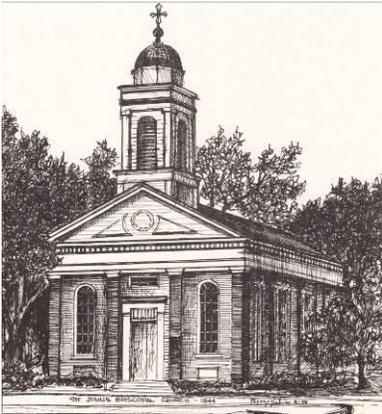


ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Easter 2019



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.



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)

--- Fr. Stephen's message for May ---

"It is finished." These words cried out by Jesus on his Cross were also the oft used words by every seminarian at Virginia Theological Seminary after exams at the end of a quarter or semester. Perhaps our sacrifices were a liberal comparison to our Lord and Savior's sacrifice!

The other phrase I often heard and used at the seminary and as if in sequence with "It is finished," proceeded it and our exams. That phrase was "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." This the famous words of the Christian Mystic, Dame Julian of Norwich, whose Sainthood we celebrate in The Episcopal Church on May 8th and who is also the influence of this month's poetry section in the newsletter.

As David Middleton provides from the Oxford Dictionary in his commentary on Julian on page 2, little is known about her life. But as you can sense from Stella Nesanovich's poem, Dame Julian must've had a profound sense of her forgiveness from the Passion of Jesus.

In some ways, in my own reflections of Julian, she is a perfect comparison to the woman we find weeping at the Tomb on Easter morn – Mary Magdalene.

A fuller depiction of Julian's well-known words came from a vision of hers where she writes, "But Jesus, who in this vision informed me of all that is needed by me, answered with these words and said: 'It was necessary that there should be sin, but **all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.**'"¹

You can hear from her reflection "all shall be well," not a simple interpretation of Jesus' mission on the Cross. She does not have a surface understanding of Jesus' forgiveness and love for the sin and pain of the world. Not something like the effect of someone saying "Don't worry! God will take care of it." when tragedy or evil strikes.

But you hear in Julian, wisdom about forgiveness that exists deeper in the well of God's mercy that pours through the Passion and Resurrection. An awareness of the light of Christ and the Almighty love of God that triumphs over every darkness, frailty, agony, and calamity of our world. The love and mercy of God that seeks to forgive all sin and restore all hurt. Amen!

And so "It is finished." We did it. We made it through Lent and finished our holy exams. Maybe unscathed. Or perhaps not. But "all shall be well, and all shall be well." Because every day is Easter.

Ask yourself today and every day, do you have an awareness of Jesus Christ's passion for you? Do you know deep in your own heart that you are forgiven? Do you live your life in the revelation of the almighty mercy and love of God?

I hope that you do.

God's peace,
Fr. Stephen

¹ Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love* (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016), 76.

Poetry

Moment

by David Middleton

Julian of Norwich (ca. 1342—after 1413) [was an] English mystic. Little is known of her life except that she probably lived as an anchoress, outside the walls of St. Julian's Church [in] Norwich. According to her own account she received on 8 May 1373 a series of 15 revelations ["showings"] in a state of ecstasy lasting 5 hours. One other vision followed the next day, and her book, *The Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, was written twenty years after, as the fruit of her meditations on the original experience, which consisted chiefly in visions of the Passion and of the Holy Trinity. The account of these visions is embedded in reflections on the mysteries of the faith, on prayer, and especially on the love of God. In *Divine Love* lies the clue to all problems of existence, particularly that of evil, which, lacking the Divine reality, is but an aberration of the human will that serves to reveal the more clearly the merciful love of God." —*The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. F.L. Cross and E.A. Livingstone editors. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2nd edition, 1974. 766. Julian of Norwich is commemorated in the Episcopal Liturgical Calendar on May 8.

A Week in May

Julian of Norwich, following her showings, May 1373

There were no stars about, only a glow
 Within the darkened room, the crucifix
 Held before me like a living thing
 While all else dwelt in shadow.
 Great illness flamed my body,
 Seemed to shrink my senses,
 Yet my visions were not illusions.

At the core of my soul I knew the Lord
 A great city, clad in honors, wide as a kingdom.
 There he comforted me without voice.
 Amid all sorrow light showed forth,
 As if the sun were born from myriad stars
 And wisdom's daughter upheld me there.
 I felt the holy oils on my brow, could hear
 My mother speak and the parish priest
 Bid me gaze upon the cross.

While all my senses wheeled, the image
 Of Christ shown in daylight. A deathlike chill
 Departed then, and all pain dissolved.
 How the Lord does work His plan!
 I saw His pain, the soldiers mocking Him,
 The garland of thorns wreathed with blood

That flowed like pellets of rain from eaves,
 Spreading like herring scales on his precious head.
 Such spiraling emotions for a short while,
 Both grief and joy, then awakening.
 I am a woman ignorant and frail
 To whom these blessed showings were given
 That I might sketch them and know their meaning,
 What love has wrought and mercy given.

by Stella Nesanovich

St. John's Church history...

A hitherto undiscovered building contract for the first major renovation of St. John's is preserved in the Lafourche Parish Office of the Clerk of Court. Dated June 2, 1856, and recorded nine days later, the contract is in Miscellaneous Book 2. In it, the Building Committee of St. John's, represented by Patrick Henry Gary, Fayette Clay Ewing, and Sumner Townsend, contracted with builder E. T. Burnham "to alter, add to and repair the present Church of St. John situated in the town of Thibodaux in the State of Louisiana, according to the accompanying elevations, plans and Sections designated and prepared by Henry Howard Architect [of New Orleans]"

The document provides seven pages chock-full of description of the extensive work to be performed. To give only a few examples: "The present front wall & the columns of the Portico, and the entire of the wood cornice, frieze, and Architrave, round the building shall be taken down and removed." They were replaced with a front wall and windows, the current narthex was created, and the bell, which had been located at the rear of the Church, was moved to the current belfry, already in place but needing "to be put in thorough repaired and securely braced and strengthened where necessary." Today's bell, donated in 1856 by Marcus Zills, may have replaced the old one described in the contract.

Interestingly in view of today's exterior paint scheme, "the outside face of the brick walls & pilasters round the entire building shall be well painted two coats of a light brown stone color and jointed to imitate masonry." Both the interior and exterior wood trim were intended to be painted in color; in the contract, the colors were left to the Building Committee to choose. All the roofs were directed to be changed to new slates, and the contract called for new copper gutters on the building flanks.

The interior was entirely changed. Removed and replaced were the original pews and the "platform" containing the lectern and pulpit. New pews were to be "without doors" and have ends that were "paneled and formed "as today's congregation still knows them. "The [new] seats to be made easy and comfortable, each pew to have a proper kneeling stool and book rack," features that must have undergone changes to present-day kneeling shelves during the 1856 construction.

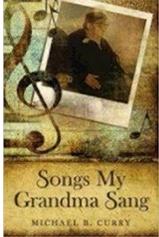
The church building originally contained chimneys along its "flanks," and they were to be removed and replaced with new ones on the rear wall. The heating is described, "The furnace to be properly set in brick work, the smoke flue to be cut out of, and formed in the rear wall and carried up in a new chimney shaft above the ridge of the main roof." Not one, but two chimneys still may be seen from outside the church building's west end; they are long unused, and there is no "furnace."

The existing interior walls and the ceilings were to be newly plastered (now are covered with painted wood paneling).

The builder, Edward T. Burnham, a Connecticut native, was a well-known carpenter and building contractor who had worked in Thibodaux since at least 1838. Among his prominent structures was the Guion Academy, Thibodaux's first public school built in 1848 and located in what now is Chiasson Memorial Park at the corner of Jackson and Tenth Streets. In the St. John's contract, Burnham was charged with completing the work and having the church structure "delivered up to the building committee on or before" November 1, 1856. At that time, he would receive \$3,350.00.

A copy of the contract will be available in the St. John's Library file cabinet; and a copy will be at Nicholls State University Archives, another at the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation in Baton Rouge, where the St. John's National Register records are located. So far, no drawings of the "elevations, plans and Sections" that the contract states accompany it have been located.

Book Review



Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, Micheal Curry's "Songs My Grandma Sang" is a book of triumphant joy. In Curry's remembrance of his grandmother, he teaches how to use our past to further our mission as witnesses to the proclamation of God's transforming love and power. Jubilant and hopeful, Curry provides his reader a desire and a thirst to discover more fully their authentic expression as an image of God.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation and Reception Classes: Bishop Thompson will visit St. John's on September 15. If you are interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, please notify the office or Fr. Shortess no later than Sunday, June 23. Classes will begin Sunday, July 14 at 9:30am in the library.



- Fred & Margaret Sollars - 5/1
C.J. & Mickey Guillory - 5/3
Cherie & Mark Zeringue - 5/29
John & Linda Bourgeois - 5/31



- Ron Graham - 5/1
David Plater - 5/3
Naima Zanders - 5/3
Elizabeth Blatt - 5/3
Marilyn Gonzalez - 5/4
David Middleton - 5/6
John Bourgeois - 5/7
Carol Gumpert - 5/10
Abigail Shortess - 5/12
Cam Herpel - 5/21
Avery Landry - 5/23
Karen Foust - 5/28
Jay Guidry - 5/28
Laura Foust - 5/29

May Ministry Schedule

MINISTRY	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
LEM 8:00	Cam Herpel	Fred Sollars	Cam Herpel	Fred Sollars
Lector	David Plater	David Middleton	Lloyd Chiasson	David Middleton
Usher	Bill Borskey	Bill Borskey	Bill Borskey	Bill Borskey
Altar Guild	Alice, Chelsea, Kate	Alice, Chelsea, Kate	Alice, Chelsea, Kate	Alice, Chelsea, Kate
LEM 10:30	Jonathan Baumann	Julie Green	Chelsea LeBlanc	Gloria Hunter
Scripture	Allen Alexander	Earl Woodard	Kate Baumann	Jim Koontz
Prayers of People	Kate Baumann	Mary K Blackburn	Peggy Baumann	Jim Koontz
Usher	Allen Alexander	Jonathan Baumann	Allen Alexander	Jonathan Baumann
Usher		Allen Alexander	Jonathan Baumann	Allen Alexander
Acolyte	Jonathan Baumann	Julie Green	Chelsea LeBlanc	Gloria Hunter
Greeter	Gloria Hunter	Julie Green	Gloria Hunter	Julie Green
Counters	Kate & Alice	Peggy & Alice	Kate & Alice	Peggy & Kate
Hospitality	ECW (Ann M.)	Mickey Guillory	Marilyn G.	Alice Strausser
Celebrant	Fr. Stephen	Fr. Spencer	Fr. Stephen	Fr. Travers



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.



The ECW Annual Gathering of the Diocese of Louisiana will be May 17-18 at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Houma. If you want to attend one or both days, please pick up a form at church or download one from edola.org and submit it with your registration fee. For more information, contact LaDonna Alexander or go online at edola.org. The next ECW Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19 after the 10:30am service.

St. John's Calendar

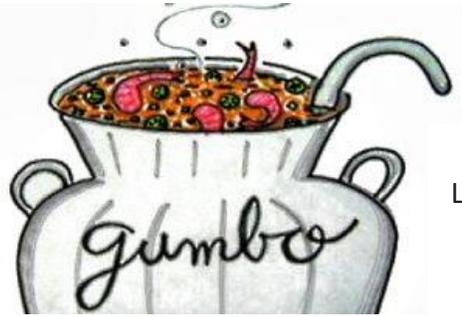
May 2019

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 6:30p Choir Practice	2 7p AA Infinity	3 1p Jani-King	4 ELECTION
5 8a Eucharist 10:30a Eucharist 6p NSU Concert (J. Alexander)	6 6p AA subgroup 6:30p Bible Study 7p CODA 7:30p NSU (Valerie Francis)	7 6:30p Vestry Mtg. 7p AA Infinity	8 6p Kay Dugruise (Recital)	9 7p LaDonna-Recital 7p AA Infinity	10 5p Music Club	11
12 8a Eucharist 10:30a Eucharist 	13 6p AA subgroup 6:30p Bible Study 7p CODA	14 6p Girl Scouts (L. Liebert) 7p AA Infinity	15 6:30p Choir Practice	16 7p AA Infinity	17 1p Jani-King	18
19 8a Eucharist 10:30a Eucharist 11:30a ECW Mtg.	20 6p AA subgroup 6:30p Bible Study 7p CODA	21 7p AA Infinity	22 6:30p Choir Practice	23 7p AA Infinity	24 Joseph Rehearsal	25 Joseph Wedding
26 8a Eucharist 10:30a Eucharist	27 6p AA subgroup 6:30p Bible Study 7p CODA 	28 7p AA Infinity	29 6:30p Choir Practice	30 7p AA Infinity	31 1p Jani-King	

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





Huge thanks to everyone who helped with this year's Lenten gumbo! We hope to have numbers at our May ECW meeting on how much was raised for us and the Food Bank. We served an estimated 800 meals during Lent!



Thank you to everyone who donated to the United Thank Offering. We collected more than \$150.



Mickey Guillory has been selected as the featured artist in May at the Terrebonne Fine Arts Guild gallery, 630 Belanger in Houma. The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 AM until 4 PM. On Tuesday, May 7, Mickey will be at the gallery all day and she would be very happy to offer coffee, "talk art", or just visit with friends. She will display mostly landscape paintings expressive of south Louisiana.

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. (No choir practice on May 8.) You may contact LaDonna Alexander for more information or talk to any choir member.

Bible Study



Adult Bible Study is held on Monday evenings at 6:30. For additional information, please contact Alice Strausser.

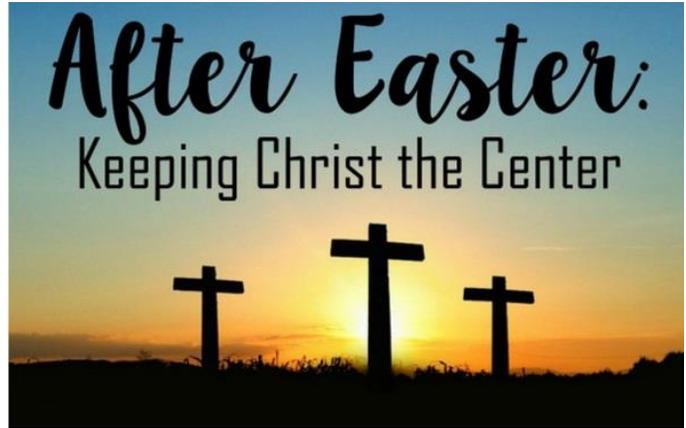
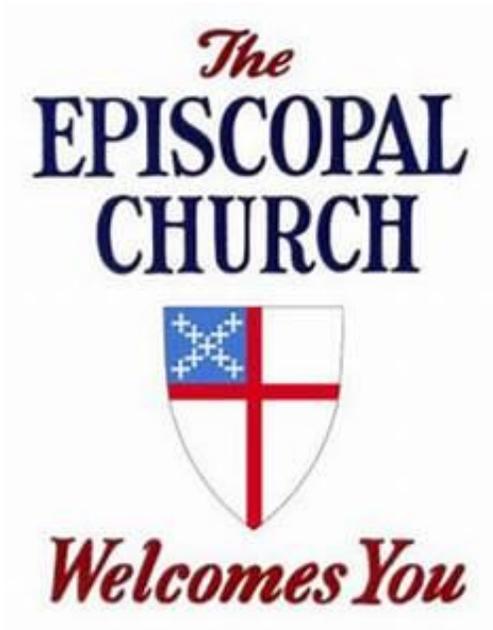
ST. JOHN'S ITEMS



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



The last school class for this school year for children and adults is Sunday, May 19. Be on the lookout for VBS dates and Children's Bible Study.



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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