

**Pastor's Report for January 2023 Council Meeting**  
**December 21, 2022 – January 17, 2023**

- Thank you to all who helped make our Christmas season beautiful, special, and hospitable! We celebrated the Nativity of our Lord at 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 24; Christmas Sunday worship on December 25 at 9:30 a.m., Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. on the first Sunday of Christmas (Jan. 1), and Epiphany at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 6. It is always a joy to hear that people are touched by the grace of God through the Word and Sacrament, the music, and the welcoming community that they encounter at Mount Cross.
- Thank you to those who filled in for me while I was away Dec. 26 – January 4. Evonne Kuchera and Susan Prosser were first responders for urgent care needs. Pastor Lynn Enloe and The Rev. Kate Lewis were on call for pastoral emergencies. Carol Browning ensured smooth office operations.
- For the week of January 9 – 14, my time was dedicated to serving the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles as the pre-ordination retreat leader for new priests and as the preacher at their ordinations on January 14. You can see the festive occasion here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbiMq7IT1Lc> Many thanks to Carol, Joe, and Deacon Cecelia for making sure Mount Cross was well-served in my absence, including Deacon Cecelia's willingness to preach on January 15, knowing I would not have time to prepare a sermon.
- Since tonight is the last meeting of the 2022 Congregational Council, I want to sincerely thank each of you for your generous service to Mount Cross this year. We are blessed by your labor and grateful for your gifts! Special thanks to our Executive Committee, under the excellent leadership of President Becky Riley, for the many additional meetings and tasks they assumed over the year.
- There is much to look forward to in 2023, including our **Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29**, the **Leadership Retreat on Saturday, February 11**, and **Baptisms** and the welcoming of new members on **Sunday, February 19**. Thank you for making a strong effort to be present at all these special events, as well as our weekly Sunday worship.

God bless you.