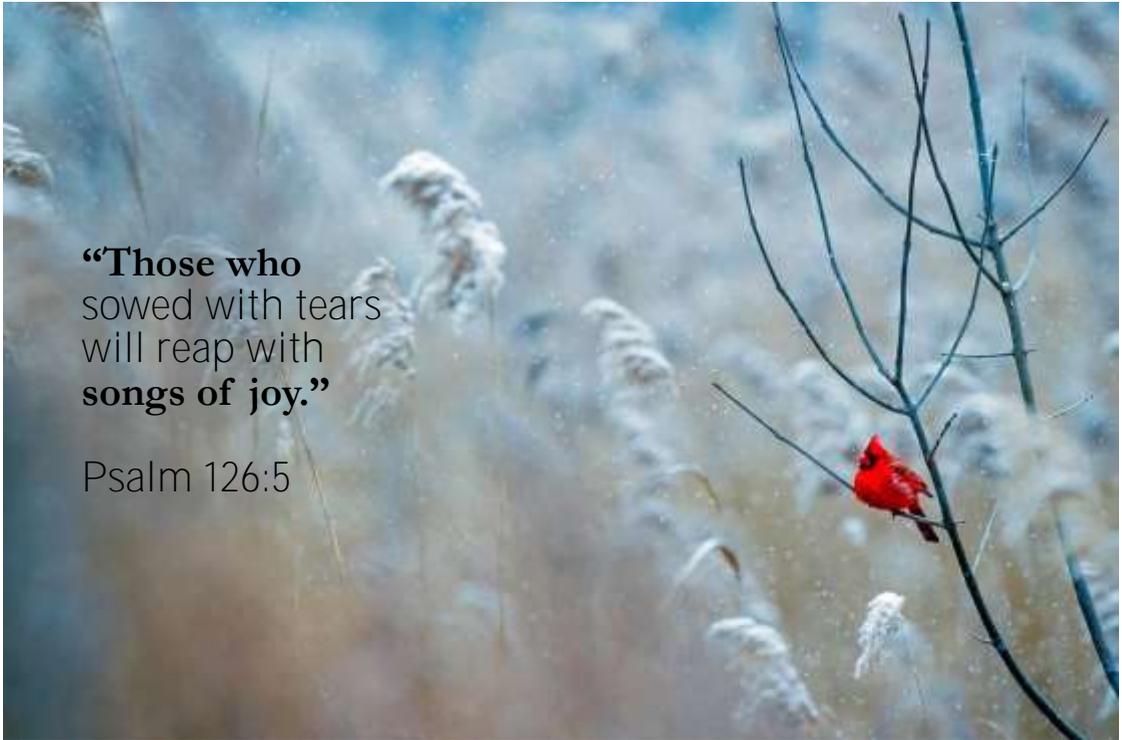


Welcome to **St. John's Cathedral**

**“Those who
sowed with tears
will reap with
songs of joy.”**

Psalm 126:5



December 17, 2017 - 8 a.m.
The Third Sunday of Advent

LOVE *at the* CORE.

Welcome to St. John's Cathedral! We are so glad that you are here.

We worship God in the heart of the city. We are surrounded by the poor in an area of town that is often neglected. In his life, Jesus often ministered to the poor and needy, and we believe that by worshipping **God in the urban core, we can catch a glimpse of God's love.**

We welcome all people. Our nursery is open all morning on Sundays. We would love to get to know you better, and you can help us by filling out a visitor card located in your pew and placing it in the offering plate as it comes by, or by handing it to an usher. Please let us know if you need prayers and if you would like us to email you our online newsletter. Listening devices are always available for the hearing impaired and large-print bulletins for those who have trouble with their eyesight. Please ask an usher if you need these items or anything else. We want to help you feel at home here.

We believe that worship should be beautiful and sacred, a moment to hush the hurriedness of our lives and experience the peace of God. I **hope that you feel God's love this morning.**

Faithfully,

The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead,
Dean

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT TODAY AT 9 A.M.

In his book, “The Life of St. Francis of Assisi,” St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan monk, states that St. Francis received permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a manger with hay and a couple of animals, an ox and a donkey, in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. There, in 1223, he performed a midnight mass. Villagers came to view the scene and to hear St. Francis recount the story of our Lord’s birth. And, voilà—Francis’ display quickly evolved into what we would recognize as a Christmas pageant. Remember, in 1223, church services were conducted only in Latin, which most people did not understand. The pageants, or plays, were a vehicle for all to learn scripture and to engage in the service.



Our Christmas Pageant has become a much loved tradition at St. John’s Cathedral for all our children and families who participate, as well as for those who simply answer the call to “come and see.” This is a special opportunity to journey back in time with us to the very first Christmas when God gave the world the best gift of all... Jesus. We hope you’ll delight in our cast of characters including Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, camels, piggies, wise men and women, angels, stars, dinosaurs, donkeys, grasshoppers, shepherds, sheep and a few surprises! So if you happen to spy a stray little lamb or adorable angel, just follow them into the cathedral!



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

On each of the four Sundays of Advent, a candle is lit on the Advent wreath as the light of Christ comes into the world.

In Procession, Hymn 76 “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”

Winchester New

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant Blessed be our God.
People For ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant and People

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant and the People say together

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant continues

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The People are seated.

The Lesson

I Thessalonians 5:16–24

Lector A Reading from First Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

A period of silence for reflection follows the reading.

The Psalm is read in unison.

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

A period of silence for reflection follows the reading.

The People stand.

The Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The People are seated.

The Sermon

The Reverend Allen LaMontagne

A period of silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The People stand.

The Nicene Creed

The Celebrant and People say

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People *All remain standing as able. The Leader and People pray responsively*

Eternal God, in this season of Advent, awaken your whole Church to see our unity more than what divides us; Give us strength and courage to find quiet moments to sit still and wait for you to come. Lord, we wait for you.

Lord, come among us.

We give you thanks for the gift of our lives, our loved ones and the coming of our Lord Jesus. Lord, we wait for you.

Lord, come among us.

We ask your blessing on all who are sick, grieving, struggling with poverty or alone during the holidays. **(We pray especially for...)** Lord, we wait for you.

Lord, come among us.

We ask you to bring peace to the world and to this, our city, that we may respect and honor one another. Lord, we wait for you.

Lord, come among us.

We ask you to help us learn to tell the truth of our stories so that other people may be drawn to you. Lord, we wait for you.

Lord, come among us.

We ask you to welcome into your embrace those who we love who have died, that they may see you face to face. **(We remember especially...)** Lord, we wait for you.

Lord, come among us.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers.

The Confession of Sin

The People kneel.

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Celebrant and People say

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

The Peace

The People stand.

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Clergy and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Representatives of the congregation bring forward the People's offerings of money, and other gifts. The People stand when the offerings are brought forward and placed on the Altar.

Hymn 380, stanza 3 **“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”**

Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving, from the Prayer Book of the Church of England

The People stand.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever!

From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

The Celebrant and People say

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord! As a mother tenderly gathers her children you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends, and taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take eat: this is my body which is given for you

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

The Celebrant and People say

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand. Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us into the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. Remember Lord your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace. Bring us at the last with John and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendor for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by him, with him, and in him, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

The Celebrant and People say

Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant continues

The Gifts of God for the People of God. (Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.)

Please join us at God's table.

All baptized people are welcome to receive communion. Everyone is welcome to come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, please fold your arms across your chest.

The Postcommunion Prayer

The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The Celebrant and People say together

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

May Almighty God watch over you who wait for Christ to come again, you who long to see His face. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

In Procession, Hymn 59 “Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding”

Merton

The Dismissal

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

+ + +

The flowers at the High Altar are given to the glory of God.

THIS SUNDAY AT THE CATHEDRAL

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

8 a.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

9 a.m. Cathedral Christmas Pageant
Reception to follow in Taliaferro Hall

▶ **Church on the Mat**

10 a.m. Cummings Chapel
A gentle yoga class with the reading of Scripture. Bring your yoga mat!

▶ **Coffee, Tea and Conversation**

10 a.m. Room 305

▶ **Christian Formation for all ages** will resume on January 7.

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

11 a.m. Cathedral

NEXT SUNDAY AT THE CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY, DEC. 24 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

8 a.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

10:30 a.m. Cathedral

SUNDAY, DEC. 24 - Christmas Eve

▶ **Family Service with Holy Eucharist**

4 p.m. Cathedral Nursery available.

▶ **Holy Eucharist with Bishop Howard, Cathedral Brass and Choir**

6 p.m. Cathedral Nursery available.

▶ **Holy Eucharist with Dean Moorehead, Cathedral Brass and Choir**

11 p.m. Cathedral
Incense will be used. No nursery available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, DEC. 23

► **The Greening of the Cathedral**

9 a.m. Cathedral

The Sanctuary Guild invites everyone to join them in adorning the sanctuary with garland, wreaths and poinsettias. All hands are welcome!

MONDAY, DEC. 25

► **Holy Eucharist with Cathedral Choir**

10:30 a.m. Cathedral

TUESDAY, DEC. 26 - OFFICES CLOSED

SUNDAY, DEC. 31 - **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

► **The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

5 p.m. Cathedral

A candlelight service of Christmas scripture and traditional carols sung by the Cathedral Choir. No nursery available.

MONDAY, JAN. 1 - **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

OFFICES CLOSED

SATURDAY, JAN. 6

► **Storytelling workshop with Bishop Porter Taylor and his son Arthur Taylor**

Save the date and make plans to attend! Telling Our Stories: My Story, Our Story, God's Story aims to help participants articulate parts of their story and relate them to our story of faith. Because January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, we will focus on two themes: Epiphany—letting the divine light shine in and through us—and Metanoia or the great turning—which is how we allow God to redirect/reconfigure our lives.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

MONDAY, DEC. 18

▶ **Friends of Bill W.**

5:30 p.m. Ingram Lounge

▶ **Adult Children of Alcoholics**

6 p.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Boy Scouts**

6 p.m. Taliaferro Hall

TUESDAY, DEC. 19

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

12:10 p.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Yoga**

5:45 p.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **EFM (Education for Ministry)**

7 p.m. Ingram Lounge

▶ **Girl Scouts**

7 p.m. Basement “Coffee House”

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

7 a.m. Holy Communion Chapel

▶ **Healing Service**

12:10 p.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Wonderful Wednesday Classes will resume January 10.**

▶ **Choir Rehearsal**

7:30 p.m. Choir Room

THURSDAY, DEC. 21

▶ **Shakespeare Reading Group**

9:30 Ingram Lounge

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

12:10 p.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Celebration Singers Rehearsal**

5:30 p.m. Ascension Chapel

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

▶ **Clara’s at the Cathedral**

11 a.m. Taliaferro Hall

▶ **Contemplative Holy Eucharist**

12:10 p.m. Cummings Chapel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▶ **St. Mary's Bag-a-month Club** - December Help out members of St. Mary's this cold and flu season! Pick up a marked brown bag this Sunday and fill it with pain and fever relievers, cough and cold medicine, band aids, etc. Bring your bag back by next Sunday, December 24.

▶ **Donate Christmas Flowers**

Remember loved ones and/or honor those you cherish by donating money for Christmas flowers. If you donate by Tuesday, December 19, we can list the names of your loved ones in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. Donation envelopes are located in the pews, or donate online at www.jaxcathedral.org and click "Donate Altar Flowers" under the Give tab.

▶ Christmas gift ideas!

A new shipment of hand cast, bronze Celtic crosses and a special Nativity from Ireland-based Wild Goose Studio has arrived! Supplies are limited, so come by the bookstore and pick up one of these beautiful pieces for someone on your list.

▶ Fresh Greens from Fresh Ministries

See Kathryn Bisette in the Cathedral Bookstore to buy greens and more from Fresh Ministries today! Just \$4/bag.

▶ **Call for Vestry and Convention Delegate Nominations**

The Vestry Nominating Committee will nominate candidates for vacancies on the Vestry as well as Delegates to the Diocesan Convention. The election for those positions will be conducted at the Parish Annual Meeting on February 4, 2018. Parish members are encouraged to submit the names of nominees to Nancy Purcell, Communications Director, at npurcell@jaxcathedral.org. Please obtain the permission of your nominee before submitting his or her name. Nominations will be reviewed by the nominating committee members: Kirk Altman, Martha Cox, Robert Hyde, Claude Moulton, Joe O'Shields, and Faye Wisner.

Qualifications for Vestry members (4 to be elected): A Vestry nominee 1) must be a communicant of St. John's Cathedral in good standing for a period of at least 12 months prior to election; 2) if a nominee has served two full terms (for a total of six years), there must be a two-year break before he or she may be nominated again; 3) must be actively involved in the ministries of the Parish; 4) must be willing to accept active leadership, including responsibility for decision making that represents the entire Parish; 5) must, if called upon, serve on the boards of affiliated corporations of the Cathedral; 6) must be willing to invest the time necessary in the ministry of leadership, including attendance at worship, Vestry meetings and other scheduled Vestry activities, special events, and satellite activities; and 7) must be otherwise eligible. In addition to the above qualifications contained in the bylaws, the Vestry believes that nominees for service should possess special skills, gifts and talents in visionary and strategic thinking, be courageous, and have skills in fiscal planning and policy. Finally, the Vestry is seeking members who represent the diverse composition of our congregation.

Diocesan Convention Delegates (2 to be elected): The Senior Warden fills one of the five delegate positions. The remaining four delegates serve two year terms, with one or two rotating off each year. At the 2018 Annual Meeting, we will elect two delegates and two alternates for the 2018 Diocesan Convention.

► **Angel Tree Christmas 2017**

If you chose an angel from our angel tree, today is the day to return your gift. Please put it under the tree with the tag attached by noon. Help is still needed to deliver the gifts! If interested, please contact Megan Cochran at (904) 233-9583.

► **Art Exhibit: Raquel**

Now through January Tallaferro Hall

The present exhibition of paintings by Raquel is a beautiful array of works formed by a mature artistic vision. Impressionistic in style, ranging from classic images to Cezanne-like paintings,

Raquel's work suggests early Cubist landscapes and shows the influence of her native Spain. The paintings are for sale through the bookstore.

► **2018 Offering Envelopes**

If you indicated on your pledge card that you would like offering envelopes for 2018, they will be available for pickup at all Sunday services on December 31, 2017 and in the following weeks.

► **Birthday Blessings**

Sunday, December 17

Mrs. Hicks, Carolyn Foley, Tim Engemann, Carrie Gentry, Eve Erstling

Monday, December 18

Joann Watson, Nancy Reynolds, Chris Likins, Daniel Abdelnour

Tuesday, December 19

Shirley Bush, Sam Craddock, William Bruce IV

Wednesday, December 20

Lanea McCrea, Liesl Gavronsky-Howsare, Yetiva Comacho

Thursday, December 21

Doug Maurer, David Vormack, Sarah Miller, Samuel Holcomb

Friday, December 22

Tammie Corey

Saturday, December 23

Noel Dana, Robert Nichols

SERMON NOTES

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

256 East Church Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
(904) 356-5507 - www.jaxcathedral.org
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
and Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

You can now watch our 11 a.m. service live on our website!
Just click the Live Broadcast link on the homepage.

Forgot your checkbook or cash? Text the dollar amount of your gift to
904-584-3116. (Example: \$20)