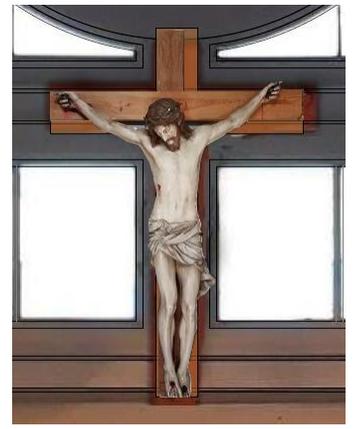


Something new adorns Holy Family Church...

**“They shall look upon Him whom
they have Pierced”** (John 19:37)



A new symbol of our Faith will soon be adorning the sanctuary of Holy Family Church: **the Crucifix**. It arrives as we inaugurate a year dedicated to the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Against that backdrop we are better enabled to visualize “the Mystery of Faith” which our liturgy celebrates. The crucifix is simultaneously (1) the price for our sins, (2) the monument to Christ’s victory over suffering & death, and (3) the pledge of the New, Eternal Covenant in God’s unconditional love. This rich sacramental carries to us the echo of our ongoing salvation: *“God so loved the World, that He gave His only and Beloved Son....Jesus loved those who were His own in the world; and He loved them to the very end.”* (John 3:16, John 13:1).

Christ gave us the command: *“Do this in memory of Me”* (Luke 22:19). Elevated in the sanctuary, the Crucifix sheds light upon our Christian memorial celebration, in which we partake anew of the Table of our Lord’s Supper and the Altar of the Lamb’s Sacrifice *“who takes away the sins of the world”* (John 1:29). St Paul reminded the early Christians: *“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?”* (1 Cor 10:16). Moreover, it is through this Baptismal Sign of the Cross that we on earth are invited to take part in the eternal, Heavenly Wedding Feast—sacramentally veiled under lowly signs and symbols: *“How blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb!”* (Rev. 19:9). As we look intently upon Him whom our sins have pierced, whose heart is pierced with His Divine Love for us, we also remember what the Lord asks of us: *“A new Commandment I give to you: love one another, as I have loved you!”* (John 13:34). Lastly, in beholding the crucified One, we are filled with hope and greater trust in the God *“Who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all; will he not also give us everything we need?”* (Romans 8:32).

The new crucifix is to be blessed on Saturday, January 16th, 2021 A.D. We owe a debt of gratitude to the generous team of parishioners and friends who have contributed from their time, talent, and treasure to provide us with this momentous gift. Their hope is that all who sincerely “behold the wood of this cross” may experience more deeply the love of Jesus Christ and follow Him in carrying that love to others.