

December 14, 2022

From Fr. John

This Sunday, the season of Advent draws to a close. This brief season has been a reminder that we Christians are waiting and anticipating something very important to us. We have been waiting on the arrival of the Christ child, the Incarnate God, Emmanuel (God with us).

On December 24th at 5:30, we will celebrate the Feast of the Nativity — our annual Christmas Eve service. At that service, we will have the children's pageant, which thanks to its participants, is new and different every year (squeaky donkey excepted). The children will tell us the story of the birth of the baby Jesus. We will sing familiar Christmas hymns. We will go back to good old, regular Rite II. The baby's birth will be the focus of the evening and all will be right with the world as we sing Silent Night. On Christmas Eve, there is no place in the world that I would rather be than in a beautiful Episcopal Church, liturgically celebrating with beauty and wonder, the arrival of a miracle.

On December 25th at 10:00am, we will again celebrate the Feast with a very different expression of our joy and gratitude for this gift, given to us by the God who created us. This service will be much quieter and more introspective. But it will be no less a blessing to those who attend. Christmas morning is always a lovely, calming time to step back from the crazy aspects of the season and to truly give thanks for the Incarnation of God.

As we heard last week from the Letter of James, "Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near." Because we know that, even as we prepare for the arrival of the baby Jesus, we are also preparing for his Second Coming. And we are to live our lives — at this time and in this place — as if Jesus was returning tomorrow. We are to prepare for his return by following in his footsteps, loving God and loving each other. I pray that we are all fully cognizant of his call to us, and that we approach these days in that loving way. Keep your head up and be glad at the coming of our Lord.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 18th at 2:00pm for our Enquirers' Class.

Faith & Fellowship Tonight

Dinner: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall
Variety of PIZZA!
[\$5 for adults; FREE ages 18 & under]
Baking Cookies!



Filling "Stockings"!

All invited to enjoy Christmas music, fellowship and fun as we fill bags with goodies for Veterans and those in need!



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 IN CENLA

THIS 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.



Lessons & CAROLS

The annual celebration of Lessons and Carols will be this Sunday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m. We shall hear the stories of salvation history with great music to highlight those lessons as we prepare ourselves to receive the Messiah. This is a perfect opportunity to invite your friends to come and join us!



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Christmas Eve offers a family-centered service complete with a children's pageant at 5:30 p.m.! All are welcome to participate. A rehearsal follows the 10:30 a.m. service today. If you have children or grandchildren or nieces or nephews that can't make the rehearsal but would still like to be a part of the pageant, show up by 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve. They can be an angel, shepherd, or sheep! There will be NO CHILD CARE for the service. ALL CHILDREN are WELCOME to the service!

CHRISTMAS MORNING

Service is at 10:00 a.m.

Being the last Sunday of the month, St. James is having its monthly Community Breakfast with festivities! If you would like to be a part of this wonderful event, please join us in the kitchen at 7:30 a.m. or the parish hall at 8:00 a.m.



END of the YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS and PLEDGES

If you wish to fulfill your 2022 pledge or make any other contributions to receive a tax benefit for the year end 2022, please note that contributions must be dated for December, and received by Friday, December 30. If you wish to hand deliver them to the church office, they must be in before noon on Friday, December 30. Any online pledges/contributions must be made before midnight, Saturday, December 31.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN IN YOUR PLEDGE CARD FOR 2023!

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

You are invited each Christmas to make a contribution to the glory of God and in memory or honor of loved ones. The memorial you make offers a way to not only honor those whom we love, but also decorate our church for this festive season. Please send your list of names to be remembered with your check to the church office no later than Tuesday, December 20. Envelopes are also available in the church pew racks.



Worship



December 18th

Fourth 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 18th
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:

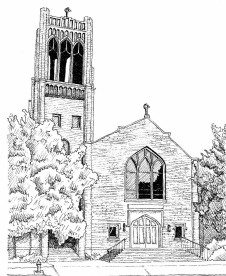
Kip Hogue, Jim Bristol, Gary Maxwell, Bill Owens, Mother Meredith Ward, Pat Carter, Betty Gaiennie, Jack Dewitt, Sr., Beth Hebert, Rita & Bill Clancey, Jimmy Hurt, Carol Rowe, Barbara Baldwin, Louise Carter, Donnie Hayes, John Brewer, Fred Alexius, Paula Lieberman, Bill and Beverly Jarvis, Robbie G., 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, 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, Donna House, Dayna Hill, 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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