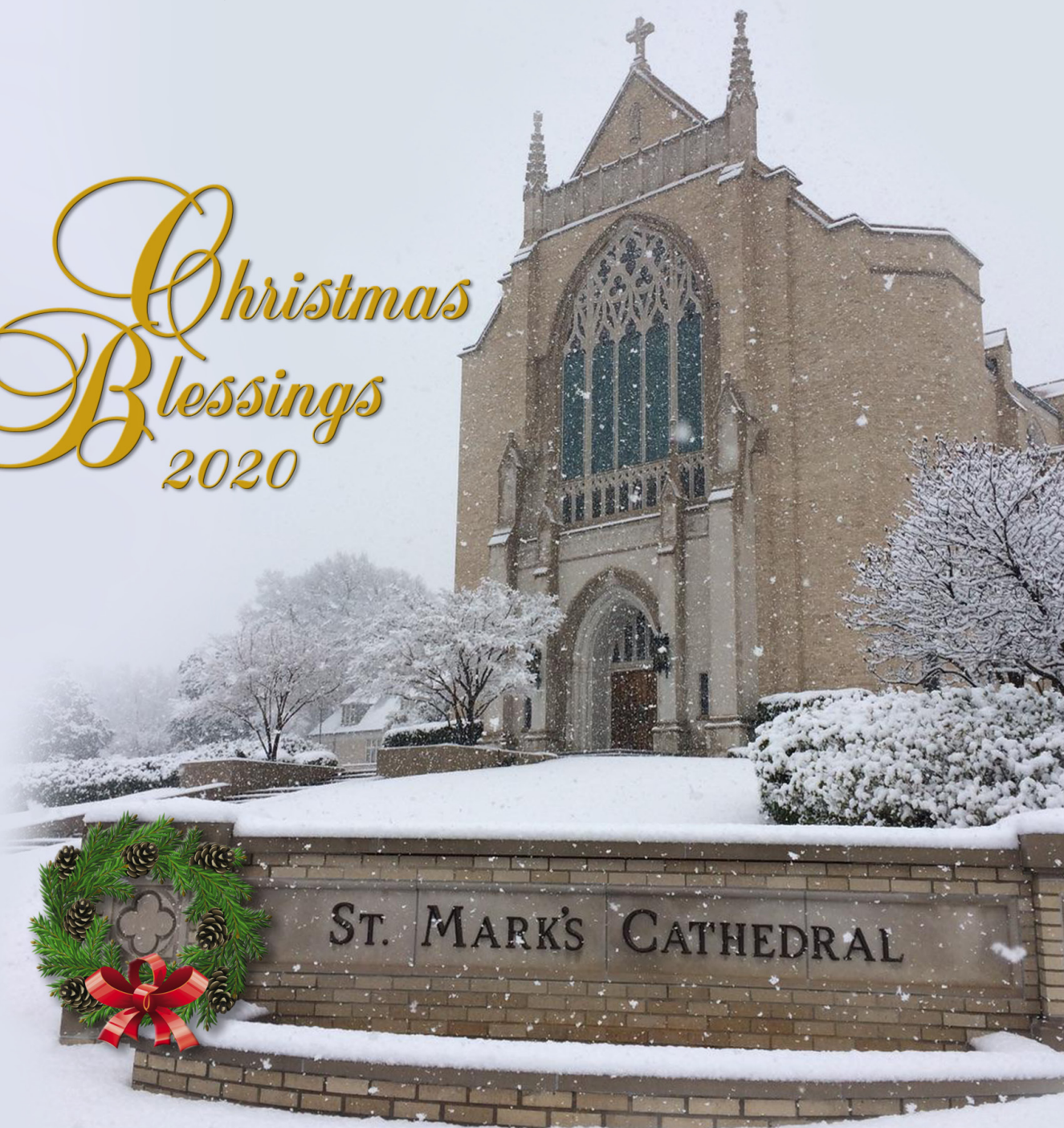
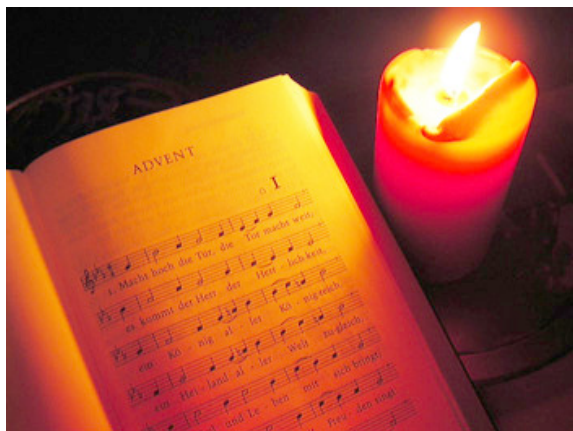


## *Christmas Blessings 2020*





**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
8:00 am & 10:30 am  
Sunday Holy Eucharist

**DECEMBER 6, 2020**  
*The Second Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 40 :1-11      2 Peter 3 :8-15a  
Psalm 85 :1-2, 8-13      Mark 1 :1-8

**DECEMBER 13, 2020**  
*The Third Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 61 :1-4, 8-11      1 Thessalonians 5 :16-24  
Canticle 15      John 1 :6-8, 19-28

**DECEMBER 20, 2020**  
*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16      Romans 16 :25-27  
?????      Luke 1:26-38

**DECEMBER 27, 2020**  
*The First Sunday after Christmas Day*

Isaiah 61:10-62:3      Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7  
Psalm 147:13-21      John 1:1-18

**Weekday  
Worship  
at the  
Cathedral**

**Wednesdays:**  
7:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist



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**  
4:00pm - Parish Hall

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

**Midnight Christmas Eucharist** 10:45pm -  
Cathedral Courtyard

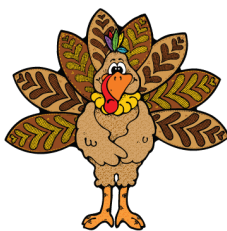
**Christmas Day Eucharist** 10:00am -  
Garden Room



## Vestry Nominations

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 emailed to Senior Warden **Lad Shemwell** at [shemwell@weems-law.com](mailto:shemwell@weems-law.com)



## Calling all Turkeys!

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).



**St. Mark's Physical Training**  
**Monday-Friday 5:30 am at the Cathedral**

meets at 5:30 a.m. every weekday morning in the field across from the parking lot.

A full-color version of *The Evangelist* is on our website! Go to "Media," then "The Evangelist."



## 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).



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### December 1

Steve Allen  
James Jackson  
Andrew Porter

2

Lou Palmer  
John Pou  
Aimee Aaron  
R. Dean Elston  
Melissa Flores  
Lauren Thibodeaux  
Caroline Brainard  
Abigail Jackson  
Robert Quinn

3

Betsy Roberts  
Lee Hawkins  
Scott Deupree  
E.C. Latch  
Virginia Q=Petersen  
William McMurry

4

William Weaver  
Douglass McKay  
Bambi Trickett  
Marie Kalmbach  
William Childs  
Ean Burch  
Emma Nuckolls  
Morris O'Brien  
Mosty O'Brien

5

Carol Reyenga  
Polly James  
Bruce Lowe  
David Crider

Marian Dehan

6

Kathryn Beaird  
Charlotte Gaffney  
Janet Harrell  
Campbell Siskron  
Christian Rabalais

7

Lloyd Overdyke  
Melody Duncan  
Allen Marsalis  
Michael Mazur  
Sarah Margaret  
Shemwell

8

Jan Briscoe  
Amy Hodges

9

Mary Ellen Jayroe  
Bill McIntyre  
Jim Vozzella  
Susan Campbell  
Elizabeth Davis  
Chad Hill  
Edward Stroud  
Wiley Crockford

10

Louis Rabalais, Jr.  
Carroll Joffrion  
Katie Gordon White

11

Ginger Stephens  
Gertrude Lynes  
Al Childs  
Patty Stott  
Ben Gates

Sean Henagan

George Ewing

12

Peggy Shirley  
Ellen Davis  
Tara Jones

13

Marybeth McVie  
Buz Wheless  
John Bowen, Jr.  
Frances Hilliard

14

David Ersoff  
John Madison  
Charlotte Hargrove

15

Susan Sherman  
Roger Coley  
Stafford Comegys  
Melinda Hernandez  
Jeff Douthitt  
Parson Cotter  
William Herzog

16

Le Roy Kirby  
Tricia Grayson  
Seth Thibodeaux  
John Reeks  
Austin Horne

17

Scott Reeks  
Stuart Reeks  
Tessa Culver  
Elizabeth  
Gatschenberger  
Spencer Pringle

18

Pam Peak  
Christine Brooks  
Alix Powell  
Mary McCullough  
Humphrey  
Jacob Jones  
Colin Irion

19

Creighton Hodges  
Taylor Williams  
Jack Perkins  
Emily Clarke

20

John Turnage  
Louis Rabalais, III  
Ava Katherine Alley

21

Mary Stephens Allen

22

Darcy Henagan  
Quintin Hardtner, IV  
Cynthia Peatross

23

Marletta Eddy  
John Meldrum  
Holly Fletcher

24

Robert Laborde  
Emily Lofton  
Hannah Woodard

25

Lindsay Atkins

26

Rosemary Lafargue

Kay Butcher

Linc Coleman  
Margaret Elrod  
Lea Green

27

Marilyn Osburn  
Woodus Humphrey  
Keaton Russo  
Tyler Nichols

28

Jim Liner  
Jane Davenport  
Sue Scheel  
Bonne Summers  
Stephen White  
Nicholas Jump  
Henry Perkins  
Samuel Brainard

29

Kathryn Hayes  
Barbara Messier-  
Villafrute  
Lindsey Aaron  
Ethan Varnadore

30

Miriam Martin  
Jeff Webb

31

Sharla Inman  
Robert Pou

*He that takes truth for his guide, and duty for his end, may safely trust to God's providence to lead him aright.*

— Blaise Pascal

## Dear Friends,

Occasionally I will come across a scene from a movie that communicates clearly something stirring within my own thoughts and words. In the past months, as we have been “grounded” as a community and a church due to this nefarious virus, lethal for some, I have found inspiration in a scene from the movie, “Blackhawk Down.”

You may know this movie. It is about a challenging and fatal mission in Somalia in the 1990's. Somalia is in the midst of a violent civil war. As the UN withdraws its support, Somalia spirals into further chaos, and the U.S. military deploys the 75th Rangers, Delta Force, and the 160th Black Hawk units to engage the forces of Mohamed Farrah Aidid who are overrunning the country.

The initial operation fails, with two large Black Hawk helicopters crashing, and the crews left on the ground to face the unimaginable violence on the streets of Mogadishu. After a hasty retreat to the safe zone at the Mogadishu Airport, the military units must prepare themselves to reenter the hell that they have just escaped in order to save their fellow soldiers. It is a difficult moment for many. They have just escaped with their own lives. They are safe. They are catching their breath. They are relieved. But there is also the mantra, the credo – the creed – that lives in the forefront of their thoughts, “No one gets left behind.”

The safe zone is a hive of activity. The soldiers are rearming themselves, preparing their Humvees, gathering water and gear, so that they might reenter the battle and risk their own lives a second time, on the same day, for the sake of their fallen friends.

There is a moment, just the sliver of a moment, when someone must make a decision about which direction to turn when everything is in the balance. The sergeant is rallying his troops and announces that they are about to “go back in” in order to rescue their fallen friends. A younger soldier, Thomas, says, “That’s crazy; is anyone even alive out there?” Thomas is frightened. He is hesitating to answer the sergeant’s command.

“No one gets left behind, you know that!” yells the sergeant.

The sergeant understands that Thomas is frightened, and that Thomas must make a decision. He approaches the young man.

“Hey – talk to me,” the sergeant says to young Thomas.

“I can’t go back out there,” says the frightened soldier.

“Thomas . . . everyone feels the same way you do . . . all right. It’s what you do *right now* that makes a difference; it’s your call. Hooah?”

“Hooah,” says Thomas looking away.

All around them soldiers are preparing to re-enter a battle that they seem to be losing. Thomas stands pensively watching; even the greenest of the young soldiers volunteer for the rescue mission. Thomas stands watching his friends gear up for the inevitable. Something within the frightened Thomas begins to turn. He stands for a long moment, takes a deep breath, and then runs to catch a ride on the last Humvee. Riding into a storm knowing not what lay ahead, the young man is stepping out in faith upon the Credo – the Creed – he shares with the others.



Rev. Alston B. Johnson  
[alston@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:alston@stmarkscathedral.net)

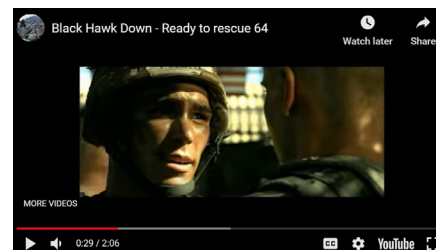
What I love about the scene in this movie is that there is no shame in being frightened, there is no shame in giving voice to our limitations; there are moments for each of us when we are “tested” beyond what we feel prepared to accept. The wise sergeant understands that the next step for the frightened soldier lay completely within the heart and mind of the soldier. There is no “locker-room” speech, there are no platitudes, there are no orders; the time for those things has passed. The wise sergeant simply marks the moment of decision.

Often it is who we become when we are walking in the midst of “the valley of the shadow” that gives us the clearest picture of who we are and what we believe. The valleys we walk through in life give us a glimpse of what lay in the deepest motivations of our hearts. Generally when we are calling upon God it is because we have exhausted the resources that are so abundant when times are good.

I feel that in some small way, a much, much less dramatic way, we face such a moment as Christians and a Church during the days of this quarantine. We are given the days of the greener pastures, so that we might prepare for the days we find ourselves in the valleys. There is probably not much that we can know for certain about what lay ahead. But still, there is work to do, and there are others who need us to “go back in” lest they be left behind.

The poor, the hungry, the lonely, the oppressed, those with no one to care for them, those who do yet know God, they are the ones who depend upon our efforts at this time. Caring for one another through such times. While there are followers of Jesus still in the world, there remains a mission that requires our decision. Borrowing the words of the wise Sergeant, *it’s who we are as followers of Jesus, in this moment that will make a difference.* Both now, and when this moment has finally passed us. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*Blessings and  
Godspeed,  
Alston Johnson*



PS – a link to “Black Hawk Down”:  
[https://youtu.be/VHTS\\_KqCjM](https://youtu.be/VHTS_KqCjM)

## Cathedral School News

St. Mark's Cathedral School has remained opened in-person (with the option for virtual learning) Monday through Friday. We have also been very active! During this past month, SMCS observed Election Day in their own way. The Little School held an election between the colors red, white, and blue.



It was a close race but blue ended up winning. Jessica, our Little School director, told me that in the last election the race was also very close, but the color red ended up winning. This all sounds very familiar. Perhaps our Little School students have the ability of determining our national elections! In the Lower School, the election was held between the candies M&M's and Skittles, and Skittles won. In the Middle School, the election was held between the movies Shrek and The Parent Trap (the Hailey Mills version). The Parent Trap ended up winning. Afterward, the Middle School had an outdoor movie night where they watched it.

Also during November, SMCS celebrated Thanksgiving through our annual Native American Expo and started preparing for Christmas time of giving through the annual Loyola Toy Drive.

I continue to be grateful for Dr. Carter, teachers, staff, and division heads at St. Mark's. God calls us each to be a minister in our own way, and they have truly given the extra time and

effort in this new and different kind of school year to God's children here at SMCS and to his glory.

This semester in Christian Ed, 8th grade students will be finishing their coursework in comparative world religions and 6th grade will be finishing their coursework in New Testament. This year, we began a project in the latter where students use the computer game Minecraft to build and recreate famous Holy Land sites. We have had students create truly impressive replicas of places like Herod's palace, the 2nd Temple, the Wedding Church of Cana, the little town of Bethlehem, and more.

Additionally, I now have the great blessing of teaching 4th Grade Christian Ed. This past month, our catchphrase was "I Am Known", a reminder that God knows us each better than we even know ourselves, that he knows us even in moments where we feel misunderstood and lonely, and that he knows us in order for us to know him. I am thankful for our Lower School teachers Alexis Wedgeworth and Amy Garsee for bringing in the "Friendzy" religious curriculum into Lower School which helps the students engage these themes and important building blocks of Christian character.

*We wish you all a Merry Christmas from St. Mark's Cathedral School,*  
*Fr. Drew+*

## Music & Worship

*Bryan Mitnaul, Canon for Cathedral Music*    [bryan@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:bryan@stmarkscathedral.net)

### Lessons and Carols CD

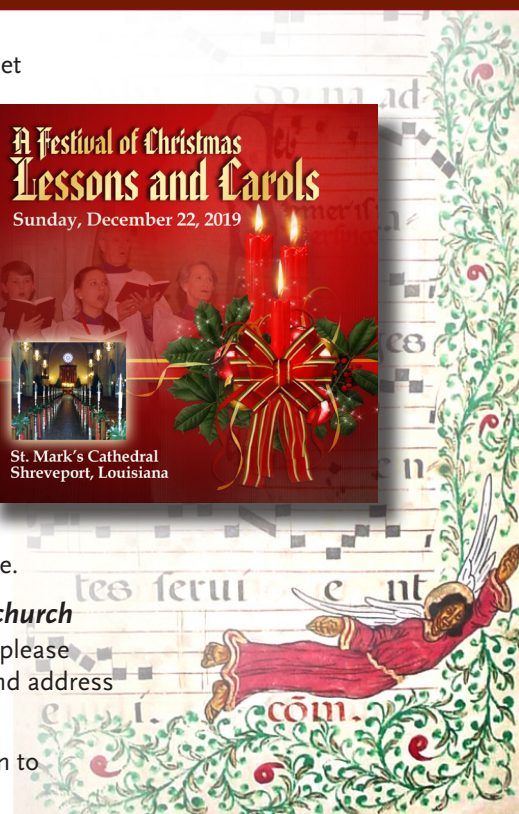
With the rapidly rising rate of COVID-19 infections at the time I am writing this article for the Evangelist, it appears that the current restrictions regarding singing in worship will remain in place through the beginning of 2021.

The holidays are my favorite time of the year both musically and otherwise and the fact that our musical traditions will be so severely impacted makes me quite sad. While I totally understand and support the reasons for the continued restrictions on singing, this does not make accepting that reality any less painful.

For the past several years the musical highlight of the Advent/Christmas season has been St. Mark's annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. I am disappointed that wonderful service will not be taking place this year. In light of that fact, I will be producing a CD from the 2019 Lessons and Carols service for you to use at home.

***The CDs will be provided free of charge and will be available after the 10:30 church service on December 6 and 13.*** If you are unable to attend church for any reason, please send me an email at [Bryan@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:Bryan@stmarkscathedral.net). Be sure to include your name and address and I will mail the Lessons and Carols CD to you.

I wish everyone a happy and safe Advent and Christmas and hopefully we can return to singing soon!





## St. Mark's EYC News



We were excited to return in person for EYC this past month of November. EYC will continue to meet each Sunday through December 20th and then go on break. Weather permitting, we will hold our sessions outside in the picnic area and field by the Ministry Center. We will also continue to meet at 5:00 PM so that we can have more daylight.

As a reminder: everyone needs to bring a mask to EYC. When we go inside for devotion and compline, masks must be on covering both mouth and nose.

For all updates and info regarding St. Mark's EYC, please follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram @smceyc**

Also, we are in need of several high schoolers or middle schoolers who would like to perform a skit for our 4:00 PM Christmas Eve family service in the Parish Hall. We will need to meet a few times beforehand for rehearsal. *\*This is a service hours opportunity\**. If you are interested, please let me know and send me a message [achristiansen@smc.school](mailto:achristiansen@smc.school)

*Wishing you all a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!*  
*Fr. Drew+*



### Christmas Memorials

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.**

### End of Year Contributions

If you want to mail your 2020 pledges or any other contributions by the end of the year, they must be **postmarked by December 31.** If you wish to hand deliver them to the church office, **they must be in by December 31 when the office closes for the holiday.**

### Christmas and New Year's Office Hours

*The Cathedral office will close at noon on Thursday, December 24. We will reopen on Monday, December 28. We will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2021.*

## MEMORIAL FLOWERS

### December 6

The greenery on the High Altar is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Florine Kendrick FitzGerald, William Edward FitzGerald, Florine Ruth Kolb Festervand, and Charles Clifford Festervand.

### December 13

The greenery on the High Altar is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ben Whittington, Mr. & Mrs. Jacques N. Lasseigne, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Clovis Whittington, Mr. & Mrs. O.P. Sherrod, Orvis Sigler and Steve Sigler.

The greenery on the Chapel Altar is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Louise Flournoy Clay, Fred Hunter Clay, Hugh Brian Walmsley, Sr., and Betty Cavender Walmsley.

### December 20

The greenery on the High Altar is given to the glory of God and with gratitude for the gift of family and friends.

The greenery on the Chapel Altar is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Guy Brevard Sample.

### December 27

The Flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 56th wedding anniversary of Lennis & Richard Elston.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Henry Daniel Shehee, Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Emerson Cecil, Sr., and Rear Admiral & Mrs. Charles N. Payne.

## DEATHS

*Rest Eternal grant to them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

**Jacquetta Smith Whisner**, mother of **Lynn Yancey**, grandmother of **David & Richard Yancey**, on October 26, 2020.

**Maxine Adkins Mayo**, mother of **Cody Mayo**, on October 26, 2020.

**Joseph Edward Ketner**, husband of **Nancy Ketner**, on October 30, 2020.

**Leonard Selber**, father of **Anne Jenkins**, grandfather of **Arthur & Frances Jenkins**, on November 13, 2020.

*May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

## WEDDINGS

*Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder.*

**Abbie Michelle Aiello and Joshua McCord**, on November 14, 2020.

**Sarah Kaye Wilkes and Todd Cross Thompson, III**, on November 21, 2020.

## BAPTISMS

**Margaret MacKay Gaiennie**, daughter of **Sarah & Thomas Gaiennie**, on November 10, 2020.

**Cecilia Jane Hilario**, daughter of **Danielle & Henry Hilario**, on November 14, 2020.

*You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. Amen.*



## Lost Anything at Church?

Or maybe you're just missing some item and have no idea where it might have gone. Drop by or call the church office and check into our lost and found! We have everything from sunglasses to scarves to cell phones to jewelry (including some very nice pieces.) Check and see what you're missing!



## Oblationers Needed

Our Hospitality Committee invites parishioners (families, adult singles, siblings, friends) to serve as oblationers (gift bearers) at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. This is a meaningful way to serve the faith community. For more information please contact **Kathy Williams** at 469-9211.

## Members of the Vestry of St. Mark's Cathedral

Lad Shemwell, Senior Warden – Bill Kalmbach, Junior Warden – Murray Viser, Treasurer – John Reeks, Chancellor

2019	2020	2021	2022
Melissa Flores	Matt Coady	Marilyn Kirkland	Ellen Alley
Jonathan Hardtner	Carol Anne Caraway	Lisa Love	Mike Ameen
Sanders Hearne	Bob Ewing	Cody Mayo	Oliver Jenkins
Dan Koruna	Brandy Griffes	William Weaver	Brad Massad
Doug Rountree	Debbie Hall	Bud Westmoreland	Emily Merkle

**The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby**  
(Bishop of Western Louisiana)  
bishopjake@epiwl.org

**The Very Rev. Alston Johnson**  
(Dean)  
abjohnson@stmarkscathedral.net

**The Rev. Thomas Nsubuga**  
(Sub-Dean)  
thomas@stmarkscathedral.net

**The Rev. Dr. Rowena White**  
(Canon)  
rowena@stmarkscathedral.net

**The Rev. Dr. Wayne Carter**  
(Associate Clergy)  
wayne@stmarkscathedral.net

**The Rev. Drew Christiansen** (Curate)  
drew@stmarkscathedral.net

**Bryan T. Mitnaul**  
(Canon for Cathedral Music)  
bryan@stmarkscathedral.net

**John Scheel** (Facilities Manager)  
john@stmarkscathedral.net

**Becky Deverts**  
(Financial Office Manager)  
becky@stmarkscathedral.net

**Bess Maxwell**  
(Administrative Assistant)  
bess@stmarkscathedral.net

**Jennifer Beruvides** (Coordinator for  
Events and Hands-on Outreach Ministry)  
jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net

**Cynthia Anderson** (Receptionist)  
cynthia@stmarkscathedral.net

**Beth Reeks**  
(Minister for Pre-K Children's Programs)  
preschool.beth@gmail.com

St. Mark's Cathedral (Episcopal)  
908 Rutherford Street  
Shreveport, LA 71104  
(318) 221-3360  
Fax: (318) 424-8427  
www.stmarkscathedral.net  
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Shreveport, LA  
Permit No. 15