



# NEWSLETTER

*The Crucifer*

## A Word for the Summer Doubter

While doing research for his book, *Between One Faith and Another*, Dr. Peter Kreeft traveled the world, meeting with religious leaders from different religions. He was later asked how that experience affected him. He responded:

*It left me with two very different impressions. One, I was very impressed with the spirituality, the sincerity, and the piety of most of them. Number two, I was not impressed with their arguments. It was something similar to meeting Mormons. Mormons are almost always very good, sincere, pious people; but their theology, I think, is wacky.*

*So, I am puzzled by, let's say, the imbalance of the head and the heart. I don't think their head is on straight but I think their heart is definitely on straight. But maybe I shouldn't be surprised by that.*

Since hearing him speak these words, I have reflected and found them helping me to make sense of much of my own experience of different religions.

One of the toughest questions for young Christians (regardless of age) tends to be, "How can I ever be certain that Christianity is the true religion? After all, if I would have been raised on the other side of the world, I would think that *their* religion was the true one." Yes. A good point. The problem with this hypothetical question is that it is one that we sometimes use as an excuse to, therefore, stop honestly seeking the truth of our own religion and giving a favorable bias to other religions. Or, the "Oh well then! Can't ever know so why try!" attitude.

To make it more confusing, there is undeniably some truth found in other religions. To use Buddhism as an example, it teaches an understanding of the self that is separate from the thoughts of the mind. You are not your thoughts, but you are the one experiencing your thoughts and emotions. Yes. This is true and good and helpful. Actually, the Desert Fathers of Christianity also expressed this same truth. Buddhism also teaches meditative practices (like the Desert Fathers) that can help to integrate peace into the human inner life. Yes, I personally love meditation! It is the way I allow myself to fellowship with God. I get my thoughts out of the way with

meditation, so I can seek to draw near to him in the present moment. Yes, Buddhism contains some truth! As do others.

Their hearts are in the right place. And their heads have some good points to be considered too. But do not let familiarity blind you to the gift we have been given in Jesus Christ. Let us not be like those members of Jesus' hometown who, because they knew him so well, could not see the truth and goodness of God right in front of their faces.

GK Chesterton once pointed out that society would be astounded to their knees in blubbering tears if they were to consider our Christian faith as if it were an ancient Chinese teaching. But because we are so familiar with it, not only are we unable to see it, we often refuse to try – implying that we are too enlightened for such an uncool thing, while pointing to "wacky" Christian church teachings as proof.

YES! There are some "wacky" Christian churches out there, too. Plenty of them! **But it is time we quit letting "wacky" Christians get in the way** of our actually asking, seeking, and finding the real and total truth in Christ? Heart and head. Balance. This is the way! Truth. A *living* truth that applies to all of life. All of it. Every question. If it is true, it is in alignment with what God revealed in Christ.

One more thing, remember, whether or not a thing is easy or hard for you to believe really has no bearing on whether or not it is true. After all, of course portions are difficult to believe. If at any point in history God was ever going to do what our faith says he did through Jesus, then, after time passed, it would inevitably become something that is difficult for those who did not experience it to believe. We must not use whether something is difficult or easy to believe as evidence either way. The Christian faith is about truth alone. It is the most brilliant of all things in all of history. The more you humbly seek, the more you will find! Don't ever hesitate to bring difficult questions to me to discuss. It is life-giving to explore such things and continue to find just how true Jesus really is!

Rob+

# Sunday Schedule

## Worship

8:00am – In Person Worship & Livestream  
 10:30am – In Person Worship & Livestream  
 10:30am - Children's Chapel during worship  
 5:00pm - Outdoor Worship (Worship Band)

## Classes

9:30 am - Youth Sunday School @ the Volleyball Court  
 9:35am - Rev. Roger's Class - - *On Hiatus until July 11th*  
 9:35am - Chris Dake's Class - *On Hiatus until the fall*  
 9:35am - Melodie Rowland's Class - *On Hiatus until the fall*



Please Note: The calendar is subject to change at ANY TIME to fit the needs of the Church. For updates, please see our website, [www.holycrosspensacola.org](http://www.holycrosspensacola.org).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		6:15pm -AA		6:15pm -AA 6:30pm - THE POINT	2	3
<b>4 ** Independence Day **</b>	5	6	7	8	9	10 <b>**Bowling**</b>
Sunday Worship & Classes **Schedule is Above** 10:30am - Children's Chapel during worship	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 4:00pm Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club)	6:15pm -AA 6:30pm - Compassionate Friends	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30 - 7:00pm - Youth Group 6:15pm - Class with Fr. Rob (Via Zoom)	6:15pm -AA 6:30pm - THE POINT		7:30am - Running Club 9:00am - 12:30pm - Library Open 8:00am - Brotherhood of St. Andrew 9:00am - DOK 10:00am - We Care 4:00pm - Bowling at Oops Alley 6:00pm - AA
<b>11</b>	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday Worship & Classes **Schedule is Above** 10:30am - Children's Chapel during Worship 9:15am - 12:15 pm - Library Open	5:30pm - Girl Scouts	6:15pm -AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30 - 7:00pm - Youth Group 6:15pm - Class with Fr. Rob (Via Zoom)	6:15pm -AA 6:30pm - THE POINT		7:30am - Running Club 9:00am - 12:30pm - Library Open 6:00pm - AA
<b>18</b>	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday Worship & Classes **Schedule is Above** 10:30am - Children's Chapel during Worship 9:15am - 12:15 pm - Library Open	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 4:00pm Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club)	6:00pm - Vestry Meeting 6:15pm -AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30 - 7:00pm - Youth Group 6:15pm - Class with Fr. Rob (Via Zoom)	6:15pm -AA 6:30pm - THE POINT		7:30am - Running Club 9:00am - 12:30pm - Library Open 10:00am - We Care 6:00pm - AA
<b>25</b>	26	27	28	29	30 <b>**Parent's Night Out**</b>	31
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# OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES & BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## COMING FUN EVENTS

For Family Enrichment after a long year!

### JULY

**July 10<sup>th</sup> (4:00pm)**

**Bowling at Oops Alley**  
Join us for a fun afternoon of bowling with the family!



**July 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Parents Night Out**

**CHILD DROP OFF: 5:00pm**  
**PICK-UP: 9:00pm**

Attention Parents! This is your fun night out together!



### AUGUST

**August 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Blessing of the Backpacks, Students, & Teachers**

In the world we live in, we take this blessing seriously. Be sure to join us for worship on this day!

**August 14<sup>th</sup>**

**(Rain Date: August 21<sup>st</sup>)**

**Fall Festival!**

Kick-off Fall with a fantastic festival! Tons of food, games, dunking booth, and opportunities to get involved with different ministries of Holy Cross.

**August 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Parish Hall Dedication**

Join us on this very special day as we honor and dedicate the Parish Hall in memory of one of our beloved and founding members -

Cecil "Buddy" Lanier

## Parents Night Out!

Friday, July 30th!



Children Drop Off:  
5:00pm

Children Pick-up:  
9:00pm

Pizza, Classic Board Games, Movie and Popcorn  
Build a tent in the Nave & Special Guest Reader

**Children's Summer Reading Program**  
June 27th - August 8th

During this summer, children will be able to check out Holy Cross Library books from either our Church Library or the mobile library before and after the 10:30am service. Ms. Leanne will keep track of books the children have read and Prizes will be awarded!

## July Birthdays

- 02 - Samuel Klaus
- 02 - Amy Simpler
- 05 - Jim Maddox
- 05 - Greet Mims
- 06 - Jane Briscione
- 06 - Lois Rohrer
- 09 - Leanne Whalen
- 10 - Rev. Matt Dollhausen
- 16 - Sylvia Clark
- 16 - Daniel Simpler
- 19 - Jim Beaumont
- 19 - Kris Karl
- 20 - Daniel Ballow
- 20 - Amanda Dixon
- 21 - Keith McMahon
- 21 - Leslie Parsley
- 24 - Sabrina Merritt
- 24 - Selene Roberts
- 25 - Fr. Chris Coats
- 27 - John Briscione

## July Anniversaries!

- 04 - Bill & Diane Henehan - 39 Years!
- 05 - Jerry & Suzanne Holzworth - 46 Years!
- 08 - Jerry & Rosemary Stoner - 32 Years!
- 10 - Brad & Linda Bish - 34 Years!
- 15 - William & Olga Stone - 55 Years!
- 17 - Jonathan & Robyne Peacock - 11 Years!
- 18 - Steve & Beth Ramirez - 35 Years!
- 28 - Tony & Anna-Frances Apap - 12 Years!

JOIN US FOR

**BOWLING**

July 10th @ 4:00pm

at OOPS Alley

5721 Hwy 30, P.O. Box 222



Holy Cross Episcopal Church  
 7979 N. 9th Avenue  
 Pensacola, FL 32514  
 (850) 477-8596

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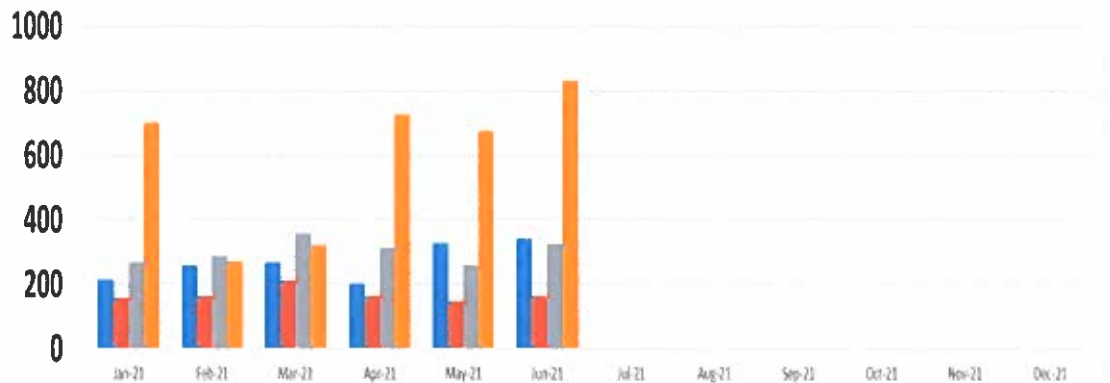
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[www.holycrosspensacola.org](http://www.holycrosspensacola.org)

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

## Holy Cross Food Pantry 2021

Total Number of People Served YTD: 3,526



	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
■ Age 0-18	212	258	266	201	327	342						
■ Repeat Recipients	155	163	211	162	147	163						
■ Age 60+	268	286	357	311	259	324						
■ Number of People in Household Served	700	272	320	727	676	831						