



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL NEWS

December 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.

Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist / Morning Prayer
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (with music)
5:45 p.m. Holy Eucharist
(Alternating Wednesdays)

What Is Advent?

by Justin Holcomb
www.christianity.com

For many [Christians](#) unfamiliar with the liturgical year, there may be some confusion surrounding the meaning of the Advent season. Some people may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there's more to Advent.

The History of Advent

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus ([Matthew 2:1](#)), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist ([John 1:29](#)), and his first miracle at Cana ([John 2:1](#)). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

Advent Today

Today, the Advent season lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. (Advent begins on the Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year.)

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these "last days" ([Acts 2:17](#), [Hebrews 1:2](#)), as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to

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Rector

Fr. Doug Lasiter
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Vestry

Mary Katherine
Blackburn
(Senior Warden)

Mike Strausser
(Junior Warden)

David Cassard
(Cemetery Warden)

Jessica Guidry
Mickey Guillory
Sue Herpel
Gloria Hunter
Fred Sollars

Parish Treasurer

Sue Herpel

ECW President

Betty Duplantis

Organist

LaDonna Alexander

Secretary

Chris Robichaux

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consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis they called for God once again to act for them.

In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" perfectly represents the church's cry during the Advent season:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ's first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.

Blessings,

Fr. Doug

December 13: Music at St. John's Concert Series features New Resonance Orchestra



On Dec. 13 the Music at St. John's Concert Series continues with music of Corelli and other Baroque masters. The guest artists are the New Resonance Orchestra, under the baton of Francis Scully. Tickets are \$15 at the door, and entrance is free for students.

This same music will be featured in performance at the Marigny Opera House in a production featuring the Marigny Opera Ballet Dec. 10-13, 2015. More information and tickets for the full ballet can be found at www.marignyoperahouse.org. Our concert will feature only the music here at St. John's, but it promises to be exciting. Please join us!

St. John's Calendar

December 2015

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 29 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist 11:30 Hospitality	30	December 1 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	2 5:45p Evening Service 6:30p Choir Practice	3 7p AA	4	5 5p GRACE LUTHERAN
6 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist 11:30 Hospitality	7 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	8 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	9 6:30p Choir Practice 6:30 Music Club	10 7p AA	11	12 5p GRACE LUTHERAN
13 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist 11:30 Hospitality, ECW 3:00p MASJ Concert VESTRY AGENDA DUE	14 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	15 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	16 5:45p Evening Service 6:30p Choir Practice	17 6p VESTRY MTG 7p AA	18 6p Christmas Party	19 5p GRACE LUTHERAN
20 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist 11:30 Hospitality Vestry Newsletter Article Due	21 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	22 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA 7:30p Nicholls Concert	2 6:30p Choir Practice	24 6p Vigil Service 7p AA	25	26 5p GRACE LUTHERAN
27 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist 11:30 Hospitality	28 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	29 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	30 5:45p Evening Service 6:30p Choir Practice	31 7p AA	January 1 New Year's Day	2 5p GRACE LUTHERAN

Fr. Doug's Thibodaux Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9am to 4pm.

Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, from 9am to noon.

Wednesday services

Wednesday evening Holy Eucharist services alternate between Trinity and St. John's. The schedule for services for November and December is listed here, and is included in the weekly bulletin and on the calendar at our website.

December 2 St. John's 5:45 pm
December 9 Trinity 6:00 pm
December 16 St. John's 5:45 pm
December 23 Trinity 6:00 pm



HAPPY BIRTHDAY....

Anita Tully (Dec. 1)
Fred Sollars (Dec. 2)
Yvonne Pitre (Dec. 10)
David Cassard (Dec. 21)
Melda Bridges (Dec. 22)

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.

Bible Study

All are welcome to join Bible Study on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Contact Alice Strausser for details and location.

Choir

Join us for choir practice on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Contact LaDonna Alexander at ladonna_alexande@bellsouth.net, or tel. 985-803-0652, for more information.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY....

G & Melda Bridges (12/17)
Cam & Sue Herpel (12/17)
Bobby & Lesley Marcello (12/19)
Allen & LaDonna Alexander (12/30)





Mark your calendar...

- **Dec. 13 Evensong at St. Mathew's:** St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Houma is hosting a Southwest Deanery Evensong on Sunday, December 13, at 5:00 p.m., to celebrate the completion of their new church building. All deanery choir members are invited to vest and participate as well. LaDonna Alexander will share the organ duties with the organists of St. Matthew's. A combined choir rehearsal will be held at St. Matthew's at 4:00 p.m. that evening before the service. Contact LaDonna for more information.
- **Dec. 13 Music at St. John's Concert Series** will host the New Resonance Orchestra at 3pm for a concert of the music of Arcangelo Corelli and other Baroque composers. Tickets are \$15 at the door. The concert is open to the public. The music is reprised from the Marigny Opera Ballet's performances Dec. 10-13, 2015, and tickets for the full production (dance and music) at the Marigny Opera House in New Orleans are available at www.marignyoperahouse.org.
- **Dec. 13 ECW** meeting at 11:30 am.
- **December 17** the Vestry meeting is scheduled to begin at 6pm. Please advise Mary Katherine Blackburn or Mike Strausser of items to be considered for the agenda.
- **December 18** Christmas Party-- Please join the festivities at Fr. Doug's home at Trinity's rectory in Morgan City (1601 Cedar) on Friday, December 18 at 6 p.m. Bring your favorite beverages and finger food for all to share.
- **Throughout December** Keep an eye out for emails regarding preparations for Lenten Gumbo.
- **Christmas Eve** Service will begin with Lessons and Carols at 6pm on Thursday, December 24. All are welcome!



Frozen Gumbo is available now!

The holiday season is the right time to stock up on frozen gumbo! It is available in quart (\$10) or pint (\$5) containers, ready to be heated and served.

Please contact any ECW member for information on purchasing gumbo.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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