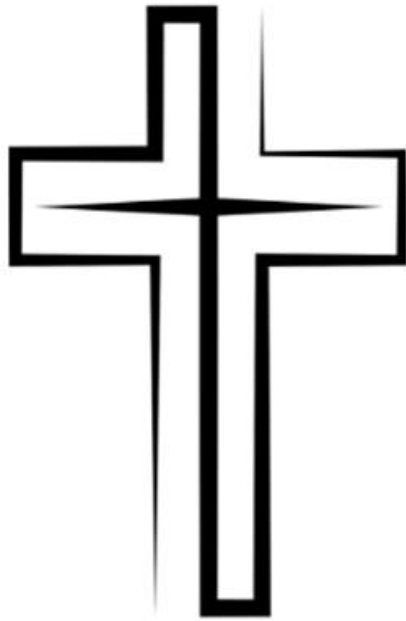


Church of the Holy Cross



Third Sunday in Lent Morning Prayer

March 8, 2026
10 a.m.

40700 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375
248-427-1175

www.holycrossnovi.org
holycrossnovi@gmail.com

Gathering of the People

Welcome

Prelude

*After the Prelude, a chime will sound to call us to a mindful silence. Please stand or kneel as you are able.
Silent procession*

Opening Acclamation (from BCP and A Celtic Primer)

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Celebrant 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. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise Holy Cross Choir *Kyrie eleison*

Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

Exodus 17:1-7

Reader A reading from the book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95

Recited responsively by whole verse. The reader leads off, and congregation responds with the bold verses.

- 1 Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
- 2 **Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving ***
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

- 3 For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
- 4 **In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.**
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.
- 6 **Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**
- 7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!
- 8 **Harden not your hearts,
as your forebears did in the wilderness, *
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,
when they tempted me.**
- 9 They put me to the test, *
though they had seen my works.
- 10 **Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *
"This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways."**
- 11 So I swore in my wrath, *
"They shall not enter into my rest."

A Lesson from the New Testament

Romans 5:1-11

Reader A Reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn WLP 825

Bless the Lord, my soul

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name." and "Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life." The music features a mix of chords and single notes, with some dynamics like *mf* and *f* indicated.

Words: Psalm 103. Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994).

The Holy Gospel

John 4:5-42

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Deacon Cleda Smartt

Nicene Creed

The people recite this ancient statement of faith together.

**We believe in one God,
the Creator, 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 Creator,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Creator.
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 human.
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 God.
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 Creator and the Son,
who with the Creator and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
and who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy universal 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.**

Prayers of the People (Form III)

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations
of the world; **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions aloud in the room, or in the chat on Zoom.

Celebrant O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude
of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for
help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution *Stand or kneel as you prefer.*

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we
have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in
your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Peace is exchanged with one another.

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Hymn VF 24 *When, like the woman at the well*

The Offertory is sung while the plate is passed and the Celebrant sets the table.

1 When, like the wo - man at the well, I
 2 Christ knew my heart, my way - ward ways, yet
 3 I learned I could for - ev - er live and
 4 Each day I lift my cup a - bove and
 5 Since now I am in grace im - mersed, set

lived with bro - ken dreams, _____ Christ came to me, good
 gave me hope, not fear. _____ The God I once thought
 wor - ship God a - right, _____ could trust the power the
 once a - gain re - ceive _____ the liv - ing wa - ter
 free, for - giv - en, whole, _____ I share with those who

Fine

news to tell, of ev - er liv - ing streams. _____
 far a - way, I could ap - proach, draw near. _____
 Spi - rit gives to guide me in truth's light. _____
 of God's love, re - vealed for my be - lief. _____
 are a - thirst the well - springs of my soul. _____

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Announcements & Celebration of Life Events

Lord's Prayer

As Jesus taught us, we now pray,
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Final Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.
All **O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth,**
and sent your blessed Son to preach peace
to those who are far off and to those who are near:
Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you;
bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh;
and hasten the coming of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Blessing

Celebrant Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And as you go may the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be in your hearts and among you, this day and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn H 690 *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, shield, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 thee, be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee.

Words: William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932).

Going into the World

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*This brings the worship to a close.
 All are invited for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the service.*

Ministers of Today's Service

Reader 1: Ed Happ
 Reader 2: Bev Siirilla
 Prayer: Anita Stromberg
 Greeter/Usher: Zean Smartt
 Zoom Host: Shirley Chen
 Counters: Pam Hinkle & Bev Siirila

Altar Guild

Joanne Quinlan, Carole Abshier, Gael Grossman,
 Anne Hamilton, Katherine Housman, Kathie Kirby,
 Cathi Peterson

Clergy

Bishop of Michigan: The Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry
 Deacon: The Rev. Dcn. Cleda Smartt

Staff

Administrator: Teri Landreth
 Music Director: Kate Autry
 Sexton: Katie Forbing

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IN-PERSON SERVICES
Sunday 8am & 10am
WEEKLY ZOOM SERVICES
Sunday Service
@ 10 AM
Wednesday Night Compline
@ 7:45pm
Information and Zoom links
at www.holycrossnovi.org

Teri's Office Schedule
Monday & Wednesday: Remote
Tuesday & Friday: 10 am - 2 pm
(248)427-1175
holycrossnovi@gmail.com
Text (248) 622-0451

If you have a pastoral emergency
Deacon Cleda Smartt
csmartt2010@yahoo.com
(734) 718-4187

Easter Brunch Potluck
Sunday April 5th
9am - 10am *between services*

Potluck sign-up in the Parish Hall. *Please bring dishes by 9am.*

We are requesting:
10am service goes to help set up at 8:30am
8am service goes to help clean with light cleanup at 10am.
.....
Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday April 5th
Following the 10am service

Donations for candy & other egg stuffers to the church office by March 29th.

Upcoming Supply Clergy

- March 8 – Dcn Cleda Smartt
- March 15 - April 5th - Rev Jonathan Sams

Vestry Update:
Search Committee

The Vestry would like to thank the members of our search committee for volunteering their time and service. The members of our search committee are:

- Ed Happ
- Katherine Housman
- Larry Jansen
- Pam Janson (Vestry)
- Thorn Hinkle
- Alternate: Bruce Hinkle (Vestry) – Bruce will recuse himself from voting but will otherwise participate in the search committee process.

Easter Flowers

Would you like to donate Easter Flowers in thanksgiving for/in memory of someone? Sign up in the parish HALLWAY (*small bulletin board on the left as you enter the hall between the Narthex & the Parish Hall*).

Donations accepted all the usual ways, memo: *Easter Flowers*

Vestry Update:
A Growing Place

The preschool that operates in our church, *A Growing Place*, will be closing their program in June after 55 years. PreK is now free of charge in Michigan and A Growing Place found they could not compete with free. They have not only been a valued tenant, renting space from Holy Cross, they have been an amazing partner collaborating and sharing the costs of building maintenance. We are immeasurably grateful for the support and partnership they have provided us over the years.

We will be working with the AGP team as they bring their program to a close to ensure a smooth transition. We are working on a plan to address the financial challenge this presents and will do so with guidance from the diocese. As always, we will keep you updated on our plans as they unfold.

Community Fun Gathering

St. Patty Party
March 14 @ 3 pm
Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner & Games

Mediterranean Meal & Movie
April 11 @ 3 pm
Menu & Movie TBA



Please pray for:

Peace in the world, especially in Gaza, Ukraine, Latin America, Ethiopia, the Republic of Congo and Syria. For people affected by gun violence in America. For the people of Venezuela.

In the Diocesan & Anglican cycle of prayer, St. Clare of Assisi, Ann Arbor; Trinity Church, Belleville. The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

In our Holy Cross community, Andrew; Raul, Cheryl; Denise; Brian V; Amy, Steve, Lucas, Ethan, Carter, Heather, and Shirley; Anne and Dallas Thorn; Mark; Eric Huth, his unit and all US soldiers who are deployed; Art; Shiela; Rich, Paulette & Hank; Kati; Susan and her family; Marsaya & Sayrah; Malcolm; Wanda, Tasha, Rhondda, Ronald, Kathy, Shirley; Lee.

Prayer requests to the church office or fill out the form on our Ministries page at www.holycrossnovi.org.

Social Justice Jar

The Social Justice Jar will continue collecting for **ACLU** in March.

Jamaica January raised \$250 for ERD - Hurricane relief. Thank you, Holy Cross.

Save the Date – The next NO KINGS protest is March 28th

OUTREACH

To Date in 2026 we have collected 61 personal care products for Hospitality House Food Pantry clients.

Online Giving

Zelle is fee free!
If your bank does not offer Zelle, we still accept online giving through Anedot.



Scan the QR code from your banking app.

All are welcome to warm up before the service 9:20-9:35 when Kate will run through that day’s music. All are welcome - no experience needed!



Choir Rehearsal time:
11:30am - 12:15pm



CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Sunday School **at 10am**. Children of all ages are invited to meet in the Preschool Room (*down the hall from the Sanctuary*).



Families worship together in the sanctuary on the 5th Sunday of the month.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

All knitters & crocheters welcome to join on the 1st Friday of each month @ 10 am in the sanctuary.



Prayer shawls are always available on request to Tryn Hinkle –

thcatcrazy101@gmail.com

Social Time

Ladies Lunch Fri, March 13th @ 11:30 am
We are headed back to Brentwood Grille in March, while checking out other options that fit our needs.

Brentwood Grille

43150 Grand River Ave, Novi, MI 48375

Men’s Breakfast Sat, April 4th @ 9am.

Moe’s on Ten

39455 W 10 Mile Rd, Novi

RSVP to the Jansens @ lajansens@yahoo.com or text/call

- Laura 248-330-2527
- Larry 248-330-2528