

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



December 24, 2017 - 8 a.m.  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

LOVE *at the* CORE.

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

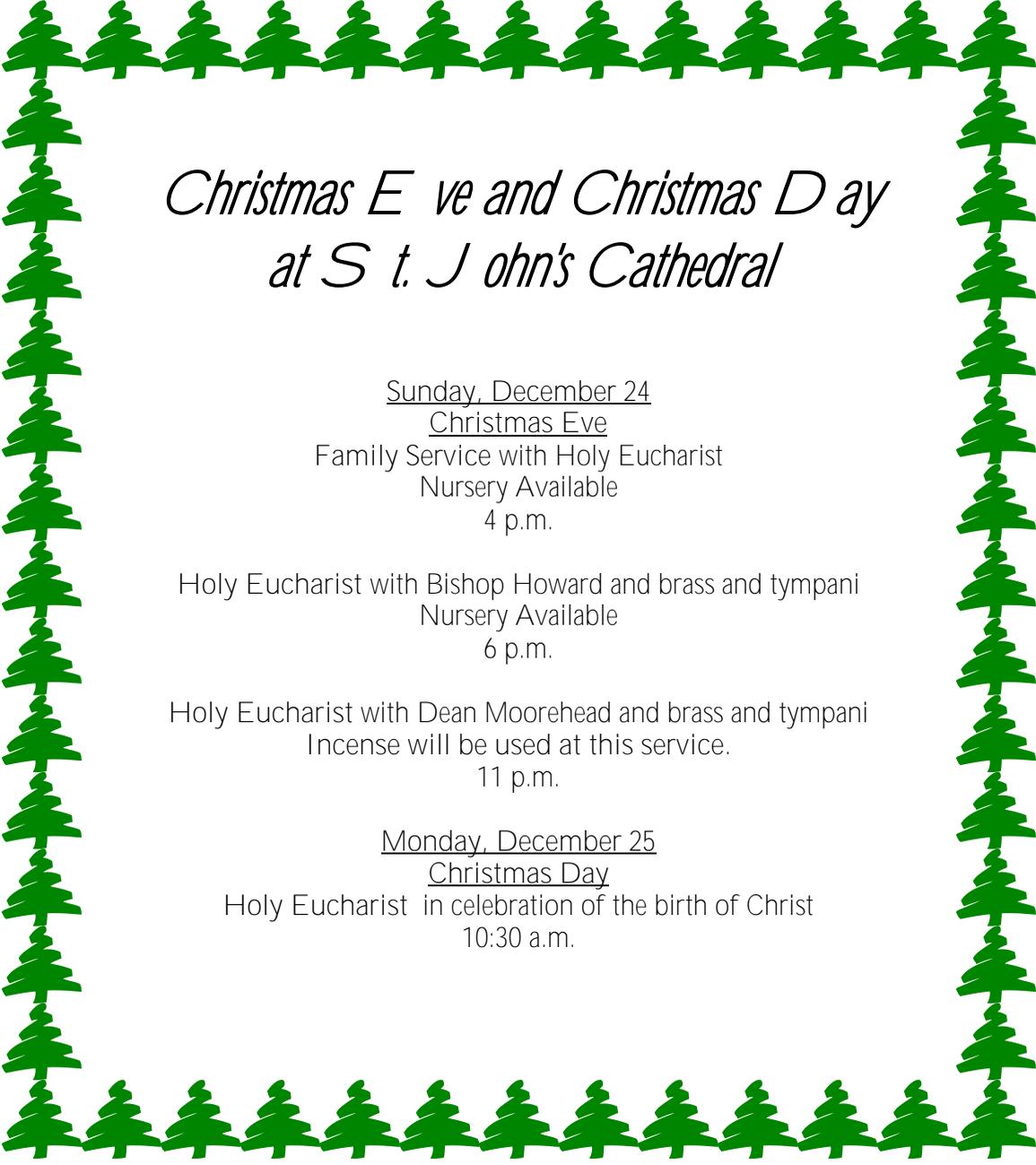
We worship God in the heart of the city. We are surrounded by the poor in an area of town that is often neglected. In his life, Jesus often ministered to the poor and needy, and we believe that by worshipping **God in the urban core, we can catch a glimpse of God's love.**

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



*Christmas Eve and Christmas Day  
at S t. J ohn's Cathedral*

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Family Service with Holy Eucharist  
Nursery Available  
4 p.m.

Holy Eucharist with Bishop Howard and brass and tympani  
Nursery Available  
6 p.m.

Holy Eucharist with Dean Moorehead and brass and tympani  
Incense will be used at this service.  
11 p.m.

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist in celebration of the birth of Christ  
10:30 a.m.

# 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 82 “Of the Father’s love begotten” (St. 1 & 2) *Divinum mysterium*

## 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*

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The People are seated.*

The Lesson

Romans 16:25–27

*Lector* A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*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 89:1–4, 19–26

Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

'I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*

"I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.

No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.

I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.

I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.

He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'"

*A period of silence for reflection follows the reading.*

*The People stand.*

The Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

*Gospeler* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she

was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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

*The People are seated.*

The Sermon

The Reverend Raja Zabaneh

*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*

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 82 “Of the Father’s love begotten” (St. 3 & 4) *Divinum mysterium*

The Dismissal

*People* Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

+++

*The flowers in Holy Communion Chapel are given to the glory of God,  
and in loving memory of Amelia Shields DeMuth, Carl Robertson Kurtz, Jr., Bayard Shields Ferber,  
Amelia K. Ferber, Paul L. Ferber, Bayard Benoit Shields, and other members of the Shields Family  
by Paul S. Ferber*

### ► **Birthday Blessings**

Sunday, December 24  
Henry Jenks, John Waidner

Monday, December 25  
Pixianne Beasley

Tuesday, December 26  
Nancy Studstill, Paul Ferber, Kimberly Romano

Thursday, December 28  
John Donahoo, Jr.

Friday, December 29  
Jane Still, David Dufresne, Ivette Blanco, Chereth Little

Saturday, December 30  
Alice Gillis, Sally Kelly, Vin Malhotra, Marilyn Young, Clint Weinberg, Sarah Brown

THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

► **See Service times for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day on page 3.**

▶ TUESDAY, DEC. 26 - OFFICES  
CLOSED

▶ **Weekday programs resume the week of**  
January 7.

## NEXT SUNDAY AT THE CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY, DEC. 31 - THE FIRST SUNDAY  
AFTER CHRISTMAS

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

8 a.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Family Service with Holy Eucharist**

9 a.m. Cathedral

▶ **Church on the Mat**

10 a.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Holy Eucharist with Cathedral Choir**

11 a.m. Cathedral

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

▶ **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—allowing God to  
redirect/reconfigure our lives. Bishop Porter

Taylor will also preach at the 9 and 11 a.m.  
services Sunday, January 7.

▶ **Art Exhibit: Raquel**

Now through January 14 in Taliaferro 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.  
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.

▶ **Fresh Greens from Fresh Ministries**

Fresh Ministries will resume selling greens in  
January.

## ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

256 East Church Street

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

(904) 356-5507 - [www.jaxcathedral.org](http://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)