

November 30, 2022

## From Fr. John

This Sunday is Ingathering Sunday for our Annual Stewardship Campaign. At both services, we will take our completed pledge cards and put them on the altar. There we will offer them to God as a means of giving back to God from that which God has given us.

As Judge Dee Drell wrote in a letter to the congregation, "Stewardship ... isn't just a call to bug you for money. It is not just an annual drive to fulfill a budget. Instead, it is a calling for you and for me to stop and remember that God is indeed in this effort. It is a request to us ... to commit to something much bigger than ourselves. It is a request to put the noise away for a little while and ask yourself the question of what stewardship of your LIFE should look like."

Lacey and Josh Brown stood up at the 10:30 service a couple of weeks ago and explained exactly what stewardship of their life looks like. They gave an incredible call for us all to return to God what God has given us: in giving of our (God-granted) time; in giving of our (God-given) abilities; and in giving of our (God-created) treasure.

Your fellow parishioners, have told you how God has moved them toward faithful stewardship of their lives, and how God has shown them that there is always More Than Enough, when we are faithful with God's generous resources.

The world today can be a scary place. There are many reasons for people to worry about the future. And worrying about the future leads us to grasp what we have more tightly, fearing that in the unknown future we will need everything we have, and more. But Jesus told us not to worry about tomorrow, telling us that we are to live our lives in the present, in certainty of the hope of salvation through him. The author of the First Letter to Timothy (6:17-19) told the recipient of his letter that he should:

"[C]ommand (the members of the community) not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on **God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment**. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, **so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.**"

We can only live "the life that really is life," if we lay our worries at the foot of the cross. And instead of living lives of stressful concern, we must walk in the footsteps of Jesus, living in humility, generosity, service, and love. There is always more than enough in the Kingdom of God. Until we fully usher in that Kingdom, let us live like it is already here. Open your hearts and hands to the God who opens Fatherly hands and heart to you. And give thanks for having More Than Enough.

Peace,  
Fr. John+



## INQUIRERS' CLASS

Have you been at St. James (or in The Episcopal Church) and would like to make a personal commitment to the Church? Or would you just like to learn more about the Church of which you are a part? Come to the parish hall on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm for our first Enquirers' Class.

At the end of our classes, those who would like may

- Be confirmed into The Episcopal Church by the laying on of the Bishop's hands;
- Be received into The Episcopal Church by the Bishop, if they have already

been confirmed in another liturgical tradition (e.g. the Roman Catholic Church);

- Reaffirm their Baptismal Vows, if they have already been confirmed into this Church; or
- Do none of the above.

Please come to the first class if you are interested at all. You don't have to commit to long-term attendance. If you like it, stay. And if you're interested in furthering or deepening your involvement in the Church, this is the place to start.

## Faith & Fellowship Tonight

Dinner: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall  
[Gumbo, salad, dessert]  
[\$5 for adults; FREE ages 18 & under]  
JEYC/EYC: 6:30 p.m. in Youth Building  
Adult Class: 6:30 p.m. in Parlor Viewing &  
Discussion of The Chosen.



FAITH FELLOWSHIP



## First Sunday Ministry Fund

During November, St. James was able to assist 17 families with \$4057 towards utilities, rent, and gas. This was all due to your generosity. The need remains great since the multiple utilities bills have been sent out. So many are on fixed incomes. Please remember that the first Sunday "loose plate" collection (cash) is designated for the Ministry Fund, and we welcome donations by check as well - please make checks payable to St. James with Ministry Fund written in the check's Memo section. Thank you!

## Sunday Adult Christian Formation

Join us Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor as we continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew, using a video that is the word-for-word Gospel, but with actors bringing the action to life. There is discussion of what we see and hear each week. No preparation needed.



## CHRISTMAS CHEER

Opportunities abound for you to spread Christmas Cheer to several people this season! Please select one that appeals to you!

1. Giving Tree – CLASS has provided 8 families with children's wish list. Some families have only one child while others have up to 5 families. You may wish to take one for yourself or maybe share a larger family with someone else. Sign up in narthex.
2. Fill the Stockings! – On Wednesday evening, December 14, following the fellowship dinner, we will be baking cookies and filling Christmas bags for 17 veterans and 50 participants in our Community Breakfast (this one actually falls on Christmas Day!). Plan to join in the festivities.

Items needed: mixed nuts, halo oranges, envelopes of hot chocolate mix, popcorn, and women's socks. Place these in blue bin or drop off at office.

## Plastice Shopping Bags Needed

You may remember when the Slip-Knots learned this past summer to crochet sleeping mats for the homeless from plastic shopping bags. Inspired by Julia Welch's example (see picture on bulletin board), Susan Frey is asking for plastic bags, all colors - takes 700 to make 1 mat! Please save what you acquire and bring to Susan or office.



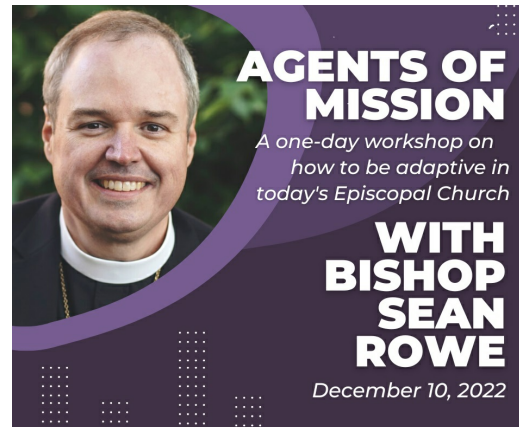


## CHRISTMAS IN CENLA Friday, December 16, 2022 7:00pm

Texas' newest instrumental ensemble, New Texas Sinfonia, makes its Louisiana debut performing a varied concert of music for the holiday season. Featuring harp and strings, the concert will include selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, "Winter" from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, Corelli's "Christmas Concerto" and Marcel Grandjany's beautiful "Aria in Classic Style" for harp and string orchestra.

Admission is always free and there will be a festive reception in the Parish Hall. Bring a friend and enjoy some Christmas music and some Christmas cheer.

On December 10, Bishop Sean Rowe of the **Episcopal Partnership** (dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York) will lead us in exploring strategies for leading our congregations through these uncertain times. In the last generation, the Episcopal Church's landscape has shifted dramatically. As we wrestle with how to respond, it is all too easy to believe that the church's institutional structures are harming, not helping, our efforts to focus on the mission and ministry to which God calls us.



But when we learn to think institutionally and lead adaptively, we can chart a different course. Together, we can create strong, adaptive congregations that are agents of mission, able to use resources in innovative ways and create space to discern where God might be leading our communities.

**This one-day gathering will take place at The Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this exciting event with a team of folks from your congregation. [Registration](#) is open until tomorrow, December 1.**

## Worship



December 4th

Second Sunday of Advent

In-person Worship at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Childcare is available for the 10:30 AM service.

[Click on this link to join the 10:30 AM service.](#)

[Click here for the service bulletin.](#)

December 4th  
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:**

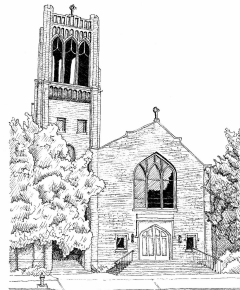
*Jim Bristol, Gary Maxwell, Bill Owens, Mother Meredith Ward, Betty Gaiennie, Jack Dewitt, Sr., Beth Hebert, Rita & Bill Clancey, Jimmy Hurt, Carol Rowe, Barbara Baldwin, Louise Carter, Donnie Hayes, John Brewer, Fred Alexius, Paula Lieberman, Bill and Beverly Jarvis, Ralph Gill, Robbie G., Jonathan Rhea, Peggy Humbles, Laura Murchison, Darriel & Charles, Minnie Mikell, Massi Jordan, Richard Norem, Pepe Rizzo, Bonnie McLellan, Michael Sterne, Jim Leggett, Cackie, Bernard Parker, Rachel and Ben, Kristie Fresh, Andrea, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Jeff and Anne, Lillian DeVille, Shannon Norman, Bill Jarvis, Wilma Filipi, Stephen, Natosha and Family, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Charlotte Sterling, Matthew Fontanille, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Stacy and Richard, Chase Barnfield, Taylor Thompson, Johnnie Hart, Jane Y. Harris, Kip Hogue, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Mesta Bain, Dean M. Tyree, Jackie Jeanne, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Bill Leibke, Wayne Moorehead, Pat Carter, Kevin Hooter, Jane Tyson, Gerard, and Mehre Hajighassem.*

**For those in the military:**

*Josh Duff, Samuel Hayes, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.*

**For those celebrating birthdays in December (day):**

*Sue Ellen Jackson (1), Graham Matthews (1), Elizabeth Deshotel (5), Holly Dixon (7), James White (7), T. W. Thompson (8), Lindsey Lemoine (9), Ava Walker (9), Morgan Dixon (17), Carl Carstens (20), Will Hester (20), George Matthews (20), Sylvia Middleton (21), Jim Hair (22), Tonya Shepherd (22), Thomas Denley (26), Thomas Downs (26), Bertie Smith (26), Georgina Adams (27), Carla Beth Carlisle (27), John Bufkin (28), Marie Durham (28), Luke McLemore (28), Fred Adams (29).*



Visit our Website

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