

# **HOLY CROSS/SANTA CRUZ CHURCH**

## **PARISH PROFILE**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Holy Cross/Santa Cruz is a faith community that proclaims and seeks to respond to the Gospel's call to bring the light of faith and hope in Jesus Christ to all people through praise and prayer, fellowship and service. We strive to promote justice, peace, and love in our community and in our world.

### **PARISH HISTORY**

The Church of the Holy Cross was founded in 1891 as a mission to the poor and working class people of the area. Significant renovations to the interior of the church were made in the 1920's. These included the addition of a small chapel of the Annunciation, more recently rededicated to Our Lady, under the title of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe; a rood; Blessed Virgin and Sacred Heart side altars; and a magnificent high altar with a triptych depicting the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, that includes statues of key figures from the Oxford and other catholic movements in the Anglican Church.

Father Stanley Dean, our Rector from 1939 to 1955, started the first soup kitchen in Kingston. There was always a pot of stew or soup on the stove in his rectory to feed the hungry. For many years the parish ran a soup kitchen, called *St. Simon's Sit Down*, with the help of volunteers from our church and the local community. It served lunch on weekends to between 60 and 150 adults and children.

### **KINGSTON, NY**

Kingston is strategically located between the Hudson River and the Catskill Mountains. New York City is 90 miles to the south and Albany, the state's capital, is 60 miles to the north. Nearby are the Minnewaska State Park and the Mohonk Preserve in the Shawangunk Mountain Range.

Kingston, Ulster County, and the greater Hudson Valley are a region diverse in culture, history, educational institutions, employment opportunities and recreational possibilities. In 2008, *Business Week* and *Sperling's Best Places To Live* named Kingston one of the leading areas for artists in the United States. The ranking was based on a high number of artists per capita and the cultural resources available to the community.

For more information, reference these useful links:

[ulatertourism.info](http://ulatertourism.info); [cl.kingston.ny.us](http://cl.kingston.ny.us); [kingstoncityschools.org](http://kingstoncityschools.org); [utsterchamber.org](http://utsterchamber.org); [zllow.com](http://zllow.com)

## **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:**

Sunday

10:00am - Sung Eucharist in English

6:00 pm - Misa Cantada en Espanol

## **BUILDINGS**

The Church, built in 1891, retains its original architectural purity. The Church building is a single-story brick structure with a dark wood-paneled ceiling contrasted by white plaster walls. It is spacious and has an ample sanctuary, wide aisles and a large rear atrium, where the community can gather for the celebration of Baptismal liturgies. It has arched gothic stained-glass windows, a red and white tile floor in the chancel, and a beautiful oak parquet floor in the sanctuary. The sacristy, a bathroom and a loft are adjacent to the sanctuary; the rear of the church features a raised choir loft with a pipe organ above the entrance narthex and a small chapel. Much of the interior finish and furnishings have been preserved.

The Parish Hall, constructed in the late 1920's, has a large meeting room and kitchen, a well-appointed church school room and two offices. The basement houses another office, the thrift shop and a storage room. A common heating plant serves both buildings.

In the 1960's, the Church purchased a lovely house on West Chestnut Street in the City of Kingston, which has served as the rectory ever since. It is a traditional two-story cape with three bedrooms, a family room with a fireplace room, a living room with a fireplace, dining room and kitchen with one and a half baths. It has a detached one-car garage, a large front lawn and beautiful fenced-in backyard and garden. It is located in a lovely residential neighborhood approximately one half mile from the Church.

## **PARISH LEADERSHIP**

Staff: Priest in Charge, Holy Cross - Fr. Frank J. Alagna, Ph.D.,  
Priest in Charge, Santa Cruz - Mo. Maria Filomena Servellon  
The church office is staffed by volunteers from the parish.

## **HOLY CROSS TODAY**

The Church of the Holy Cross/Santa Cruz is a pastoral size parish with a congregation that actively embraces diversity - welcoming all regardless of socio-economic status, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender identity or past religious affiliations. Six years ago the parish embraced a new paradigm. Instead of identifying itself as two congregations that share a building, it embraced the identity of one congregation that ordinarily worships in two languages, but otherwise strives to be one in all other areas of its common life: leadership, ministry, fellowship,

mission and service. Several times a year the congregation expresses its unity in prayer by celebrating a bilingual Eucharist.

As we work toward deepening our new identity and live with concerns about growing membership and finances, the congregation remains firmly committed to its call to be a strategic mission of the diocese in the city of Kingston.

Our parish has a history of resilience and flexibility. We have faced and risen above challenges that have presented themselves in the past and are confident that we can mine whatever challenges the future may hold for their transformational and growth potential by remaining open to the call of the Spirit.

We have a longstanding history of being liturgically Anglo-Catholic. We cherish beauty in worship and are very much at home with liturgical vesture, candles, incense, and chant.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

In keeping with the nurturing spirit of our founders, we have several outreach programs:

- The *Thrift Shop* operates solely on donations from the congregation and community and provides clothing and household items for purchase by those on a limited budget. The money collected from the Thrift Shop goes toward the support of the general budget of the church.
- The *Soap Closet* provides free laundry detergent, shampoo, dish detergent, tooth paste and toiletries to those in need. It was originally started to provide the needy of our community with items that were not covered by food stamps. The congregation and the community at large fund this ministry.
- The parish hosts and supports an *ESL Program* that includes child-care using teachers supplied by BOCES.
- Given the exceptional acoustics of the church building, musical groups regularly use the church for rehearsals, recitals and concerts.
- Several Twelve-Step groups (e.g., Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous) hold their meetings in the Parish Hall.

## **LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Wardens – Judy Damron and Chuck Snyder

Vestry Members – Isabel Hernandez, Sheila France, Anselmo Guerra, Chuck Krulis, Yvelisse Garcia

**SEARCH COMMITTEE** Wardens and Vestry

**BUDGET and OTHER FINANCIALS** furnished upon request

**VISION AND GOALS**

- To bear witness to our faith in and love for Jesus Christ.
- To grow parish membership by sustaining an actively welcoming environment.
- To nurture the spiritual wellbeing and development of the congregation through our weekly celebration of the Eucharist; our occasional celebration of a bi-lingual Eucharist; occasional celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick; programs of Advent Lessons and Carols; Lenten weekday Eucharist; Holy Week liturgies; and bible studies.
- To have Christian education programs that include: a *Godly Play* program for children; a church school program, that uses the Virginia Theological Seminary Curriculum, for school age children; a youth group and choir for teens; and adult study opportunities.
- To remain actively involved in the Ulster County Black Ministers Alliance and the Kingston Area Council of Churches.
- To nurture the covenant relationship between the Episcopal Church and Lutheran Church in Kingston.
- To continue and to expand our community outreach programs.
- To use church facilities to meet the artistic needs of the community.

**OUR NEXT PRIEST**

We are seeking a second-generation fully bi-lingual and bi-cultural priest:

Who will actively serve the congregation's vision to celebrate diversity and to become ever more fully one in Christ.

Who will be an energetic, inspired and inspiring spiritual guide who is unafraid to share with us his/her journey, while fostering our love for and belief in Christ and our mission to be agents of social justice, reconciliation and peace.

Who as a minister of the sacraments values good liturgy and is a thoughtful and thought-provoking preacher, who uses his/her sermons to bring both the spiritual comfort and also the prophetic challenge of the gospel to our lives.

Who believes in the value of good liturgical music as a resource to inspire a deepening of life in the Spirit for the sake of the priorities of the Kingdom.

Who can establish rapport with young people.

Who is an experienced and loving pastor and counselor, who considers visits to shut-in parishioners (at home or in institution) an important part of his/her ministry.

Who has skills in community building and conflict resolution.

Who possesses sense of humor, is personable and compassionate, and able to further the loving relationships that the congregation presently enjoys.

Who is an administrator capable of managing parish programs and finances in partnership with the wardens, vestry and other committed lay leaders. He or she must not be afraid to talk about money and stewardship.

Who will be a guide in the ministry of our parish that it might continue its existing outreach programs and find new ways to respond to the needs of the community as these present themselves.

### **SEARCH COMMITTEE PRAYER**

Loving God, Giver of every good gift, look graciously upon your Church and so guide the minds and hearts of those who shall choose a priest for our parish, that we may receive and be prepared to follow and support the leadership of a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **COMPENSATION**

Compensation negotiable, based on experience and diocesan guidelines.

### **TO APPLY**

Email your current resume and Office of Transition Ministry Portfolio to:

The Rev. Canon Deborah G. Tammearu  
Canon for Transition Ministry  
Email: [dtammearu@dioceseny.org](mailto:dtammearu@dioceseny.org)