

February 7, 2023

From Fr. John

This is the last full week of the season of Epiphany. Although advertisers would have you believe that the most important thing next week is Valentine's Day, this year, the 14th of February is Ash Wednesday, the start of the Lenten season and a day of self-denial and repentance. That sets up a clash of cultures.

In America, Valentine's Day is dedicated to romance, typically expressed through the purchase of flowers and/or candy. I readily admit that it seems completely incongruous to me to walk into a shop to purchase flowers or sweet treats with a cross of ashes on my forehead. I cannot tell you how to handle these two days of remembrance which, to my mind, cannot exist in the same space. All I can tell you is, the ARC program that Taylor attends during the week has chosen to pretend that Valentine's Day always falls on February 15th, and are having their party on that day. Monday would work even better, because it is ahead of Lent and does not clash with the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

I am willing to bet that this year, the number of people who give up chocolate for Lent will be at an all-time low. But how you handle the Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday conflict is completely up to you. All I suggest is that you give this issue some thought and some prayer time.

Lent is an important season in the life of the Church. It is our time of self-examination. And hopefully our time of honestly evaluating our lives as Christians. It is a time of repentance and turning back toward the God to whom we owe our very lives. It is the yearly time to truly prepare ourselves in order to fully embrace the wonder of Easter. And Ash Wednesday is an important part of our having a Holy Lent.

Because I believe that Ash Wednesday is such an important day in our lives, the church office will be closed next Wednesday. Our Eucharist services, with imposition of Ashes will be at: 7:00am; 12:15pm; and 5:15pm.

May you all have a Holy and Blessed Lent,
Fr. John+

Faith & Fellowship Tonight

5:15 p.m. - Holy Eucharist with Healing Service - Chapel

6:00 p.m. - Dinner - Gumbo with sides and dessert

6:45 p.m. - Class - Season 3 of The Chosen

Episcopalian Slipknots Saturday, February 10 10:00 a.m. - Noon in Youth Building



If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, this is the ministry for you! The participants take up their knitting needles and crochet hooks to create scarves, hats, and other warm fuzzies to donate to the Homeless Coalition around the corner to distribute to our neighbors in need in the wintertime. Come enjoy fellowship with coffee and homemade goodies to snack while you work.

Adult Sunday Class

Come and join us in the parlor at 9:15 this Sunday as **Dee**



Drell begins a class on exploring Aspects of Prayer: An Inward Look. Bring a cup of coffee, or your favorite beverage, and sit in. There is no preparation needed to join in the discussion.

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour provides a great opportunity for fellowship on Sunday mornings following the 10:30 a.m. service in the Parish Hall. A wonderful time to visit and catch up on what is happening and to welcome any new person who comes in.



If you would like to help either with refreshments or as a server for this ministry, sign up in Parish Hall or call Susan Frey at 318-449-8501.



Looking Ahead:

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER:

February 13 - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Provided by the Community Breakfast Team

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE - February 14:

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

7:00 a.m. - Chapel

12:15 p.m. - Church

5:15 p.m. - Church

STATIONS of the CROSS: Every Friday at 12:15 p.m. in the Church.

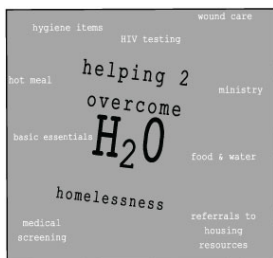
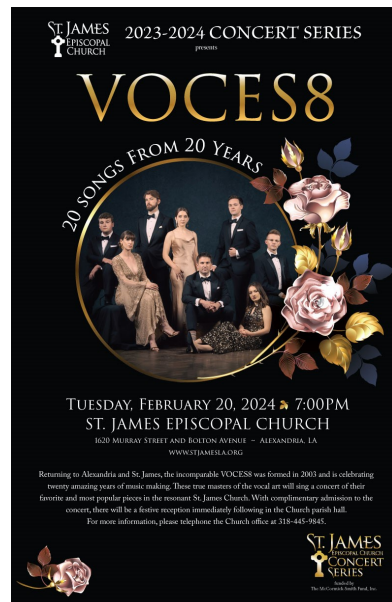
VOCES8

Tuesday - February 20

7:00 p.m.

In their only Louisiana tour stop, the incomparable Grammy nominated VOCES8 returns to St. James to celebrate the group's anniversary singing twenty songs from twenty years. Performing a marvelous mixture from the sacred, popular and jazz genres, the eight British singers will show why BBC Music Magazine has said "hearing them sing is a joy".

Thanks to a generous grant from The McCormick-Smith Fund, Inc., this concert offers free admission and is open to the public. There will be a reception in the Church parish hall where our guests from across the pond may be greeted.



H2O NEEDS: On the 4th Thursday of every month, our three Episcopal churches work together to serve over 100 homeless people. If you feel called to help with this ministry, please bring any items that you would like to donate to the church office labeled H2O or put in blue crate. Deacon Brian will pick those things up to take to the event.

Clothing for Men:

Underwear (boxers) – L or XL
T-Shirts - L or XL
Socks - white

Clothing for Women:

Underwear - L
Old T-shirts -
(with logo for day wear)

Hygiene:

Toothpaste
Small Soap/Body Wash
Deodorant
Shampoo/Conditioner
Razors
Wash cloths
Hand Towels
Bathing wipes
Band-aids

Snacks:

Gatorade (small bottles)
Drinks (small bottles)
Peanut butter crackers
Chips (small bags)
Granola bars
Water

Special Requests:

Batteries size AA & AAA
Dry or canned dog food

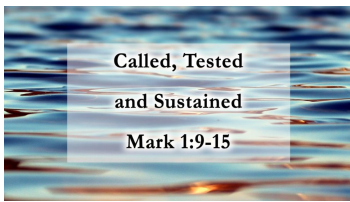


Lenten Resources Available

Lent begins early this year on February 14, and The Episcopal Church's official website has some good resources for clergy, congregations, and individuals. This includes Sermons That Work, 40-Day Devotionals, The Way of Love in Lent, and more.

You can view the resources by [clicking here](#).

WORSHIP



February 11th

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

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.](#)

February 11, 2023

Evening Prayer

Online@ 5:00 PM

[Click here for
Order of Service AND
to join Evening Prayer via Zoom.](#)



Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077
Passcode: 1620

Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

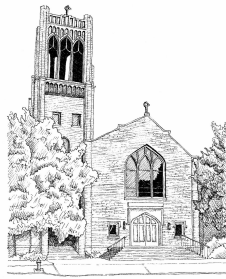
Phillip Craig, Tim Strohschein, Rebbie Jones, Fr. John, Sara Marshall, Charles Robinson, Jr., Anne Robichaux, Lynne Distefano, Nona Yeager, Ogden Middleton, Tommy Watts, Edward Butler, Marietta, John Upton, Rita Clancey, Linda Ittner, Sophia Frey Bradford, Becky Maxwell, Brady Brown, Heather Craig, Dr. Wesley Davis, Steve Caballero, Anna Stapleton, Ann Vanderslice, Charles Robinson, Bobbie Chatelain, Larry, Eleanor, Carli McGinty, Sam Bejach, Lawrence, Beth Courtney, Holly Craig, Jim Bristol, Ellen Moore, Mother Meredith Ward, Beth Hebert, Jimmy Hurt, Barbara Baldwin, Louise Carter, John Brewer, Fred Alexius, Paula Lieberman, Jonathan Rhea, Massi Jordan, Pepe Rizzo, Bonnie McLellan, Michael Sterne, Jim Leggett, Cackie, Kristie Fresh, Andrea, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Jeff and Anne, Lillian DeVille, Wilma Filipi, Stephen, Natosha and Family, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Charlotte Sterling, Matthew Fontanille, Andrew, Susan Webster, Chase Barnfield, Johnnie Hart, Jane Y. Harris, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Mesta Bain, Dean M. Tyree, Beverly Butler, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Bill Leibke, Wayne Moorehead, Donna House, Dayna Hill, Jane Tyson, add Mehre Hajighassem.

For those in the military:

Kyle Jordan, Samuel Hayes, Franklin Watson, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in February (day):

Carl Close (1), Sara Fuhrer (1), Emerson Milliner (5), Bruce Jordan (6), Chad Norton (6), Lawrence Searcy (12), Emma McCartney (15), Tommy Brasher (22), Justin Manuel (23), Brady Brown (24), Melanie Jurgensen (26).



Visit our Website

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