

MARCH 2018



St. Cross
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Crossroads

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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HOLY WEEK

4

CALLED TO THE WALL

5

EASTER EGG HUNT

So What Is Prayer, Anyway?

REV. WILL

Last month I preached a sermon about prayer (among a few other topics, as well!) In that sermon I observed that prayer is something we talk a good bit in our worlds of church and society, yet strangely we don't talk that much about what it actually is! And that puzzled me. I wondered--"is everyone just exceedingly clear about what prayer is, and I seemed to miss the memo?" Perhaps...but also, perhaps not. More than likely our lack of discussion about prayer might be akin to when we listen in on a story someone is telling and we nod and laugh at what we hope are the right times, for we're a bit

sheepish to ask "so...what exactly are we talking about?"

Prayer is a practice, and like any practice...it takes practice! We already have a number of opportunities to practice prayer here at St. Cross, including a group which practices centering prayer on Wednesday mornings at 8:30AM. The Order of St. Luke is an international organization which focuses on the healing dimensions of prayer and we at St. Cross have a chapter (along with St. George's in Hawthorne) of that group which meets monthly. We're continuing to look at ways in which prayer can become a more overt part of our common life outside of our Sunday mornings liturgies. In many ways, the work is about connecting and integrating the two: prayer and worship with all of the other things which go on in this place and in the holistic lives of those who come here.



So how does this sit with you? Questions? Comments? Would you be interested in joining with me in this discernment? I invite you to come and chat with me in person or by email (wstanley@stcross.org). Let's see what God might have in store for us!

Will+

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. William Stanley
Pastoral Care

The Rev. Robin Denney
Christian Formation

ASSISTING

The Rev. Cn. Robert Cornner

DEACON

The Rev. Patti Angelo

RECTOR EMERITUS

The Rev. Cn. Dr. Paul D. Lawson

St. Cross Episcopal Church

1818 Monterey Boulevard
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

310-376-8989

info@stcross.org

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

11 AM: Sociable Seniors **

* 2nd and 4th Monday

** 2nd and 4th Friday

WEEKLY 12-STEP MEETINGS

Sun: AA 7 PM

Mon: Al-Anon 7 AM
CODA 7:30 PM

Tue: Serenity 7 PM

Wed: Al-Anon 7 AM
CEA 7:30 PM

Thu: Al-Anon 12 Noon

Fri: AA 8 PM

Sat: Al-Anon 10 AM

More info: (310) 376-8989 or
info@stcross.org

March 2018 Calendar

Lenten Soup Suppers through Wed. 21st at 6 PM

Holy Week Begins Sunday, March 25

3/01: Neighbor to Neighbor, 4 PM

3/02-03: Vestry Retreat

3/03: Rite 13 Event through 2/04

3/09: Sociable Seniors, 11 AM

3/11: St. Clare's Parent Gathering, 9 AM

3/11: OSL Healing Service, 5 PM

3/13: St. Monica's Guild, 6 PM

3/18: Ireland Pilgrimage Meeting, 11:30 AM

3/20: Mira Costa Choir Cathedral Concert, 7 PM

3/23: Sociable Seniors, 11 AM

3/25: Palm Sunday Services, 8 and 10 AM

3/27: Vestry Meeting, 7 PM

3/28: Prayer Shawl Guild, 6 PM

3/28: Laundry Love, 7 PM, Clean Scene Laundry

3/29: Maundy Thursday Service, 7 PM

3/30: Good Friday Service, 12 Noon

3/31: Easter Egg Hunt (see page 5)

4/01: Easter Day (see page 3)

Daylight Savings Time

On Sunday, March 11 at 2 AM, wake up and set your clock back one hour! (Alternatively, you may wish to set the time on your clocks before you go to bed.) If you are a person who only uses your phone for time, this will happen automatically — just know the reason that it's brighter in the morning, etc., is because the time did, indeed, change.

Lenten Soup Suppers

The Lenten Soup Supper program continues through Wednesday, March 21. Join together for food, fellowship and a deepening exploration of the Christian faith.



Holy Week and Easter: March 25-April 1

ST. CROSS History

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What is the imposition of ashes all about and how long has the church been observing Ash Wednesday?

Answer on page 6

HOLY WEEK BEGINS MARCH 25



Palm Sunday, March 25, 8 and 10 AM

We bless palms and commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, then we read the passion story as we ready for Easter.

Maundy Thursday, March 29, 7 PM

Stripping of the altar and Holy Eucharist at 7 PM, and opportunities to sit for an hour as we move into Good Friday.

Good Friday, March 30, 12 Noon

Good Friday Service at Noon followed by opportunity to walk the labyrinth from 1-3 PM in the Parish Hall.

Easter Sunday, April 1, 6:30 AM and 10 AM

Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM, Easter Brunch at 8 AM and Easter Sunday Service at 10 AM. Join us in the great celebration!

Ministry Notes

Upper Room

The youth group for 6th-12th grade will be going to Mulligan's (Mini Golf, Laser tag, and Go-Karts), on March 4. Carpool meets at the church at 3pm, and returns by 7pm. Bring \$10 for dinner. RSVP to Rev. Robin, and direct any questions her way at rdenney@stcross.org.

Sociable Seniors

This active, dynamic group meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from mid-September through early June. Our group will be "on the go" over the next couple of months as we have a trip to NY Deli in Torrance on coming on April 13 as well as a tentative trip scheduled for late May out to the Nixon Library. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about Sociable Seniors, please contact Rev. Will (wstanley@stcross.org).

From St. Cross Mardi Gras Party, February 13



2018 Endowment Applications Due 3/12

Do you have a ministry at St. Cross or in the community which could use money?

The St. Cross Mission Endowment Fund may be able to help. The catch is that you must apply. Application forms are available in the church office and at this link: stcross.org/endowment.

Due date is Monday, March 12th. Please drop off at church office or email to sgauch@deloitte.com.

This year the Mission Endowment will distribute up to \$9,085. This money can be used to fund the following:

- Scholarships or camperships for parishioners
- Community outreach
- The work of the Episcopal Church in the diocese

Specific focus for grants has been on projects in which the requestors have active involvement in the investment of youth, community projects, projects to "St. Cross-sanctioned ministries," and to projects that enhance the St. Cross brand in our community.

Programs and applicants that have benefited from Mission Endowment grants over the past few years: Parish Nursing, Laundry Love, the Order of St. Luke, Family Promise, Trident Swim Foundation, Exceptional Kids Parent Teacher Organization, Camp Stevens attendees and Education for Ministry students.

Called to the Wall a Powerful Experience

A delegation of twenty members of St. Cross participated in the Diocesan "Called to the Wall" event on Saturday February 17. The event has taken place the last six years as a pilgrimage to the border wall with Mexico, and a joint Eucharist on both sides of the wall with a delegation from Mexico. It is meant to be an event of solidarity, highlighting our common humanity and the plight of immigrants.

This year however the Border Patrol imposed last minute restrictions which made the witness at the wall impossible, prohibiting political statements, large crosses, photography, or gathering more than ten people. Instead, a delegation of more than a hundred people participated in a stations of the cross service which began at the diocesan center, continued at a church in Anaheim, and finished at a church in San Diego, with a procession around the neighborhood, and a Eucharist and service of lament. The bishops of Los Angeles, as well as former Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori presided at the event. Taking a day to travel together, to pray, to lament, and to hope was a powerful experience for participants. Many participants came away with a sense of call and desire for deeper connection and further work in this movement of solidarity.



Photo courtesy Dan Wilson

Easter Egg Hunt and Family Picnic

Saturday, March 31st, 2018, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Live Oak Park in Manhattan Beach (North end)

All children and their families are welcome to the annual Easter Egg hunt and picnic, hosted by St. Clare's group (St. Cross parents), on the Saturday before Easter. The park is located at 1601 Valley Drive (the Wood Chip Park at the corner of 20th Place and Valley Drive) – Street parking is available on both sides of Valley Drive. Please bring: One dozen filled plastic eggs, per child, child's Easter basket, and Picnic lunch for your family. Arrive promptly at 11:00 am so we can help the Easter Bunny hide the eggs. Eggs can be filled with little toys, stickers, candy, etc. Please specify whether they are appropriate for ages 0-3, or 4+.



For more information, please contact Jenna McCue at jennakaymahmccue@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School: Save the Date

VBS Dates: July 16-20, 2018: Vacation Bible School at St. Cross is a wonderful experience for child participants, and youth and adult volunteers. Participants learn about the bible and grow their faith through song, fun activities, and crafts. Youth learn leadership skills, complete service hours, deepen their faith, and have fun

Participants: entering K to 5th grade

Youth volunteers: entering 6th-12th grade

Registration will be available online, beginning March 15 at stcross.org/vbs

This year's theme will be announced on March 15 as well!

Contact Rev. Robin with questions: rdenney@stcross.org



Blankets for the Homeless



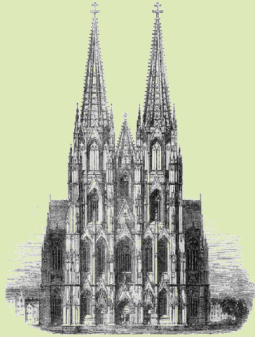
Bring Blankets First Sunday in March

The blanket drive is here! Our Rite 13 group is doing its annual service project, designed and run by the middle school youth. This year we are doing a blanket drive and guess what, you can help too!!! All you have to do is go to the table in Parker Hall with the sign that says "Blanket Drive" and drop off a clean blanket.

If you have none to give to us you can leave a donation in the donation jar (also on the table) and the money will go towards buying blankets. These blankets will be going to people who need them and can't afford them. Come by on Sundays through March 4.

Mira Costa Choir Concert 3/20 at 7 PM

Cathedral Concert



The Mira Costa Choirs present The Cathedral Concert, Tuesday, March 20th at 7 pm.

The concert will feature Mira Costa's Vocal Ensemble and Advanced Women's Chorale, as well as a performance by the Biola University Chamber Singers.

This is an annual fundraiser for Mira Costa Choirs. Admission \$25.

Tickets purchased online will be available at the will call table approximately 45 minutes prior to the concert.

This will be a wonderful evening of choral music. Please join us and help support the Mira Costa Choirs.



ST. CROSS *History* From page 2

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Ashes were used in the Old Testament to express grief or sorrow for sins and faults, pleading to God, before going into battle, etc. Christians have continued the practice of using ashes as an external sign of repentance since the third century. By the end of the 10th century, it was customary in Western Europe for the faithful to receive ashes on the first day of Lent. However, the practice was not consistent throughout the church or church history. For example, after the Protestant Reformation the practice fell out of practice in some places, but in the Anglican tradition its observance has never lapsed.

Journey to Adulthood Mini-Pilgrimage

Mini-Pilgrimage Took Place from Feb 2-4

Journey to Adulthood has four main goals: to celebrate the transition from youth to adulthood; to train young people in the skills of Christian adulthood; to explore the mystery of our faith heritage; and to establish experience in the strength of community and liturgy.

The 4 J2A students just completed a mini-pilgrimage under the tutelage of Anne and Brett Tittle, Rev Robin and Peter Coote.

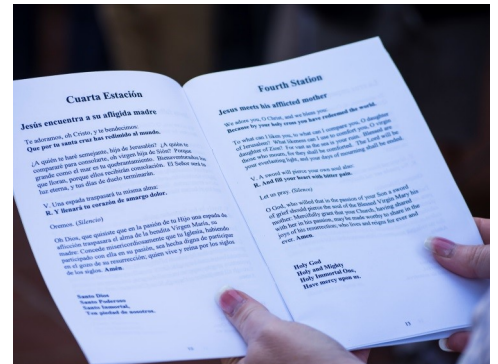
They stayed at the Lesser home during the mini-retreat and expressed their thanks at church on Sunday the 4th.

Pictured are the St. Cross Journey to Adulthood Pilgrims Cameron, Raquel, Ellie and Riley.



Parish Life

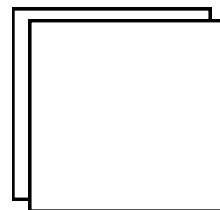
Mardi Gras, Called to the Wall
Follow at [instagram.com/stcrosshermosa](https://www.instagram.com/stcrosshermosa)





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First Class Mail



Holy Week and Easter

March 25—Palm Sunday

March 29—Maundy Thursday

March 30—Good Friday

March 31—Easter Egg Hunt

April 1—Easter Sunday

Details Inside!

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

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