



December 21, 2022

From Fr. John

Over two millennia ago, in the village of Bethlehem (estimated population of 1,000), in what is today the Palestinian West Bank, a child was born. Even back in those days when every birth was a potentially hazardous event, the birth of a child was a pretty ordinary occurrence. So why do we remember and celebrate the birth of a baby boy, born to working-class parents who named him Yeshua (translated to Jesus), all these centuries later?

There are definite clues to answer that question in our Christian Bible. In the Old Testament, prophets spoke about him. Four Gospels tell the story of his life. Twenty-one epistles tell us various things about him — and in many cases, tell us how we should understand him as well. Scholars from the 1st Century CE through today have written innumerable books about him. I'm willing to bet that there were lots of Yeshuas born around the time of Jesus, but none are remembered as he is.

Here is the simple answer, from the Gospel of Luke: "Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'"

To us was born on that day, the Savior — the Messiah, the Lord. Thanks be to God that little Yeshua, from incredibly humble beginnings, grew to be Jesus the Christ who saved the world from sin and death, and who has promised us eternal life in the heavenly dwellings made for us by our Father in heaven.

We gather together every year at this time, to celebrate and recognize the miracle that came into world on that first Christmas. For, "God so loved the world that God gave the only begotten Son, to the end that all who believe in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

I hope that you and yours have a Christmas that is as joyous as the occasion deserves. And may your New Year be one reflective of the love of God which Jesus called us to share with all those we meet.

The Peace of God and the joy of the season, be with you all.

Fr. John+



Church Office will be Closed
Thursday - Monday
December 22 - 26
and
Friday - Monday
December 30, 2022 - January 2, 2023

May you and your family have a very blessed
Christmas!

Christmas Eve offers a family-centered service complete with a children's pageant at 5:30 p.m.! All are welcome to participate. If you have children or grandchildren or nieces or nephews that couldn'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!



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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!

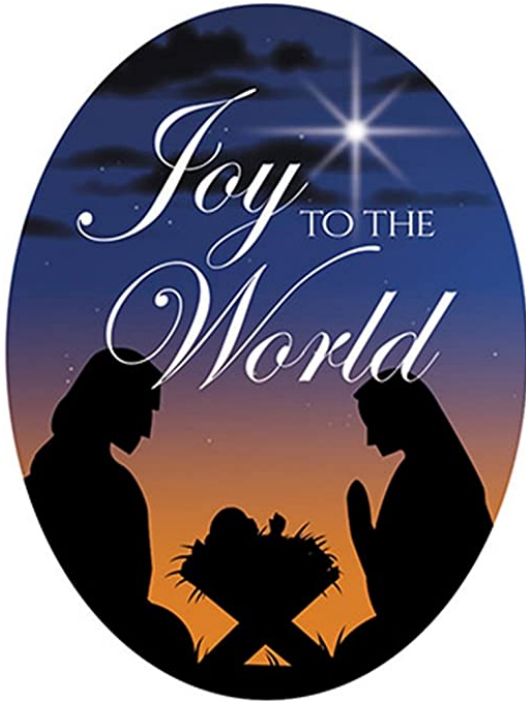


Special Remembrances

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 for your convenience. More than one family may sign up for a Sunday.

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

Worship



December 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

Family-oriented Service with
Children's Pageant

5:30 PM

**No childcare available - ALL are
welcome.**

[Click on this link to join the 5:30 PM
service.](#)

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

December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

In-person Worship at 10:00 AM

No childcare available.

**NO Evening Prayer
Resumes January 8, 2023
Online @ 5:00 PM**



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

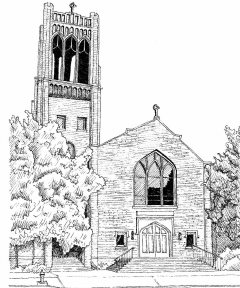
Holly Craig, Kip Hogue, Jim Bristol, Gary Maxwell, Ellen Moore, Bill Owens, Mother Meredith Ward, Pat Carter, Betty Gaiennie, Jack Dewitt, Sr., Beth Hebert, Rita & Bill Clancey, Jimmy Hurt, Carol Rowe, Barbara Baldwin, Louise Carter, Donnie Hayes, John Brewer, Fred Alexius, Paula Lieberman, Bill and 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

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



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