

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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.

Lent 2019

Monthly Message

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.
mthompson@edola.org

Rector

The Rev. Stephen Shortess
sshortess31@gmail.com

Vestry

Allen Alexander
(Senior Warden)

David Cassard
(Junior Warden)

Jonathan Baumann
Kenneth Gumpert
Alice Strausser
Julie Green
Earl Woodard

Parish Treasurer

Sue Herpel

Cemetery Warden

David Cassard

ECW President

LaDonna Alexander

Organist

LaDonna Alexander

Administrative Asst.

Cherie Voisin

stjohnoffice@bellsouth.net
985-447-2910

Services:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
(with music)

In the world beyond coastal Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, the arrival of Ash Wednesday and Lent must come as a complete surprise, for the rhythm of life includes Christmas and perhaps the celebration of the Wise Men on Epiphany. Period. Nothing more until Ash Wednesday, or perhaps a pancake supper on the eve before.

But not in our world. Mardi Gras starts slowly, and in the days between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday builds up to a frenzy.

Whew! By the time Ash Wednesday arrives, we are often glad to get on our knees in fervent prayer, confessing our sin, and to be reminded of our humanity with a smudge of ashes on our foreheads.

We are in the midst of the mortification of the flesh and doing good works in preparation for Holy Week and Lent.

I'm reminded of the admonition of Father John Andrew, late Rector of St Thomas Church on 5th Avenue in New York who always greeted people during this season with, "I hope that you are having a hard Lent."

There is something else, generally unsaid, that Lent does for us in Louisiana: It reminds us that we are not just members of St John's or of Trinity, but also of the Church-at-large.

Annually, Bishop Morris Thompson selects a Lenten book for us to all read together, not just in your parish, but in the whole diocese.

Weekly, the Bishop sends reflections for all of us to consider.

This year, his selection is an important little book with the grim title of Autopsy of a Deceased Church. It's the subtitle which gives hope: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive.

If you are not reading this yet, it's readily available. Get it. Join in with other members of the Diocese. Think about Bishop Thompson's reflections, and discuss how to keep your parish alive.

I hope that you are having a hard Lent,

Travers+



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday Service – 6:00pm
 Good Friday Service – 12:00pm
 Holy Saturday Service – 9:00am
 Easter Sunday Services – 8:00am and 10:30am



There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for all ages at 9:15am on Easter Sunday. We are in need of donations of filled eggs for the hunt and volunteers to hide! We will also flower the cross for Easter in the procession. Please bring your favorite flower to place on the cross!



The Friday Gumbo Club meets @9:30am in the Parish Hall on all Fridays in Lent, excluding Good Friday. We are generally finished by 11:30am, but any time you can give is a help. Everyone is welcome! Contact Alice Strausser at (985)-713-9781 for more details.

* The ECW-sponsored Gumbo Lunches are served every Monday in Lent from 11:00am - 1:00pm to benefit the Good Samaritan Food Bank and other Episcopal Church Women projects. Dine in or take out for \$10 includes chicken/sausage gumbo, rice, choice of potato or carrot/raisin salad, French bread, dessert, and tea or water. Frozen gumbo is also available for \$10 per quart or \$5 per pint. Volunteers are needed to help anytime between 10:00am and 2:00pm. Contact LaDonna Alexander or any ECW member for more details.

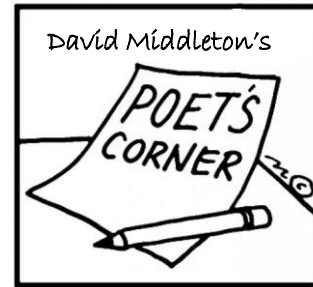
United Thank Offering

Consider picking up a donation box or envelope to use to give to the United Thank Offering during Lent. Donations will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 14. The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.



Easter Wings

Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,
 Though foolishly he lost the same,
 Decaying more and more,
 Till he became
 Most poore:
 With thee
 O let me rise
 As larks, harmoniously,
 And sing this day thy victories:
 Then shall the fall further the flight in me.



My tender age in sorrow did beginne
 And still with sicknesses and shame.
 Thou didst so punish sinne,
 That I became
 Most thinne.
 With thee
 Let me combine,
 And feel thy victorie:
 For, if I imp my wing on thine,
 Affliction shall advance the flight in me.

by George Herbert (1593-1633), Anglican priest and poet

For Herbert's life, see the note to his poem "Prayer I" in the January 2019 newsletter.

Lines 1-2: Eden and the Fall. Lines 7-9: Larks sing as they soar very high up the sky. Line 19, imp: to repair a damaged feather . . . by attaching part of a new feather; to graft.

From an online source: "Herbert's poetry may be referred to the 16th century tradition of the *emblem*, which combines a motto with a simple symbolic picture and poetic explanation, as well as, in the case of 'Easter Wings,' the example of Greek *shaped* poetry. The poem's two-stanzas were originally formatted sideways across opposite pages on its first publication, making the likeness to two sets of wings more obvious. . . . [but] 'Easter Wings' [is] printed upright in modern type. 'Easter Wings' is a religious meditation that focuses on the atonement of Jesus Christ. Its celebration of bodily and spiritual resurrection draws its theme from 1 Corinthians 15, and it is especially notable that the word 'victory' found in the Biblical text is repeated in both stanzas of the poem. As well as the poem's being emblematic of the redeemed soul overall, the expansion and contraction of the lines imitates the meaning of the words. Thus, in the first stanza the line 'O let me rise' occurs as the wing unfurls again and is answered by the theme of climbing in the second. There is also similar imitative wording at the center of both stanzas, 'Till he became / Most poore' in the first being answered by 'That I became / Most thinne' in the second."

It may also be noted that stanza 1 is on the general human condition after the Fall whereas stanza 2 focuses on Herbert alone.

APRIL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

MINISTRY	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
LEM 8:00	Cam Herpel	Fred Sollars	Cam Herpel	Fred Sollars
Lector	Lloyd Chiasson	David Plater	David Middleton	Earl Woodard
Usher	Bill Borskey	Bill Borskey	Bill Borskey	Bill Borskey
Altar Guild	Sue Herpel Peggy Baumann	Sue Herpel Peggy Baumann	Sue Herpel Peggy Baumann	Sue Herpel Peggy Baumann
LEM 10:30	Gloria Hunter	Mary K Blackburn	Chelsea LeBlanc	Jim Koontz
Scripture	Julie Green	Gloria Hunter	Mary K Blackburn	Chelsea LeBlanc
Prayers...	Chelsea LeBlanc	Jim Koontz	Allen Alexander	Julie Green
Usher	Allen Alexander	Jonathan Baumann	Allen Alexander	Jonathan Baumann
Usher	Jonathan Baumann	Allen Alexander	Allen Alexander	Jonathan Baumann
Acolyte	Gloria Hunter	Mary K Blackburn	Chelsea LeBlanc	Jim Koontz
Greeter	Gloria Hunter	Julie Green	Gloria Hunter	Julie Green
Counters	Kate & Mary K	Peggy & Mary K	Kate & Peggy	Peggy & Mary K
Hospitality	ECW (Chelsea)	Leslie Liebert	Easter	Lesley Marcello
Celebrant	Fr. Spencer	Fr. Spencer	Fr. Travers	Fr. Spencer



St. John's is seeking volunteers to read and Lay Minister at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. Please consider donating your time and talent! If you are interested, please contact Mary Katherine Blackburn or Fr. Stephen.



Fr. Stephen delivered our church's offering of school supplies to South Thibodaux Elementary on March 20, 2019. They were very thankful! Pictured L to R: Diane Smith (Principal), Fr. Stephen, Gina Johnson (Asst. Principal), and Aimee Angle (Admin. Asst.). Thank to everyone who made an offering.

St. John's Calendar

April 2019

Call or email the office to schedule activities at the church or parish hall:
985-447-2910 or stjohndoffice@bellsouth.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11a Gumbo Lunch 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	2 7p AA Infinity	3 6:30p Choir Practice	4 6p Lenten Program 7p AA Infinity	5 8a Organ Tuning 9:30a Gumbo Club 1p Jani-King	6 1p Tom Butler Funeral 5p Grace Lutheran 7:30p NSU Recital
7 8a Eucharist 10:30a Eucharist	8 11a Gumbo Lunch 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	9 7p AA Infinity 7:30p NSU Recital	10 6:30p Choir Practice	11 6p Lenten Program 7p AA Infinity	12 9:30a Gumbo Club	13
14 8a Eucharist 10:30a Eucharist	15 11a Gumbo Lunch 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	16 7p AA Infinity	17 6:30p Choir Practice	18 6p Maundy Thursday Service 7p AA Infinity	19 12p Good Friday Service	20 9a Holy Saturday Service
21 8a Eucharist 10:30a Eucharist 	22 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	23 7p AA Infinity	24 6:30p Choir Practice	25 7p AA Infinity	26 1p Jani-King	27
28 8a Eucharist 10:30a Eucharist	29 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	30 7p AA Infinity				30

Fr. Stephen - Vacation

Fr. Stephen - Vacation

****Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, from 8:30-11:30am.**



- Joy Rogers - 4/10
- Fran Middleton - 4/12
- Evelyn Alexander - 4/14
- Betty Duplantis - 4/17
- Jonathan Baumann - 4/23
- Aaron Gonzalez - 4/25

Weekly Meetings

AA Infinity Group

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

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.org.



Join the choir!

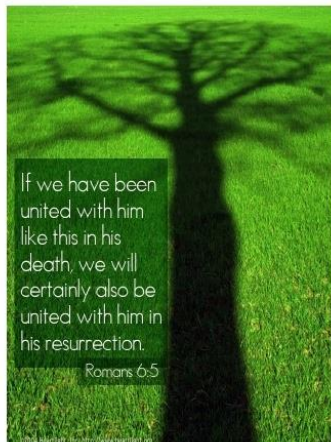
If you like to sing or just want to hear what hymns we are singing next Sunday, join us in the church on Wednesday nights at 6:30 for choir practice. You may contact LaDonna Alexander for more information or talk to any choir member.



St. John's parish hall will now be serving as a polling location. The first scheduled election is this May 4, 2019.

What does Easter celebrate?

- "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" 1 Corinthians 15:55
- The most glorious season of Easter celebrates the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from dead.
- This great event, for Christians, occurred on the third day after Jesus' crucifixion around A.D. 33.
- The early church perceived his resurrection as the central witness to a new act of God in history and the victory of God in vindicating Jesus as the Messiah.
- The resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone upon which faith is built, the connecting link between the Old and New Testament' witness of God's redeeming works.
- This event marks the central faith confession of the Church and was the focal point for Christian worship, observed on the first day of each week since the first century (Acts 20:7)



ST. JOHN'S ITEMS 	
Taste of St. John's Cookbooks.....	\$20
"Tea Time Temptations" Cookbooks.....	\$15
"The Remarkably Neat Church" book....	\$15
Note Cards	\$2
Postcards	\$0.25
Tree Ornaments	\$13
Prints (large)	\$2.50
Prints (signed/numbered)	\$45
Plates	\$8
Tote Bags	\$4
Brooms	\$10
Frozen Gumbo - quart	\$10
Frozen Gumbo - pint	\$5

Bible Study

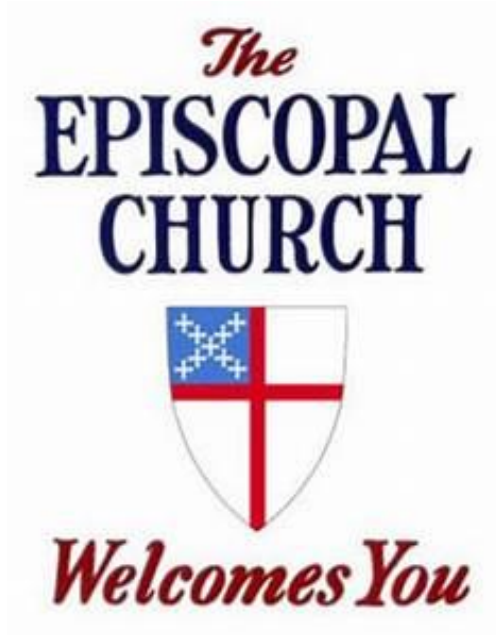


Adult Bible Study will return after Easter on Monday evenings at 6:30pm. For additional information, please contact Alice Strausser.



My word... will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11, NIV

Sunday school for all ages is held in between services at 9:15 a.m.



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