



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL NEWS

February 2015

St. John's Episcopal Church is a diverse, welcoming Christian family. We are committed to using our God-given talents to continually grow and improve in our desire to worship, spread God's love, and minister throughout our communities.

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (no music)

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (with music)

A Lenten message from a friend in Christ, Fr. Andrew Wisdom

A common and increasingly fashionable misinterpretation as we enter the liturgical season of Lent is that the traditional practice of "giving something up" is a negative approach. Nothing could be farther from the truth! Lent is a season of penitential reflection in which we take a sober inventory of our lives, specifically our daily behaviors and evaluate them against our claim to be Disciples of Christ. Disciples are under a discipline, the discipline of a love greater than ourselves, for an agenda more important than our own instinctual whims and wants.

This liturgical season invites us to die to the tyranny of our willful agendas and self-interested attachments that we might willingly live in the freedom of God's loving agenda and plan for our lives. It's a 40 day period of time to reflect on what gets in the way of our receiving and living out our vocation to love revealed in the paschal mystery of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection...FOR LOVE OF US! When something is in the way in such an important relationship, we want to remove it so no obstacle impedes our spiritual progress of growing into the fully mature man and woman in Christ.

Lent is not about doing more, but doing less; not about addition, but subtraction. It goes against a relentless cultural conditioning that promotes the idea that we are all better off the more we have, the more we do, the more we achieve, the more we are known. This season teaches us to say "No" again to that kind of societal brainwashing that suggests we have too little and to reassert our freedom in a Christian message of "Yes" to having more than enough in Christ.

We specifically give things up to exercise our freedom and practice our "no" to those compulsory attachments to things, people and activities that we unthinkingly turn to instead of the one thing necessary: eternal friendship with God, glimpsing its joyous splendor even now while on our daily earthy pilgrimage.

Lent does ask something more of us; to fast, to pray and to give alms to the poor. These are the built-in scriptural additions, "the more" of Lent. But to remember to eat more moderately, pray more consistently and give to the poor (not just materially, but emotionally, spiritually or socially) more intentionally, we need "a daily trigger," as it were; a reminder that this time is not like any other time of the year. It can be as simple as taking that routine, daily cup of coffee without sugar or cream these 40 days or without both. Or it can be as challenging as saying no to certain favorite T.V. programs or to T.V. altogether during Lent. But this is only the beginning of our Lenten effort. The trigger is for the real work of Lent: turning to God in our hunger instead of the next cookie, turning to God for conversation instead of our cell, next text or Facebook update; turning to God disguised as our impoverished brother and sister in some kind of need, rather than saying, "not my responsibility" or "I shouldn't get involved."

So far from being negative, the season of Lent is always about the positive: the positive retrieval of our God-given freedom to choose what really fills us and to detach ourselves from the superfluous pursuits that leave us in the long run increasingly unfree and imprisoned.

Blessings to you all,

Fr. Doug

Rector

Fr. Doug Lasiter
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832-444-8153

Vestry

Mary Katherine
Blackburn
(Senior Warden)

Mike Strausser
(Junior Warden)

David Cassard
(Cemetery Warden)

Tucker Handley
(Clerk)

Julie Green
Jessica Guidry
Mickey Guillory
Sue Herpel
Fred Sollars

Parish Treasurer

Sue Herpel

ECW President

Betty Duplantis

Organist

LaDonna Alexander

Secretary

Chris Robichaux
stjohnoffice@bellsouth.net
985-447-2910



WOW! In case you didn't notice, there has been a lot going on at St. John's. January 24th was the English Tea, and what a great success it was. There are too many people to thank individually, so thank-you to everyone who helped make it a great day. The very next night was Music at St. John's and the sanctuary was packed. Over the course of two days our parish was not just a Church, we were Church. We served the community and each other in the way I believe our Savior intended. Congratulations to all of you for making such a contribution and a sacrifice of your time, talent, and treasure.

LENTEN SERIES

Thursday, February 19, at 6:00 pm we will begin our Lenten series of classes. Allen Alexander and I will lead a series of classes that will explore different faith traditions. Every class will begin with a light supper and conclude with Compline. You will not want to miss this, as the classes promise to be interesting and informative.

YOUTH LOCK-IN COMING SOON!

We are planning another Youth Lock-In for Saturday, March 28th, beginning at 6:00pm here at St. John's in the parish hall. Young people from both St. John's and Trinity parishes grades 3 through 12 will spend the night and participate in fun activities. If you want to participate, contact Fr. Doug.

LENTEN GUMBO BEGINS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Saturday, Feb 7, at 9:00am we will be processing onions and boiling, de-boning, and chopping chicken in preparation for the Lenten Gumbos. Everyone is welcome for any amount of time you have available. Call Sue Herpel (985-228-0285) for details.

Beginning Friday, February 20, at 9:00am the Friday Gumbo Club will meet in the Parish Hall every Friday in Lent, excluding Good Friday, to prepare for the Monday Lenten Gumbo. We are generally finished by 11:00, but any time you can give is appreciated, and all are welcome. Contact Alice Strausser (713-9781) for more details.

Upcoming Church Service Schedule

February 1: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Fr. Doug Lasiter)
February 8: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Fr. Don Brown)
February 15: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Fr. Doug Lasiter)
February 18: 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service (Fr. Travers Koerner)
February 22: 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 (Fr. Jerry Rogers)
March 1: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Fr. Doug Lasiter)

Weekly Meetings

CODA

Co-Dependents Anonymous meetings are on Monday evenings at 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the parish hall. For more information, call 985-447-8159 or 985-526-8565 or visit www.coda.com.

Bible Study

You are invited to participate in St. John's Bible Study Group on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Contact Alice Strausser for more information and location.

AA Infinity Group

Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the parish hall Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:00pm.

Choir

Join us for choir practice on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Contact LaDonna for more information.

ASH WEDNESDAY

There will be a service on Wednesday, February 18, at 6:00pm, in observance of Ash Wednesday.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*DeVonne & Sherry Herring
(2/20)*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*John Dennis (2/4)
Gwen Bridwell (02/07)
Rebecca Galloway (2/10)
Tom Stringer (2/13)
Rachel Alexander (2/14)
Christopher Eschete, Jr. (2/15)
Gilbert Gonzalez, Jr. (2/20)
Jude LeCompte (2/22)
G. Bridges (2/25)
Walter Lanier, Jr. (2/28)*

JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT

Christian musician and author John Michael Talbot, host of the Church Channel's inspirational TV show "All Things are Possible," will be at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church (529 Hwy 20, Thibodaux, LA 70301, tel. 985-633-2903) for three special nights of ministry, February 23 - 25, 2015, beginning at 7:00 pm. Each evening includes a unique inspirational message and music.

A Love Offering will be received each evening to support the ministries of John Michael Talbot & the Brothers and Sisters of Charity. The suggested donation is \$15 per person / per night. More can be given if desired. NO ONE WILL BE TURNED AWAY FOR LACK OF FUNDS. Follow this ministry on Facebook/ John Michael Talbot.



VESTRY MEETING

**will be Thursday, February 5,
beginning with Eucharist in the
church at 6:30 p.m..**

If you have items for the Vestry to
consider, please present them to

Senior Warden

Mary Katherine Blackburn or

Junior Warden Mike Strausser by

Sunday, February 1, 2015.



Sunday, February 8, the
ECW will meet in the Library
at 11:30am. Contact
Betty Duplantis
for more information.

Prayer Chain Ministry

This group receives requests for special prayer intentions, passes them along to others on the Prayer Chain, and intentionally prays for the requests. It is a very meaningful way to bring our church family and those we are connected to closer to one another and to seek God's grace in our lives.

If this is something you have participated in during past years, you want to join in this ministry, or if you want to find out more about it, please contact Alice Strausser at strausserm@bellsouth.net or 985-447-9328.

MARDI GRAS PARADE SUNDAY is February 15! There will be a potluck following the 10:30 service. Join us for the meal and stay for the parade. There will be a signup list for the potluck in the back of church.



St. John's Calendar

February 2015

Call or email the office (447-2910
or stjohnoffice@bellsouth.net)
to schedule activities at the church or parish hall.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist and Baptism 11:30 Hospitality VESTRY AGENDA DUE	2 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	3 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	4	5 6:30p VESTRY MTG 7p AA	6	7 8-12 VITA Tax Assistance 9am Gumbo Prep
8 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist 11:30 Hospitality 11:30: ECW Mtg	9 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	10 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	11 6:30p Choir Practice	12 7p AA	13	14 Valentine's Day 8-12 VITA Tax Assistance
15 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist and Baptism 11:30 PARADE SUNDAY	16 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	17 Mardi Gras	18 6pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 6p LENTEN CLASSES 7p AA	20 9a GUMBO PREP	21 8-12 VITA Tax Assistance
22 8a Morning Prayer 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist 11:30 Hospitality	23 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	24 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	25 6:30p Choir Practice	26 6p LENTEN CLASSES 7p AA	27 9a GUMBO PREP	28 8-12 VITA Tax Assistance GRACE LUTHERAN
MARCH 1 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist and Baptism 11:30 Hospitality GUMBO PREP	2 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	3 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	4 6:30p Choir Practice	5 6p LENTEN CLASSES 7p AA	6 9a GUMBO PREP	7 8-12 VITA Tax Assistance GRACE LUTHERAN

Fr. Doug's Thibodaux Office Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays from 9am to 4pm
Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, from 9am to noon.

Lenten Busy Person's Retreats at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center

- **Lenten Busy Person's Retreat for Men: From Outer Success to Inner Strength**

Saturday, February 21, from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The men's Busy Person's Retreat will be directed by the Very Rev. Dr. Andy Andrews, former curate at St. James and now Dean at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Memphis, Tennessee.

- **Lenten Busy Person's Retreat for Women: Our Grandmothers Have Something to Say: Spending Time with New Testament Women, Saturday, March 7, from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

The women's retreat will be directed by the Rev. Dr. Mitzi Minor, Professor of New Testament at the Memphis Theological Seminary.

The cost of either retreat is \$35, including lunch at the Center. Register with your check payable to St. James with "CSF Retreat" in the memo line. Registration is also available online at <https://secure.accessacs.com/access/events/upcoming.aspx>. Please do not let the cost of the retreat prevent you from attending, but contact Prior John Pitzer for information about scholarships.

A limited number of rooms have been reserved at the Conference Center for participants who would prefer to arrive on the Friday evening before the retreat; this would not include dinner at the Center. Rooms are on a first-come, first-serve basis with payment to secure your reservation, online, or via check.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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www.stjohnsthobodaux.org or Facebook