



January 4, 2023

From Fr. John

Happy New Year.

This Friday, January 6th, is the Feast of the Epiphany. And Sunday, January 8th, we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord. At the 10:30 service on Sunday, the Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, PhD, DD, Bishop of Western Louisiana, will be here for his annual visitation. He will celebrate, preach, and confirm/receive/reaffirm several members of our community.

The Epiphany and The Baptism of Our Lord — point to a very important tenet of our faith: Jesus has been revealed to us as both the Incarnation of God and the beloved Son of God. Our individual epiphanies of who God is go on throughout our lives. When we're children, we may have been told (and thus, had an epiphany) that God is the one who sees everything we do. Thereby scaring or putting pressure on us to be "good," even when no one is watching. But as we mature and move forward in our lives God is (hopefully) revealed to us in other, more mature ways.

What is the epiphany (revelation) of God that is most operative in your life today? Do you understand God to be a strict disciplinarian? Or perhaps God, as you understand God to be, is the judge, waiting for you to slip up in order to smite you, or at least cause some calamity in your life.

In the last year, you have heard enough of my sermons to understand that I believe the essence of God, as revealed to us in Jesus Christ, to be love. As we have all heard a thousand times, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." That is a statement of who the loving God is, and who that God recognizes us to be. And in case that was somehow confusing, the third chapter of John's Gospel goes on, in the next verse, to say this: "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

On Sunday, as a part of the service, we will all reaffirm our baptismal covenant. Pay attention when we get to the Bishop's questions for us. He will ask us if we will: proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ; seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving (our) neighbor as (ourselves); and if we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. Our answer to these questions — the only true answer — is, "I will, with God's help."

Come on Sunday and celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. Jesus will be in our midst. Come and meet him, he is in the face of everyone you will see. Then take your own epiphany of a loving God into the world, living out your baptismal vows.

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

Fr. John+



Resumes Tonight

Dinner: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall
[King Ranch Chicken, salad, dessert]
[\$5 for adults; FREE ages 18 & under]

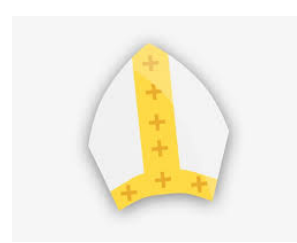
JEYC/EYC: 6:30 p.m. in Youth Building

Adult Class: 6:30 p.m. in Parlor

Viewing & Discussion of Season 2 of *The Chosen*.

Bishop's Annual Visitation Sunday, January 8

Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation
of 6 adults and 2 teenagers



Please join us in the Parish Hall for a celebratory reception immediately following the service.

No Adult Sunday School Class - Bishop Jake will meet with Confirmands.



Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 22
In the nave of the church
Following the 10:30 a.m. service

Written reports from the leadership of St. James, various committees, and ministries will be offered at this time. In addition, the election of Vestry members and convention delegates will occur. A slate of nominees recommended by the Nominating Committee currently include Gary Deloussaye, Paige Quillin, and Sonny Trammell.

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



January 8th
First Sunday after Epiphany
The Baptism of Our Lord

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.](#)

January 8, 2023
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 & reading.](#)



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

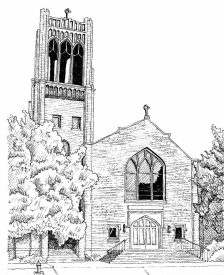
Beth Courtney, Holly Craig, Kip Hogue, Jim Bristol, Gary Maxwell, Ellen Moore, Bill Owens, Mother Meredith Ward, Pat Carter, Betty Gaiennie, Jack Dewitt, Sr., Beth Hebert, Rita & Bill Clancey, Jimmy Hurt, Carol Rowe, Barbara Baldwin, Louise Carter, Donnie Hayes, John Brewer, Fred Alexius, Paula Lieberman,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

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 January (day):

Dana Brunson (3), Joy Owensby (3), Patrick Owensby (4), Ruthlyn Jarvis (5), Charlotte Sterling (9), Nona Yeager (13), Clementine Devine (14), Mary Belle Marshall (14), Ryan McCartney (17), Taylor Bedingfield (23), Eva Andrus (24), Bailey Adams (27), Lacey Brown (27), John Brewer (28), Kristina McBride (28), Courtney Smith (28), Lindsay Holton (30), Ann Robichaux (30).



Visit our Website



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