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

One of my absolute favorite times of the year is fall. I love the leaves changing, the weather cooling, and I love Thanksgiving. Each year when we sit around the table to celebrate Thanksgiving we try to be intentional with the conversation as opposed to just enjoying the great food. We take it as an opportunity to reflect on the previous year’s blessings and probably like many families around the table we name the things we are most thankful for in our lives.

What I’m keenly aware of in that moment is the fact that most have waited an entire year to carry out this tradition of thanks. It’s a shame that our nation has only one official day in the year set aside on which to give thanks to God. The apostle Paul actually encourages us for the other 364 days of the year when he writes to the Colossian church…

“May you be filled with joy always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.”

Those words “always thanking” come jumping off the page at me, but then what overwhelms me are the phenomenal gifts of God that cause us to be always thankful. First, he says an inheritance has been given to us. If you have received a calling saying your long-lost great uncle had died and left you $1,000,000 how excited would you be? Okay, sad because he died, but ecstatic because you are now a millionaire! The promise of this passage is that the inheritance far surpasses the millionaire status – we get a kingdom. We are heirs to the throne of the kingdom of heaven. Think about how awesome that will be. We will be sitting in the presence of the one who Paul says was He who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins, Jesus Christ, so that we can enjoy that magnificent kingdom! Now that is an inheritance worth giving thanks for, not just when Thanksgiving rolls around, but every single day!

This year, as you give thanks, why not consider making this tradition one that happens all year. In doing so, I pray the Lord fill you and your family with the joy of the Lord.

Fr. Wes +
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**
Children, ages 5 to 12, meet in the Sunday school room from 9:15 to 10:15 am. Led by Anne Amick, their study is from the “Hearts Alive” Sunday school curriculum. We look forward to an exciting year with your children—please join us!

**EYC WORSHIP WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**
On Wednesday nights, EYC will attend the program “Worship and the Church” presented by Justin Finch on November 8th and the 15th.

**EYC SUNDAYS**
November 5th: View the movie, Woodlawn; 3:00-5:00 pm in the Genesis Room; Taziki’s — Please bring $10 to cover food cost.

November 12th: Kay Williams will speak on the Graceworks Ministry that is based in Woodlawn; 5:00 pm; the Entire Parish is Invited.

**HELP WANTED!**
The Altar Guild is desperately recruiting new members. This is a very rewarding ministry. Please don’t wait until someone asks you. Also, it is not a “female only” Guild. Male members are most welcome! Maybe you would like to join as a couple. If you are interested, please call Cindy Cole at 902-3569.

**ECW LUNCH/MEETING**
We will meet on Wednesday, November 29th at 11:45 in the Genesis Room. Please bring your own sandwich, Salad, tea, and dessert will be provided.

**VESTRY CANDIDATES**
The Vestry of the church serves as the governing board of the church assisting the rector in duties of the church. Holy Cross is looking for qualified candidates for the 2018 Vestry Election to be held on Sunday, November 12th. If you are interested in being a candidate, or nominating someone as a candidate, please contact Sr. Warden, Mac McQueen or Fr. Wes. Qualifications for being a candidate include:

1. Regular worship attendance
2. Confirmed adult member of the church
3. Known to the treasurer by way of regular giving
4. Yearly financial pledge

This year we will fill three positions for a three-year term and one position for a one year-term.

**Worship and the Church**
**Wednesdays, November 8 and 15**
Our very own Justin Finch will be teaching a two-week series on Worship and the Church. He will be discussing the various elements of hymnody and styles within the church today. You will also have the opportunity to hear and experience some of these styles during the course of these weeks.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**
We meet each Wednesday night through November 15th at 6:00 pm for our "Movies with a Message" series. Grab your popcorn and come on! HC Kids’ Club is one club you'll definitely want to be a part of!

**ECW will be selling homemade soups and sweets after each morning service on Sunday, November 5th.**

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**LADIES’ NIGHT OUT**
The Ladies’ Night Out group will be taking a hiatus for the months of November & December. We will resume in January.

**TEAM** is in need of Thanksgiving non-perishable canned goods such as corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, and canned hams. A donation basket is in the Narthex.

**REMEMBER**
**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**
Sunday, November 5th

**ECW LUNCH/MEEETING**
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