





## **God's Perfect Light** by the Very Rev. Alston B. Johnson

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Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come . . . Whispering . . . "It will be happier . . . " — Alfred Lord Tennyson

At midnight on January 1, 2020 there will be a collective shout traveling across portions of the globe, "Ten, Nine, Eight, Seven, Six, Five, Four, Three, Two, One... Happy New Year!" It will travel across the oceans and land like a wave. Some will sing, some will cry, some will spill their champagne on the person standing next to them.

I honestly cannot remember the last time that I "stayed up" to watch the "ball drop" in Times Square. My heart and mind are generally still caught in the trap of Christmas Midnight, and the message of "Emmanuel" - that God is not somewhere else, God is here among us. I find it cumbersome to celebrate a calendar New Year on the chronological timetable while I am still caught in the midst of God's timetable and the messages of Advent, Christmas, and the Epiphany. I simply find that God's timing and the times of my life measured on clocks, watches, and iPhones are not always synchronized; this is often cause for great frustration, and it is also cause of great joy.



With the light and music of Emmanuel resonating in my thoughts I look to New Year's Eve the way I look at the overstuffed garbage cans on my curb a few days after Christmas, while other piles of cardboard, paper, and plastic wait in the garage for next week's pick-up. New Year's Eve is mostly a terrestrial phenomenon; a mild utterance, an

after-party, following on the heels of the most significant birth in human history. The reality articulated in the Advent, Christmas, Epiphany journey is meant to place all chronological time within its proper context; the sign of a mortal life in the midst of world that is passing away while the truth of God's love stretches "from this time forth forevermore."

My real new year begins not with party songs and midnight binges, but with a fire and the burning of what has been in anticipation of what is to come. My new year begins (continued on page 2)

## St. Mark's Cathedral **Annual Meeting**

January 26, 2020 Immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service Parish Hall

Annual reports will be given and Vestry elections will be held and a barbecue lunch will be served.

Everybody come!!

## **Vestry Elections**

Pursuant to the by-laws of St. Mark's Cathedral the Nominating Committee has selected a slate of Vestry members to be elected for a four year term endeing in 2024.

The following members are rotating off the Vestry this year and will be honored for their service:

Melissa Flores Ionathan Hardtner Sanders Hearne Dan Koruna Doug Rountree

#### **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

8:00 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm Sunday Holy Eucharist Holy Unction offered at 8:00 am, 10:30 am and 6:00 pm 5:30 pm Friday Holy Eucharist (uses the Sunday Propers)

## JANUARY 5, 2020 The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Jeremiah 31, 7-14 Psalm 84 :1-8 Ephesians 1 :3-6, 15-19a Matthew 2 :13-15, 19-23

## JANUARY 12, 2020 The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord, Jesus Christ

Isaiah 42 :1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17

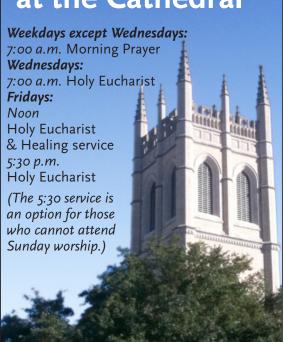
## JANUARY 19, 2020 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany 10:30 am Baptism and Holy Eucharist

Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 1 Corinthians 1 :1-9 John 1:29-42

## JANUARY 26, 2020 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 5-13 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23

## Weekday Worship at the Cathedral



(continued from page 1)

not with a toast or a party, but standing in the courtyard at the church on January 6th, The Feast of the Epiphany, watching last year's Christmas trees burn to ash. In that moment I am reminded of words that are said often in our sanctuary, "Remember that you are but dust...we all go down to the dust...but even at the grave we make our song Alleluia." The firelight of those burning trees faintly illuminate the names lining our columbarium; people I have known and loved who are now with God, whose ashes rest in our columbarium waiting for the world that is to come.

The burning of the greens on Epiphany, the rendering of another year's celebration to ash, in the warmth and light of firelight, reminds me that our stories are forever open-ended, and the best part of ourselves and our lives go on once our bodies return to dust and ash. No burden, no difficulty, no heartache lasts forever. We each have stories that are behind us, but we also have a story beyond us. We are moving forward to discover that story within the embrace of God's Emmanuel.

Standing before that Epiphany fire I am reminded of the bush that spoke to Moses, reminded of the words of the prophets, reminded of the love spoken by Jesus. I am also reminded that the clocks, the watches, the calendars that mark our days are actually the inventions necessary for a people who know that they are passing away.

"Epiphanos" Greek – means manifestation, revelation, illumination, "glimpse," and that is precisely the blessing that I ask God to send upon my life and the lives of those whom I love.

Watching the Christmas Tree of 2019 turned to ash in the presence of the ashes of others I have known and loved helps me know that no matter what the next calendar and clock bring into my life, the Maker of heaven and earth desires goodness and happiness to be whispered into the lives of His children.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Blessings and Godspeed, Alston Dean, St. Marks

LOST AND

## **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**.

## Lost Anything at Church?

Or maybe you're just missing some item and have no idea where it might have gone. Drop by or call the church office and check into our lost and found! We have everything from sunglasses to scarves to cell phones to jewelry (including some very nice pieces.) Check and see what you're missing!

A full-color version of *The Evangelist* is on our website! Go to "About Us," then "News."

		HAPPY BIRTHDAY		
January 1 Carson Jones 2 Jack Goodrich Ann Shanley Michele Hardtner 3 Helen Herzog John Godwin John Paul Grigsby Claude Lockhart Faye Aaron 4 Andrea Giacalone Mary O'Brien Sean Stott Mae Smitherman Nickolas Gore 5 Charlotte Walter Sunni Burgess Jennifer Jones Erin Dicharry 6 Marti Westmoreland Shirleen McKay Terri Nelson Julia Ameen	Fron Brainard Caroline Turnage  8 Dosite Perkins Bevelyn Shotts Robert Johnson  9 Jack Carlisle Beth Cantrell Holly Marshall Brady Howard Madeline Crawford  10 Yulonda Mayo Mary Katherine Clark Ben Hodges Teddy McMurry  11 Alden Woods  12 Sherry Martin Reilly Weber Gus Lea Mobley Carney Camille Lofton  13 Jennifer Varnadore	John David Stewart Andy Hodges Tim Brown Derek Holtsclaw Lillian Comegys Sloan Hall Gardner McInnis Maisey McInnis  15 Lillian Landsperger Henry McMurry 16 Nancy Mobley Katie Mitchell Drew Larremore Corinne Peterson  17 Pat Turnage Kim Stroud Chadd Bylsma Brady Thompson 18 Carol Gamble Rick Fisher 19 Sherry Batchelor Gloria Haynes	Katherine Van Hook  20 Christy Porter Mary Margaret Thomas Julian Weaver  21 George Plaxco Donna McGaunn Claire Rebouche Parish Marsalis Mary Catherine Kneip  22 Emily Pressly Theresa Johnson  24 Sara Herrington Briggs Mobley  25 Lissa Grounsell Gary Love Kelly Crawford Evan LeBleu Jett Trudeau  26 Wayne Carter Theresa Meldrum Beth Ann Holmes	Renee Deupree Robin Quinn  27 Jackie Cooper Susu Jones Dru Florsheim Blain Coady  28 Henry Coutret Merritt Chastain Foster Gavin  29 Kelly Larremore Katherine Russo Julian Weber  30 Beth Temple Rachel Stari Connor Peterson Isabella Foster Catherine Schoonover  31 Cindy Millen Henry Byrd

## 2020 Census Jobs Available

The Census Bureau is hiring people for five types of positions to support the 2020 Census. Learn more about each position, including roles, hours, and where most of the work will typically be done.

#### Job Qualifications

To be eligible for a 2020 Census job, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have a valid Social Security number.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Have a valid email address.
- Complete an application and answer assessment questions. (Some assessment questions are available in Spanish. However, an English proficiency test may also be required.)
- Be registered with the Selective Service System or have a qualifying exemption, if you are a male born after Dec. 31, 1959.
- Pass a Census-performed criminal background check and a review of criminal records, including fingerprinting.
- Commit to completing training.
- Be available to work flexible hours, which can include days, evenings, and/or weekends.

#### Most jobs require employees to:

- Have access to a vehicle and a valid driver's license, unless public transportation is readily available.
- Have access to a computer with internet and an email account (to complete training).

If you are employed elsewhere, your current job must be compatible with Census Bureau employment and not create conflicts of interest. These will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Also, you must not engage in any partisan political activity while on duty.

The Census Bureau is an equal opportunity employer. For more information, visit our Equal Employment Opportunity page. http://www.census.gov/about/census-careers/working/eeo.html

If you are a veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces and were separated under honorable conditions, you may be eligible for veterans' preference. Documentation supporting your claim for preference must accompany your application. For more information, visit the U.S. Office of Personnel Management Veterans' Preference page. https://www.fedshirevets.gov/job-seekers/veterans-preference

## St. Mark's EYC News



## Happy New Year!

We give God thanks that 2019 was a fantastic year for St. Mark's EYC.

Between trips to the hills of Texas and the rocks of Arkansas, multiple service projects to our community, and fun evenings together, I have been hugely blessed to have such great people come and be a part of St. Mark's EYC.

In this New Year upon us, please take a look at and follow our Instagram @smceyc if you have not already to get information on all upcoming events. Also please visit Camp Hardtner's website at camphardtner.org to see all the retreats and summer camps available for all ages.

May God Bless your New Year! Fr. Drew+



The wedding of Rev. Andrew L. Christiansen and Rachael Williams is on April 25th, 2020 at the Cathedral. For members of the congregation who plan on coming, please RSVP at www.theknot.com/us/andrew-christiansen-and-rachael-williams-apr-2020

## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE:**

## **EYC Evenings:**

EYC resumes on **Sunday, January 19th, 2020** 5:45 pm - 7:30 pm in Ministry Center.

# Youth Confirmation 2020

is open to current 8th and 9th Graders wishing to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Confirmation class



starts on Wednesday evenings on January 15th, from 6-7 pm, and run until May 2020. Dinner is served beforehand at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall. SMCS students who wish to take it at school instead need to sign up for the class *Intro to the Episcopal Church* offered during both 3rd and 4th quarters, if they haven't done so already. Please contact Fr. Drew at Drew@stmarkscathedral.net and let him know of your intentions.

Please check out the upcoming camps and retreats at Camp Hardtner open to Episcopal youth from the Diocese.



HAPPENING	GRADES 9-12, JAN 16-17			
CLEY	GRADES 9-12, MAR 27-29			
EYE	GRADES 9-12, JUL 7-11			
DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS				

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN WESTERN LOUISIANA

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## **Cathedral School News**

by Rev. Drew Christiansen drew@stmarkscathedral.net

Happy New Year from St. Mark's Cathedral School. December was a very festive month for the Cathedral School, with various activities going on in all grades. And not only did



we have the pageant at the Cathedral on the Sunday before Christmas, but I had the pleasure of playing Caesar Augustus in the St. Mark's Kindergarten Nativity Play. The kids did a fine job and were well-rehearsed. At St. Mark's, students get so many opportunities to be in front of people and part of large ceremonies.

I look forward to this New Year at the school and to be back in the classroom teaching. We have some exciting things coming up this month: the spelling bee on January 10th in the Parish Hall, the All-School open house on January 29th, and new season of boys' basketball. For details on all these upcoming events, please visit the school website at www.stmarksschool. com and follow us on Facebook or on Instagram @smcs. shreveport to see the highlights of daily life in the school.

Also, the annual Fiesta is right around the corner on March 13th. This is an evening of fun, food, and dancing, and a time where we celebrate what our school is, not only to Shreveport, but to all the places where our alumni have gone. As one of St. Mark's School's mottos says, "It all begins here." God is doing amazing work through the students, teachers, and staff of St. Mark's Cathedral School, and at Fiesta we honor the individuals, families, businesses, and organizations who have given to this great place. St. Mark's Cathedral School seeks to form young members of our community not just for success, but to have a real spiritual foundation of faith and a relationship with God.

God Bless your year, Fr. Drew+



St. Mark's Physical Training Monday-Friday 5:30 am at the Cathedral

## STMPT (St. Mark's Physical Training)

meets at 5:30 a.m. every weekday morning in the field across from the parking lot.

## **Children's Christian Formation**

9:15 a.m. – 12:30 pm Nursery (newborn to K3 - 3 years old by September 30th)

First floor of Parish building next to Catechesis Atriums

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

9:30 am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (K-3 – Kindergarten) First floor of Parish Building- Rooms 105 & 106

10:30 am Children's Chapel (1st - 5th grade)

Second floor of Parish building in the old nursery location

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I & Level II Atriums (Children Ages 3-8 years old)

## **Adult Christian Formation**

9:30 am

Growing in Grace: The Divine Conspiracy

Facilitated by Fr. Thomas Nsubuga Ministry Center Garden Room

**Soul Keeping** 

Taught by Dean Alston Johnson Ministry Center Room 101

## Music & Worship

## **Choral Evensong Schedule**

The St. Mark's Boys and Girls and Evensong Choirs will present Choral Evensong of the following Sundays during the month of January:

Sunday, January 5 – No Evensong (Christmas Break)

Sunday, January 12 – Evensong

Sunday, January 19 – No Evensong (MLK Day)

Sunday, January 26 – Evensong

Please join us!

The St. Mark's Cathedral Boys and Girls Choir is open to children ages 6-15. If know of a child that is interested, please call **Canon Bryan Mitnaul** at **318.226.4034** or email him at **bryan@stmarkscathedral.net**.



## **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 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.

## Finding a Solid Place to Stand

by Bob Ewing

Sometimes you learn more from an interaction with a child than from anyone else. As Christian minister and writer George McDonald has said, "The Lord has the heart of a child." So I'm not surprised that truth hits me more forcefully when I take a knee to look one of my sons in the eye than at any other time. I had that experience on the first day of Advent this year, just after we lit the first candle, and we asked our oldest son John Hollis to read aloud from a children's devotional. This church season, I learned, is not primarily about commemorating the occasion of Jesus's birth, or the anticipation of the impending Christmas celebration. This season is about anticipating His return. Imagine a 7-year-old boy in his LSU jersey standing tippy toe waiting to catch the first glimpse of Joe Burrow coming down Victory Hill, and you've got a pretty solid picture of the spiritual posture we are meant to cultivate during advent. Standing on tippy toe. Only it's not a sports hero or a cultural celebrity we wait for - it is the Lord of our lives returning to set things right, to take away all sorrow and all tears, all sickness and death and violence, to vanguish every usurper and idol, to lay final claim to what is His. Takes a while for that to sink in, but once it does, it begs the question: What are we doing to get ready for Him? What are we doing with our time, our talents, and our resources right now?

If you are like me, that's a challenging and uncomfortable question. I think that there's a good chance He'd catch me snoozing. My journey has been one of highs and lows, fits and starts. I wasn't a baptized believer until my early twenties, and after that I still spent many years wandering in the wilderness, never quite figuring out how to "do church." I was a nominal, but uncommitted member of a local congregation. Sunday worship was an occasional event. I sometimes dropped a check in the offering plate, but never made a meaningful commitment to tithing. I joined several bible studies, and enjoyed the fellowship, but always decided that other priorities were more important and drifted away from the group. I didn't make any significant connection between my own daily choices and the ministry of the church. Not surprisingly, I got out of the experience approximately what I put into it, which is to say, not much. Deep down I knew that Jesus had a larger claim on my life. Much of my non-commitment was simply avoidance behavior. I was afraid of what that claim might entail. My error was looking for a connection - a connection to God, a connection to the church body - before making a commitment. For me, St. Mark's is a special place, because here I'm learning that commitment comes first, and

connection follows, not the other way around. Connections thrive, relationships thrive, only in the context of commitment and consistency. Pretty obvious statement, but something that for some reason I never applied to my church life for many, many years.

Perhaps the Advent season is a fitting time to make another confession. For more than a decade I was a member of another church, but even then I was lurking in the margins of this congregation. I'd like to say I was a Chreaster, you know, one of those folks that only shows up at Christmas and Easter. But actually, I was worse. I only showed up (occasionally) on Christmas Eve! I came because it was beautiful. The music, the liturgy, the cathedral – it all conspired to convey a sense of holiness. I had never attended a liturgical church, so this was the first time that I had experienced patterns of worship that were ancient and timeless. It may not be for everyone, but for those who are attracted to it, it is life-giving and essential. This place offers a beautiful, true, and unique expression of Christian devotion. It is capturing hearts and minds for Christ. As someone who was the grateful recipient of your hospitality, believe me when I tell you that Christmas Eve at St. Mark's is an evangelical opportunity to share a faith and a tradition with a community that is thirsty for it. More than a few, when the time is right, and as the Spirit moves them, will stick around and try to give something back.

I want you to know that St. Mark's is changing lives. What happens in this sanctuary is critically important, but our church is much bigger than Sunday. Whether it's delivering meals, supporting community ministries, making hundreds of home visits, supporting folks in crisis with our Stephen's ministry, educating youth and adults, or just being there for the sick and the bereaved, this church impacts thousands of people, young and old, throughout our community. It has certainly changed my life and the life of my family in meaningful and concrete ways. It is the strength of my wife's faith that inspired me to get serious about my own, but while at St. Mark's, I've watched Lauren grow even more in her relationship with God, primarily through her participation with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. That ministry is not only touching the lives of our children, it is changing the lives of the catechists in unexpected and beautiful ways. My sons are growing up here, and I've watched them develop a sense of God and of prayer. Their spiritual development

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is taken seriously by our clergy, by our catechists, and by our parishioners. Most importantly, this is a place where they are loved unconditionally, and I can't thank you enough for that.

Twice while standing before this congregation for each of their baptisms I pledged that I will be responsible to bring them up in the Christian faith and life, that by my prayers and my witness I will help them grow into the full stature of Christ. In response, I heard the most beautiful words in the prayer book spoken over them: "You are marked as Christ's own forever." Countless times, all of us have spoken this vow together as our parish's children are baptized: "I will do all in my power to support them in their life with Christ." All in my power. That's a vow worth living out, because the lives that are touched are so very precious.

I know that there are many worthy competitors for our time and our resources. But none are more important than what is

going on here. I can't say it any more plainly than this: We've got to take a stand with Christ in order for our children to have a place to stand. This world will offer them many other places to stand. It will tell them that they need to be more beautiful, more popular, more successful, more wealthy. The world is insatiable; it never gets enough. All of those places are built on sand and inevitably they will be swamped by dissipation and loss, by suffering and disappointment, by illness and death. There is only one place that offers real hope and permanent significance, and that is with Christ. Our children need to know that their lives are worth something. They need a solid place to stand. St. Mark's is providing that place now. Our leaders have been excellent stewards of the resources entrusted to them, and they have a vision to extend that work even more. They deserve our support.

#### **MEMORIAL FLOWERS**

#### January 5

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ali Davis.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane Nicholson Maxwell & Wallace Eldon Maxwell.

### January 12

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Carolyn Querbes Nelson, Nell and George Nelson, and Katherine & Justin Querbes.

#### January 19

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John Dunbrack Ewing, Jr., and John D. & Helen Gray Ewing.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Raymond F. "Buddy" Kayser, Jr.

#### January 26

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the Friend Family, the Woodard Family, Mr. & Mrs. C.S. Dean, Sr., and Mike Dean.

#### **BAPTISMS**

Holly Hanna Hargrove, daughter of Kelly & Billy Hargrove, on December 29, 2019.

**Ezra Albee Tietjen-Skrivanos**, son of **Claire Skrivanos & Lib Tietjen**, on December 29, 2019.

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

#### **DEATHS**

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

James S. Kot, husband of Mary Kot, on December 10, 2019.

**Asumpta Kawooya**, mother of **Erinah Nsubuga**, grandmother of **Joanitah Nakiggwe** and **Leah Nansubuga**, on December 12, 2019.

Kathryn Luke, mother of Liz Montelepre, grandmother of John Montelepre, III and Morgan MacIntire, on December 13, 2019.

Ollie Delton Harrison, Jr., uncle of Harrison Smith, on December 18. 2019.

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

#### **WEDDINGS**

Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

Sarah Stonesifer & Brooks Boylan, on December 31, 2019.

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

Lad Shemwell, Senior Warden - Bill Kalmbach, Junior Warden - Murray Viser, Treasurer - John Reeks, Chancellor

2019	2020	2021	2022	
Melissa Flores	Matt Coady	Marilyn Kirkland	Ellen Alley	
Jonathan Hardtner	Carol Anne Caraway	Lisa Love	Mike Ameen	
Sanders Hearne	Bob Ewing	Cody Mayo	Oliver Jenkins	
Dan Koruna	Brandy Griffes	William Weaver	Brad Massad	
Doug Rountree	Debbie Hall	<b>Bud Westmoreland</b>	Emily Merkle	4

The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby

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The Very Rev. Alston Johnson

(Dean)

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The Rev. Thomas Nsubuga

(Sub-Dean)

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The Rev. Dr. Rowena White

(Canon)

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The Rev. Dr. Wayne Carter

(Associate Clergy)

wayne@stmarkscathedral.net

The Rev. Drew Christiansen (Curate) drew@stmarkscathedral.net

Bryan T. Mitnaul

(Canon for Cathedral Music) bryan@stmarkscathedral.net

John Scheel (Facilities Manager) john@stmarkscathedral.net

**Becky Deverts** 

(Financial Office Manager) becky@stmarkscathedral.net

Bess Maxwell

(Administrative Assistant) bess@stmarkscathedral.net

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

**Cynthia Anderson** (Receptionist) cynthia@stmarkscathedral.net

**Beth Reeks** 

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

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