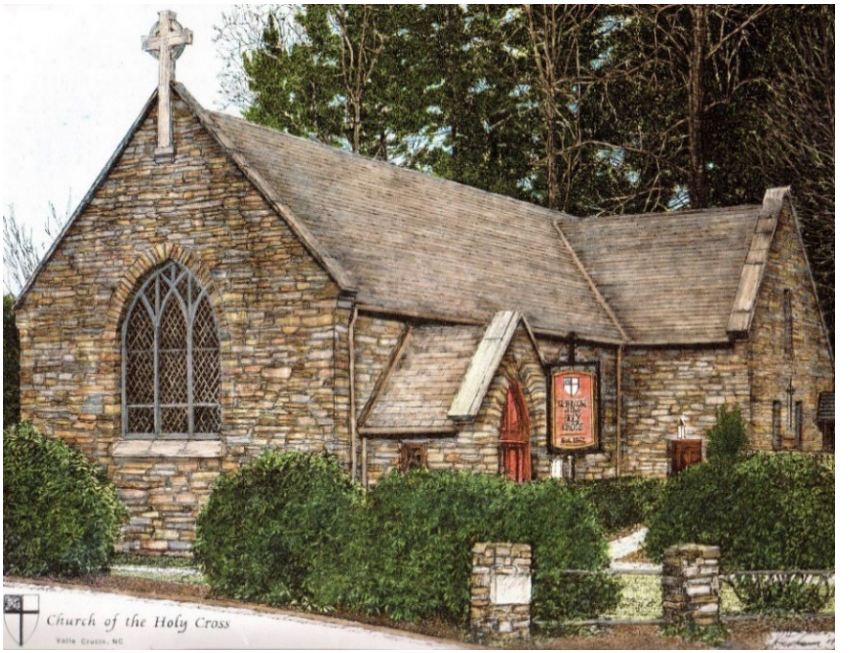
The Church of the Holy Cross
Valle Crucis, North Carolina



The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:00 AM

Welcome Home to Holy Cross!

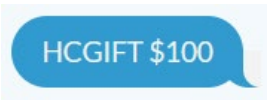
It is our privilege to worship with you this morning! Please know that all baptized Christians regardless of Church denomination, and all who seek a deeper knowledge and love of God in Christ are most welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist.

Children are most welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at Holy Cross. Rocking chairs have been provided for caregivers with infants.

If this is your first time at Holy Cross, please complete a *Visitor Card* and let us know about your visit, especially if you have a specific need or prayer request. Visitor Cards are found in the pew racks. If you would like additional information about our many ministries and activities, speak to one of our Ushers or Greeters, or stop by Skiles Hall during the fellowship hour that follows each service. We would be happy to speak with you in person.

If you would like to make a financial offering or contribution, you can do so by scanning this QR Code or via our website at www.holycrossvallecrucis.net

You can also give through online text by sending **HCGIFT** to **73256**, followed by the gift amount
Messages and data rates may apply



It is the custom in The Episcopal Church to prepare for worship by gathering in reverent silence and prayer, and during the worship service, stand for praise, sit for instruction, and, as you are able, kneel for prayer. Please respect the devotional needs of others by turning off cellular telephones and electronic devices, and by speaking with hushed voices.

Again, Welcome Home to Holy Cross! And may God's peace enfold you.

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Holy Eucharist, Rite II
The Word of God

The Prelude: *Offered by Shane Watson*

The Announcements: *(Pages 14-19)* **The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans**

The Children's Moment: **The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans**

All children are welcome to come forward for the lighting of the Advent Wreath.

The Lighting of the Second Advent Candle:

Priest: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

People: **Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.**

Priest: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

The Priest will dismiss children to follow our volunteers to the weekly Sunday School program, or to remain in the sanctuary with their parents. The Sunday School will rejoin the service at the Passing of the Peace.

All stand at the sound of the bell.

The Opening Hymn: WLP #723 "Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old" *Samanthra*

(Green Hymnal)

The Opening Acclamation:

Priest: Blessed are you, Holy and Living One.

People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

The Collect for Purity: BCP 355

Priest: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The Trisagion: *(sung three times)* *#S-102*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

All are now seated for the readings from Scripture.

The First Reading: **Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Response: *Prayed responsively as noted in* ***bold*** *type.* **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

**2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;**

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

**6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!**

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
**and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.**

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Second Reading: **Romans 15:4-13**

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. *Continued…*

As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn: #76 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" *Winchester New*

The Gospel Proclamation: Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon: **The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans**

A time of silence follows the Sermon. Please remain seated until the Altar Ministers stand.

The Nicene Creed: BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

All stand or kneel for the prayers as they are able.

The Prayers of the People: **Adapted from Form V**

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the God of our Salvation.

A period of silence is kept.

Leader: For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming,

People: **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Leader: For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for José our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God,

People: **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Leader: For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one,

People: **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Leader: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth,

People: **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Leader: For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples,

People: **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Leader: For those in positions of public trust, especially Donald our President and Josh our Governor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person,

People: **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Leader: For all who live and work in this community, and for all those you now name:

The people speak the names of those on their hearts.

When you arrived at the service, you received a stick with a name on it. That is the name of someone who has requested our prayers. Please call out the name of the person on that stick as well as anyone else on your heart, and keep them in your daily prayers through the coming week.

At the Offertory, simply drop the sticks in the offering plate. This is a wonderful way for all of us to share in the prayer ministry of our Parish.

The Leader concludes saying,

Leader: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected,

People: **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Leader: For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do,

People: **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Leader: For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended,

People: **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Leader: For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives,

People: **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Leader: For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that, being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, and for those prayers you would now name:

The people are invited to offer prayers and hopes either in their heart or by saying out loud:

"My prayer is: _____. This is my prayer."

The people will respond:

People: **This is our prayer.**

The Leader concludes saying,

Leader: For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone; that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal,

People: **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Rejoicing in the fellowship of William West Skiles and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

People: **To you, O Lord our God.**

Priest: For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

All stand as they are able.

The Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

All greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

The Welcome: **The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans**

The Birthday and Anniversary Prayer:

Watch over your child(ren) O Lord, as *their* days increase.
Bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand.
Comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful. Raise *them* up if *they* fall.
And in *their* heart(s) may your peace which passes understanding,
abide with *them* all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

Concerning The Holy Communion

A reminder that all present are welcome to the Communion regardless of Christian denomination.
We consider it an honor and privilege to commune with all present as one united body of Christ.

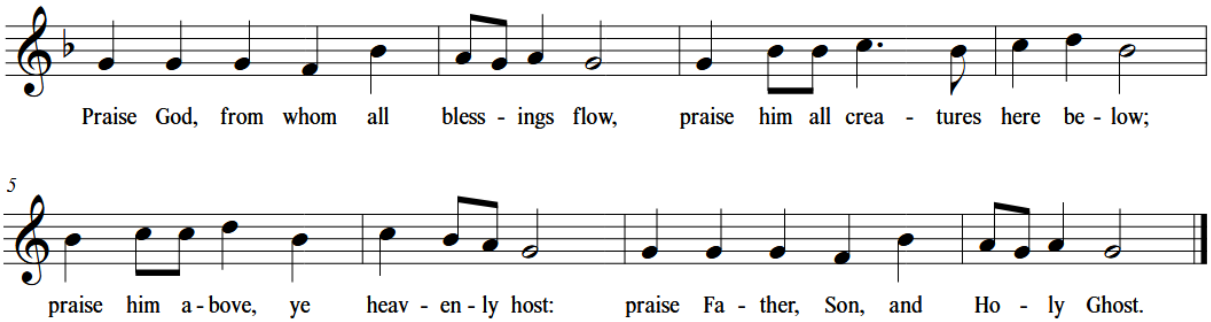
To receive the bread, extend your hands towards the priest. To receive the wine, guide the bottom of the chalice with both hands. To receive the bread and wine together via intinction, place your right hand over your left shoulder. To receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, cross your arms across your chest.
If you have a gluten allergy, simply inform the priest when you come to the rail.

When at the Altar Rail, move toward either wall so that those in the center will kneel last.
Please wait to be dismissed; those in the center depart first.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem: "O Kin, and Desire of All Nations" John Stainer

The Advent Presentation Hymn: *Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland*



The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 2 EOW 60

The Sursum Corda:

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Priest: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

The Sanctus: *#S-129*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
People: **"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."**

Continued…

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

People: **"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."**

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the Mother Mary, Brother Skiles, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

People: AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer: *Traditional Version* *BCP 364*

The Breaking of the Bread: (The Fraction)

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem: *#S-158*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

The Invitation: *The Priest invites the people to Communion.*

Hymns during the Communion:

#319 "You, Lord, We Praise in Songs of Celebration"
#308 "O Food to Pilgrims Given"

An extended time for silent prayer and reflection precedes and follows each communion hymn.
When all have communed, the hymn on the following page is sung.

Kneeling Hymn: #56 (vss. 3-4) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

An additional time for silent prayer and reflection precedes the following prayer.

The Post-communion Prayer: BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All stand.

The Advent Blessing:

Priest: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: And the Blessing of Almighty God: (†) the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you this day and remain with you always.

People: **Amen.**

The Sending Hymn: #544 "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" *Duke Street*

The Dismissal:

Priest: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

The Postlude: *Offered by Shane Watson*

We thank those who served this morning

	8:00 am	*11:00 am*
Musician:		Shane Watson
Greeters & Ushers:	Stella Barbato	Jim & Darby Logan
Lectors:	Jane Blackburn	John Goodrich
Prayers of the People:	Jane Blackburn	John Goodrich
Chalice:	Sis Kinney	Tav & Kim Gauss
Acolytes:	Sis Kinney	Kim Gauss
Linen Fairy:		Mary Jane Major

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donations for Christmas Flowers and Greenery

The Altar Guild relies upon donations in order to decorate the Church for Christmas. Please give generously using the envelopes provided in the pews and/or in Skiles Hall.

***REMEMBER*: Completed forms *must be submitted by 3:00 pm on Wednesday, December 17, 2025* in order to be included in all Christmas Service Leaflets.**

Thank you!

Holy Cross Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve will be here soon. This year Holy Cross will host a pageant at the 5pm service. We are in recruitment mode! If your child or grandchild will be here over Christmas we would love to include them! Please contact Andrea McDonough (amacd1962@gmail.com) for details! We will host two rehearsals: The first will be after the 11am service on Sunday December 21. The other will be at a time to be determined on December 23. We would love to include you!

Join the Holy Cross Chancel Choir!

If you enjoy singing in the car or the shower, consider joining the Holy Cross Chancel Choir. We rehearse on Wednesdays from 7pm-8:30pm in the Skiles Hall Choir Room. Can't read music? No problem. Afraid you can't carry a tune? That's probably false. Afraid of the time commitment? Just talk to Shane. We'd love to have you join this aspect of our music ministry.

2026 Calendars Available!

A limited supply of 2026 Churchman's Ordo Calendars are available for purchase for $5 in the Parish Office. This calendar offers a full listing of the traditional feasts and devotional days which are frequently celebrated throughout the Anglican Communion.

TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025
The Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross *(quiet service with no music)*
9:15 am	Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
11:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross *(with music and Children's Moment)*
	(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)
12:15 pm	Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025
ECW Monthly Meeting

ECW will have their regular monthly meeting on Sunday, December 7th after the 11:00 service in Skiles Hall. Join us as we wrap up another year of serving our church, community, and Christ.

Dewey's Bakery Holiday Shop Open!

Hello Parishioners who have supported SmileOnADG, the Adam Galleher Memorial Fund for many years!

Our Dewey's Bakery Holiday Shop is open at Shoppes on the Parkway, Blowing Rock. We are located in Unit #2, open 7 days a week. Our contact phone is 828-572-9679.

Remember, when you purchase cookies & gifts from our shop, you are supporting Adam's Memorial Fund at 35% and we thank you for that.

This enables us to continue giving grants and scholarships to our local schools in Watauga, Ashe & Avery. --Debbie & Mike Galleher

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025
The Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross *(quiet service with no music)*
9:15 am	Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
11:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross *(with music and Children's Moment)* *(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)*
12:15 pm	Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

IT'S ANGEL TREE TIME!!

There are several families at Valle Crucis school, and residents at The Life Care Center in Banner Elk for whom Holy Cross Church is their only Santa Claus. We also are helping out our Valle Crucis Teachers with gift cards this year as well. Thank you all in advance for your generosity!

Follow the link below to access this year's "Virtual Angel Tree" registry and sign-up for gift donations. Here is how the Angel Tree gift donations will work this year:

- Sign-up for gift(s) donations via this SignUPGenius: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084FADAC23A2FB6-holy1
- Bring your wrapped and tagged gift(s) to Skiles Hall. The Christmas tree will be in place in Skiles Hall after November 28, 2025.
    - **Please begin bringing wrapped and tagged gifts starting on Sunday November 30, 2025.**
    - **All gifts and teacher gift cards need to be delivered to Skiles Hall no later than Sunday December 14, 2025.**
    - **For those buying gifts for Life Care Persons please add a few nice toiletries (lotions, creams, body washes, etc.)**
- **THANK YOU so much for your help!**

Questions? Call Tracey Heiss: 703-919-9767, or Susan Howard: 828-260-4740

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024
Men's Night Out
Valle Crucis Conference Center Dining Hall

The final ***Men's Night Out*** gathering for 2025 -- and the conclusion of our ninth year of fellowship -- is a festive holiday gathering and *"roast beast feast"* beginning with B.Y.O. cocktails at **5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16** in the dining hall at the historic Valle Crucis Conference Center with dinner served promptly at 6:15 p.m. Remember that after this meeting, we'll be taking a two-month hiatus over the winter season, resuming in March 2026.

We're repeating the v-e-r-y popular menu from previous years consisting of "USDA prime chuck pot roast tenderly bathed and simmered until it's a melt in your mouth consistency in a rich stock containing carrots, onions, garlic, thyme, and sage (with an equally savory salmon option for non-beef eaters) accompanied by Yukon gold mashed potatoes, creamed and herbed, Southern classic green beans with red peppers, butter, salt and pepper, accompanied by rustic oven warm wheat rolls, and a splendidly sumptuous salad bar serving all the favorites with a choice of dressing, and... spiced fruit cobbler served warm with vanilla ice cream for dessert, plus coffee, tea, water, and juices." ***Yum!***

The cost is a suggested **$20** contribution per person but... in light of the holiday spirit, and in honor of VCCC providing such heroic hurricane relief assistance and a welcoming home to Valle Crucis School, MNO participants are asked to prayerfully consider a contribution above and beyond that amount in support of VCCC's unparalleled "Ministry of Hospitality."

MNO is an opportunity for men from within the parish and in our community to enjoy having an evening of fellowship together. We're very flexible and inclusive, so feel free to bring a friend... or three! In order to let our gracious hosts know how many will be in attendance from Holy Cross, please RSVP by noon on Sunday, December 14 (**note the early deadline**) via email to **KeithTMartin@gmail.com**.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not drive at night, need a ride to and/or from MNO, or are without reliable transportation for whatever reason, please let us know. We have participants from all over the High Country who would welcome your company and be happy to pick you up and deliver you safely home. ***Please join us!***

Ushers and Greeters Needed

Holy Cross congregants, we are in dire need of additional Ushers to serve at both the 8am and the 11am services. Please prayerfully consider serving in this capacity.

Call or email Karla Prudhomme: (423) 202-4386 / krprudhomme@skybest.com

Helping the Hungry in the High Country

You've seen the changes in funding for the SNAP food program. You've generously supported the Summer Food Program for Children through Holy Cross. Thank you for that. There is a great need again to help fill the shelves of local food banks. The need is urgent.

Please bring your canned and boxed goods to Skiles on Sundays (or any day) and place them on the tables in the Welcome Center designated for Hunger and Health Coalition, Hospitality House Kitchen Pantry or Foscoe Hometown Team. Check out store BOGOs, sales flyers, look over your own pantry and ask your clubs and social groups to join in the fight against hunger. Every can or box counts. You count. Someone nearby goes to bed with food in the belly because of you. A child, an older person, someone out of work needs what you do.

We are fortunate to have drivers to carry food to our local food banks. We just need the food. Bring any of these: canned fruits, vegetables, tuna or chicken. Boxes of cereal, milks and juices, baby formula, paper products, jars of peanut butter and jelly, condiments like ketchup, mustard, salt and pepper, hot sauce. New socks, sweatshirts and sweatpants, gloves, scarves, coats, winter work clothes and bottled water are all needed in Foscoe, where there are still homes without running water. Fill your green Simple Gesture bags. Kip Kingree or Judy Bondi will take them to Hunger and Health. Jeff and Angela Williams will tote goods and food to Foscoe Hometown Team. Ron Armstrong will carry food to Hospitality House Kitchen Pantry.

Thank you so much for your response to this food drive. It matters. Things work because of you. Blessings on you and yours for what you do for others.

Any questions? Please contact Jeff Williams: jcwilliamsinc@hotmail.com; (336) 314-1010

The Parish Prayer List: December 7, 2025

Please keep the following in your prayers this week:

For Healing: Our injured and disabled military personnel, our veterans, all civilians harmed in conflict, and for Dayton C., Wendell S., Noyes L., Marilyn W., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam Y., Bill B., Julia M., Walter B., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., Sara P., Tav G., Andrea M., Charles III, Kate M., John N., Floyd T., Ray L., Leslie S., Terry & Jean M., Suzie L., Pam C., Ann G., Rosalie G., Stuart T., Gini H., Michael H., Laura B., Jeff I., Russell, Gabriella F., Troy W., Jim L., Linda B., David F., Mamie M., Courtney K., Stacey D., Gideon E., Skylar P., Bettie B., Mike L., Ann I., _____.

For those in Harm's Way: All who serve with the armed forces at home & abroad, all who serve in the Peace Corps, and all health & relief workers throughout the world.

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The Church of the Holy Cross

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Diocese of Western North Carolina

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans, Interim Rector
Shane Watson, Director of Music
Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator

Vestry

Nina-Jo Moore (2025 – completing term), Senior Warden
Darby Logan (2025), Junior Warden
Jennifer Browning (2025 – completing term)
Doris Boulton (2026)
Catherine Morton (2026 – completing term)
Angela Williams (2026)
Radie Armstrong (2027)
Derek Eggers (2027)
Sis Kinney (2027)

Officers

Jan Skopecek, Treasurer
Dedy Traver, Clerk

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