

# NEWSLETTER

## *The Crucifer*

### *The Call of the Bells*

It's not that I'm a fuddy-duddy, as every "fuddy-duddy" claims about themselves. However, Amanda and I made the choice not to tell our children that Santa was real for our own reasons, and we haven't regretted it. Yet, if I had to do it over again, I would handle one thing differently. From the start, I would talk more to them about the real power behind the story of Saint Nicholas.

It's worth noting that there are no historical documents attesting to the existence of Saint Nicholas; therefore, nothing is known for certain about him. However, through the years, dating back to the fourth century, it has been passed down that there once existed a man named Nicholas whose life was so faithful and hopeful for the world that he should never be forgotten.

The time in which Nicholas would have lived was a period of great persecution for Christianity within the Roman Empire. The Catholic Church claims that Nicholas became a well-known and loved bishop, but let's not misunderstand. Bishops and Christian leaders were often tortured during this time, given the choice between renouncing the faith and death. Being a bishop wouldn't have meant a life of fancy clothes and parades of adoring followers in the streets. It would likely have meant being a target, somewhat of an outlaw, forced to live in the shadows and navigate life in secret. This means that Nicholas would have been a remarkable person with a remarkable faith, unyielding to any truth but the truth of God in Christ.

But what made his life's story transcend time? It was his generosity. Yet, if we look at the facts, the most reliable tale about his life seems to be the simple story of his generosity to a poor man and his three daughters. Nicholas provided the dowry for the three girls to save them from a life of disrepute. But, yesterday, I saw a Sandy Sansing commercial (you know, the car dealer) talking about how much he does for the poor every Christmas, and he does like a thousand times that of St. Nicholas every year! What gives?

The answer to me seems clear. Although some claim he was a rich man, I think the story suggests otherwise. Living in a time when his own life was difficult and his future was insecure, living depending upon the grace of God to see him



through another day, and living as a person whose role and responsibility as a bishop seemed important and worthy of prioritizing above that of others, Nicholas took from his own pocket that which could have benefited him and gave it to another's need. The story of Nicholas is not the story of a rich man (no offense Sandy Sansing) giving out of his abundance that which

he really did not need. It is the story of a desperate man whose faith enabled him to hope more in God, to trust more in God than in the power of gold for his future.

Put simply, what has made his life's story transcend time is the fact that Saint Nicholas' life is a testimony of one who hoped in the right things – for him, it was God above gold. He reminds me that so much of my life, joy, and fulfillment today depends on where I put my hope. In the simple story of his giving of his own well-being to help another, I am reminded how, if I hope in my wealth to provide for me in this life, if I hope in success or renown in this life, if I hope in popularity or anything in this life above the love of God and neighbor, then my hope will fade like the setting sun, and I will be left in the dark and cold.

But if I can, like Nicholas, not think myself more important than I am, and if I can, in the moment of decision, remember where my true hope resides and act out of hope in God and compassion for my neighbor, then my life's story too can be one that transcends the time of my own existence. I can have ripple effects in the lives of all whom I come into contact with. Maybe we will not have songs with reindeer written about us, and hopefully, people will not leave out cookies for us everywhere we go. But seeking such a life is indeed our calling and, therefore, the key to living a happy Christmas and a great year all the years of our lives.

This year, when I hear the sound of bells associated with Christmas, I imagine that maybe, after Nicholas had given away his coins to save those girls, he learned to be happy with the sound of bells over the sound of coins in his pockets. Now, the sound of Christmas bells serves as a reminder to take notice of what and in whom I am placing my hope.

RPD+

## Sunday Worship

8:00am – In Person Worship & Live Stream  
10:30am – In Person Worship & Live Stream

## Sunday Classes

9:25am – Nursery  
9:30 am – EYC Sunday School  
9:35am – Contemporary Exploration (Lanier)  
9:35am – The Wisdom Group (Holy Cross Rm)  
9:35am – Women’s Studies (Chapel)  
9:35am – Children’s Ministry

## Wednesday Nights

5:30pm – Church Dinner  
6:00pm – Nursery  
6:15pm – Adult Class  
6:15pm – Youth Group – EYC  
6:15pm – Children’s Ministry



# 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>3</b> <i>Advent 1</i> <i>Gingerbread Making</i>  <b>CLASSES: See Above</b> 8:00am – Worship 9:00am – Delicious Breakfast 9:15am – 12:15 pm: Library Open 10:30am – Worship 11:45am – Coffee Hour /Gingerbread Making	<b>4</b>  4:00pm – Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club) 5:30pm – Girl Scouts (C 1) 6:00pm – ACA Group 6:00pm – JUST Pensacola	<b>5</b>  5:30pm – Girl Scouts (C 1) 6:15pm – AA	<b>6</b>  9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am – 6:00pm – Library Open 10:00am – Worship 10:00am – Hagar’s Basket (Rm 3) <b>5:30pm Dinner &amp; Classes</b>	<b>7</b> <i>ECW Dinner at Miller’s Ale House</i>  5:30pm – Handbells 6:00pm – ECW Dinner Miller’s Ale House 6:15pm – AA 6:15pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> <i>Vestry Party</i>  5:30pm – Vestry Party 6:00pm – ACA Group (Youth Rm)	<b>9</b>  9:00am – 12:30pm: Library Open 10:00am – Heavenly Crafts (Lanier) 5:00pm – Parent’s Night Out
<b>10</b> <i>Advent 2</i> <i>Celebrating Saint Nicolas Day</i>  <b>CLASSES: See Above</b> 8:00am – Worship 9:00am – Delicious Breakfast 9:15am – 12:15 pm: Library Open 10:30am – Worship 11:45am – Coffee Hour /Saint Nicolas	<b>11</b>  4:00pm – Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club) 5:30pm – Girl Scouts (C 1) 6:00pm – ACA Group	<b>12</b>  5:30pm – Girl Scouts (C 1) 6:15pm – AA 6:30pm – Compassionate Friends	<b>13</b>  9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am – 6:00pm – Library Open 10:00am – Worship 10:00am – Hagar’s Basket (Rm 3) <b>5:30pm Dinner &amp; Classes</b>	<b>14</b>  6:15pm – AA 6:15pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b>  6:00pm – ACA Group (Youth Rm)	<b>16</b>  9:00am – 12:30pm: Library Open
<b>17</b> <i>Advent 3</i> <i>Lessons and Carols</i> <i>Celebrating St. Lucia</i>  <b>CLASSES: See Above</b> 8:00am – Worship 9:00am – Delicious Breakfast 9:15am – 12:15 pm: Library Open 10:30am – Worship 11:45am – Coffee Hour/Saint Lucia 5:00pm – Lessons and Carols	<b>18</b>  4:00pm – Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club) 5:30pm – Girl Scouts (C 1) 6:00pm – ACA Group	<b>19</b> <i>Bunco</i>  5:30pm – Bunco 5:30pm – Girl Scouts (C 1) 6:15pm – AA	<b>20</b>  9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am – 6:00pm – Library Open 10:00am – Worship 10:00am – Hagar’s Basket (Rm 3) <b>5:30pm Dinner &amp; Classes</b>	<b>21</b> <i>Poker Night</i>  5:30pm – Handbells 6:00pm – Poker Night 6:15pm – AA 6:15pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>  6:00pm – ACA Group (Youth Rm)	<b>23</b>  9:00am – 12:30pm: Library Open 11:00am – We Care (Holy Cross Rm)
<b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i> 10:30am – Contemplative Worship 5:00pm – Family Worship Children’s Pageant & Navitiy 10:00pm – Traditional Candlelight	<b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 	<b>26</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  5:30pm – Bunco 5:30pm – Girl Scouts (C 1) 6:15pm – AA	<b>27</b>  9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am – 6:00pm – Library Open 10:00am – Worship 10:00am – Hagar’s Basket (Rm 3) <b>5:30pm Dinner &amp; Classes</b>	<b>28</b>  5:30pm – Handbells 6:00pm – Poker Night 6:15pm – AA 6:15pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b>  6:00pm – ACA Group (Youth Rm)	<b>30</b> <i>Winter Camp – Day 1</i>  9:00am – 12:30pm: Library Open 11:00am – We Care (Holy Cross Rm)
<b>31</b> <i>New Year’s Eve</i> <i>Winter Camp – Day 2</i>						

# OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES & BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## PARENT'S *night out*

**SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 2ND  
5-8PM**

AGES 3-11  
PIZZA DINNER  
PROVIDED  
& A CHRISTMAS  
KEEPSAKE WILL  
BE MADE  
TOGETHER  
CHECK IN @THE  
CHAPEL



SIGN UP  
NO LATER THAN 11/20  
IN CHURCH CONNECT  
OR THE NARTHEX



## Angel Tree

### Christmas Toys for Foster Children

Join in spreading joy and hope to foster children at the Lakeview Center by selecting an angel from the tree in the narthex and gifting them a present that ignites their delight. Let your imagination soar and make a lasting impact this season.

Don't forget to place your unwrapped toys under the tree no later than Sunday, December 10th



## December

### Birthdays

- 03 - Stephen Bell
- 03 - Rosemary Stoner
- 04 - Robin Polischuk
- 05 - Olga Stone
- 08 - Miche'le Henrixson
- 08 - Ethan Winn
- 10 - Leo Berger
- 11 - Sydney Doggrell
- 12 - Wendy Boyer
- 14 - Brad Brennan
- 14 - Art Harrison
- 14 - Lamar Parsley
- 17 - Tom Backes
- 17 - Ruth Walker
- 18 - Trista Miller
- 18 - Neill Sidebotham
- 19 - Marline Austin
- 22 - Doris Pemberton
- 23 - Steven Bonello
- 24 - Jacob Boyer
- 26 - Michael Schantz
- 28 - Stella Rose Dixon
- 28 - Ruth Goshorn
- 30 - Sarah Peacock
- 31 - Jaxson Coleman
- 31 - Nettie Umbreit
- 31 - John Walker



## December

### Anniversaries

- 09 - Pat & Linda Tillery  
55 Years
- 27 - Ray & Clara Potter  
65 Years
- 28 - Craig & Rachel Iversen  
32 Years
- 30 - Steven Bonello & Anna Sons  
2 Years
- 31 - Gwynneth & Edward Brockbank  
31 Years



**COFFEE HOUR, DECEMBER 3RD**

Come Decorate a house or a cookie as we enjoy a traditional favorite



**COFFEE HOUR, DECEMBER 17TH**

crown making • cinnamon rolls  
• photo-op • hot cocoa •

Ladies  
You're  
Invited  
To Dinner!



Holy Cross  
Episcopal  
Church Women

**MILLER'S  
ALE HOUSE**

5906 N. Davis Hwy, Pensacola (next to Rooms To Go)

**Thursday, December 7th at 6:00pm**

Please join us for an evening of great food, fun, and fellowship as we meet for dinner at Miller Ale House.

The more the merrier! Bring your female friends and neighbors.

For more info contact Lorrie Wilkinson. \*Signup is in the Narthex\*

thank you!  
**thank you!**  
thank you!

Thanks to your support,

**HAGAR'S BASKET**

has donated to 12 local schools from August -November

# 107 full size toiletry bags      # 42 pairs of shoes  
# 36 coats                              # 33 pks underwear/ diapers  
# 20 laundry detergents        # 14 backpacks  
Along with socks, wipes, masks, etc

MERRY  
*Christmas*

WE'RE THANKFUL FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY



**COFFEE HOUR, DECEMBER 10TH**

stockings • crafts • hot cocoa  
letter writing • photo-op •  
cookie painting



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

[www.holycrosspensacola.org](http://www.holycrosspensacola.org)

[www.facebook.com/HolyCrossEpiscopalPensacola](https://www.facebook.com/HolyCrossEpiscopalPensacola)



# Advent Season

## HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



### SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR

**The Greening**  
*Sunday November 26th*  
Green your Wreath and roll your beeswax candles during breakfast and coffee hour.

**Gingerbread Decorating**  
*Sunday December 3rd*  
Come Decorate a house or a cookie as we enjoy a traditional favorite.

**Celebrating Saint Nicolas**  
*Sunday December 10th*  
Crafting, hot cocoa, cookie painting, letter writing, photo op with Santa!

**Celebrating Saint Lucia**  
*Sunday December 17th*  
Enjoy crown making, cinnamon rolls, hot cocoa and a photo op with Saint Lucia.

### SUNDAY OFFERINGS

**1 Corinthians** - Preparing Us For Christ (Adults)  
*Fr. Matt Dollhausen*  
A study of Paul's letter to the Corinthians with a focus on the transformative themes of Advent.

**Contemporary Exploration of Advent** (Adults)  
*Curtis Entekin*  
Learn, discuss, and experience the themes of Advent preparing us for the coming of Christ.

**Youth Group** (Grades 6-12)  
Exploring the transformative power of Advent for our personal experience of the holidays.

**Children's Sunday School** (Grades K-5)  
Engaging kids in study, discussion and play using Illustrated Ministry's *Mini Revolutions*.

**Preaching Series: GOD AMIDST THE BOMBS** (*Clear-thinking about the Will of God*)  
What is the will of God in this life, and what part does God play in personal loss, success, and worldly disaster? This Advent Preaching series will challenge your beliefs, refine your thinking, and equip you with a clearer understanding of the Will of God.

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### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

**"Tuning" Into Advent** (Adults)  
*Isabelle Peterson*  
The work of music in preparing us for Christ.

**Guided Scripture Discussions** (Adults)  
*Fr. Rob Dixon and Curtis Entekin*  
Guided discussion through the scriptures of Advent.

**Youth Group** (Grades 6-12)  
Reimagining our understanding of the binary construct of light as good and darkness as bad.

**Kids Club** (Grades K-5)  
"In Light and Darkness," a devotional encouraging kids to explore views of light and darkness.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Parent's Night Out**  
*December 2nd, 5-8 pm*  
Drop off your children, ages three and up, for an evening of fun!

**Lessons and Carols**  
*December 17th, 5-6 pm*  
A musical experience of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus.



### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIMES

10:30am • 5:00pm • 10:00pm

