

*“We adore You, O Christ, and we praise you, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.”*

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Website: [www.holycrosscc.net](http://www.holycrosscc.net)

**Fr. Roy J. Kalayil**, Pastor

**Dr. David Emrich**  
Religious Education Director  
Office & Facilities Coordinator

**Marsha Hardeman**  
Choir Director

**Mary Rangel**, Bookkeeper

# Holy Cross Church



**Weekly Masses:**  
Sunday: 6:30 am, 10:30 am  
Wed & Fri: 6:00 pm  
**Monthly:** First Thurs: 7:00 pm

**Office Hours:**  
Mon/Wed/Fri, 9 am - 12 noon

**Parish Office** (361) 888-4012  
**Emergency** (361) 230-9095

**Reconciliation :** By appointment  
**Baptism:** By appointment  
**Marriage:** Six months in advance

**6:30 AM SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS**

Dec 24 NO 6:30 AM Mass  
 (8:30 AM) Dec 25 †Guadalupe Keesee  
 Dec 31 †Santos Salinas  
 Jan 7 Henry Thiagaraj

**10:30 AM SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS**

Dec 24 †John A. Sheldon  
 (7:30 PM) Dec 24 Henry Thiagaraj  
 Dec 31 †Abraham Zamora  
 Jan 7 †Walter T. Shaw, †Milton F. Shaw

**WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS**

Dec 27 NO MASS AT HOLY CROSS  
 Dec 29 NO MASS AT HOLY CROSS  
 Jan 3 John Baptiste Watson  
 Jan 5 Betty Petru

**SANCTUARY LAMP**

Dec 17-23 Pat & Ruth Botello  
 Dec 24 - Jan 31 John A. Sheldon

**ALTAR MINISTRY**

Date	Lector	Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers
12/24 AM	Ray Ramos	Daniel Ortiz David Ortiz Michael Ortiz	Armando Ortiz Norma Ortiz
12/24 PM	Andrew Duarte	Juan Aranda Marylou Aranda Rayven Ramos	Ray Ramos Erika Ramos
12/25 (8:30 AM)	TBD	TBD	TBD
12/31	Ray Ramos	Allura Banda Elizaeo Banda Ray Banda, Jr.	Fern Carter Erika Ramos
1/7 /18	Armando Ortiz	Elijah Ramos Olivia Ramos Rayven Ramos	Erika Ramos Ray Ramos

**GREETERS & USHERS**

12/17 Korey Hardeman, Ann Woodson, Roland Woodson, Liz Gomez  
 12/24 AM Sylvia Davila, Margaret Jeter, Roland Woodson, Stephanie Woodson  
 12/24 PM Korey Hardeman, Elijah Ramos, Olivia Ramos, William Tilley  
 12/31 Elijah Ramos, Korey Hardeman, Cynthia Shaw, Stephanie Woodson



**News & Upcoming Events in our Parish & Diocese**

**CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, Dec. 24** (Christmas Eve)

7:00 PM Children's Christmas Pageant

**7:30 PM Vigil Mass** of Christmas

**Monday, Dec. 25** (Christmas Day)

**8:30 AM Christmas Day Mass**

**NOTE:** All Sundays and Christmas are holy days of obligation. The Christmas Eve Vigil Mass does not fulfill the Sunday obligation for the 4th week of Advent (Dec. 24 AM).

**NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

The parish office will be closed during Christmas week (Dec. 25-29). Starting January 2018, parish office hours will be Mon-Wed-Fri 6:30-8:30 PM.

**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING TRAINING**

There will be a *Couple to Couple League* NFP Teacher Training on January 12-15 at the *Pax Christi Retreat Center* for those interested in becoming certified NFP teachers.

**2018 TEXAS RALLY FOR LIFE**

Those interested in travelling to the 2018 *Texas Rally for Life* in Austin on Saturday, January 27, on one of the diocesan-sponsored buses can register at <https://diocesecc.org/texasrallyforlife>. The DCC cost is \$35 per person + \$7 for those who wish to purchase a t-shirt.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE**

The 2018 offering envelopes are now available to all parishioners who contribute to the parish utilizing an offering envelope. If you do not yet receive envelopes but would like to contribute, please contact the parish office.



**Birthdays for the week of Dec 24<sup>th</sup>**

Martha Moore December 24

Stephanie Woodson December 29

## The Mystery of the Incarnation

The infinite, all-powerful, immortal God became one of us! Jesus Christ both fully human without losing his divinity and fully divine without losing his humanity. What an amazing reality! Though the Incarnation is a mystery that we can't fully comprehend, it is of utmost importance to the Catholic faith.

In the early centuries of the Church there were numerous heresies (false teachings) regarding the nature of Christ. Perhaps the most prevalent was Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ and held him to be simply a great man. On the opposite end of the spectrum was Docetism, which denied Christ's humanity and claimed that his physical body and crucifixion were merely an illusion. Nestorianism separated the divine and human natures of Christ, refusing to recognize the Virgin Mary as "Mother of God" (sound familiar?!). Monophysitism denied that Jesus had a human nature at all.

The Church fought these heresies by proclaiming the truth, which was affirmed by the orthodox bishops, saints, and ecumenical Church councils. This solidified truth is clearly stated in the Catechism: The Incarnation "does not mean that Jesus Christ is part God and part man, nor does it imply that he is the result of a confused mixture of the divine and the human. He became truly man while remaining truly God. Jesus Christ is true God and true man" (CCC 464).

This correct understanding of the two natures of Christ is essential to the belief that our salvation comes from his Passion and Resurrection. If Christ were not fully human, he could not have offered his sacrifice on the Cross on behalf of humanity. If he were not fully divine, he has no power to save us.

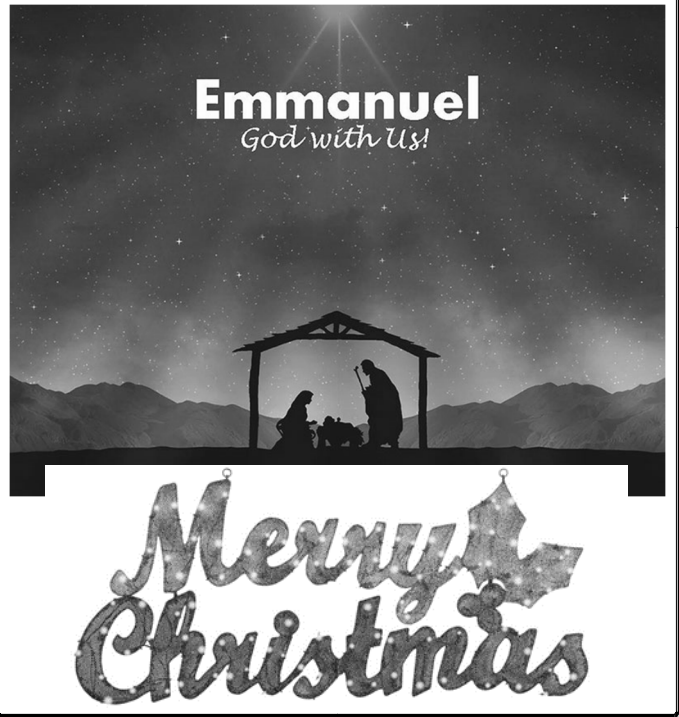
Not only did Christ show us the way to heaven, he IS the only way to the Father. He comes down to us in our weakened human state and divinizes us with his grace. What a truly amazing gift! This Christmas let us meditate on this unfathomable mystery and thank our heavenly Father for this greatest gift of love!

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Marylou Areola, Marchant Bradford, Tony Canales, Fern Carter, Paul Carter, Gail Dement, Ana Dudley, Louise Gazin, Doug Hopkins, Otis Jackson, Rodessa Jones, Darell Johnson, Charlester Lewis, Nathan Lopez, Fr. McGowan, Martha Moore, Billie & Hector Munguia, Emily Petru, Rosanne Ramirez, Phillis Ridgels, Donna Solis, Renalda Sharkey, Lamont Taylor, Carolyn Satterwhite, Eula Shaw, Les Spear, Dolores Vesely, Patricia Whitfield, Ann Woodson

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Monday:** The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
**Tuesday:** St. Stephen  
**Wednesday:** St. John the Beloved, Evangelist  
**Thursday:** The Holy Innocents



"Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."  
*-2 Corinthians 9:7*



### Weekly Contributions

(Sunday, December 17, 2017)

Adult Envelopes (26).....	\$ 1142.00
Children's Envelopes (2).....	\$2.00
Loose Currency.....	\$ 141.00
Retired Religious.....	\$ 20.00

**TOTAL \$ 1384.00**

*May God bless you for your generous support!*