

April 3, 2023

## From Fr. John

Some weeks, when a sermon doesn't immediately begin to come together for me, I will look back and see what I've said in the past. Last week I did that with Easter Day sermons. And I reread something that I preached in my second year of ordained ministry. Boy, does that seem like a million years ago.

I alternated between pride and embarrassment as I read my expression of systematic theology at that time. Occasionally, I said something that I would never say today. But also occasionally I said things that I absolutely stand by today. One of those things had to do with the Resurrection from the dead of our Savior.

What I wrote was, there is only one absolute requirement for anyone to make claim to being a Christian. A belief that Jesus died and rose from the dead. Theologians, apologists, and biblical scholars have argued and continue to do so today, about how and why that happened. But there can be no argument that a Christian believes that it happened.

The Fifty Days of Easter, the season in which we now find ourselves, is a time in which we should deeply consider what Jesus' rising to new life means for the world as a whole, and what it means for us, individually.

The last thing that I say before Communion distribution is: "The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that **Christ died for YOU**, and feed on him in your hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving." And **Christ ROSE for YOU**. Take some prayer and meditation time to think about what that really means.

May the God of Resurrection bring you new life.  
Fr. John

## Faith & Fellowship Tonight

Wednesday Night dinners are back after a very special Holy Week celebration! Tonight we start "One Night with the King", a dramatization of the Biblical story of Esther.

5:15 p.m. - Holy Eucharist with Healing Service - Chapel  
6:00 p.m. - Dinner - King ranch chicken, green salad, and dessert  
6:45 p.m. - Class - Movie about Esther: *One Night with the King*



### Episcopalian Slipknots Saturday - April 60 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.

## First Sunday Ministry Fund

This Sunday, April 7th, the loose plate offering goes to the St. James Ministry Fund. In March we assisted 26 families with primarily utilities and a few with rent, for a total of \$6428.17.



Through your generous we have not only provided hope for these families but also safety and a knowledge that someone really does care.



## Adult Sunday Class

Come and join us in the parlor at 9:15 this Sunday as we begin a new study of the Book of Acts. This study will be particularly timely as it starts with the events after Easter morning. 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.

## Church Picnic



## St. James Church Picnic

April 28, 2024  
Camp Hardtner

Service begins at 11am.

Loose plate offering to benefit Camp Hardtner!

Potluck to follow with entree and drinks provided.

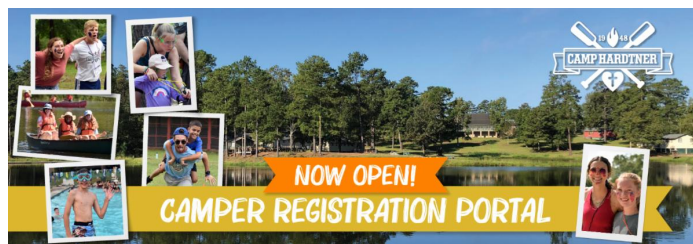
Church family provides the following according to last name beginning with:

A - K > Vegetable dishes

L - O > Salad - fruit, green, gelatin, etc.

P - Z > Dessert

Come out to enjoy fellowship, games, fishing, and all that beautiful Camp Hardtner has to offer.



Summer is right around the corner, and it's not too late to sign your child up for an experience like no other at Louisiana's premier Episcopal summer camp!

Selected as one of "America's Best Summer Camps 2023" by Newsweek, Camp Hardtner isn't just about games; it's about making memories, finding joy, and discovering new things about yourself.

Campers will find an experience that will stick with them all year long and possibly for life. An experience of relationship, community, belonging, and self-worth—all built upon the foundation that God's love surrounds us and transforms our lives.

You can sign up by [clicking here](#).





## Our Prayers are with the Walker Family

Robert Raley Kirby, longtime resident of St. Petersburg, FL and active member of the community, died Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Services for Mr. Kirby will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 9th at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Burial will be in Royal Palm Cemetery, under direction of Anderson McQueen.

Born June 9, 1947, a native of Duluth, MN, Kirby moved to St. Petersburg with his parents and sister in 1952. He attended Shorecrest, graduated from The Lawrenceville School, went on to study at Syracuse University, ultimately getting his undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University in 1973. He was accepted to Harvard Business School, where he graduated in 1975. During his educational years, Kirby volunteered to serve in the Vietnam War, where he completed a tour from November 1968 – November 1969. He served as a helicopter pilot and moved through the ranks and was honorably discharged as Captain with numerous decorations and medals, including a Purple Heart. His helicopter experience led to his love for flying, and he owned and flew planes for a significant portion of his life.

In 1970, he married Jane Randall Walker of Alexandria, LA, at St. James Episcopal Church, where he was a longtime member. He lived in Alexandria until 1990 and held positions at The Guaranty Bank and served as President and CEO of Red River Savings & Loan, along with other related business interests.

In 1990, he moved back to St. Petersburg where he would remain for the rest of life. He became a financial advisor and joined Raymond James where he worked for the balance of his career. He was a member of The Squires Club, The Polywogs and Rotary Club. He was a lifelong Episcopalian and joined St. Thomas Episcopal Church, where he served on the Vestry and enjoyed the Men's Bible Study Group. He loved sports and attended many games and events, especially Rays and Bucs games. He had a passion for hockey and was an avid Lightning Fan, having been a hockey goalie himself at both Lawrenceville and Syracuse. Since he was teenager he loved racing cars, both his own and watching other drivers in person during Formula One races. In his later years, he picked up softball and had a blast playing with the Gulfcoast Boomerangs in Gulfport.

Nothing was more important to him than his love for his family and attending family gatherings gave him the most joy. He is survived by two sons, Christian Walker Kirby of Fort Myers and Stephen Randall Kirby of Naples, two grandchildren Raley Robinson and Harper Jane, his former wife Jane Randall Walker Kirby of Highlands, NC, along with his beloved sister Heather Kirby Gehring of Palm Desert, CA and her two children Carsten and Christina, both of Minneapolis, MN.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 5100 W. Kennedy Blvd. #195, Tampa, FL 33906.  
<https://give.cff.org/west-florida/donate>

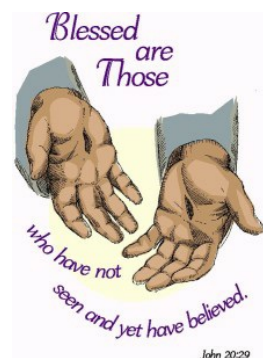
## WORSHIP

### April 7th Second Sunday of Easter

**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.](#)



### April 7, 2023 Evening Prayer Online@ 5:00 PM

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

## Prayer

### Parish Prayer List

**Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:**

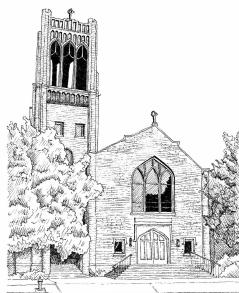
*The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Dana Brunson, Ben Nugent-Peterson, Sarah Trimble Moritz, Marjorie McBride, Cristin Hardin Foreman, Phillip Craig, Ashlynn, John & Carol Kinder, John & Judy McLure, Adair Faust, Tommy Watts, Tim Strohschein, Nona Yeager, Michael S., Rebbie Jones, Fr. John, Sara Marshall, Charles Robinson, Jr., Lynne Distefano, Ogden Middleton, John Upton, Rita Clancey, Linda Ittner, Sophia Frey Bradford, Debbie Barnes, Becky Maxwell, Brady Brown, Dr. Wesley Davis, Steve Caballero, Anna Stapleton, Ann Vanderslice, Eleanor, Sam Bejach, 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, Massi Jordan, Pepe Rizzo, Michael Sterne, Cackie, Kristie Fresh, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Wilma Filipi, Fran Barbato, Gail, Murel Trimble, Charlotte Sterling, Andrew, Susan Webster, Chase Barnfield, Jane Y. Harris, Kyle, Beth Virden, Emily Warren, Bill Leibke, Mark Goldich, Kevin Hooter, Donna House, Dayna Hill, Jane Tyson, and 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 April (day):**

*Tucker McLure (1), Johnny Downs (2), Babson Fresh (5), Foster Walker (5), Bubba Flournoy (7), Jim Deegan (9), Laura Ford Johnson (9), Jeff Matthews (10), L. B. Matthews (12), Michael Jurgensen (16), Rita Klock (17), Clay Ray (21), Vivian Cabera (22), Linda Hargrove (23), Stephen Dubois (25), Jennifer Higginbotham (25), Fred Alexius (29), Kathy Kingsley (30).*



Visit our Website

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