



St. John's Episcopal Church

3507 Pine St. Pascagoula, MS 39567

Dear Friends,

December 2022

As we enter this Advent season, I have decided to offer a new way for us to gather before the service begins. With the help of Cleamon Downs chanting *a capella* a couple of verses from O Come, O Come Emmanuel for us and a child lighting the Advent candle, we are reminded of our yearning for God to come into our lives. This is a way for us to set apart this time of worship in a season of the year that has all the trappings of drawing us away from the holiness the advent season offers us.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel was originally sung over 1,200 years ago in monastic life in the 8th or 9th century. Seven days before Christmas Eve, monasteries would sing the “O antiphons” in anticipation of Christmas Eve when the eighth antiphon, “O Virgo virginum” (“O Virgin of virgins”) would be sung before and after Mary’s canticle, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). The Latin metrical form of the hymn was composed as early as the 12th century.

An Anglican priest, John Mason Neal discovered these texts and translated them into English in 1851. The Rev. Neal was a very talented musician who also translated *All Glory Laud and Honor* which we sing on Palm Sunday. These two hymns along with *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*, which the Rev. Neal translated as well, are some of the great hymns

we have in our hymnal today.

British hymnologist J.R. Watson provides a context for the antiphons (O Come, O Come). “The antiphons, sometimes called the ‘O antiphons’ or ‘The Great O’s,’ were designated to concentrate the mind on the coming Christmas, enriching the meaning of the Incarnation with a complex series of references from the Old and New Testaments.”

It is the incarnation that we are moving toward celebrating during this holy season of Advent. The words incarnation and Emmanuel basically mean the same thing, and that is – God is with us. God is with us during this advent season as we move toward the Christmas season when we recognize him in the flesh among us. So let us recognize the yearning within our souls, O Come O Come Emmanuel!

Christ’s Peace,

Latest update on our Outreach Programs

Food Pantry: Providing nutritious food for a growing number of families is the goal of our food pantry program. Through the contributions made by many of you, we have provided nearly 7,200 pounds of food to more than 1,100 people so far this year.

A typical bag of food contains:

- Spaghetti noodles and spaghetti sauce or
- Red beans and rice
- Three cans of vegetables
- Can of tuna
- Can of chicken
- Mac and Cheese
- Large bag of grits
- Peanut butter and jelly

When there are small children in the family, we add baby food, cereal, fruits and cookies, when available.

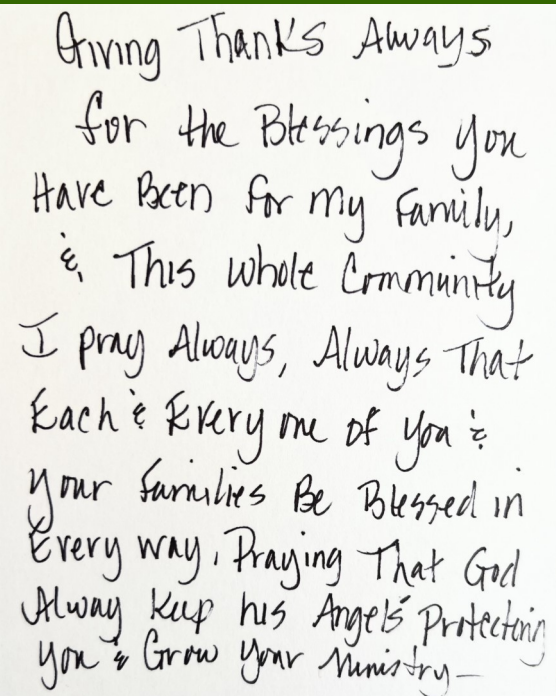
For the homeless who come to our door, we have pop top items and well as foods that do not require cooking.

One of the highlights of the year is the pre-Thanksgiving ham giveaway with smoked hams donated by the Pascagoula Men's Club. This year, we gave 75 hams to needy families and were able to add a tin of cookies with each ham. Already, we're hearing how delicious they were and how the families stretched the hams for extra meals in the days following Thanksgiving.

Toiletries Initiative: With the help and generous donations from Parishioners, we have given out more than 600 personal care items since June, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, shampoo, soap, body wash and more. It is amazing to see a smile and appreciation from someone, after giving them

items that they may otherwise have to do without. If you have any personal care items you'd like to donate, please contact Jenn or drop them off in the parish hall.

Blessing Bag Ministry: In just two months of our new Blessing Bag ministry, St. John's church members have taken more than 150 bags to distribute to people who are homeless in our community. Anecdotal feedback has been very positive - members are sharing their experiences and the common thread is that the recipients of these vital supplies and food are very appreciative of them. Many thanks to our Endowment Committee for funding the first year of this exciting new ministry!



Giving Thanks Always
for the Blessings you
Have Been for my Family,
& This whole Community
I pray Always, Always That
Each & Every one of you &
your families Be Blessed in
Every way, Praying That God
Always keep his Angels protecting
you & Grow your Ministry -

Give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good.
PSALM 118:29 KJV

Above, this thank-you card was received from a food pantry client who so beautifully expressed her thanks to St. John's for our Food Pantry ministry and outreach.



Voices of St. John's

What are your Christmas traditions?



Abby Wills

I have always loved all the traditions that surround the Christmas season! Going to Bo-zo's to pick out the tree, a joyful Christmas Eve service and celebrations with friends and family throughout our neighborhood on Christmas Eve day and Christmas Day. These special traditions are ones I cherished as a child and now so enjoy experiencing with my husband and children!

One St. John's tradition Calen and I always look forward to each year with our family is the St. Nicholas service. It is such a special service for all the children in the church. Such a joyful time!



Patrick Russell-Shira

The Christmas tradition that I remember most from my childhood was something that happened at my grandparents' house every year on Christmas Day.

All of my family would gather together in the dining room before Christmas lunch. My grandmother had a nativity scene set up in the bay window and baby Jesus was always missing. She would pick one of the children to place baby Jesus in the manger while we all sang "Away in a Manger."

It was so special because it would remind everyone what Christmas was really about.



Len Murray

The oldest tradition we have is the Murray Family celebration on Christmas Eve. We always gathered at Donnie's parents' house and now we gather at ours. We've gone from an evening time to the middle of the day to accommodate everyone's church Christmas Eve schedules. There is always a ton of food and lots of laughs!

Christmas morning is for our little family followed by a big dinner at my cousin's house in Moss Point. It is what we started doing after Mom and Dad passed away. For me, it's just like the good old days when we would go to my Grandparents' house in Moss Point. Four generations and cousins everywhere!



Bill Stewart

Things have changed a little at Christmas for the Stewarts. With the coming of grandchildren, we have moved from Christmas Eve midnight mass to the early service - Holy chaos!

We now get up very early and enjoy Christmas morning at Chandler and Charlie's house to be with the grands.

Anna continues to make sure each child's stocking has a can of black olives (a family tradition)!



The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith, Bishop

November 9, 2022

*“Any of those among you who are of God’s people...are now permitted to go up to Jerusalem in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord...”
(Ezra 1: 3)*

Dear St. John’s Episcopal Church,
Hurricane Ian caused devastation to many of our churches and surrounding communities in four of the seven Deaneries of the Diocese of Southwest Florida. Given the magnitude of destruction, I am profoundly grateful for your generous gift of \$585.07 to our Hurricane Ian Relief. Your donation will be put to work immediately to assist our congregations in the unsurmountable costs of the rebuilding phase of recovery.

Humanitarian needs and the institutional integrity of our congregations cannot be met without our churches enabled to be fully functional. The road to a full recovery will be long, but with gifts like yours, we will get there together.

Again, thank you for your generosity and please join me in continuing to pray for all of God’s people impacted by Hurricane Ian and who are called upon to rebuild the house of the Lord.

In the love of our Lord,

The Right Reverend Dabney T. Smith
Fifth Bishop of Southwest Florida

Mark your calendar . . .

Upcoming Services

St. Nicholas service
Wednesday, Dec. 7 at
5:30 p.m.

**Christmas services –
Christmas Eve***
5:30 p.m. and
10:30 p.m.

* Both services will be streamed online.

Christmas Day**
9 a.m. only

No Sunday School

** This service will **not** be streamed online.



If you are interested in **Christmas Poinsettias** “In Memory of a Loved One” or “In Celebration of a Loved One,” the suggested donation amount is \$50 and can include more than one name. If you are unable to donate \$50, any amount is welcomed. Checks may be left in the offering plate or at the church office by Dec. 21. Please put “Christmas Flowers” in the note section of your 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
Amy Baker, Children’s Ministry
Pam Eaves, Nursery Attendant

2022 Vestry

Kelly Smith - Senior Warden
Deborah Banahan - Junior Warden
Deborah Banahan - Parish Activities
Rhonda Shook - Outreach
Con Lancaster - Treasurer
Donna Stewart - Vestry Clerk
Bobby Baker - Assistant Treasurer
Amanda Johns - Member
Matt Jones - Member
Kathy Khayat - Member

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

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

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

2022 DECEMBER

[SUNDAY](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	01 Bruner Bosio Kim Williamson	02	03 Marelyn Doucette Billy Dungan Paul Tristani *Felicia & Charles Busby
04 Kelly Green	05 Bobby Baker	06 Joann Williamson	07	08	09 Garrett Busby Matt Jones	10
11 Blair Ewing	12 Ellen Berry Nita Fuller	13 Philip Doucette	14 Charlie Latady	15 Will Baumhauer Dustin Demouey	16 Scott Taylor	17 Kyle Miller Chris Switzer Ben Thames *Abby & Calen Wills
18	19 Catherine Miller Gracie Tillman	20 Mitchell Cecatiello Jennifer Eaves-Latch Jordyn Oatis Anderson Wills	21 Dianne Waters	22 Hunter Warren	23 Seth Baker	24 Carol Neal Charlie Williamson *Allison & Toben DuBose
25	26 Mimm Bilbo	27 *Ede & Robert Plovanih	28 Joe Dempster	29 Brandon Lee	30	31 Katie Jordan Jason Williams

*Anniversary

Lay Ministry Schedule December 2022

	December 4th	December 7th	December 11th	December 18th	December 24th	December 25th
	The Second Sunday of Advent	The Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra	The Third Sunday of Advent	The Fourth Sunday of Advent	The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ	Christmas Day
Vergers	Dustin Taylor	Dale Harkey	Bill Nelson	Dustin Taylor	Bill Nelson- 5:30 pm Dale Harkey- 10:30 pm	Dale Harkey
Lectors/ Chalice Bearer	8:00am		8:00am	8:00am	5:30pm	8:00am
	N/A		Mary Maner	Gina Bardwell	Carol Hutcherson Anna Stewart	Teresa Williamson
	10:30am	5:30pm	10:30am	10:30am	10:30pm	10:30am
	Kathy Khayat Anna Stewart Monica Donald	Kathy Khayat Anna Stewart	Karl Steinberger Carol Hutcherson Bruner Bosio	Calen Wills	Mary Mgt Bailey Gina Bardwell	
Acolytes	Gabby Kyzar, Emily Pugh, Nelson Pugh	Fin Battley, Parker Demouney, Anderson Wills	Landon Beasley, Emily Pugh, Nelson Pugh	Fin Battley, Parker Demouney, Anderson Wills	Gabby Kyzar, Emily Pugh, Nelson Pugh	N/A
Worship Camera	Bill Stewart	N/A	Bob Plovovich	Matt Jones	Bill Stewart	
Ushers	David Minkler	David Minkler	Ted Battley	Calen Wills	John Banahan-5:30 pm David Minkler-10:30 pm	
Altar Guild	JoAnne Fontaine Anna Stewart	JoAnne Fontaine Anna Stewart	Connie Belk	Catherine Miller Mary Bet Evans	Priscilla & Len -5:30 pm Laura & Marilyn- 10:30pm	
Flower Guild	Jill Bosio	N/A	Janet Donald	All	Barbie Harkey	Barbie Harkey
Sunday School Teachers	Amy Baker, Deborah Banahan, Kristin Pugh	N/A	Amy Baker, Deborah Banahan, Abby Wills	Amy Baker, Dylan Demouey, Kristin Pugh	N/A	No Sunday School