

Sometimes it may seem to us that there is no purpose in our lives, that going day after day for years to this office or that school or factory is nothing else but waste and weariness. But it may be that God has sent us there because but for us, Christ would not be there. If our being there means that Christ is there...that alone makes it worthwhile.

— Caryll Houselander

Dear Friends and Families of St. Mark's,

The past year and a half leaves me with a distinct aftertaste; as though we have been living a prolonged sort of "Advent" within our life as a Cathedral parish and School. It has been a long season of waiting upon waiting. We have taken the long journey a la T.S. Eliot's, "Journey of the Magi." And now we are dog-paddling toward a "new normal" following the lock down; and at times our new normal still feels just out of reach. Our long season with COVID has been a kind of one-note orchestra of tiresome but necessary repetitions, all of us looking to the sky or horizon hoping beyond hope that there might be some break in the clouds and the drizzle.

For me, the Season of Advent 2021 is not so much the customary pumping of the brakes within the life of the Church and the culture that we have taken for granted in years past; given the COVID valley we have all trod, I am loathe to censure any store or establishment for playing Christmas tunes too early, or hanging lights prematurely. I am standing with

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

Christmas Eucharist

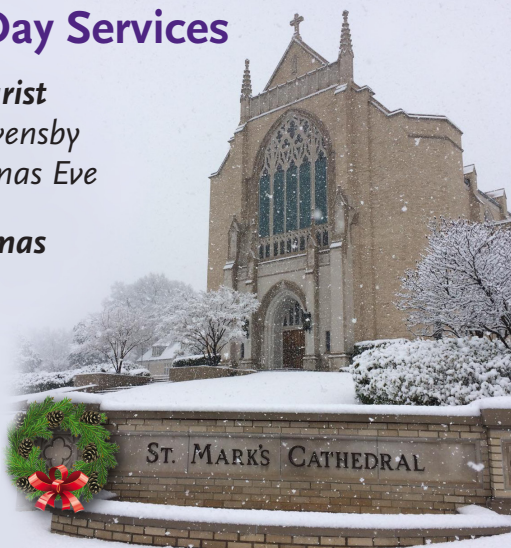
with Bishop Owensby
5:30 pm Christmas Eve

Midnight Christmas Eucharist

10:30 pm
Christmas Eve

Christmas Day Eucharist

10:00 am



everyone else prepared to raise a voice and sing "Here Comes Santa Claus, Here Comes Santa Claus," as I am prepared to sing, "Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending."

I am grateful that our congregation is gathering once again. There is a palpable exhalation in many of the Cathedral and School gatherings, as we catch ourselves remembering the simple goodness of what it feels like to spend time together.

Of course the vibrant parish life that we carried into the pandemic is now a memory; we have had significant transitions in our staff as well as our programs. Some good friends have said that it may be a number of months, perhaps a year, before we see anything like those times again. "Yes, yes, perhaps," I tell them; recognizing that they too feel that a new normal is upon us as a result of the pandemic. However, I am not quite prepared to wait that long. Christians have weathered any number of changes and transformations though the centuries, and they have

(Continued on page 2)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 am, 10:30 am, & 6:00 pm
Sunday Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 5, 2021

The Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9 Philippians 1:3-11
Canticle 16 Luke 3:1-6

DECEMBER 12, 2021

The Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Philippians 4:4-7
Canticle 9 Luke 3:7-18

DECEMBER 19, 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10
Psalm 80:1-7 Luke 2:19-45

DECEMBER 26, 2021

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

(Continued from page 1)

been architects and builders of the “new normal.” Once we know that our parish is on sound financial footing, I would like to “raise all the sails” on this Cathedral ship and head for open water.

I believe deeply in the words from Caryl Houselander that I included at the top of this message. The living God, the Risen Christ, waits and depends upon us to become the “chosen vessels of thy grace, and the lights of the world in their generations.” {BCP 348} Without persons like us, those who honor the Sabbath on Sunday, and serve Christ in homes, offices, factories, and schools, there is no Body of Christ in the world. We are the Body of Christ in our own time.

We have been born to be those “lights of the world” within our own generation, and I see no good reason to put off being embraced by the deepest vocation of our lives because our attention, our habits, and even perhaps our hopes, have been temporarily interrupted.

Coming out of this COVID season we are inviting as broad a participation in our Stewardship and Pledge fellowship as we might imagine. Without the pledged participation of all of our friends and families we will be unable to raise all the sails of this Cathedral ship. Every financial contribution makes a difference to the ministry of our Cathedral, as well as for the “bricks and mortar” of our Cathedral. Every gift of time, every acknowledgment of the Sabbath, every prayer and action given to God in this place, is our participation in God’s presence of truth and love in the midst of our own generation.

In the coming year I would like to bolster our Children’s and Youth ministry, our music ministry, and finish our fund raising for closing the debt on our Little School project. There are also possibilities of expanding our partnership and community ministry that we share with groups like Community Renewal International and the Volunteers of America, the Highland Center, Young Life, and many others. Opportunity knocks at the door on the other side of this crisis.

This Advent let us remember those whom we have lost to the pandemic. This Advent let us remember how God has blessed us in the midst of our personal losses, and be grateful for those who have cared for the weak and the sick through the good days and the bad days. In the midst of this Advent, let us be humbled and grateful for the holy, good, and beautiful things that we share when we are gathered in our Cathedral, as we turn our hearts and minds heavenward. And perhaps most importantly this Advent, let us raise all the sails so that we might make the journey that God and the Gospel are inviting within the midst of our own generation.

*Many Blessings and Godspeed,
Alston Johnson, Dean – St. Mark’s*

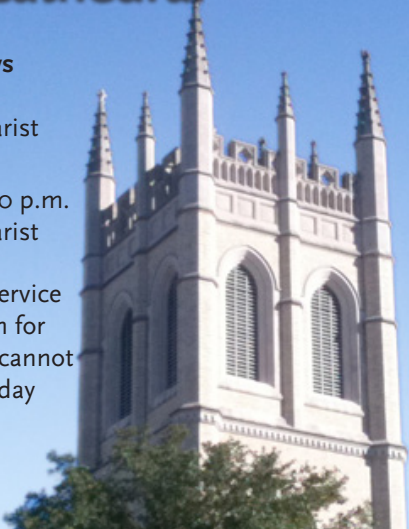
Weekday Worship at the Cathedral

Wednesdays

7:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
Chapel

Fridays 5:30 p.m.

Holy Eucharist
Chapel
(The 5:30 service is an option for those who cannot attend Sunday worship.)



Christmas and New Year’s Office Hours

The Cathedral office will close at noon on Friday, December 24. We will reopen on Monday, December 27. We will close at noon on Friday, December 31.

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**.



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

Cathedral School News

by Dr. Chris Carter, Headmaster
ccarter@smc.school

The return to school from Thanksgiving Vacation and the beginning of Advent marks a special point in the life of our 1st graders at St. Mark's. After spending the first third of the year attending Chapel with kindergarten, they have now begun to worship with the rest of the "Big School" by attending Lower School and Family Chapels.

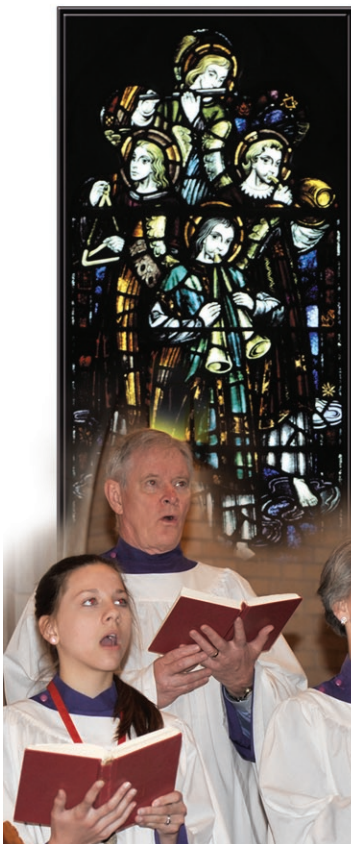
On Mondays, our 1st graders sit with their 5th grade Chapel Buddies, who help them manage their prayer books and hymnals. The Chapel Buddy relationship is very special, and most 5th graders will remember who their Buddy was when they were 1st Graders and take very seriously being a good helper to their 1st grader.

Chapel is of course one of the defining features of Episcopal schools and very important at St. Mark's, but service to the wider community is also very important. Prior to Thanksgiving, our students participated in the Porter's Cleaners Coats for Kids programs by bringing in a tremendous number of children's coats for Porter's to clean and give to



children who otherwise won't have a winter coat. We also supported the Loyola College Prep Flyers Aiding the Homeless (FAiTH) program by bringing in new toys for children whose families receive food at the annual FAiTH food distribution. We are very proud that once again a St. Mark's graduate is one of the Co-Chairs of the FAiTH program. This month each grade will adopt an Advent Service Project to support families or children in need.

Advent service projects and Chapel Buddies are two of the many annual traditions that help define and shape our school culture. Others include the Preschool Christmas Sing and Kindergarten Nativity Play, Christmas Lessons and Carols Chapel on the final day of the semester, and the Big School Christmas Carol Sing that always ends with the Twelve Days of Christmas. While Santa always visits the Little School, and 1st graders "ride" the Polar Express to the North Pole every year, we keep the birth of Jesus at the center of our seasonal celebrations and focus on God's gift of love for us in becoming incarnate. Service projects, special friendships, and our corporate worship are all responses to that gift of love!



A Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 19, 2021
4:00 pm

St. Mark's Cathedral
908 Rutherford St.
Shreveport, Louisiana



ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL

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
Marian Dehan
Riggs Arnold

6

Kathryn Beaird
Charlotte Gaffney
Janet Harrell

Campbell Siskron
Christian Rabalais

7

Melody Duncan
Allen Marsalis
Michael Mazur
Sarah Margaret Shemwell
Lila Demech

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 Henegan
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
Rhett Arnold

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, Sr.
Louis Rabalais, III
Ava Katherine Alley

21

Mary Stephens Allen

22

Darcy Henagan
Quintin Hardtner, V

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

Woodus Humphrey
Keaton Russo
Tyler Nichols

28

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

29

Kathryn Hayes
Barbara Messier-Villafuerte
Lindsey Aaron
Ethan Varnadore

30

Miriam Martin
Jeff Webb

31

Sharla Inman
Robert Pou

End of Year Contributions

If you want to mail your 2021 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 noon on December 31 when the office closes for the holiday.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

December 5

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.

The greenery on the Chapel Altar is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of TBD

December 12

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 19

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 26

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 57th 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. & Mrs. Henry Daniel Shehee, Mr. & Mrs. Waldo Emerson Cecil, Sr., and Rear Admiral & Mrs. Charles N. Payne.

BAPTISMS

William Dodge McCraw, son of Emma & Gray McCraw, on November 7, 2021.

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



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

9:30 – 12:30 pm Nursery (newborn to K3 - 3 years old by September 30)

First floor of Parish building next to Catechesis Atriums

9:30– 10:30 am Sunday school (4th – 5th grade)

Second floor of Parish building in the old nursery location

9:30 am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
First floor of Parish Building- Rooms 105 & 106
Level I Atrium (K-3 – Kindergarten)
Level II Atrium (1st-3rd grade)

10:30 am Children's Chapel (1st – 5th grade)
Second floor of Parish building in the old nursery location

Adult Christian Formation

9:30 a.m.

Sunday Lectionary study

Ministry Center
Garden Room



The St. Mark's Choirs
will present

Advent Choral Evensong on

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Please join us for this beautiful and contemplative service. Choral Evensong begins at 5:00 pm and immediately precedes the 6:00 pm Eucharist.



God willing and the people of God consenting,

The Right Reverend W. Andrew Waldo,
Eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina,

will ordain

Elizabeth Ann Prendergast Hendrix

to the Sacred Order of Priests
in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

The ordination will take place at
St. James Episcopal Church in Greenville, SC.

A live stream will be available.
Time and link to the live stream to follow.



Shriners Hospitals for Children®

Christmas Donations for Shriners Hospital of Shreveport

Christmas is so exciting for children! Can you imagine being a kid and stuck in the hospital for Christmas?! To make it a little more bearable, SHRINERS HOSPITAL OF SHREVEPORT has asked for our support. We are collecting: play medical kits (to aid in explaining procedures to children), 'pop-its', and for the older ones, \$10-\$15 gift cards (amazon, target, walmart, game stop, etc). Please drop off any donations to the church office by Friday, December 17 so the hospital can plan accordingly. Contact Jennifer Beruvides if you wish to make a monetary donation. jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net.

The Boys and Girls Choir at St. Mark's Cathedral



Free professional music
education!

Open to ages 7-14, no
religious affiliation required

Rehearsals: Wednesdays,
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Family Dinner Provided

Derrick Meador, Choirmaster
Leslye Gilchrist, Assistant Choirmaster
Theresa Johnson, Assistant Choirmaster

Want to know more?
Contact Derrick Meador
derrick@stmarkscathedral.net



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!



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

STMPT (St. Mark's Physical Training)

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

If you are going through a difficult time...

...one of the Stephen Ministers from St. Mark's may be able to help. Stephen Ministers are laypersons who have received special training to listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support for persons who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. After all, there are many difficulties and transitions in this life! Why not give yourself the gift of a Stephen Minister who can accompany you on part of your journey?! The care you receive is confidential, free and very helpful. For more information, contact The Rev. Dr. Rowena White by email: Rowena@stmarkscathedral.net.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will reconvene on

Wednesdays at 10:30 am starting November 3. We will gather in room 101 of the Ministry Center for coffee and conversation around the upcoming Sunday's lectionary readings. Please contact **Mother Beth** if you are interested or if you have questions (beth@stmarkscathedral.net).

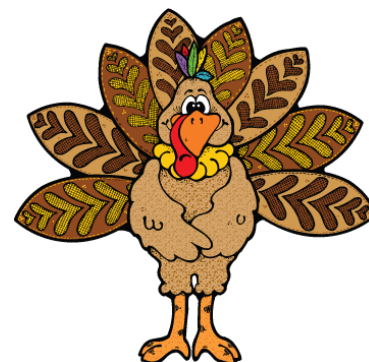


Christmas Memorials

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 10.**

Birthday Card Ministry

This year, we launched a birthday card ministry to celebrate all of our parishioners. If you find yourself wanting to serve but needing to do it on your own time, please consider this meaningful ministry. Materials are provided. For more information, please contact **Lauren Ewing** at **550-1743** or lauren.ewing@me.com.

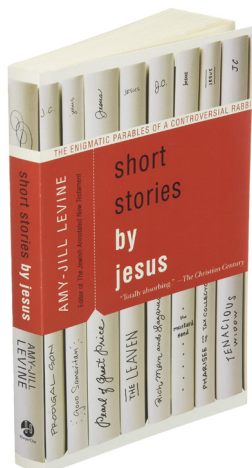


Calling all Turkeys!

Amazingly, it's that time again! The Cooking Crew is in need of 35 turkeys to cook for Christmas meals. Please drop off your turkeys to the church kitchen by December 8. If you have any questions or would like to help cook for the holidays, contact **Jennifer Beruvides** at jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net.

Friends of Faith

The Friends of Faith group is meeting again! All ladies are welcome to join us every third Wednesday of the month. We meet from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor. This year, we are reading *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* by Amy-Jill Levine. Even if you don't get a chance to read, come join us for fellowship, discussion, and prayer. If you have questions, e-mail **Jorie O'Brien** (jorieobrien@gmail.com) or **Lauren Thibodeaux** (thiblauren@gmail.com).



Members of the Vestry of St. Mark's Cathedral

Bill Kalmbach, Senior Warden – Lisa Love, Junior Warden – Murray Viser, Treasurer – John Reeks, Chancellor

2021	2022	2023	2024
Marilyn Kirkland	Ellen Alley	Ellen Erwin	Clarence Babineaux
Lisa Love	Mike Ameen	Joe Jayroe	Rebecca Bryant
Cody Mayo	Oliver Jenkins	Josh Knicely	Patrick Caraway
William Weaver	Brad Massad	Theresa Meldrum	Mark Sealy
Bud Westmoreland	Emily Merkle	Joy Ratcliff	Lynn Yancey

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. Deacon Beth Hendrix (Curate)
beth@stmarkscathedral.net

Derrick Meador
(Organist and Choirmaster)
derrick@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

Lisa Bingham
(Financial Office Assistant Manager)
lisa@stmarkscathedral.net

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