is nothing more than a mask upon the rotting flesh that is the powers and principalities of this world.

"Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be driven out" (John 12:31).

The Rev. Garrett Boyte

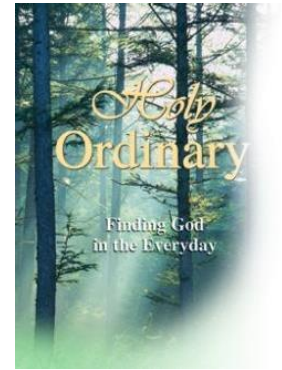
Holy Cross Pickles

On Wednesday, September 29, the ECW will continue preparing their famous Holy Cross Pickles. **Volunteers are wanted!** The pickle crew will begin at 9:00 am, and the process will last 3-4 hours.



Holy Ordinary

Finding God in the Everyday



Teacher's out

(Philippians 2:12-30) Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you. . . .

In junior high school, one kid in our class was clearly favored by a teacher. One day the teacher was out of the room briefly, and students were really acting up, the “favorite” among them. The rest of us got no small pleasure seeing her walk in and catch him in bad behavior, as she had always made him out to be the perfect student.

Human nature can push us to extremes—extremes very unlike our best—when we feel no one is watching. So when the teacher is out of the room—or when God is not present in the flesh—it is critically important that our faith has been ingrained in us to fight human instincts.

Paul told the Philippians about the need for the following of Jesus to enter the deepest part of the human psyche instead of only riding on the surface. He wrote, “. . . just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. . . .”

In these days where gathering is still limited—in church and elsewhere—we have to be particularly intentional about cultivating the loving image of God within us. We need our *best* behavior—not our worst—when left on our own.

The truth is that this teacher is never out of the room.

Carol Mead is priest-in-charge at St. Peter's-by-the-Lake Episcopal Church in Brandon, Mississippi. You can learn more about Carol and her journey to Holy Ordinary on her website: www.holyordinary.com.

Prayer List

Wanda Allen	Floyd “Buzzy” Farrar	Linda Jordan	Catherine Spaht
Ellen Dunlop Belote	Robin Foster	Justin	Paul Spaht
Mary Berth	Maggie Fowle	Maureen Locke	Robert Todd
Margaret Boudreaux	John August Gianforte	Mim McCoy	Cynthia Walker
Gabriella Braden	James Edward Griffith	Della McCranie	Louis Wallace
Martha Brotherton	Richard Hadwin	Elyane Mergey	David Walsh
Corinne Campbell	Sandra Hadwin	Theresa Mormino	Connie Wiggins
Robert Cangelose	Charles Hall	Patsy	Curtis Williams
Julie Coyle	Jerry Harper	Juanita Peterson	Bill Wright
Sarah Lou Coyle	Josh Harrell	Brady Sessions	Mary Wright
Drew Dodson Family	Barbara Hughes	Mary Ann Shemwell	Sheryl Wright
Jean Dooley	Elizabeth Ingram	Linda Sirman and family	
Ann Falter	Robson Jenkins	Angela Smith	

We pray for those who serve and are served by The Fuller Center for Housing.

Calendar for September

Saturdays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Sundays	Morning Prayer, Rite II	9:00 am	Chapel
	Coffee and Catechesis	10:00 am	Library
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	11:00 am	Nave
Mondays, Tuesdays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Wednesdays	Book Club	10:30 am	Library
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	Noon	Chapel
	Evening Prayer, Rite II, followed by	6:00 pm	Nave and online
	Path Bible Study		
Thursdays, Fridays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Wednesday, September 29	Preparation of Holy Cross Pickles	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Kitchen

Lay Ministries

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: September 19

Lectors: Melissa Fowle, Kirk Fontenot
 Prayers of the People: Kirk Fontenot
 Eucharistic Minister: Carolyn Mahlen
 Acolyte: Aaron Horton
 Usher: Bill Richard
 Altar Guild: Sr. Cecilia Horton

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: September 26

Lector: Becky Snodgrass
 Prayers of the People: Becky Snodgrass
 Eucharistic Minister: Ginger Paul
 Acolyte: Steve Snodgrass
 Ushers: Laura Wilkerson, Mike Wilkerson
 Altar Guild: Becky Snodgrass



Service Music

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: September 19, The Feast of the Holy Cross With Thomas Hundemer, French horn, and Sally Horak, flute

Mass:	Mathias and Hurd
Psalm 98:	Plainsong/Tone VIII.2
Anthems:	Panis angelicus—C. Franck; When I survey the wondrous cross—C. Hart
Hymns:	680 St. Anne; 473 Crucifer; 413 Rendez à Dieu; 594 Cwm Rhondda
Flute/Horn/Organ:	Pastorale—Ewazen
Flute:	Fantasia—Telemann
Horn/Organ:	Rondo (Concerto E flat, K. 495)—Mozart
Organ:	Tu es Petra—Mulet



Thomas Hundemer



Sally Horak

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: September 26

Mass:	Hymn 421, Proulx and Hurd
Psalm 124:	Plainsong; adapt. B. Power
Anthem:	All praise to God—Vulpius; arr. Lenel
Hymns:	8 Bunessan; 565 Monk's Gate; 692 The Third Tune; 544 Duke Street
Organ:	Prelude and Fugue in Am, BWV 543—J. S. Bach; Communion—Rabey; Aria—C. van Hulse

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/holycrossdowntown

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 **pods**, disposable razors, and personal-size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.) Please take your donations to 762 Austen Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

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

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ph.D., D. D.
The Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby, Ph.D., D. D.
The Rev. J. Garrett Boyte, M.Div.
The Rev. Mary Richard
The Rev. Kenneth W. Paul
The Rev. Donald D. Heacock
Mr. Bruce Power
Mrs. Laurie Connell
Mr. Charles Alford
Mr. Brian Jackson

XXVII Presiding Bishop
IV Bishop of Western Louisiana
Rector
Rector Emerita
Rector Emeritus
Director, Holy Cross Child Placement Agency
Organist-Choirmaster
Office Administrator
Sexton
Assistant Sexton