

## Our Bethlehem Corner

*A fish cannot drown in water,  
A bird does not fall in the air.  
In the fire of creation; God doesn't vanish:  
The fire brightens.  
Each creature God made  
Must live in its own true nature;  
How could I resist my nature,  
That lives for oneness with God?*

— Mechthild of Magdeburg, Germany (1207 - 1297)

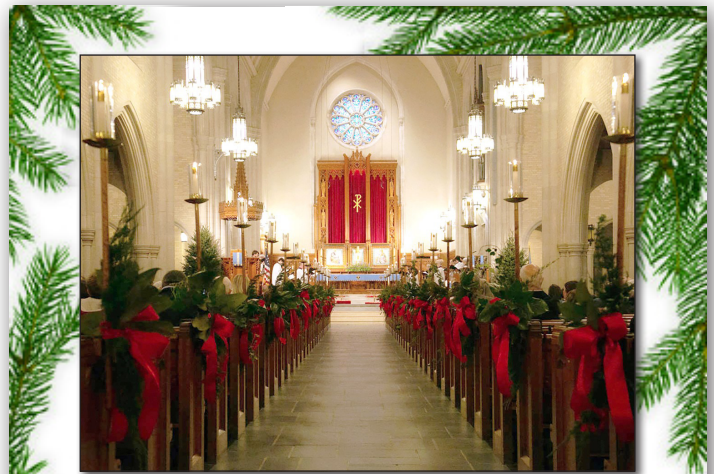
The most profound truth of our lives is also counterintuitive - God loves us first. Advent Sundays are tumultuous, with readings and hymns that speak clearly about the precarious, frightening, and sometimes disappointing journey that we share in this life. Advent Sundays speak to the truth of our shared "human condition," so that we can have some sense of the profound compassion that God extends to us in coming to share that condition. Advent Sundays remind us of why we yearn for beauty and holiness. The Nativity is when God initiates contact with us by entering life upon the terms in which we live it. God becomes a person so that we might know God as a person.



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

I find that Heaven sometimes moves in my direction when I am not even noticing. While the world is preoccupied with other things, while Herod is concerned with shoring up his political power, while the Scribes and the Pharisees are distracted by their own holiness project, a star appears overhead, and the eyes of foreign magi notice that the hand of God is moving.

The same is sometimes true in our lives. While our attention is focused in a variety of directions and we are concerned with other things – things that we ostensibly consider "higher things" – God is moving in the midst unseen, perhaps



## Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services

### **Sunday, December 24**

#### **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Holy Eucharist 10:30 am

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

**Midnight Christmas Eucharist** 10:30 pm

### **December 25**

**Christmas Day Eucharist** 10:00 am

unnoticed. Each of us may have a place called Bethlehem; some corner of our kingdom from which we do not expect great things. A corner kept from God, overlooked, or not deemed worthy of heaven's notice. Where might Bethlehem be for you this year? That place where we have not made room for God, but perhaps where God might decide and make room in our midst.

The cares of this life and this world have a way of creeping over us like kudzu climbing a tree and then blanketing a forest. Although it is green and alive and growing, it threatens to choke the life from us.

Our Bethlehem corner may simply be that place in our hearts and minds that we know is intended for wonder, love, and

*(Continued on page 2)*

**To love and serve Christ. To love and serve one another in Christ. To love and serve the world for Christ.**

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

**DECEMBER 3, 2023**

***The First Sunday of Advent***  
***Holy Eucharist and Baptism 10:30 am***

Isaiah 64 :1-9      1 Corinthians 1 :3-9  
Psalm 80 :1-7, 16-18      Mark 13 :24-37

**DECEMBER 10, 2023**

***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 17, 2023**

***The Third Sunday of Advent***

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

**DECEMBER 24, 2023**

***The Fourth Sunday of Advent***

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

**DECEMBER 31, 2023**

***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)

praise, for conversation with God, but we have let that corner become filled with task, noise, and anxiousness. Are we prepared to make some “room” for this love that comes from God? Or have we so filled the space that all we can see is our reflection where ever we turn?

Regardless of where our personal Bethlehem might reside as we approach The Nativity of our Lord this year, our remembrance, our celebration, and our casting our gaze forward, is the certain knowledge and experience that God means to love us and be near us, whether it is our intention to accept his presence or not.

*Blessed Advent and Nativity,*  
*Alston Johnson, Dean*

## Campus Update *by: Lisa Love*

This is just a note to update you on some of the many wonderful happenings that are taking place on the campus of our beautiful Cathedral and school:

- The cleaning, sealing and repointing project is complete. It took the better part of a year to complete the full project, but it is finally done. A huge thank you to Clarence Babineaux for his tireless efforts in inspecting the work performed to be certain it was done to perfection.

- Your Vestry is also replacing some rotten windows and doors and repainting the windows on Cathedral Building. The current lift on campus is for the repainting project. Many thanks for your patience in working around the construction vehicles.

- Your Vestry and the Columbarium Committee have been drafting plans for additional columbarium niches on campus. Currently, we have only 8 remaining niches in the Barlow Garden, and the ministry of providing niches for our congregation and their families has increased significantly over the years. Please look forward to viewing the proposed plans on an easel in the narthex of the Cathedral after the first of the year.

- Large antique mirror from France, dating circa 1810 – 1820 has been donated to the Cathedral by Sandra and John Hoffman, in loving memory of Mary Colvin Thigpen, Pattie Colvin Thigpen and Mary Colvin Hoffman. The mirror has been hung in our Bride's Room in the Narthex of the Cathedral with a plaque recognizing this generous donation.

- A Florida flame maple tree has been planted as a donation to the Cathedral by Friends of Dru and Mark Florsheim in loving memory of their son Mark Florsheim. The tree has been planted beside the south parking lot on the edge of the soccer field.

- The Choir Lounge has been updated, repainted and refurnished through a generous donation and the creative insights of our choir members.

- Two trees have been planted and a bench has been donated to St. Mark's Cathedral School in loving memory of Jordan Rose McGimsey. The bench and trees are located on the school playground area for the children to enjoy.

- The two Youth Rooms in the Ministry Center will be updated, repainted and refurnished over Thanksgiving Break by the generous donation of the Parents Club of St. Mark's Cathedral School, and the space will be shared by both the church youth and the school.

Thank you always for the continued work that each of you do to further Christ's kingdom through our Cathedral and School. We are truly blessed to have this place and one another.

## Weekday Worship at the Cathedral

**Wednesday 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.)





**A Festival of Christmas  
Lessons and Carols**

Sunday, December 17, 2023  
4:00 p.m.



 Winter Camp  
Grades 6-12

Camp Bethany

**\$85**  
per person

**2024**  
January 19-21

 DEREK GRIFFON

 FIRM FOUNDATION



**Scan to Register!**



**Adult Confirmation  
Classes**  
begin Wednesday, January 3. We  
will meet in the Ministry Center  
Garden Room at 6:15 pm.

**Youth Confirmation  
Classes**  
will begin January 7. Please go  
to [www.stmarkscathedral.net](http://www.stmarkscathedral.net)  
and click on Youth Confirmation  
Signup to register. Contact Amy  
in the Church office if you need  
more information.

## Children's Christian Formation

Nursery (newborn to K3 - 3 years old by September 30th)

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 pm

First floor of Parish building next to Catechesis Atriums

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)

9:30 – 10:30 am Sunday school (4th – 5th grade) Second floor of Parish building in the old nursery location

9:30 – 10:30 am Sunday school (6th-8th grade) Ministry Center Youth Lounge

9:30 – 10:30 am Sunday school (9th-12th grade) Ministry Center Youth Room



## Adult Christian Formation

9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Diarmaid MacCulloch: **History of Christianity**

Justin Holcomb: **Know the Heretics**

Ministry Center Garden Room

9:30 a.m. Scott Erickson: **Honest Advent**

Library



### 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.



ST. MARK'S EYC

# PARENTS NIGHT OUT

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
**5:30 - 8:30 PM**

**ST. MARKS CATHEDRAL**  
**MINISTRY CENTER**

## \$20 per child\*

\*CHILDREN MUST BE POTTY TRAINED

To register,  
please contact Amy at  
[Amy@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:Amy@stmarkscathedral.net)





### Calling all Turkeys!

Amazingly, it's that time again! The Cooking Crew is in need of turkeys to cook for Christmas meals. Please drop off your turkeys to the church kitchen by **December 6**. If you have any questions or would like to help cook for the holidays, **Jennifer Beruvides** at [jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net).



## Celebrate the Season with St. Mark's

Nov 29 Family Advent Wreath Making 5:30 pm

Dec 17 Children's Christmas Pageant 10:30 am

Dec 17 Lessons and Carols 4:00 pm

Dec 24 Family Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm  
children's activities during service

Dec 24 Traditional Christmas Eve Service 11pm  
Preludial Music begins at 10:30pm

Dec 25 Christmas Day Service 10:00am

Jan 6 Epiphany Celebration 5:00pm



## 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 8**.

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 Bill Kalmbach at bill.kalmbach@cookyanecy.com**

## ST. MARK'S

# WORK OUT

Come join a group that rises early to exercise in the mornings with short runs, barbell workouts, and calisthenics.

5:30 am - 6:15 am - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Above 45 degrees - Workout outside.

Below 45 degrees - Workout in the gym.

Necessary equipment onsite.

Call Dean Johnson in the office for more information.

St. Mark's

# KIDS CLUB

Kickoff Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Kindergarten - 5th grade

Every Wednesday from 6-7 pm in the Ministry Center

Club K2



Games



Crafts



Bible Study

Club 345

Join us for Family Dinner in the Parish Hall at 5:30pm

For more information contact Amy Garsee amy@stmarkscathedral.net or Laura Grayson Ameen laura@stmarkscathedral.net

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### DECEMBER 1

James Jackson  
Andrew Porter  
Steve Allen

2

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

3

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

4

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

5

Marian Dehan  
Bruce Lowe  
Polly James  
Carol Reyenga  
Riggs Arnold

6

Charlotte Gaffney  
Janet Harrell  
Kathryn Beaird  
Campbell Siskron  
Christian Rabalais  
Edward Coady

7

Melody Duncan  
Allen Marsalis  
Sarah Margaret Shemwell  
Lila Demech  
John Mazur Jr.

8

Nancy Montgomery  
Amy Hodges  
Jan Briscoe

9

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

10

Carroll Joffrion  
Katie Giordon White

11

Al Childs  
Gertrude Lynes  
Patty Stott  
Ben Gates  
George Ewing

Toni Winham  
Sean Henagan

12

Ellen Davis  
Tara Jones

13

Buz Wheless  
Marybeth McVie  
John Bowen

14

John Madison  
Duane Brown  
Charlotte Hargrove

15

Melinda Hernandez  
Susan Sherman  
Stafford Comegys  
William Herzog  
Roger Coley  
Parson Cotter  
Jeffrey Douthitt  
Rhett Arnold

16

Le Roy Kirby  
Tricia Grayson  
Austin Horne  
Seth Thibodeaux

17

Scott Reeks  
Stuart Reeks  
Tatum Peters  
Tessa Culver  
Elizabeth Gatschenberger  
Spencer Pringle

18

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

19

Creighton Hodges  
Jack Perkins  
Taylor Williams  
Lisa Bingham

20

John Turnage  
Louis Rabalais  
Ava Katherine Alley

21

Mary Stephens Allen  
Morgan Kilpatrick  
Elizabeth Dulaney

22

Cynthia Peatross  
Darcy Henagan  
Quintin Hardtner  
Quintin Hardtner, IV

23

Marletta Eddy  
John Meldrum  
Holly Fletcher

24

Robert Laborde  
Emily Lofton  
Hannah Woodard

25

Lindsay Atkins  
Joseph Breithaupt

26

Linc Coleman  
Rosemary Lafargue  
Margaret Elrod  
Lea Green  
Kay Butcher

27

Woodus Humphrey  
Tyler Nichols  
Keaton Russo  
Spencer Craft

28

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

29

Kathryn Hayes  
Ethan Varnadore  
Lindsey Aaron  
Barbara Messier-Villafuerte

30

Jeff Webb  
Miriam Martin  
McKenzie Boucher  
Camille McCall

31

Robert Pou  
Sharla Inman

## 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 Lisa Bingham, no later than Friday, December 15.

## End of Year Contributions

If you want to mail your 2023 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 29 when the office closes for the holiday.**

## MEMORIAL FLOWERS

### December 3

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 Peggy Shirley.

### December 10

The greenery on the High Altar is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Thomas Kalford Ratcliff.

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 17

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, Steve Sigler, Sheila Prioux and Lise Romero.

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

### December 24

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Clarence H. & Cecilia L. Ellerbe, Sam W. & Cece Ellerbe Smith and D.C., Jr. & Louise A. 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., Rear Admiral & Mrs. Charles N. Payne and Kathleen Paylor Bellamy.

### December 31

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dorothy & Bill Wene Smith and Kendall Ann Smith.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert E. Turner, and Nick and Barbara Skrivanos.

## DEATHS

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

**Peggy Shirley**, on October 26, 2023.

**James Monk**, grandfather of **Field Baber**, on November 1, 2023.

**The Rev. James Fetterman**, on November 4, 2023.

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

## BAPTISMS

**Merritt Anne Grigsby**, daughter of **Michelle & Lee Grigsby**, on November 12, 2023.

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

## BIRTHS

**Blaze Eugene Allen**, on November 18, 2023. Parents are **Haila Ratcliff & Mason Allen**. Grandparents are **Robin & Jim Himes**.

## Expectant Moms of St. Mark's



If you are or know anyone who is expecting a child our committee is up and running and is looking for mommies to be. Please contact us at [bess@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:bess@stmarkscathedral.net) or sign up on our website under family ministries. We hope to welcome mothers into our community. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



## Christmas and New Year's Office Hours

The Cathedral office will close at noon on Friday, December 2. We will reopen on Wednesday, December 27. We will close at noon on Friday, December 29. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.

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

Bill Kalmbach, Senior Warden – Lisa Love, Junior Warden – Patrick Caraway, Treasurer – John Reeks, Chancellor

2023	2024	2025	2026
Ellen Erwin	Clarence Babineaux	Karen Hardtner	David Drummond
Joe Jayroe	Rebecca Bryant	Chad Hill	Paul Guidry
Josh Knicely	Patrick Caraway	Claire Rebouche	Val Irion
Theresa Meldrum	Mark Sealy	Jason Waltman	Reid Jones
Joy Ratcliff	Lynn Yancey	Warren West	John Turnage

**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. Paul Martin** (Priest Associate)  
paul@stmarkscathedral.net

**Derrick Meador**  
(Organist and Choirmaster)  
derrick@stmarkscathedral.net

**Amy Garsee** (Christian Education and  
EYC Director)  
amy@stmarkscathedral.net

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

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

**Priscilla McLean** (Calendaring)  
priscilla@stmarkscathedral.net

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

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

**Mark Deverts** (Sexton)  
mark@stmarkscathedral.net

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**St. Mark's Cathedral (Episcopal)**

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