



Crossings

Church of the Holy Cross ☩ Episcopal
875 Cotton Street, Shreveport, Louisiana
April 24, 2026

Services

Holy Eucharist

Sunday 9 a.m. (Chapel)
Sunday 11 a.m. (Church)
Wednesday Noon (Quire)

Daily Office

Tuesday 10 a.m. (Chapel)
Thursday
9 a.m. (Hope House)
Monday-Saturday
6 p.m. (Online)

The Vestry

Fr. Garrett Boyte, Rector
Lucie Thornton, Senior Warden
Darrel Colson, Junior Warden
Holly McIntyre, Secretary
Reid Raymond, Treasurer
Rick Hadwin
John Hughes
Carlos McDaniel
Pembroke Roeder
Steve Snodgrass

Contact Information

Telephone: (318) 222-3325
Rector's email:
rector@churchholycross.org
Office email:
church@churchholycross.org

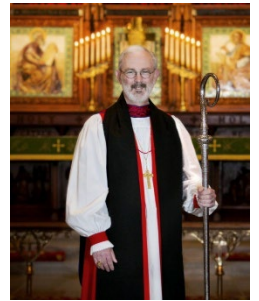
Please visit our website

<https://churchholycross.org>

Please follow us on Facebook
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Pastoral Letter from Bishop Jake

[Sunday] greeted us with the news that a man had shot and killed eight children and wounded two women in Shreveport. Seven of those children were his own. No words can adequately express our horror and heartache.



The consolations of our faith do not erase or compensate for our grief. Jesus himself wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus. And yet our faith does provide solace and hope.

Our solace comes from the Spirit's abiding presence both in our hearts and in our loving communities. We can feel God's love within our own souls and also in the hugs, the hymns, and the casseroles of those who grieve along with us.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the source of our hope. In him we have the promise of everlasting life. A life beyond tears and pain and regret. But our hope is more than heavenly expectation. It is also the power of love animating our lives each and every day. A love that moves us to shape a better world for all of God's beloved children.

Today, and in the days ahead, we will grieve Jayla Elkins (3), Shayla Elkins (5), Kayla Pugh (6), Layla Pugh (7), Markaydon Pugh (10), Sariah Snow (11), Khedarrion Snow (6), and Braylon Snow (5).

We pray that our loving God receives them into the arms of his mercy and into the joy of his eternal light. We pray for those who mourn; for those who fear for their children; for families enduring violence and abuse; for those weighed down by despair. And we pray for the wisdom and the strength and the courage to work with God's grace to heal this shattered, aching world. To be instruments of peace and justice and love.

May God bless you and keep you and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Peace in the risen Christ,

+Jake

God Is Not Santa Claus

When I was 7 years old, I had one thing on my Christmas list and one thing only. I wanted a video game for my PlayStation: *Toy Story 2: Buzz Lightyear to the Rescue*. At that point in my life, I don't think I had ever wanted anything as much as I wanted that video game.

So Christmas morning comes, and I open the presents. Socks. Underwear. Candy. A couple of toys. But no *Buzz Lightyear to the Rescue*. Each successive gift reduced the number waiting to be unwrapped and increased the speed with which I flung the wrapping paper. Surely it's here. It's the only thing I asked for. I opened the last present. It was not there. How could Santa not give me the one thing I had asked for. All of the other presents had my parents' names on them as the givers, and I very politely thanked them.



But since Santa was the culprit responsible for not giving me the game I'd asked for, I expressed my disappointment and incredulity. Does that guy even read his mail? I asked for one lousy thing and he couldn't be bothered. Then my parents pointed out that there was something in the tree, tucked away and hidden. It was the right size and weight. I'd never opened a gift so fast. And there it was in all its glory: *Buzz Lightyear to the Rescue*! It had been there the whole time, waiting for me to find it. Waiting for me to take the time to find it.

Before I'd discovered the gift, I was disappointed, angry even, that the thing I'd asked for, expected, had not been given. And in my anger, I couldn't see that it in fact had been given. How often in our lives do we expect something and when it doesn't happen or isn't received, we respond with anger or frustration? That's the danger of expectation. It can create the delusion that we are somehow owed that which we desire.

Oh I had been a good boy that year, *probably*. And that's how it's supposed to work right? I'm good, and Santa rewards me with the gift I request. And that's fine for a child to think that way about Santa Claus. The problem is when adults think that way about God.

It can be very dangerous indeed to believe that God somehow owes us something. This way of thinking turns God's gifts into God's obligations. And it turns unanswered prayers or prayers with an answer of "no" into slights, dereliction, abandonment. But God is not Santa Claus. God owes us nothing. And yet, he gives to us every good thing we possess, material or immaterial, from the abundance of his goodness.

But the gifts we have been given by him are not simply for our enjoyment. God has not given you wealth that you may hoard it. God has not given you family that you may own them. God has not given you anything for yourself or because of anything you've done. You're not rich because you're a good person. You're not poor because you're a bad person. You have the things you do so that you can share what you've been given. If you have intelligence, it's so you can share it. If you have money, it's so you can share it. If you have faith, it's so you can share it. If you have a sense of justice, it's so you can share it. If you have time, it's so you can share it. If you have a talent or skill, it's so you can share it.

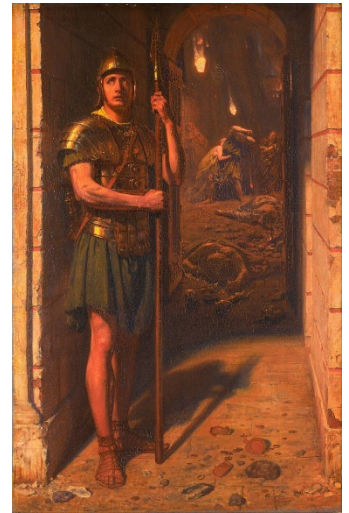
As St. Chrysostom said, "The rich are given for the sake of the poor, and the poor are given for the salvation of the rich." Most of us, I think, would really like to be in the rich category, and we might receive other gifts and greet them with genuine or ingenuine gratitude. But the gifts we are all given so we can share them in the community so that each member contributes something.

I spend a lot of time in the church. It's beautiful. It's wonderful. It exists because of generous donors. But when it's empty and silent, it's lacking. We, as a community, need the choir to share their voices, the musicians to share their

skills, the altar guild to share their time, the ushers to share their smiles, the faithful to share their faith, and each and every person here to share their gifts as we all work together to offer to God our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

We each contribute to the community's life and faith by sharing with each other the good gifts we have received. And we do all of this in response to the gifts God has given us. We have what we have, as little or as much as it might be, so that through our sharing of God's gifts, God might be glorified.

It's not enough to simply *say* thanks. We must *give* thanks. As Jesus derides his opponents, "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me..." If we give lip service to God, but neglect to actually use the gifts he's given us, we have failed. And we might fool others, or even ourselves, but we will not fool God. As the collect for purity reminds us each Sunday, "To whom all hearts are opened, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid."



We have been invited to live in the abundance of God's life. We have been adopted into the family of God. *We* can call Christ our brother, God our Father. What are we that God should love us in this way? And yet he does. Surely every measure of gratitude will fall short of his first gift. But when we give with a joyful heart, in earnest, in sincerity, the gift he honors and the intention he commends.

We can never repay God nor does he desire that we should. But he does desire that we live in the fullness of the life that he has given us. And he's made that fullness dependent upon our working together in his name. And so we, as God's people here on earth, must do what we can to live according to his word, on earth as it is in heaven.

-Fr. Garrett

Diocese to Host Discernment Retreat

Have you been discerning a call to serve God and the Church in a new way? Do you have questions about your faith and ministry that you would like to explore? Please consider joining the members of the Commission on Ministry and Bishop Owensby to explore both lay and ordained paths of living into your Baptismal Covenant. The retreat will be held at Wesley Retreat Center located in Woodworth, LA.

Each participant will stay in a private room with a bath in an on-site lodge. Registration begins at 4:00pm on Friday, June 26, 2026 and the retreat will end at 3:00pm on Saturday, June 27. There will be no cost for your room and board. Your response is required by May 26, 2026. Questions? Contact Canon Suzanne Wolfenbarger at canonsuzanne@epiwl.org



Community Assistance Grant Applications Open

Through the ongoing generosity of Margaret Bolinger and other benefactors, Holy Cross has funds available to support community assistance, such as social services to the community and cultural activities that can lift the spirit of the Shreveport community. In both categories, preference will be given to efforts that demonstrate careful management of resources, are inclusive of underserved populations, and embody the spirit of selfless community service.

Grant applications are open through **May 1** of this year. The form may be found by clicking the "Grants" tab on Holy Cross's website, or at the following link: <https://churchholycross.org/community-assistance-committee/>.

'Becoming Episcopalian,' Explores Faith, Belonging through a Personal Lens

A new Substack publication, [Becoming Episcopalian](#), is offering readers a thoughtful, personal, and often gently humorous look at life in the Episcopal Church through the eyes of a newer Episcopalian. Written by Megan Costilow, [Becoming Episcopalian](#) reflects on worship, confirmation, parish life, tradition, doubt, beauty, and the small moments that shape a spiritual journey. The publication speaks both to lifelong Episcopalians and to those who are simply curious about the church, liturgy, and what it means to find a place of belonging in a faith community.

Through essays grounded in lived experience, [Becoming Episcopalian](#) explores topics such as walking into an Episcopal church for the first time, learning the rhythms of the liturgy, meeting people who quietly embody the church's welcome, and wrestling honestly with belief, mystery, and spiritual growth. The writing aims to be accessible to readers inside and outside the Episcopal tradition.

Archbishop of Canterbury Joins Pope in Calling for Peace



“I stand with my brother in Christ, His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, in his courageous call for a kingdom of peace. As innocent people are killed and displaced, families torn apart, and futures destroyed, the human cost of war is incalculable. It is the calling of every Christian – and of all people of faith and goodwill – to work and pray for peace. We must also urge all those entrusted with political authority to pursue every possible peaceful and just means of resolving conflict.

As I prepare to visit Rome later this month to meet and pray with Pope Leo, I am mindful of his call to keep our eyes open to the suffering of the world, and our gaze fixed on our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ – the image of the invisible God, in whose image and likeness every human being is made. In him, we recognise that we are children of the one Father and members of a single human family. Prayer is not an escape from the world, nor a turning away from injustice; rather, it is a turning towards God in the midst of it, confronting evil, seeking God's will, and becoming instruments of transformation and peace.

As Christians, we are called to stand in solidarity with all who suffer, and to respond with compassion and love. Christ's self-giving life, lived for the sake of others, reminds us that the command to love God with all our heart is inseparable from the call to love our neighbour as ourselves, especially the neighbour who suffers, who is displaced, who lives in fear, and who longs for peace. Time spent with Anglican Primates from across the Communion at my installation in Canterbury was a reminder of how many conflicts continue beyond the front pages of our news, yet demand no less our concern and prayer.

Our shared humanity has long inspired peacemakers across generations, whether Christian or not. That vision gave rise to the United Nations, founded amidst the ashes of the Second World War. Many decades on, our generation must recommit itself to its Charter, upholding human rights, international law, and the dignity and worth of every human life. As the Pope has recalled, we echo the words of Pope Paul VI on his first visit to the United Nations: ‘No more war.’

I therefore urge Anglicans across the Church of England and the Anglican Communion to join with His Holiness in raising our voices for peace and justice throughout the world. Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, blesses the peacemakers and calls them children of God. In a time marked by hatred, division, and violence, may we be steadfast in that calling – witnesses to hope, agents of reconciliation, and bearers of God's peace in a wounded world.”

+Sarah Cantuar

Organ Recital and Summer Music Festival in June

As the program year winds down, we will begin the summer with two consecutive music events! Our final organ recital of this year's series will be on Sunday June 7, after Continuing Feast. The half-hour program at 1:30 p.m. consists of works for Eastertide, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday by women composers, some of whom are still active.

On the following Sunday, June 14, the Shreveport Summer Music Festival will hold its opening concert at the church at 3:00 p.m. This is the 50th anniversary of the Summer Music Festival, and the program will include works by American composers in celebration of the nation's semi-quincentennial.



SUMMER
20
26

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

*Grades based on the 2026-2027 school year

SESSION	GRADES*	DATES
First Camp	2, 3, & 4 with parent/guardian	May 29 - 31
Sr. High Camp	11, 12, & 2026 Grads	June 2 - 9
Primary Camp 1	4, 5, & 6	June 12 - 17
Jr. High Camp 1	6, 7, & 8	June 20 - 26
Mid. High Camp	9, 10, & 11	June 28 - July 4
Primary Camp 2	4, 5, & 6	July 7 - 12
Jr. High Camp 2	6, 7, & 8	July 15 - 21
Able Camp	Adults 18+ with Special Needs	July 24 - 28

LEARN MORE!
www.camphardtner.org

Calendar of Events

Sundays	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	9:00 a.m.	Chapel
	Rector's Forum	9:45 a.m.	Undercroft
	Parish Choir rehearsal	9:45 a.m.	Nave
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	11:00 a.m.	Nave
Tuesdays	Morning Prayer, Rite II	10:00 a.m.	Chapel
Mondays, Tuesdays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 p.m.	Online
Wednesdays	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	12:00 p.m.	Quire
Thursdays	Morning Prayer, Rite II	9:00 a.m.	Hope House
Thursdays, Fridays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 p.m.	Online
Saturdays	Compline	6:00 p.m.	Online
Sunday, May 3	Continuing Feast	12:00 p.m.	Undercroft
Wednesday, May 20	Vestry Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Library

Prayer List

Alex and Betty
 Suzanne Barber
 Gerald Bates
 Ellen Dunlop Belote
 Burton Bible
 Rhonda Blount
 Margaret Boudreaux
 Gerry and Tommie Sue Brooks
 Martha Brotherton
 Tommy and Thena Carville
 Jack Carlisle
 Mike-y Carlisle
 Pia Conte
 Frank Dodson
 Jean Dooley
 Aaron Elliott
 Anne Fellers
 Julie Folse
 Patricia Forrest
 Deb Garre
 Wes Gearhart
 John August Gianforte
 John Joseph Gianforte
 Albert Gladney

Georgie Gleason
 Austin Gleason
 Betty Gunter
 Richard and Sandra Hadwin
 Kaylee Hampton
 Connie Harmon
 Zoe, Ryan, Jackie, Gus, and
 Charlie Hathaway
 Dick Hatch
 Bill Henley
 Andrew Hoover
 Bob Jacob
 Fred Jenks
 Peggy Maddox
 Terry Mahlen
 Carolyn Mahlen
 Robert Matthews
 Suzanne Mazdra
 Bill and Cheryl McBride
 Della McCranie
 Katie McCranie
 Catherine McDamiel
 Barbara Middleton
 Reece D. Middleton

Lindsey Middleton
 Susan Mileff
 Frances Penton
 Scott Porter
 Josie Rogers
 Denise Rhodes
 Sierra Ryan
 Steve Sasser
 Mr. Stoma
 James Susla
 Robert Todd
 Sara Townsend
 Will Vance
 Louis Wallace
 Robert Willis
 Mary Wright
 Sheryl Wright
 Bill Wright
 Victims of War
 Survivors of Gun Violence

Service Music and Hymns



The Fourth Sunday of Easter: April 26, 2026

Mass: Mathias, Phillips *Festival Eucharist*, and James

Psalm 23: Response: CRIMOND; verses: Plainsong, tone VI(a)

Anthem: The Lord is my shepherd – H. Goodall

Hymns: 492, 343, 208, 708 (BRADBURY), 645

Organ: My shepherd will supply my need – L.L. White; Fanfare – W. Mathias

The Fifth Sunday of Easter: May 3, 2026

Mass: Mathias, Phillips *Festival Eucharist*, and James

Psalm 31: Response: CHRISTE SANCTORUM; verses: Plainsong, tone V.iii

Anthem: This joyful Eastertide – Dutch carol, arr. Hoyle

Hymns: 182, WLP753 (BEACH SPRING), 518, 484, 525

Organ: The Call – M. Burkhardt; *Grand choeur* in G – T. Salomé

The Sixth Sunday of Easter: May 10, 2026

Mass: Mathias, Phillips *Festival Eucharist*, and James

Psalm 66: Response: MOSCOW; verses: Plainsong, tone I.ii

Hymns: 204, 456, 405, 512, VF107, 292, 412

Organ: Impressions on KINGSFOLD – R. Laurin

The Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day – May 17, 2026

Mass: Mathias, Phillips *Festival Eucharist*, and James

Psalm 68: Anglican chant – D. Hurd

Anthem: King of glory, King of peace – R. Martin

Hymns: 214, 218 (LASST UNS ERFREUEN), 481 (DARWALL'S 148TH), 617, 460

Organ: *Allein Gott* – J. Pachelbel; Postlude on MILES LANE – P.L. Wright

The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday – May 24, 2026

Mass: Mathias, Phillips *Festival Eucharist*, and James

Psalm 104: Response: VENI SANCTE SPIRITUS; verses: Plainsong, Tonus peregrinus

Anthem: Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost – M. Archer

Hymns: 516, 511, 507, LEVAS119, 521

Organ: *Consolateur*, Op. 6, No. 5 – J. Demessieux; *Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist*, BuxWV 208-209 – D. Buxtehude; Toccata on *Veni Creator Spiritus* – J. Demessieux

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

Non-Profit Organization

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Website: <https://churchholycross.org>
Email: rector@churchholycross.org
church@churchholycross.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/holycrossdowntown

Mission Statement: *To restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. -Catechism BCP, 855*



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 in both standard and large-print editions, is available in the Narthex and the Undercroft.

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, Ph.D., D. D.
The Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby, Ph.D., D. D.
The Rev. Garrett Boyte, M.Div.
The Rev. Mary Richard
The Rev. Donald Heacock
The Rev. Lois Maberry, M.A.
Mr. Ben Gessner, M.M.
Mr. Jake D. Donaldson, MBA
Ms. Marie Boudreaux
Mr. Brian Jackson
Ms. Donna Earnest
Ms. Joy Porter
Mr. Larry Murff
Mr. Jason Goetz

XXVIII Presiding Bishop
IV Bishop of Western Louisiana
Rector
Rector Emerita
Priest Associate
Deacon
Organist/Choirmaster
Parish Administrator
Videography
Sexton
Hope House
Hope House
Hope House
Hope House