



Several who have received compassionate care from one of our Stephen Ministers have agreed to share their experience and gratitude. - One of our Care Receivers writes:

Having a Stephen Minister during the last days of my parents' lives was a huge support as well as an opportunity for us to get to know each other better. My Stephen minister had lost her parents and was able to share how she handled that, and how she was able to go on with her life afterwards. This support and understanding was made possible because of the Stephen Ministry program at St. Mark's.

For more information about Stephen Ministry, contact the Rev. Rowena White or the Rev. Thomas Nsubuga.

## Happy Birthday

- |                         |                     |                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>December 6</b>       | <b>8</b>            | <b>11</b>       |
| Kathryn Beaird          | Jan Briscoe         | Ginger Stephens |
| Charlotte Gaffney       | Amy Hodges          | Gertrude Lynes  |
| Janet Harrell           |                     | Al Childs       |
| Campbell Siskron        | <b>9</b>            | Patty Stott     |
| Christian Rabalais      | Mary Ellen Jayroe   | Ben Gates       |
|                         | Bill McIntyre       | Sean Henagan    |
| <b>7</b>                | Jim Vozzella        | George Ewing    |
| Lloyd Overdyke          | Susan Campbell      |                 |
| Melody Duncan           | Elizabeth Davis     | <b>12</b>       |
| Allen Marsalis          | Chad Hill           | Peggy Shirley   |
| Michael Mazur           | Edward Stroud       | Ellen Davis     |
| Sarah Margaret Shemwell | Wiley Crockford     | Tara Jones      |
|                         | <b>10</b>           |                 |
|                         | Louis Rabalais, Jr. |                 |
|                         | Carroll Joffrion    |                 |
|                         | Katie Gordon White  |                 |

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# THE MESSENGER

## Community

### **This Sunday's worship is in the Cathedral!**

You must wear a mask, wear gloves or use hand sanitizer, and observe all social distancing requirements.

We will have an 8:00 am Eucharist - Rite I in the Garden Room, a 10:30 am worship in the Cathedral; and a 7:00 am Eucharist -Rite I on Wednesdays in the Chapel.

We will continue to have our online Morning Prayer service via YouTube and on our website and Facebook. **COMMUNION WILL BE GIVEN TO ONE PERSON AT A TIME – WHILE THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION REMAINS SEATED.** Only the Bread of the consecration will be shared with the congregation.

**It's time to start planning for Christmas!** Given our need to maintain social distance, as well as give time for clearing our buildings of possible COVID infection, we are having our services in various locations at St. Mark's this year. **We are also asking that you make reservations with Bess Maxwell in the Cathedral Office. [Bess@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:Bess@stmarkscathedral.net)**

*Children's Christmas service with Holy Eucharist - 4:00 pm - Parish Hall*

*Christmas Eucharist with Bishop Owensby - 5:30 pm - Cathedral*

*Midnight Christmas Eucharist - 10.45 pm - Cathedral Courtyard*

*Christmas Day Eucharist - 10.00 am - Garden Room*

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED AND SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE ENFORCED!**

**EYC will be this Sunday evening at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.** Please eat before you come.

**Have you heard of the Renesting Project?** It is a community furniture bank in Bossier City that collects and provides gently used furniture and household items to those in need in our community. Whether you are remodeling or cleaning out - this is a great way to put your unneeded items to good use! Pickup is available for large items. They accept: decorative items, furniture, tools, linens, small appliances, kitchen items, and many more! Volunteers are also needed for sorting and apartment delivery and setup. For a full list of items and volunteer times go to [www.renestingprojectinc.org](http://www.renestingprojectinc.org) or call 318-747-5520. Additional questions? Contact Jennifer Beruvides at [jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net).

**The Cooking Crew is in need of 30 turkeys to cook for Christmas meals.** Please drop off your turkeys to the church kitchen by December 10. If you have any questions or would like to help cook for the holidays, Jennifer Beruvides at [jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net).

**It is the custom at St. Mark's to invite the parish family at Christmas to make a contribution to the glory of God and in memory or honor of loved ones.** This is not only an appropriate way to honor those who have gone before us, but these gifts make it possible to decorate the Cathedral in a festive manner. If you wish to make a memorial, please send your donation, along with the name or names of those to be honored, to the attention of Becky Deverts, no later than Friday, December 11.

**The Nominating Committee will meet to formulate a Vestry slate to present to the parish at the Annual Meeting in January.** If you wish to nominate someone for their consideration, nominations have to be to the Senior Warden by **December 6, 2020**. To be eligible for the Vestry, a person must be a confirmed communicant in good standing. This means confirmed, regularly attending worship and pledging. **Nominations can be e-mailed to Senior Warden Lad Shemwell at [shemwell@weems-law.com](mailto:shemwell@weems-law.com)**

**The Fuller Center Christmas Store will be held December 12 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.** The Christmas store is an opportunity for low income families to purchase new donated toys at 1/4th the original cost. For the store to be stocked, we need 1,000 new toys and gifts for all ages of children to teens. Gifts should not cost more than \$25 and will be sold for approximately 25% of the original cost. **Please drop off unwrapped gifts at the church office no later than noon December 10.** Proceeds from the sale of the toys goes to the Fuller Center general fund and is used to build affordable houses in our community. If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Beruvides at [jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net).

### *Sunday Readings*

The Second Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 40:1-11 \* 2 Peter 3:8-15  
Mark 1:1-8

## Thoughts from the Dean and the Stewardship Team

Why is it we are so much more tolerant, so much more generous during the Christmas season? We smile and offer goodwill to all people. We give to others gladly and experience the warm feeling that comes with giving from the heart in order to please those we love. But why should this feeling be limited to Christmas? The season recalls the birth of Our Lord, true; but Christ is with us always. He didn't appear two thousand years ago and then disappear. Christ is present today, every day, and he watches to see if we will fulfill his commandment of love, his wish is that we give of ourselves to others as a sign that we want to give of ourselves to him. Let us all join in during this Advent season and continue, during the coming year, to show our love and generosity.

## Additional Resources

Dean Alston Johnson's Blog:

<https://thecarpentersnail.blog/>

St. Mark's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Cathedral-Shreveport-181096028587074/>

Bishop Jake Owensby's Blog:

<https://jakeowensby.com/blog/>

Bishop Jake Owensby's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/bishopjakeowensby>