

Holy Cross Catholic Church



*There are different ministries,
but the same Lord.
You then are the Body of Christ.
Everyone of you is a member of it.*
1 Corinthians 12:5 & 27

Second Sunday of Advent Dec 10, 2023

*Luke 3:4, 6
Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*



Father Pat Travers, Pastor

(907)349-8388 extension 5 | pjtravers@att.net

Father Dan Hebert, Parochial Vicar

(907)349-8388 extension 4 | livenowdan@gmail.com

Deacon Sandon & Sharlet Broek

(907)947-9168 | sandon@gengineersinc.com

Jerica Manaois, Faith Formation Director

(907)306-9363 (call/txt) | formation@holycrossalaska.net

Chelsea Higgins, Administrative Assistant

(907)349-8388 extension 2 | office@holycrossalaska.net

Karen Kontra, Faith Formation Associate

Adrian & Irma Guerrero, Maintenance

Ryan Meliton, Accompanist

Mass Times Mon-Fri 9am | Sat 5pm | Sun 8am & 11am | Reconciliation Sat 3-4pm or by appt

Office Hours Mon- Thu 9am-1pm | (907) 349-8388 | 2627 Lore Rd Anchorage, AK 99507 | holycrossalaska.net





AT 7:00 P.M. ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11
 & **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12**

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL PARISH MISSION

with Father Declan Gibson



**2901 E. Huffman Rd.
 Anchorage, AK 99516**

**Bring the family. Invite a
 friend. All are welcome!**

*Saint Therese's
 Camp*

*Annual Winter
 Retreat*

*Grades 6-8
 Dec. 28-30
 \$125*

**Glory
 Bound
 2023!**

*Grades 9-12
 Dec. 30-Jan. 1
 \$133*



*Fun!
 Faith!
 Friends!*



Scan QR code to register & for info!

Contact www.stcak.com
 or 907 232 2066 for more

It's that time of the year again when our local Catholic Daughters of the America's are offering (3) Camperships to St. Therese's Camp in Wasilla for the 2024 summer session; for students currently in 5th, 6th and 7th grade. A 250-300 word essay written or typed on "Who is your favorite Saint and why? What virtues did they possess that inspire you"? Applications and more information are available at your Parish or Catholic School office or can be emailed to you by contacting kewhitney14@gmail.com. You can also call Kerry at 907-230-4726. Application and essay must be entirely completed and postmarked no later than January 3, 2024 and sent to:

CDA Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 243953
Anchorage, Alaska 99524-3953
 or emailed directly to
[**kewhitney14@gmail.com**](mailto:kewhitney14@gmail.com)
Please encourage your youth to participate!



Retrouvaille

The Retrouvaille Marriage Program has seven post-weekend sessions to further develop the marriage building techniques you will learn on your initial weekend. During the Post Sessions, you will explore more areas of your marriage relationship and have opportunities to expand upon what you've learned about yourself and your spouse. The Post Sessions are a time for ongoing formation, fellowship, and fun as your marriage, the union of one man and one woman, continues to blossom with new possibilities. For confidential information or to register for the next Retrouvaille of Alaska program beginning with a weekend experience on Jan. 21, 2024 call 907-863-8000; email: anchorage@helpourmarriage.org; or visit the website www.HelpOurMarriage.org

SAVE THE DATE!

All women of the Archdiocese are invited to join the Ladies of St. Andrew Parish in Eagle River for our annual retreat on Saturday, January 13, 10am-1pm. Our presenter, Monica Anderson, will help us explore the Good Samaritan story from a different lens: How does our own vulnerability deepen our ability to be compassionate? Email standrewsladiesgroup@gmail.com for more information.

Holy Spirit Center

Friday
December
15, 2023



Seeking Vendors/Artists

6pm to 9pm

Merry Christmas
Holiday Arts and
Crafts Pop Up

10980 Hillside Drive Anchorage

907-744-7003



THE ARCHBISHOP
INVITES YOU
TO HIS

Advent/Christmas Receptions

December 6th
4:00-7:00 p.m.

Co-Cathedral of the Nativity
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
416 5th Street
Juneau, Alaska

December 12th
4:00-7:00 p.m.

Cathedral of Our Lady of
Guadalupe
3900 Wisconsin Street
Anchorage, Alaska

Please come to enjoy food and fellowship and spend some time with the Archbishop.

POLAR PLUNGE

Some Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau employees and parishioners will participate in the 2023 Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Alaska on Saturday, December 16th. The archdiocesan polar plunge team is still accepting donations and additional team members. Go to <https://give.classy.org/aoaj>



FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS
ALASKA



This Week at Holy Cross

Mon Dec 11

9am- Mass
1pm- Aspen Creek Service
6pm- Finance Meeting

Tue Dec 12

9am- Mass
7pm-OCIA

Wed Dec 13

9am- Mass

Thu Dec 14

9am- Mass

Fri Dec 15- Office Closed

9am- Mass
6pm- Socializing with the Saints

Sat Dec 16

10am- First Reconciliation
10:30am- Children's Christmas Choir rehearsal
1pm- Legion of Mary
3-4pm-Confession
5pm- Mass (Simbang Gabi)

Sun Dec 17

8am- Mass
9am- Faith Formation Christmas Party
11am- Mass (Rosary to follow)

Mass Readings for Next Sunday

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

I rejoice heartily in the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

(Isaiah 61:10b) My soul rejoices in my God.

Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There is one among you whom you do not recognize.

Mass Intentions

Call or email the office to schedule your Mass intentions.
Sun 8am Mass is offered for the People of the Parish
12/14- 9am: *Special Intentions Susan Church*

Vocations Cross

We are looking for more families to volunteer to pray with the vocations cross. Sign up outside the sanctuary.

Del Kolb will pray with the vocations cross this week.

Reflection

Mark's Gospel does not give us John's background, and neither does it tell us much about those affected by his ministry. It would be nice to know some individual stories, how the real people who made up his audience were changed by him. In ministry we very often don't get to know these stories. We are rarely thanked. We scatter seeds in hopes something will take root. This reminds us that, like John, we are not the primary workers here; God is. We clear ways and create conditions in which God can work, but God is the real agent and actor here.

Joyful Dreams Fulfilled

There wasn't a stairway on our deck when we moved into our home. This meant there was no way to get to our backyard without exiting through the front door and walking all the way around the property. Because it was nearly winter when we settled in the house—cold, and our backyard was nothing but weeds and tree stumps—there was really no reason to go down deck stairs even if we had them.

Still. We had dreams of a playset, of our girls spending joy-filled hours outside with friends, of lacrosse sticks and soccer balls. Deck stairs weren't a necessity. But they'd sure make it easier for the girls to get out back—and to come in when they inevitably became hungry, thirsty, or injured.

And so, even in those winter months when outdoor play was nothing more than a far-off dream, we set in motion our building plans—"waiting for and hastening" the fulfillment of our outdoor aspirations!

Not quite the same as anticipating the coming of Christ at Christmas. And yet today's readings are all about preparing the way, making a more expedient route between God and God's people. We fill in valleys, make straight paths, smooth out the rugged terrain. We don't want anything to deter our encounter with God.

Advent is a time of both "waiting for and hastening," even as God works in God's own time. It's up to us to take steps to remove any obstacles that stand between us and our embrace of God's love—even in the winter seasons of our souls.

In the early spring after moving into our home, completely serendipitous scheduling meant that the deck stairs were built not two weeks before a backyard playset. We had waited for and hastened that moment: and two joy-filled little girls were the result.

Eric Clayton

Eric Clayton is deputy director for communications at the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. He is the author of Cannonball Moments: Telling Your Story, Deepening Your Faith. Learn more at ericclaytonwrites.com.

On the Way Home from Mass...

"I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." What does your baptism have to do with your task of preparing the way of the Lord?



Ministry Schedule for next week (Dec 16/17)

Mass	Music	Sacristan	Servers	Readers	EM	Hospitality
Sat 5 pm	Ryan Meliton (walk-ins welcome)	Manaois Family Fleur Bases	Joseph Salao Jerica Manaois	Ray Meliton		Dizon Family
Sun 8 am	Ryan Meliton (walk-ins welcome)	John Hoppe Will Nabors	Joe and Rose Webb	Kristin Rehmann		Kentch Family
Sun 11 am	Sheila Soukup (walk-ins welcome)	Maureen Retzel	Kaosi Morah Rowdy Reynoso	Michelangelo Canale		Nunes Family

Advent/ Christmas Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent Mass Times

Sat 12/23 at 5pm & Sun 12/24 at 10am

Christmas Eve Mass Times

Sun 12/24 at 5pm and Midnight

Christmas Day Mass Times

Mon 12/25 at 8am and 11am



Pancake Breakfast

THIS SUN 12/10 following both Sun Masses! Say thanks to the Knights of Columbus!

Warmth for the Poor

Casen Kallman, who is preparing for Confirmation, is asking for donations of socks and gloves for the homeless. They will be distributed by Urban Hearts in their Christmas bags. A blue bin is in the Fellowship Hall for collection. Please bring them by December 10th. Thank you for your generosity.



Childrens Christmas Choir

Rehearsals are scheduled for 10:30am Sat mornings leading up to Christmas. If you have questions call Sheila Soukup at 250-6234.

Poinsettia Season!

This is your last weekend to get your poinsettia coupons from Bell's Nursery (\$10 each). See Marilyn in the Hall after Mass to get yours!



Parish Directory

If you would like to be in our parish directory please submit a picture with name/s by Sun Dec 10. Let us know any corrections or changes to our current directory. Thank you for your interest in getting to know our Holy Cross Community. Email the office with your photo and information!

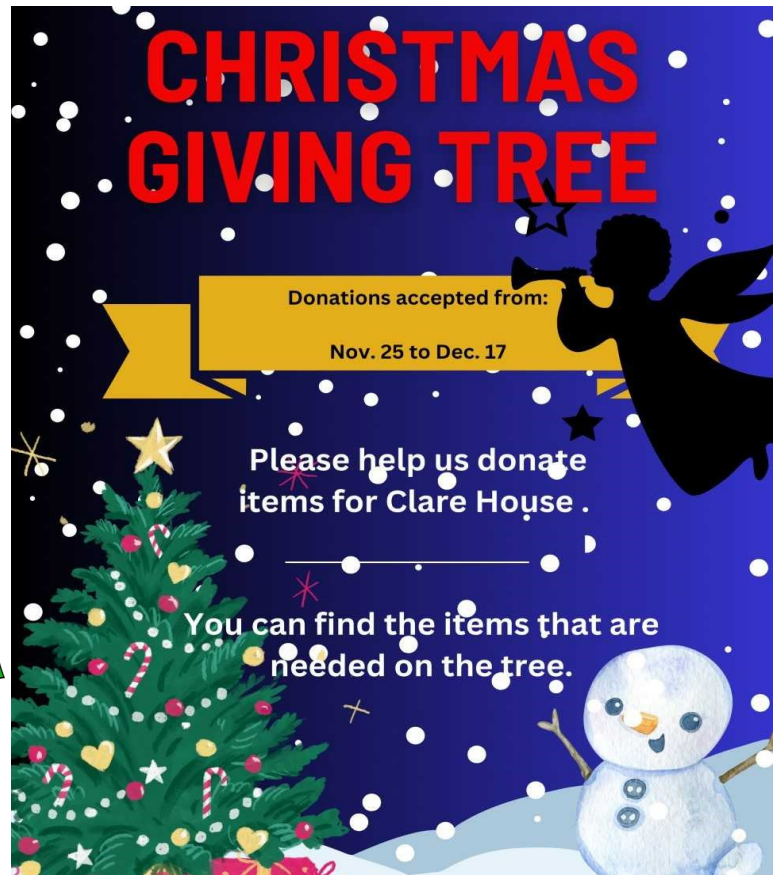
Smiling City

Brayden and Julius are partnering up to give people the opportunity for better oral health. Please bring toothpaste, toothbrush, floss, and/or mouthwash in the church to place them in the Christmas box located in the Fellowship Hall. Donations will be collected by December 18th.



SIMBANG GABI

Saturday, December 16th
at 5 pm in Tagalog
Followed by Potluck



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Donations accepted from:

Nov. 25 to Dec. 17

Please help us donate
items for Clare House .

You can find the items that are
needed on the tree.

Faith Formation Classes

December 17:

Everyone is in Family Session

Wear your pajamas & bring a dish!



Faith Formation runs from 9-10:45am.

Registration is on-going at: holycrossalaska.net/register

Interested in becoming Catholic? Learn more at an OCIA meeting happening on Tue evenings at 7pm.

Second Sunday of Advent

BE EAGER
TO BE FOUND
WITHOUT
SPOT
OR BLEMISH
before Him,
at PEACE.
2 Peter

Z	R	A	C	C	O	M	P	L	I	S	H	A	S
B	E	L	C	D	V	L	A	Q	H	A	Q	M	Y
L	M	J	S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	M	O	N
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GLAD
HEARTILY
LIBERTY
VINDICATION
BEDECKED
GENERATIONS
REMEMBERED
ACCOMPLISH
BLAMELESS
COMING
VOICE
CRYING
DESERT
STRAIGHT
AMONG

2023 "United in Mission" Annual Appeal Report

As of November 29, 2023

Diocesan Goal for Holy Cross	\$	39,478	
Parish (Rebate) Goal for Holy Cross *	\$	14,000	
Diocesan Goal + Parish Goal for Holy Cross	\$	53,478	
Total Pledged	\$	44,770	113.4% of Diocesan Goal 37.8% of Parish Goal
Number of Pledges	\$	101	
Total Pledged (Over/Under) Diocesan Goal	\$	5,292	
Total Pledged (Over/Under) Parish Goal	\$	(8,708)	
Total Pledged Paid	\$	41,055	
Total Pledged Unpaid	\$	3,715	
Total Rebate for Holy Cross **	\$	1,577	

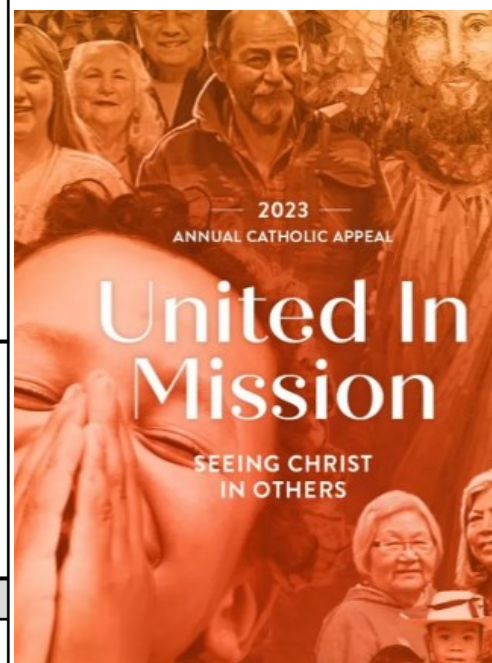
* The Parish Goal is the Rebate Goal, which the Finance Council set as \$14,000 in the FY24 Budget. This goal amount is added the Diocesan Goal. The Diocesan Goal needs to met first before Parish Goal starts.

** The rebate amount is the paid portion of the "Total Pledged Over Goal" amount. Since the rebate is not taxed by the Archdiocese, unlike income from weekly collections and online giving, the rebate is paid in full at 100% to Holy Cross. That is why It's Important to meet the \$14,000 goal. A 100% return!

HOW TO MAKE YOUR ANNUAL APPEAL DONATION

There are 2 ways to make a donation. 1) Go to Archdiocese website: www.aoaj.org/appeal to make a secured donation online or 2) Place your donation (check or cash) in an United in Mission envelope. These envelopes are available at Holy Cross in the pews and foyer. Please submit your envelope to Fr Pat or Fr Dan. If paying by check, please make the check payable to the Archdiocese of Anchorage/Juneau. Also, please indicate when making your donation online or by envelope that you are a parishioner from Holy Cross.

Thank you for donating and sharing your treasure to the 2023 United in Mission Annual Appeal.





**Please give generously to
the upcoming collection.**

Retirement Fund for Religious Special Collection

Next Weekend Dec 16 & 17!

Visit retiredreligious.org/2023photos to meet the religious pictured.

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PARISH MINISTRIES SERVICE TEAM

- Altar Servers- Jerica Manaos: 230-9418
- Art & Environment- Marilyn Kerr: 346-1624
- Baked Goods & Funerals- Looking for help!
- Blessed Sacrament Monastery- Sandon Broek: 947-9168
- Clare House- Leslie Holland: 337-278-7852
- Faith Formation- Jerica Manaos: 306-9363
- Church Maint. / Snow Removal- Mike Likar: 529-9015
- Eucharistic Ministers- John Hoppe: 350-7580
- Finance- Greg Magee: 575-3197
- Parish Nurse Program- Deb Seidl: 301-4180
- Hospitality- Joy Maglaqui: 360-5133
- Knights of Columbus- Pat Seidl: 242-1127
- Lawn & Garden- Julie Spralding: 636-399-0892
- Legion of Mary- Mercy Acheson: 223-4822
- Library- Maureen Retzel: 441-0460
- Liturgical Ministries Coordinator- Julie Thomas: 538-1109
- Livestream- John Roberts: 317-6808
- Music Ministry- Sheila Soukup: 250-6234
- Prayer Chain- Joan Gillis: 346-3147
- Readers- Jason Hlasny: 242-6655
- OCIA- Sandon Broek: 947-9168
- Sacristan- Matthew Williams: 632-4252
- Youth/Young Adult- Jerica Manaos: 306-9363

Thank you for supporting our advertisers!

Financial Corner

TITHING UPDATE			
<i>How did we do last week in meeting our weekly offertory goal?</i>			
Weekly Offertory Goal:	\$	7,894	
Weekly Tithing Period:		11/27-12/3/2023	
Income Sources			
Weekly Collections:	\$	6,379	
Holy Day/Holiday Collections:	\$	-	
Online Giving:	\$	3,107	
Total:	\$	9,486	
Over /(Under) Goal:	\$	1,592	
Actual vs. Goal (%):		120.2%	
Actual vs. Budget "Total Income" for FY24 Year-To-Date (YTD) Period			
FY24 YTD Period:		7/1/2023 to 10/31/2023	
FY24 YTD Complete (%):		33.3%	
Annual Budget Total Income FY 2024:	\$	443,400	
Actual Total Income for Period:	\$	138,181	
Budget Total Income for Period:	\$	147,800	
Over /(Under) Budget for Period:	\$	(9,619)	
Actual vs. Budget for Period (%):		93.5%	
Breakdown of Actual "Total Income" for FY24 YTD Period			
FY24 YTD Period:		7/1/2023 to 10/31/2023	
Weekly Collections (Basket/Mail):	\$	73,298	53.0%
Holy Day/Holiday Collections (Basket/Mail):	\$	652	0.5%
Online Giving:	\$	48,150	34.8%
2023 United in Mission Annual Appeal (Rebate Paid To Date):	\$	-	0.0%
Stole Fees:	\$	2,595	1.9%
In-Kind Donations:	\$	15,887	11.5%
Investment Income:	\$	(9,676)	-7.0%
Fee Income:	\$	4,317	3.1%
Other:	\$	2,958	2.1%
Total:	\$	138,181	100.0%
Actual vs. Budget "Total Expenses" for FY24 Year-To-Date (YTD) Period			
FY24 YTD Period:		7/1/2023 to 10/31/2023	
FY24 YTD Complete (%):		33.3%	
Annual Budget Total Expenses FY 2023:	\$	473,400	
Actual Total Expenses for Period:	\$	131,354	
Budget Total Expenses for Period:	\$	157,800	
Over /(Under) Budget for Period:	\$	(26,446)	
Actual vs. Budget for Period (%):		83.2%	
Actual "Total Net Income" for FY24 YTD Period			
FY24 YTD Period:		7/1/2023 to 10/31/2023	
Actual Total Income for Period:	\$	138,181	
Actual Total Expenses for Period:	\$	131,354	
Actual Total Net Income for Period:	\$	6,827	
Total Net Income "Over /(Under)" Total Expenses for Period (%):		5.2%	

ALERT! Holy Cross staff will not contact you requesting gift cards. Never purchase or send money/gift cards electronically.

Paul J. Nangle & Associates

Paul J. Nangle
Attorney
General Practice

(907) 274-8866 FAX: (907) 279-1794
PaulJ.Nangle@acsalaska.net
Kerry Building, 101 Christensen Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



Community
Pregnancy
Center

4231 Lake Otis Pkwy
Anchorage, AK 99508



Client Services
www.cpcanchorage.com
(907) 337-9292
info@cpcanchorage.com

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www.friendsofcpcanchorage.com
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development@cpcanchorage.com

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Buying, selling or renting a home can be a stressful and confusing. I can assist in this process by negotiating for you and organizing transaction while putting your needs first.
I also provide a Free Home Evaluation!



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907-301-9894
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DYNAMIC PROPERTIES

Sandra Nunes
REALTOR®, GRI, CRS

Hablo Español
(907) 242-0863
sandrannunes@ak.net

Rick Nunes
REALTOR®
(907) 227-6593
ricknunes@remax.net

3350 Midtown Place
Anchorage, AK 99503



Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



POLAR BEAR
Dental Care

Dr. Alison Walsh, DDS

polarbeardental.com

1301 Huffman Road, Suite 206 | Anchorage, AK 99515

907-677-2327 | info@polarbeardental.com



Randall Maes, AAMS®, CRPC®
Vice President - Senior Financial Consultant
Anchorage Branch
NMLS # 731003

Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.
Charles Schwab Bank*
1400 W Benson Blvd, Suite #180
Anchorage, AK 99503
Tel: +1 (907) 263-2376 Fax: +1 (907) 263-2323
randall.maes@schwab.com

schwab.com

*Separate but affiliated companies