Easter to Pentecost - The Great 50 Days

We are literally inundated with news in today’s culture. Everyone has a smart phone, which means you are always connected. The phone buzzes with every tweet, email, Facebook update, or breaking news story. With the rise of social media has come the challenge of discerning what is real and what is not.

Easter brings with it the pronouncement of Christ’s Resurrection! Many begin to ask the question “fake news” or “real news”? We know that the evidence of the real comes from both internal and external sources. The great news about the resurrection is that there is so much of both to show just how real the proclamation truly is. You first have the text of scripture that has overwhelming validity that has stood the test of time and even scrutiny that reveals the truth about the life of Jesus and his resurrection. Secondly, you have the testimony of the Trinity and the Church. God reveals Himself to the world in an overwhelming way throughout scripture, and he sent His only Son as a stamp of His special revelation to his people. After the resurrection, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15 that Jesus appears in his glorified and risen body to more than 500 different people before ascending to heaven to be at the right hand of the Father. Upon Jesus’ ascension, he promises the filling of the hearts of his people with the Holy Spirit. What a witness to the Easter proclamation of “Alleluia, Christ is Risen!”

The leadership of Holy Cross has recently developed what I believe to be a very powerful and effective Vision and Mission statement. Our Vision Statement reads “Captivating the hearts of people for the Glory of God.” It is the truth of the resurrection and the fact that Jesus Christ lives that does the captivating. If we as a church live into the resurrected life as we are called, people’s hearts will be captivated and God will be glorified. Our mission statement reveals that we plan to glorify God and captivate hearts by being dedicated disciples of Jesus Christ. When we as a people are growing in our faith and teaching others to grow then we deepen our Worship, our Fellowship, and our passion for Missions.

Get excited about the Great 50 Days as we live into the glorious resurrection of Jesus and impact our families, our church, and our community for the Glory of God.

VISION STATEMENT
Captivating the hearts of the people for the Glory of God.

MISSION STATEMENT
Holy Cross is dedicated to raising up faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, committed to genuine WORSHIP, loving FELLOWSHIP, and passionate MISSION.
**“Serving You” Mission Trip**

Holy Cross will join with other area churches for a local family mission trip this summer to the Woodlawn area of Birmingham, July 24th-27th. This opportunity allows your whole family to serve the Lord through various ways. The mornings, beginning at 8:00 am, will consist of manual labor ranging from yard work, scraping and painting houses to light carpentry and other such tasks. The afternoon sessions, beginning at 1:00 pm, will give the opportunity to join back yard Bible clubs, prayer ministry, or prayer walking. Serve all week, just one afternoon, or anything in-between. Monday and Thursday nights will include a community-wide worship time for all surrounding areas. Sign-up sheets are on the Ministry Table in the Narthex.

**ECW**

This month the ECW’s Mary and Martha of Bethany Guild will meet in the Genesis Room on Wednesday, May 24th for their monthly lunch/meeting. Please bring a sandwich. Everything else will be provided.

**Memorial Day Special Insert**

On Sunday, May 28th, we will commemorate the deceased Armed Forces Veteran members of our Holy Cross Parish families by listing their names in a special bulletin insert for parishioners to take home with them that day. There is a list of those we already know of in the narthex. Please check it for corrections and/or additions. Further, please check to make sure that names are spelled correctly, that branch of service is indicated and that you have added your relationship to the veteran. It is important that none of our loved ones are left out.

**Children’s Church**

Children’s Church will begin on Sunday, May 7th. Children may join us in the Genesis Room at the beginning of the 10:30 service. We will conclude and join our families at the Peace. All children, ages 5 through 12, are welcome.

**ECW**

Mark your calendars for Youth Sunday, May 21st at 10:30 am. The service will include recognition of our 2017 graduates:

- Sydney Bodnar
- Annie Cole
- Tessa Luttrel
- Evan Morse
- Joseph Sandford
- Mary Lawrence Underwood

**Taizé WORSHIP**

Feast of the Ascension:

Thursday, May 25th

6:00 pm

This contemplative worship service will feature music, scripture, and silence and will be led by Justin Finch, our music director, who has been to the Taizé community in France. All are invited.

**Sawyerville Day Camp Needs Snacks**

Please drop off Fruit Snack and Granola Bar donations at the church by Sunday, May 14th. Sawyerville Day Camp also needs Prayer Partners. A Prayer Partner writes four letters to staff during camp. If interested, contact Fran Bramlette: (narl96@gmail.com).

**Congratulations to HTHS Student Evan Morse**

Holy Cross parishioner Evan Morse traveled to the University of Alabama in Huntsville to compete in the 2017 Alabama Science and Engineering Fair. His project, Reduction of Premature Death of Gamefish Due to Internal Injury Caused by Ingested Fish Hooks, won the following awards:

- 1st Place in Materials Engineering category
- Tennessee Valley Association – Most Outstanding Project
- Boeing Company – Best in Category Award
- Cash prizes totaling $150.00.

On Sunday, May 21st at 9:15 am come have a cup of coffee and bagel and join Fr. Wes as he explains the vision and mission behind Holy Cross. This forum will be a time to not only hear and gain clarity, but also a time to engage and ask questions concerning the trajectory of Holy Cross. This is a very exciting time in the life of Holy Cross, so come join in on the conversation as we seek the Lord and his plans for our future.