

APRIL 2019



St. Cross  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Crossroads

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



3

EASTER BRUNCH



5

EASTER EGG HUNT 4/13



6

NEWCOMERS' CAFÉ

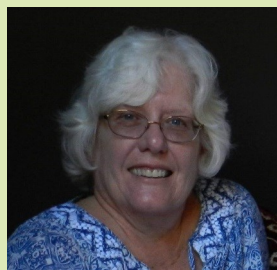
## Invigorating and Intimidating KATHY SHINKLE

Traditionally, the St. Cross Vestry begins its year with a weekend retreat to discuss what is happening at St. Cross and what the focus of the year should be. This year we met the weekend of February 23-25 at Mt. Calvary Retreat House in Santa Barbara. The staff joined us for the first half of the retreat.

The Rev. David Erickson, rector of St. Mary the Virgin, San Francisco and a former associate at St. Cross, was the retreat leader. His goal: To challenge the Vestry to dream BIG about the future of St. Cross, not just for the next year but for the coming decades.

Coming off the successful capital campaign and all the current property renovations,

it seemed an appropriate challenge. St. Cross has a history of dreaming, and realizing, big things. The building the church campus and purchasing the rental properties in the '50s, starting 1736 House in the '70s and building up community in Belize in the '00s are examples of how this parish has accomplished really big dreams.



The challenge, according to Rev. David, is to discern what the Holy Spirit is calling St. Cross to dream, to do and to be at this time. This dream is not Rev. Rachel's dream. Nor is it the Vestry's dream. No, it is to be a dream of St. Cross—something that inspires all of us to work together to accomplish.

Rev. David led the Vestry through a series of games and exercises:

- To recognize the difference between a BIG dream (often a leap into the unknown) and a big idea (something that can be accomplished in as little as a few months with work and funds)
- To move from worry and cynicism to wonder (God's got it!).
- To think big.
- To discern the presence of the Holy Spirit (why we

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### SUNDAY

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
10:00 AM Choral Eucharist

### WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM Centering Prayer  
7:00 PM Holy Eucharist

## CLERGY

### RECTOR

The Rev. Dr. Rachel A. Nyback

### ASSOCIATES

The Rev. Robin Denney  
Christian Formation

The Rev. Nathan Biornstad  
Pastoral Care

### PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

The Rev. Cn. Robert Cornner

### DEACON

The Rev. Patti Angelo

### RECTOR EMERITUS

The Rev. Cn. Dr. Paul D. Lawson

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MORE ON PAGE 3

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### MONDAY

10 AM: Listening Hearts  
1 PM: Staff Meeting  
1 PM: History Committee \*  
4 PM: Temple Shalom  
7 PM: Tai Chi  
7 PM: EfM

### TUESDAY

9:53 AM: Sewing Group

### WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM: Centering Prayer  
9 AM: Women's Bible Study  
5:45 PM: Men's Bible Study  
7 PM: Holy Eucharist

### THURSDAY

6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal

### FRIDAY - Office Closed

\* 2nd and 4th Monday

### WEEKLY 12-STEP MEETINGS

**Sun:** AA 7:30 PM  
**Mon:** Al-Anon 7 AM  
CODA 7:30 PM  
**Tue:** Serenity 7 PM  
**Wed:** Al-Anon 7 AM  
OCA 5:30 PM  
CEA-HOW 7:30 PM  
**Thu:** Al-Anon 12 Noon  
OA 6 PM  
**Fri:** AA 8 PM  
**Sat:** Al-Anon 10 AM  
  
**More info:** (310) 376-8989 or  
info@stcross.org


# April 2019 Calendar

4/04: Neighbor to Neighbor  
4/06: Human Migration - pg. 4  
4/07: Newcomers' Café - pg. 6  
4/11: Sociable Seniors  
4/13: Called to the Wall - pg. 4  
4/13: Easter Egg Hunt - pg. 5  
4/14: Palm Sunday  
4/18: Maundy Thursday, 7 PM  
4/18: Garden Vigil Begins 8 PM  
4/19: Good Friday, 12 Noon  
4/19: Labyrinth Walk, 1 PM  
4/20: Holy Saturday, 8 AM  
4/21: Easter Baptisms, 6:30 AM  
4/21: Easter Brunch, 8 AM-10AM  
4/21: Easter Service, 10 AM  
4/22: Office Closed  
4/23: Folding of *Crossroads*  
4/24: Prayer Shawl Guild  
4/24: Laundry Love  
4/25: Sociable Seniors  
4/28: Flowering of the Cross  
4/30: Vestry Meeting, 7 PM

## Easter Sunday Brunch, 4/21 at 8 AM

We celebrate with a feast of food and libation between the early and ten o'clock services on Easter Sunday! The feast begins at 8 AM for all attending both the 6:30 AM and 10 AM services.

Donations of your time, food items, and talents are appreciated. If you would like to help set up, clean up, or serve, please look for the sign-up boards in Parker Hall. In addition, needed donations will be listed on the board, too. Please sign and indicate what you are offering to prepare and donate to the table that feeds the 300+. For more information, please call Charlotte Lesser at (310) 372-3553 or Terry Eddy at (310) 545-9748.



*Holy Week and Easter  
Schedule on Page 3*

ST. CROSS

# History

Q.

*How/why is fire a part of the Easter liturgy?*

Coming to St. Cross for the 6:30am Easter service guarantees you a parking space and a place at the table for the Easter brunch, AND you will also partake in a ritual dating back to the 5th century.

*Answer on page 6*



# INVIGORATING

are now meditating).

The process was both invigorating and intimidating.

Now the Vestry and the clergy are developing plans and strategies to bring this same discernment process to the entire St. Cross community. The clergy have been laying the groundwork in their sermons these past weeks.

As the year progresses, you will have the opportunity to learn more about such concepts as discernment, to discuss the church and its community and, finally, to dream BIG. Throughout the process, there will be a combination of parish-wide and small group events.

The specific plans are still in their infancy but one thing each of us can do right now is to join the Vestry in its Lenten commitment to meditation: to sit quietly and simply listen.

**Kathy Shinkle, Senior Warden**

## Episco-speak: Tabernacle

**What is that small box where the priest puts away the unused bread and wine after the service called?** The priest stores the unused bread and wine in the tabernacle. After the bread and wine



have been blessed by the priest, the elements are placed inside. At St. Cross, the tabernacle is directly behind the altar, directly in front of the reredos below the feet of Jesus. The St. Cross tabernacle is wood with gold leaf.

**Bonus information:** the candle that hangs from the ceiling near the altar is called the tabernacle candle. Whenever this candle is lit, it signifies that inside the tabernacle is blessed bread and wine.



FROM PAGE 1

## Holy Week & Easter



**Palm Sunday, April 14**

Holy Eucharist: 8 & 10 AM

**Maundy Thursday, April 18**

Service: 7 PM

Garden Vigil Begins: 8 PM

**Good Friday, April 19**

Service: 12 Noon

Labyrinth Walk: 1-3 PM

**Holy Saturday, April 20**

Service: 8 AM

**Easter Sunday  
April 21**

Baptisms and Holy  
Eucharist: 6:30 AM

Easter Brunch: 8-10 AM

Easter Choral Holy  
Eucharist: 10 AM



*Awaiting Instruction at the Habitat Build Day in Culver City, March 23*

# Called to the Wall: Saturday, April 13

The annual Diocesan pilgrimage to the border wall with Mexico will take place on April 13, starting at 7am at the diocesan center. The pilgrimage will stop at places along the route to San Diego, each stop doing some of the stations of the cross. It will conclude at Friendship Park, on the border, where hopefully this year, we will be able to have eucharist or prayers on each side of the wall at the same time, with brothers and sisters from the church in Mexico gathering on the Tijuana side. Adults will be carpooling/convoying from the church parking lot at 6:15am, or meeting up with the procession along the way. Youth will be traveling together and departing from St. Cross at 6:45am. Contact Rev. Robin for more details at [rdenney@stcross.org](mailto:rdenney@stcross.org).



## Human Migration Event: April 6

**Saturday, April 6 in 45-minute segments starting at 1 PM in Parker Hall  
Presented by the St. Cross Peace and Justice Community**

You are a 29 year-old man and your home, along with your village, has just been destroyed in a bombing. Somehow, you and your family of 5 have survived, but there is no shelter, no food, no clean water anywhere. You need to leave. Carrying the few possessions you dug out of the rubble of your house, you and your small family begin walking. You begin to meet other survivors. You join them and a small line forms as you make your way to the coast. Once there, you look for a boat that will carry you away to a safer place. Finally, you and your family squeeze into a few inches on a heavily burdened boat. The groaning boat takes off. You pray desperately that it will not sink.

Here at St. Cross we are partnering with Doctors Without Borders to give you an experiential tour that we hope will give you some small idea of the journeys and impossible decisions these migrants must make. The experience perhaps will not only help you understand the difficulty but also feel the pain of such a journey.

The Human Migration event is modeled on an event called Forced from Home. Learn more about Forced from Home at [forcedfromhome.com](http://forcedfromhome.com).

On the same day of the event, you may view all or part of the highly acclaimed Ai Weiwei documentary, Human Flow, in Room 4. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Children sixth grade age or older are welcome.

Sign up to participate in this experience at [bit.ly/stcross-migration](https://bit.ly/stcross-migration) or contact Mervis Reissig at 310-944-0191.

## What Is a Deacon? - Part 2

REV. PATTI ANGELO

In the first segment of this piece, I described what a deacon in the Episcopal Church is, as well as some of the ways he or she serves. In this article, I will answer some of the questions that arise about the difference between the diaconate (Sacred Order of Deacons) and the presbyterate (Sacred Order of Priests) and how one becomes one or the other.

I have frequently been asked about the differences between a priest and a deacon. My first response is that they are distinctly different orders of ordained ministry in the church. Paths to becoming one over the other vary. This is where the process of discernment comes into play. When a person feels strongly called to ordained ministry, she presents herself to the rector of her parish to discuss that





## Easter Egg Hunt is April 13!

The annual Easter Egg Hunt and Family picnic is a week early this year: Saturday April 13th at Live Oak Park, Manhattan Beach. The Egg Hunt starts at 11 AM promptly, so come early to help hide eggs. Please bring 12 filled plastic eggs (per child) Eggs will be broken down ages 0-3 and 3 and up. Please mark your bag of eggs with the age group. Bring a picnic lunch for your family. After the egg hunt we all sit on the grass to have our picnic together. Questions? Contact Sarah O'Grady [ogradymama@gmail.com](mailto:ogradymama@gmail.com), or Michelle Weissenberg [smileymlw@yahoo.com](mailto:smileymlw@yahoo.com).

## Easter Baptisms: April 21, 6:30 AM

Baptism on Easter takes place at the 6:30am service, April 21. It is a tradition of the church going back to ancient times that people should be welcomed into the church and baptized early on Easter Morning. Baptism is for people of any age, who have never been baptized before (we accept as fully valid the baptisms of all Christian denominations). If you, your child, or someone you know is interested in baptism, contact the office.

## Register Today for Vacation Bible School!

Registration for St. Cross' Vacation Bible School "To Mars and Beyond!" is now open at [www.stcross.org/vbs](http://www.stcross.org/vbs) — **VBS takes place from July 15-19.**

This year we will be closing registration on June 9 to give us time to order supplies, so be sure to register early to reserve a place! Participants and youth volunteers should both register.

Our verse for the week is, "Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine, by his power at work within us," Ephesians 3:20. Participants and volunteers will explore where God's power can take them with crafts, science projects, Bible stories, singing, and games, accompanied by our Robot-puppet host, "EP3-20"!

We will explore themes of Faith, Boldness, Kindness, Thankfulness, and Hope.

Sunday July 14, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM: Kick-Off event and Registration

July 15-19, 9 AM-Noon: Vacation Bible School

Sunday July 21, 10 AM: VBS Beach Mass, at 22nd and the Strand



# Pastoral Care Corner

Perhaps you noticed the signs at both entrances to the church sanctuary: “During Lent, we ask for your silence before the service.” Have you found the sanctuary quieter than normal?

Prolonged silence is almost a foreign experience in our culture. Wherever we go, there is almost always noise. Whether it is music playing in the background at the grocery store, the joyful noise from the children playing on the playground, or the noise of a car zooming by as we take our daily walk, sound is almost always with us.

This absence of noise, this silence can be unsettling. In Erling Kagge’s book *Silence in the Age of Noise*, he writes “Silence is fine to have on hand when you are feeling sad. Beyond that, it’s useless.”

Lent is often filled with silence. It’s not useless silence, but rather it is a deliberate silence that gives us an opportunity to collect our thoughts, to pray, and to remember the work that God is doing in our lives. As we move from Lent to Easter, let us remember that silence is a tool that God can use to help us refocus on what really matters in life – reconnecting with God.

If you would like to meet together, I would be delighted to take you out for coffee. Please contact me through the church office at 310.376.8989 or via email at [nbiornstad@stcross.org](mailto:nbiornstad@stcross.org).

-Rev. Nathan Biornstad



## Newcomers' Café April 7 - Be There!



**After church at 11:30 AM on 4/7**, let Cameron Johnson be your guide to St. Cross! She’s hosting anyone who is interested in getting to know more about St. Cross after church on Sunday the 7th. Meet staff, parishioners and other newcomers. Enjoy a snack and learn more about the opportunities, activities, groups and events that are perfect for individuals and families at St. Cross.

Send an email to Cameron ([cjohnson@stcross.org](mailto:cjohnson@stcross.org)) for more information and to let Cameron know you will be there!

## ST. CROSS *History*

*From page 2*



*On Maundy Thursday the altar (and church) is stripped of candles, kneelers, pulpit and lectern hangings, etc., and the eucharistic elements are removed from the tabernacle from behind the altar reminding us that Jesus will die and be buried. In the dark of Easter morning the new fire is kindled in the garth, the Paschal candle is lit, and then processed into the church. We celebrate Jesus’ resurrection as our individual candles are lit and the light of Christ shines in the world once again.*

***Come to the Easter 6:30am service and then be sure not to miss our fabulous Easter Brunch!***



# Deacon's Corner

FROM PAGE 4

possibility. Sometimes a person is approached by others who see in them a calling they don't necessarily see for themselves. Usually the rector and discernment committees look for the call from within that person, as well as validation of the call within the wider community of faith.

If the process goes forward, a Discernment Committee is formed. It is the responsibility of that committee and the applicant to prayerfully and deeply listen for the Spirit's guidance to discern which order of ministry may be opening up. All three orders (the laity, presbyterate or diaconate) should be considered for the applicant, not just that of ordained ministry. Sometimes the call is very clear for the person and the committee; sometimes it takes time to unfold; and occasionally it changes even after the committee and applicant have diligently explored and announced the result of their work together.

After discernment, seminary and ordination, the newly ordained participates in the liturgy according to his or her role. A key difference between priests and deacons evident in the worship setting is that a priest ordinarily presides over a worship service, and a priest always consecrates the bread and wine and offers a priestly blessing over the congregation. One of the vows a priest makes that is different from a deacon is to "endeavor to minister the Word of God and the sacraments of the New Covenant, that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received." (BCP 532). The deacon prepares the table (the altar) on behalf of the congregation and joins the priest at the table as an icon to all that together we are the body of Christ called to serve and share in the healing of the world. Additionally, the deacon proclaims the Gospel, the good news of God's love for all people, invites the congregation to self-examination and confession of shortcomings that keep us from the full expression of that love, and dismisses the people to take God's love and forgiveness back into the world, which is in line with the role of a deacon to bring the church to the world, and the world to the church.



## Parish Life

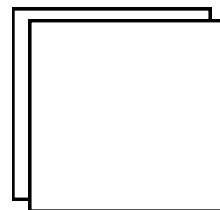
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First Class Mail



## Holy Week & Easter Day

### **April 14: Palm Sunday**

Services: 8 & 10 AM

### **April 18: Maundy Thursday**

Service: 7 PM | Vigil Begins: 8 PM

### **April 19: Good Friday**

Service: Noon | Labyrinth Walk: 1-3 PM

### **April 20: Holy Saturday**

Service: 8 AM

### **April 21: Easter Day**

Holy Eucharist & Baptisms: 6:30 AM

Brunch: 8-10 AM

Choral Holy Eucharist: 10 AM

*Special thanks to the volunteers  
whose generous gifts of time and talent make this  
newsletter possible.*

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