

The Anglican Parish of Holy Cross

2828 - 19 St NW, Calgary, AB T2M 3V8 ~ Telephone: 403-289-8497
Email: office@holycrosscalgary.org Website: www.holycrosscalgary.org
www.facebook.com/holycrosscalgary www.twitter.com/holycrosschrch

Happenings around Holy Cross ~ December 2019 and January 2020

From the Rector's Desk: The Rev. Dr. Kyle Norman

If you have been to the mall recently, your ears may have picked up the cadences of Christmas carols playing in the background. Similarly, if you walk down the aisles of any Walmart, Canadian Tire, London Drugs, or Dollarama, then you will have seen the elaborate ornamentations of holiday cheer. Every year it seems that the world around us turns to the celebration of Christmas earlier and earlier. We celebrate the onset of November with Starbucks Christmas cups and the push to holiday shopping.

Have you ever wondered why the church refrains from celebrating Christmas until the actual day of the event? It is almost comical how out-of-step with the world we are when it comes to Christmas. After all, in the malls and on the radio we hear an ever-increasing run of Christmas songs, while we in the church refrain from them. We may sing Advent carols, sure, but the songs everyone loves – “Away in a Manger”, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, “Go Tell it on the Mountain” or “Silent Night” – these are curiously absent from our lips. Finally, Christmas morning comes. We open our lips and sing out the very carols we have been waiting to sing . . . only to find that the world around us has stopped!

If this seems strange to you, well... I agree. Nevertheless, despite the strangeness of it, there is an importance to our “out-of-stepness”. One of the things that has defined Christian worship for centuries, particularly in the life of our traditions, is the notion of Liturgical Time. We move through seasons in the Church, seasons that do not always coincide with what the world around us is celebrating. These seasons are important for they remind us that what is truly real in our lives.

The constant barrage of advertising and media messages attempts to tell us that celebration goes hand-in-hand with commercial enterprise. Thanksgiving, All Hollow's Eve, Christmas, Easter – all are about what you can purchase to mark the event. The bigger the centrepiece, the grander the front-yard display, the better the holiday. Thus, the endless turning of the seasons, according to the world, becomes centred on the circus of gratifying temporary desires. Furthermore, if we follow the worldly seasons, we are often too concerned with the perfect execution of our parties, or the preparations for what is coming next to truly sit within the season and observe it.

The church, however, runs by a different rhythm. We intentionally cultivate a sense of awkwardness in our liturgical calendar in order to remind us what is truly real. Our true home is the Kingdom of God. Our true self is crafted in the image of God and redeemed in Christ. We live our lives out-of-step with the world, so that we can rest in the good news of God in Christ.

Today, the mall is playing Christmas carols as a way to entice people into further shopping. This is the ultimate goal. That is not why we sing. That is not the message we bear. We sing our Christmas carols as a celebration of the glorious miracle of the Christ Child, and the very incarnation of the Lord in our lives. If we need to wait an extra month or two so that we can remind ourselves of this glorious truth and thus sing out this proclamation with fervour and gusto, so be it.

Office schedule: The office will be closed from December 24 to January 1, re-opening on January 2.

Please submit articles for the February newsletter by January 15.

Check out our website: www.holycrosscalgary.org. We are also on Facebook and Twitter.



Ronald McDonald House Charities
Alberta

Ronald McDonald House provides a home-away-from-home for hundreds of families travelling to Calgary for their child's medical treatment. They rely on donation of items from their Wish List to help to keep costs low. You can pick up a copy of the Wish List in the narthex and place donated items in the playpen. This

Mission Drive will last until the end of December. We continue to accept the donation of non-perishable items for the St. Edmund's food bank. The collection box is also in the narthex.

ACW: Christmas devotional and potluck dinner on Monday, December 2 at 5:30 PM. Turkey will be provided, so no meat dishes are required. The next regular meeting will be after the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, January 5. All ladies are welcome.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners will be on January 26, 2020. Ministry leaders are asked to provide a report to the church office or to Donna Uncles by January 6, 2020. Email your report to office@holycrosscalgary.org or to uncles@telusplanet.net. If you are unable to email your report, please leave it in the file folder on the wall next to the office.

Going to the hospital? Please identify your religion as Anglican as this places your name on the Anglican list at Spiritual Care Services. Please let the church office know if you are in hospital. If you do not inform the office or the clergy, we will not know that either you or your loved one is in the hospital.

9th Annual Holy Cross Cookie Challenge on Sunday, December 8

Cookie Champion? Bring four dozen small (bite size) cookies to the lower hall before the 10:00 AM service (no entry fee). The rules are simple: 1) The cookies must be home baked – not necessarily home made – so you can make them from scratch or get some help from Mr. Pillsbury. 2) The cookies must be cookies – so squares and no-bake treats are not eligible for prizes.

Cookie Connoisseur? Come to the lower hall after the 10:00 AM service, and pay \$5 to receive a voting chip, a glass of milk, a "guess the Rector's cookie" chit, and a plate to heap your cookies on. Taste every kind of cookie there is, and vote for your favourite.

Questions? Contact Alicia Norman at ak-norman@hotmail.com or call 403-474-6675. Prizes will be awarded on Sunday, December 15.



Curate's Corner: The Rev. Dr. Carmen Maier

Advent is about waiting. It is about waiting for the light of Christ to dawn afresh in a world darkened by sin and death. It is about waiting for the coming of our Saviour.

First, we wait for the Saviour to come into our present reality. The Lord in his Incarnation has demonstrated so completely that he is a God with us, "Immanuel." By his coming into creation as a human being, all of creation has been sanctified, therefore, we can experience God's grace through created things. Two of the chief ways that we receive such grace are through the blessed sacrament, and through the body of Christ, which is our brothers and sisters.

Second, we wait for the Saviour to come and deliver us in a more ultimate way. We pray and hope for God's kingdom to come on earth. We pray and hope for light, and justice, and peace, and righteousness to reign over all. We pray and hope because we know that Jesus is coming again, and the salvation promised to us will one day be perfectly complete.

Book Club: "Journey to the Well" by Diana Wallis Taylor

For the third month in a row, the book club members at the meeting were unanimous in our love of the book we read. On top of that, we also all loved the beautiful cover art of this book. As the title suggests, this is a story about the life of the Samaritan woman in John 4:4-26 who gives Jesus a drink from the well. Her story begins with a sad and historically accurate portrayal of the lives of girls and women in biblical times. We expressed how very happy we are that we live in more modern times, where we are not at the mercy of the men in our lives. The author also included other parables, such as healing the lame, the "good Samaritan" (Luke 10:25-27), and the 10 men cured of leprosy (Luke 17:11-19).

Diana Wallis Taylor was known more for her inspirational poetry (*Wings of the Wind*) and her song-writing ("*Glorious*", an Easter Cantata containing 13 songs written by the author). As it was, "*Journey to the Well*" was her first novel and 25 years in the making! Obviously a very well researched work! Since then she has written 13 more novels.

Book Club recommends this book to all interested, but suggests women might possibly enjoy it best and because of some of life's hard facts, we would advise older teens and up. Some of these author's novels are available at the

Advent and Christmas Service Schedule

December 1 at 7:00 PM: Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 8 at 10:00 AM: Christmas Cookie Challenge after the service

December 24 at 7:00 PM: Family Christmas Eve Service

December 24 at 11:00 PM: Quiet Christmas Communion

December 25 at 10:00 AM: Christmas Eucharist

December 29 at 10:00 AM: Christmas Lessons and Carols

December 31 at 4:00 PM: New Year's Eve Vigil



Christmas Floral Dedication: if you wish to have a poinsettia placed on the altar as your gift in remembrance of a loved one or in thanksgiving, please complete one of the forms on the table in the narthex. Return the form with payment of \$15 per poinsettia to the church office or place on the collection plate by December 15.

An Epiphany tradition in some European countries is to mark with chalk the following message above a home's front door: 20 † C † M † B † 20. The numbers correspond to the calendar year (e.g. 20 and 20, for the year 2020); the crosses stand for Christ; and the letters have a two-fold significance: C, M, and B are the initials for the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar), but they are also an abbreviation of the Latin blessing "Christus mansionem benedicat", which means, "May Christ bless this house".

Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21:28)

Lectio Divina: on Tuesday, December 12 and January 14 at 6:30 PM in the St. Michael room. Lectio Divina, i.e. divine reading, is a practice deeply rooted in Christian history. In Lectio Divina, we sit with a Biblical text for the purpose of discerning the voice of Jesus as He speaks into our lives. For more information, please speak to Rev. Kyle.

December 2019

December 2019							January 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 1 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist 7:00pm Advent Lessons & Carols	2 9:30am Morning Prayer 5:30pm ACW potluck dinner	3 9:30am Morning Prayer 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	4 9:30am Holy Eucharist	5 9:30am Morning Prayer 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA	6 9:30am Morning Prayer 5:00pm Scout dinner	7
8 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	9 9:30am Morning Prayer 7:00pm Book Club	10 9:30am Morning Prayer 6:30pm Lectio Divina 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	11 9:30am Holy Eucharist	12 9:30am Morning Prayer 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA	13 9:30am Morning Prayer	14
15 Newsletter deadline 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist 12:00pm Theology	16 9:30am Morning Prayer 10:00am PDWA 2:00pm H of Newport 6:30pm Craft & Stitch 6:30pm Craft & Stitch	17 9:30am Morning Prayer 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	18 9:30am Holy Eucharist	19 9:15am Statesman 9:30am Morning Prayer 10:00am Boardwalk 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA	20 9:30am Morning Prayer	21
22 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	23 9:30am Morning Prayer	24 7:00pm Holy Eucharist 7:30pm GTAA 11:00pm Holy Eucharist	25 10:00am Holy Eucharist	26 7:30pm AA	27	28
29 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am MP	30	31 4:00pm New Year's Eve Vigil 7:30pm GTAA	Jan 1, 20	2	3	4

January 2020

January 2020							February 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
26	27	28	29	30	31		29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 29	30	31	Jan 1, 20	2 9:30am Morning Prayer 7:30pm AA	3 9:30am Morning Prayer	4
5 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist 12:00pm ACW	6 9:30am Morning Prayer 1:30pm Craft & Quilt	7 9:30am Morning Prayer 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	8 9:30am Holy Eucharist	9 9:30am Morning Prayer 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA	10 9:30am Morning Prayer	11
12 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	13 9:30am Morning Prayer 1:30pm Craft & Quilt 7:00pm Book Club	14 9:30am Morning Prayer 6:30pm Lectio Divina 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	15 Newsletter deadline 9:30am Holy Eucharist	16 9:30am Morning Prayer 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA 7:30pm Scouts (library)	17 9:30am Morning Prayer	18
19 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist 12:00pm Theology	20 9:30am Morning Prayer 10:00am PDWA 1:30pm Craft & Quilt 2:00pm H of Newport 6:30pm Craft & Stitch	21 9:30am Morning Prayer 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	22 9:15am Statesman 9:30am Holy Eucharist	23 9:30am Morning Prayer 10:00am Boardwalk 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA	24 9:30am Morning Prayer	25
26 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist 12:15pm AMP	27 9:30am Morning Prayer 1:30pm Craft & Quilt	28 9:30am Morning Prayer 10:15am Fanning Centre 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	29 9:30am Holy Eucharist	30 9:30am Morning Prayer 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA	31 9:30am Morning Prayer	Feb 1