

Have a happy, safe, 4th of July weekend ... but first, catch up on parish news.



## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### **JUNE AT HOLY CROSS: A celebration of youth, culture and Dads**

A spotlight was shining on the young people of Holy Cross Durham in June - from preschool through college.

It began with preparations for Vacation Bible School - Journey to Egypt - which had the greatest VBS participation in Holy Cross ever, reports Jeanetta Hopkins, director of faith formation at Holy Cross. The program this year was attended by about 25 children ages three to 10, including a number of children from the area who are not parishioners. All are always welcome to the VBS and this year, a special effort was made to reach out to the greater community.

The children learned a lot about Egypt, Joseph and his journey from slavery to the palace - and the importance of his experience to all of us. You can view photos from VBS at our [Twitter](#) account.

Making VBS so successful this year was the tremendous support by adults and teens in the parish.



VBS Mural in process

The large mural that has been on the wall in the gathering space this month is a visible sign of parish involvement. It is the work of Dominique Burchette and Rita Anagor, two parishioners who painted the Egyptian scene, with help from other volunteers.

The mural reflected the theme of this year's VBS and served as the backdrop for many of the program activities. It remained on display for a few weeks after VBS ended. Activities included storytelling by Joseph (played by Warren Harris), plus prayer,

dance and other activities led by a number of adults in the parish. Read about how the mural was created in our [news blog on the Holy Cross website](#).

"I really appreciate all the help that we had from our parishioners for this year's VBS, with the art, the activities, and the food for the kids," Jeanetta said. "And thanks, also, for all those who attended. It was a great success!"

### **A Spotlight on Academics**

Each year, Holy Cross awards college scholarships to members of the parish. This year, three high school graduates received scholarships, and three received scholarships for their continued collegiate studies. The scholarships were awarded on Student Recognition Sunday, June 12. Also recognized that day were recent college graduates from the parish.

## High school graduates receiving Holy Cross Scholarships

- Matthew Anagor graduated from J.D. Clement Early College and will be attending North Carolina Central University, majoring in accounting. His parents are Rita and Mathew Anagor.
- Monica Crump graduated from Jordan High School and will be attending the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Her parents are Lori and Eric Crump.
- Truman Crump graduated from Jordan High School and will be attending the Savannah School of Art and Design majoring in animation. His parents are Lori and Eric Crump.

## Receiving Holy Cross Scholarships for continuing undergraduate studies:

- Sarah Crump, daughter of Lori and Eric Crump, is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill majoring in journalism and romance languages.
- Camille Fulbright, daughter of Geneva and Ed Fulbright and a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill majoring in health policy and management.
- Ashley McLaughlin, daughter of Tahra McLaughlin and Gregory Tanner, is a sophomore at Durham Technical Institute majoring in English

Seven parishioners were recognized for completing their college degree programs. Read about them and all our honorees at [the parish news blog](#).

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## A Caribbean Celebration

The first Sunday Mass in June had a Caribbean beat, as Holy Cross parishioners shared their Caribbean culture, in praise and in the Taste of the Caribbean reception that followed Mass. Fr. Jeffery Ott, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Atlanta, Ga., was guest celebrant for Mass. Read about the Caribbean Mass and its connection with our [parish history](#).

## Celebrating Father's Day

The ladies of the Altar Society honored Holy Cross fathers with a game-themed luncheon, providing the Dads in the parish a chance to show their skills at a quick toss of darts before the meal. View photos from the Father's Day celebration in the [Photo Gallery](#) on the parish website (click on the images to keep scrolling through).

## From the Garden to those in need

This year's timely rains - and many helping hands - are yielding good harvests from the Holy Cross Community Garden Project.



The size of the garden grew with the installation of the solar-powered electric fence that was donated last year.

This year, the garden continues to grow in many ways: the number of people participating, the number of people stopping by after Mass to take a tour, and the volume of produce being harvested.

Since the start of the 2016 growing season,

Deacon Phil helps with the garden harvest - the parish has donated more than 150 pounds of produce to Catholic Charities, including most recently a wheelbarrow-full of potatoes (85 pounds worth). Most of those were planted on Good Friday and survived the repeated frosts that came early in the growing season.

The Holy Cross Community Garden has two new parishioners who have 'rented' beds of their own and are helping with the garden's flower bed and community vegetable beds. More volunteers are always welcome. If you'd like to join the garden project, contact [Anna Rzewnicki](#), Holy Cross Community Garden coordinator.

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## OPPORTUNITIES

### ***Families Moving Forward ...***

Holy Cross is helping this organization, which offers a temporary home to families with children in the crisis of homelessness, providing a path to stability and self-sufficiency. Check out the display in the gathering space to see Holy Cross volunteers days and sign up for this important ministry.

### ***Stephen Ministry ...***

This ministry provides support for parishioners in times of need. [Read more.](#)

### ***New Rules for Voting in 2016***

Pick up one of the information cards explaining identification requirements and options for voting. If you know others who may need the information, pick up an extra card or two and pass it along.

### ***Giving on line***

If you haven't had a chance to register for online giving yet, you can do so easily by clicking on the 'Online Giving' image that scrolls through at the top of our website. That will take you to the parish's [Online Giving](#) page where you can set up your account and schedule your regular contributions to the parish, assuring ongoing support even when you're out of town on a weekend.

### ***A Final Note ...***

Because of your willingness to give, Holy Cross has reached an all-time high of 84% of our Bishop's Annual Appeal goal! We had 160 families support the campaign, allowing the appeal to surpass its goal, enabling agencies such as Catholic Charities and the various campus ministries to help and evangelize even more people.

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed and participated in the campaign. As I have said before, and will continue to say, I cannot do any of the things we do without your help and support.

Have a happy, safe Fourth of July weekend! - Fr. Andy

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