

January 19, 2022

From Fr. John

I was watching a TV show the other day and one of the characters, a pretty cynical guy, made a statement that stuck with me. He and another character were talking about helping a group of stranded travelers. When asked why he wanted to help them, he said something to the effect of, “One of these kids might have a kid someday. And *that* kid might do something to make the world better.” That is finding hope in a dark situation.

We have been stuck in this seemingly endless pandemic for two years now. In that time, you have seen: your beloved church building closed; services conducted via computer screen; coming back into the church, but with people wearing masks and some of the pews roped off; restarting Communion, but only in one kind (the Body but no Blood); allowing people to intinct (or dip) the host in the cup; requesting that people return to masking and distancing. And that’s leaving out losing your Rector. This has been a dark time for our world, for our churches, and for St. James.

If you find yourself experiencing darkness and finding it hard to see the light, remember that this is the season of Epiphany. The season where the hope of the world was shown to people who followed a bright star to find the Savior. As long as we have Jesus — the light of the world — we have hope. Let His love shine in your hearts and choose to see the hope over the hopelessness.

God’s blessings,
Fr. John+

St. James Concert Series Resumes
THIS FRIDAY!

Rolston String Quartet
7:00 PM

Reception follows in Parish Hall.



ALERT : Please ignore any email from Rev. John Bedingfield requesting gifts cards. This is a scam.



Let’s Have a Pounding!

There’s an old-fashioned tradition of welcoming a family into their new home by offering them a “pounding”—a pound of this and that to help them stock up on basic supplies that are essential to most households. In keeping with this practice, St. James is hosting a pounding for a family of four who came to our area from Houma after losing their residence and almost all of their possessions during Hurricane Ida. They now plan to make

Alexandria their home, and we want to help kickstart their life here.

Here’s how you can participate: bring a non-perishable basic pantry item (e.g., sugar, flour, coffee, cereal, ketchup, salt, etc.), canned food, paper goods, or cleaning supplies to the church and place it in the blue bin in the Parish Hall. We will receive items beginning this Sunday, January 23, through next Sunday, January 30. You can drop off donations before or after church on either Sunday or 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday, January 24-Thursdays, January 27.

Some things to keep in mind:

- The family consists of two adults, a 2-year-old girl and 12-year-old boy.
- Space is limited in their mobile home, so small sizes are best (a standard size rather than Sam’s quantity).
- If you prefer, you can purchase a Walmart gift card to donate to the family. That would allow them to purchase perishable food items or other household goods that they may need to select themselves. Please do not put gift cards into the bin;

Annual Parish Meeting Sunday

The Annual Meeting of St. James will be **THIS SUNDAY**, January 23, 2022, **immediately following the 10:30am service in the church**. The Annual Meeting is required under our Diocesan Canons (laws). The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to give the congregation information on the state of the parish; to introduce the annual budget, as set by the Vestry; to elect Vestry members and Wardens; and to elect delegates and alternates to Diocesan Convention.



The requirements for those who stand for election, either for Vestry or for Delegate to Convention are:

- The person must be a confirmed member the Church through the laying on of hands by a Bishop, or having been received into the Episcopal Church by a Bishop.
- The person must be at least sixteen years of age.
- The person must be a “member in good standing,” meaning that for the previous year the person has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

We need faithful people to serve on the Vestry and as Delegates. If you are interested in either of these ministries, or would just like more information about them, please contact Canon John in the church office (318.445.9845).



Curtain Up for Michael!

Make plans now to attend a benefit concert for our own choir director, Michael Sterne! Sixteen organizations are combining talent and effort to present an Evening of Broadway to help defray unexpected financial expenses associated with a kidney transplant he will have this year.

Saturday - January 29 @ 7:30 p.m.

Sunday - January 30 @ 2:30 p.m.

Martin Performing Arts Center, Louisiana College

Tickets: \$15.00 Youth, \$25.00 Soloist, \$50.00 Virtuoso, \$100 Maestro

Those who are unable to attend can help by making a donation of any amount to St. James Episcopal Church with a note in Memo section: Fundraiser for Michael.



Diocesan Delegate Opportunity

Interested in being a Diocesan Delegate?! Find out what really goes on behind the scenes by representing St. James at the Diocesan Convention being held on March 4 - 5, 2022. You must be 15 years or older, confirmed, and a member of St. James in good standing. The diocesan schedule follows:

In-person convention

- Friday night opening Eucharist at St. Timothy's, Alexandria [catered reception follows]
- Saturday business meeting at Pineville Convention Center at Country Inn and Suites

On-site childcare available Friday and Saturday

- For children through 12 years of age
- Clergy/Vendors/Guests indicate need for childcare during online registration

Special Remembrance Opportunities

The opportunity to remember loved ones in a special way is afforded each week through individuals/families providing flowers for our altar. A sign-up poster will be displayed in the Narthex of the church for your convenience. Several Sundays are spoken for already.



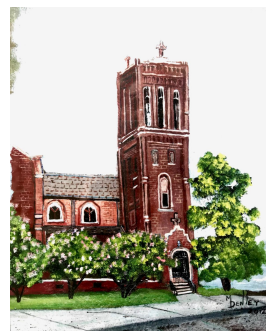
If you are not able to sign up in the church, please call or email the church office to find out whether or not a particular date is available . The asking amount for flowers is \$75.00.

The Sanctuary Lamp is another way to honor loved ones on a monthly basis for an askance of \$40.00.

Worship

8:00 AM Service Is Back!

During the worst of the first round of COVID and the restrictions that came with it, the early Sunday service was discontinued. Omicron notwithstanding, we are restarting the 8:00am Eucharist this Sunday, January 16th. If you prefer the small setting of the chapel, or you just prefer earlier church, please come and join us this Sunday. And for those of you who have been early service attendees for years, please be understanding if Canon John does not do things exactly the way you were used to.



January 23rd
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
In-person Worship @ 10:30 AM
Childcare is available!

[Click here for the readings.](#)

January 23rd
Evening Prayer
Online @ 5:00 PM

[Click on this link to join Evening Prayer.](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077
Passcode: 1620

[Click here for the order of service & readings.](#)



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

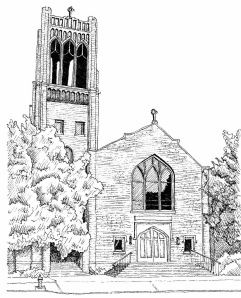
Tim and Alexis Heflin, Henry Blake, Ellen Inman, Matthew Fontanille, Jaxsom McElwee, Bonnie McCartney, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Dixie Leigh Platt, Ty Cedars, Stacy, Kristie Fresh, Mattie Dean McNaughton, Sawyer, John, Bernard Parker, James Sinclair, Johnnie Hart, Emily, Taylor Thompson, Todd Fuller, Jane Y. Harris, Chase Barnfield, Kip Hogue, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Jimmy Hurt, Charlotte Thrift, Mesta Bain, Margaret Broussard, Allie Bunyog, Dean M. Tyree, Ron Kingston, Cecile Brunson, Felicia, Rita Clancey, Barry Mercer, Annie, Jackie Jeanne, Jaclyn Cutrone, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Bruce Gremillion, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Betty Anne Close, Bill Leibke, Sarah, Jackie Moody, Wayne and Barbara Moorehead, Pat Carter, Richard Norem, Kevin Hooter, Warren Paul, Cindy Smith, Jane Tyson, Gerard, Mehre Hajighassem, and Wanda ad Starlic King.

For those in the military:

Samuel Hayes, Steven Brevelle, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Steven P. Lemoine, Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in January (day):

Dana Brunson (3), Joy Owensby (3), Lauren Vines (3), Patrick Owensby (4), Ruthlyn Jarvis (5), Charlotte Sterling (9), Sydney Hazel (10), Nona Yeager (13), Mary Belle Marshall (14), Ryan McCartney (17), Isabella Allen (20), Eva Andrus (22), Taylor Bedingfield (23), Kendall From (25), Chris Hazel (25), Bailey Adams (27), Lacey Brown (27), Sandra Daigle (27), John Brewer (28), Kristina McBride (28), Lindsay Holton (30), Ann Robicheaux (30).



[Visit our Website](#)

St. James Episcopal Church | 1620 Murray Street, Alexandria, LA 71301 | 318.445.9845

