



St. John's Episcopal Church

3507 Pine St. Pascagoula, MS 39567

November 2021

Dear Friends,

One of the great honors any of us can receive is to be asked to be a godparent. Over the years I have received this honor twice, and it is something I take very seriously. I have two goddaughters and on this All-Saints' Sunday, Marjie and I will become godparents to Violet Dunn, Carolyn Horne's daughter and Jim and Keith Horne's granddaughter.

If you are present at the service or watching it on live stream you will notice something different. During the presentation and examination of the candidate, I will move from being the celebrant to being a sponsor (godparent) who will be asked the questions during the examination part of the service. The sponsors are asked eight different questions. The first two questions have to do with the responsibility of bringing up the child in the Christian faith, praying for the child and witnessing to help the child grow into the full statue of Christ. These are weighty questions that call for a serious and self-examination response as a godparent. This is a huge responsibility that any godparent takes on and requires action on the part of the godparent. I heard a priest once say that godparents have three responsibilities, 1) to pray for their godchild, 2) to have a relationship with the godchild and 3) to get the godchild out of trouble if that unfortunate situation arises.

The next three questions are about the renunciation of evil. And then the next three are

about a commitment to have accepted Jesus as a personal savior, put trust in Jesus and promise to follow him. My understanding is in the ancient world when these questions were asked at a baptism, the candidates and sponsors would turn their bodies and faces away from the altar toward the world and respond to the questions about renouncing Satan and evil forces of the world. When asked about Jesus they would turn to the altar an image of where we as Christians receive God.

One interesting thing about the answers to the questions of examination is that the sponsors don't say that we will do this or we renounce Satan and the evils of this world or we accept Jesus. No, the pronoun is I. Like all things in the Book of Common Prayer these responses are intentional that when someone makes these vows on behalf of the person who is being baptized, the sponsor is personally responsible for the vows he or she makes on behalf of the person who is being baptized.

So on All Saints Sunday, Marjie and I will have the honor and privilege of become godparents to Violet. And with this honor comes a weighted responsibility that all godparents have as we journey in this life with our godchildren.

Christ's Peace,

Tom

Operation Christmas Child Update #3

The shoeboxes are here! Fill and return by Nov. 21

By Gabby Kyzar

It's finally time ... time to fill the boxes for Operation Christmas Child

Empty boxes are staged in the Narthex ready for you to pick up. Your filled boxes can be returned at any time and dropped off in the Parish Hall. However, the final drop-off time at St. John's will be noon on Sunday, Nov. 21.

Also, should you want to contribute other than filling a box, you can make a donation. You may donate cash ear-marked for OCC or you can make checks payable to Samaritan's Purse/OCC.

As a quick reminder, you can include any personal care items, art supplies, school supplies, or small toys. Anything that the receiving child could use would be great items to pack.

No liquid or food items are allowed (no liquid soap, no toothpaste and no food).



Thank you for all that you do. We are very excited that St. John's is able to help through this amazing organization.

Ways to support our children's service projects

The St. John's Children's Ministry has two community service projects coming up that you may wish to support. These projects follow their successful efforts to recognize frontline healthcare workers and to provide food for local animal shelters. "Thank you for supporting those projects," said Amy Baker. "We are learning more and more about how to be the hands and feet of Christ."

November Project

The children are putting together Thanksgiving baskets for some families in need. You can support this effort by bringing non perishable items for a Thanksgiving feast or sending a donation to be used for a turkey, milk and other perishables for the basket. We will offer these baskets to be

blessed at the November 21st Eucharist. These families have children, so children's food such as cereal, pop tarts, and cookies could be donated as well. You can place your non-perishable food items in the basket in the Parish Hall anytime before November 21.

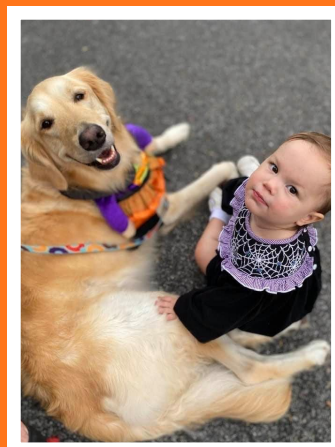
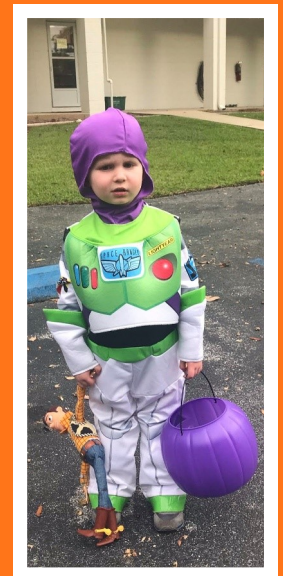
December Project

For December, the St. John's children are challenging themselves to fill 25 shoeboxes for Operation Shoebox. The children are packing the boxes at Sunday school and are gathering supplies now. If you would like to sponsor a box for \$10 or if you have items to add to a box, please drop them off at the church office.

St. John's **CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL 2021**



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More photos . . .



TREATS



The Posada: Join the journey to Bethlehem

We plan to begin our Posada on the First Sunday of Advent, November 28. Since we have had new church members join us since the last Posada, this article is intended to share the history of this tradition and how we celebrate it here at St. John's.

Las Posadas, Spanish for "The Inns," is a commemoration of the journey taken by Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. The idea can be traced to St. Ignatius Loyola in the 16th century. Loyola suggested that special prayers be said on nine successive days, the number of days it took the Holy Family to travel to Bethlehem. Spanish missionaries introduced the nine-day remembrance to Indians in Mexico around 1587. The native Mexicans added song and celebration and moved the posada from inside churches into homes.

The traditional Mexican commemoration begins with a procession on December 16. A child dressed as an angel heads the procession, followed by two more children carrying figures of Mary and Joseph, other children, adults and finally musicians. All in the procession sing and carry a lighted candle or lantern.

When the procession reaches the house chosen for the evening, the participants divide into two groups—the religious pilgrims and the innkeepers. The pilgrims line up behind the angel and the children bearing the figures of Mary and Joseph. The innkeepers are positioned behind a closed (interior) door of the house. The pilgrims knock on the door asking for shelter. The innkeepers

ask, "Who knocks at my door so late in the night?" The pilgrims respond, "In the name of Heaven I beg you for lodging. My beloved wife can no longer travel and she is very weary." But the response is a cold and firm refusal. "Go away! There is no room for you tonight."

After repeated requests, the pilgrims explain who they are, and the innkeepers relent, welcoming the exhausted travelers. Everyone kneels in prayer. The figures of Mary and Joseph are placed on an altar or Nativity scene. A party filled with fireworks, piñatas, food, song and dance follows the posada. For eight consecutive nights the same ceremonies are repeated at a different home. On the ninth night, Christmas Eve, an image of the Christ Child is carried into the church and laid in a small crib. Midnight mass follows.

Here at St. John's, we begin the tradition on the First Sunday of Advent and our Mary and Joseph figures, created by our own Mary Bet Evans, travel from home to home until Christmas Eve. Any church

member can sign up to be a "host family" for one of the nights and prepare light refreshments for the family that visits your home. The following night, you'll visit the next host family and take Mary and Joseph with you. All participants will follow a printed service as part of the evening.

"I started this tradition at St. John's as a meaningful way to commemorate the trip to Bethlehem as well as an opportunity for our members to spend holiday time together" said Father Tom. "It's quickly become a favorite holiday tradition here."



Q&A

Prayers of the People

Q: How do I put someone's name on the St. John's prayer list?

A: Email Jenn at church.office@sjecpm.org with the person's name.

Q: How long will the person's name stay on the prayer list?

A: Three weeks. If you would like the person to stay on longer than three weeks, contact Jenn and she will extend their name for another three weeks.

Q: What's the deadline for getting a name added for a given Sunday?

A: In order for the name to be printed in the Sunday bulletin it will need to be submitted by noon on Wednesday. If someone needs to be added after that, we can write their name on the Prayers of the People that will be read aloud on Sunday, but the name will not be in the bulletin until the following Sunday.

Flower Dedication Sign Up

Q: How do I sign up to give flowers in memory or in celebration of someone?

A: There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex where you can sign up for a specific Sunday. If you cannot make it to the Church to sign up, you can send Jenn an email at church.office@sjecpm.org

Q: What is the deadline?

A: Please sign up or notify Jenn a minimum of one week prior to the date you would like to give flowers.

Q: What information do I need to provide?

A: The name of the person or event you are wanting the flowers to be dedicated to and the name or family name of who the flowers are from.

Q: What is the cost to give flowers?

A: The suggested donation amount is \$50. If sending a check, please write "flowers" in the memo or notes section of the check.



St. John's Parish Staff

The Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, Bishop
The Rev. Tom Fanning, Rector
The Rev. Ede Plovanich, Part Time Associate Priest
Hope Shotts Steiner, Organist-Choir Director
Terry Willis, Sexton
Jenn Johnson, Church Secretary
Pam Eaves, Nursery Attendant
Alix Thrower, Nursery Attendant

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. – noon
Phone: 228-762-1705

2021 Vestry

Charlie Latady - Senior Warden
Kelly Smith - Junior Warden
Deborah Banahan - Parish Activities
Mary Maner - Inreach
Rhonda Shook - Outreach
Con Lancaster - Treasurer
Kathy Khayat - Vestry Clerk
Bobby Baker - Assistant Treasurer

E-Mail: office.sjecpm.org
Web: www.sjecpm.org

If we missed your Birthday
or Anniversary please email
or call Jenn with the date.
Thank you!

2021 NOVEMBER

CALENDAR YEAR CALENDAR MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	01 Gary Bardwell Jesse Diaz *Okee & Chiazio Ekenna	02	03	04 Emily Higdon Mitchell Latady	05 Michael Donahue Katelyn Miller *Harty & Charles Couey	06 Michael Tolleson
07	08 Mary Margaret Bailey	09	10	11 Dawne Dungan Trey Sublett	12 Doug Green Houston Parrish	13 Emma Wilson
14 JoAnne Fontaine Kathy Roberts	15	16	17 John Goshorn	18 Lee Vance *Monica & Bob Donald	19 Corbin Switzer	20 Pashala Battley *Dylan & Dustin Demouey
21	22 Lauren Burnsed Anna Stewart Judy Williamson	23 Tyler Branch Kristin Pugh *Beth & Aaron Masters	24 Beth Black Paul Jacob Tristani *Gina & Gary Bardwell	25 Shirley Hunter	26 Susan Harris Lynda Howell *Loretta & Ed Ranck	27 Bryan Bosio
28	29 Charlie McVea	30 Fred Pettersen	01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11

*Anniversary

Lay Ministry Schedule November 2021

	November 7th All Saints	November 14th The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	November 21st The Last Sunday after Pentecost	November 28th The First Sunday of Advent	December 1st The Feast of St. Nicholas
Verger	Dale Harkey	Dustin Taylor	Bill Nelson	Dale Harkey	Dustin Taylor
Lectors	8:00 am Mary Maner 10:30 am Karl Steinberger Monica Donald	8:00 am Gina Bardwell 10:30 am Charles Shook John Banahan	8:00 am Priscilla Battley 10:30 am Calen Wills Bruner Bosio	8:00 am Bob McDonald 10:30 am Mary Mgt Bailey Kathy Khayat	5:30 pm Carol Hutcherson Anna Stewart
Acolytes		Gabby Kyzar Fin Battley Jonathan Gates		Gabby Kyzar Fin Battley Jonathan Gates	
Ushers		John Banahan	Calen Wills	David Minkler	Ted Battley
Altar Guild	Catherine Miller JoAnne Fontaine	Len Murray Brenda Lancaster	Priscilla Battley Laura Branch	Marilyn Boman Nell Norwood	Marilyn Boman Nell Norwood
Flower Guild	Deborah Banahan	Mimm Bilbo	Amy Baker	Ann Pickett	N/A
Sunday School Teachers	Abby Wills Deborah Banahan	Kelci Miller Abby Wills	Taylor Banahan Deborah Banahan	Amy Baker Deborah Banahan	N/A