

Blessings

8 AM & 10:30 AM

December 14, 2025

Advent III



SAINT JOHN'S
CATHEDRAL
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA



SAINT JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

TODAY

The Third Sunday of Advent

9am - Dean's Forum: A Chat with Dean Kate on Mary, Mother of God, Taliaferro Hall

4pm - Blue Christmas Service, Cummings Chapel

For anyone struggling with grief or loss during the holiday season, you are invited to join us for this contemplative service. A Memory Tree has also been placed in Taliaferro Hall, and all are welcome to adorn the tree with the names of loved ones they will be missing this season.

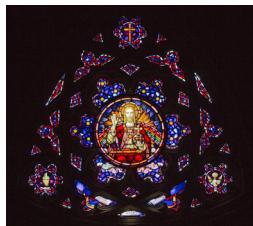


Spotlight

Light in the Darkness: An Advent Stained Glass Tour

Dec. 16 | 11am | Bookstore/Cathedral Nave

As Advent invites us to slow down, look inward, and watch for light breaking into the world, our next ART@noon Art Walk offers a fitting way to enter the season. We will gather for a special tour of the stained glass windows of St. John's Cathedral—windows that have quietly taught and inspired worshippers for generations. We will begin at 11am in the Cathedral Bookstore, where participants can enjoy a bit of holiday browsing along with a glass of Christmas cheer. We will make our way into the Cathedral for a guided exploration of the artistry and theology reflected in its historic stained glass. The tour will highlight some of the Cathedral's most beloved windows. Following the tour, participants are invited to continue the fellowship with an optional lunch at Taverna in San Marco (lunch not included in the ticket price). **Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased through our website: jaxcathedralbooks.org.**



ADVENT is a season of holy anticipation, inviting us to wait, watch, and prepare our hearts for Christ's coming into the world.

LOOKING AHEAD

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Dec. 21 | 10:30am | Cathedral

Children will bring the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke to life; for details or to participate, please contact Felicia Bullock - fbullock@jaxcathedral.org.



EPIPHANY DEAN'S FORUM

A Window into our Faith: The Bible, Our Church, The Gift of Reason, and Our Community in Christ

Jan. 11, Jan. 18, Jan. 25, Feb. 8

9am | Taliaferro Hall

A class for those who are new or interested in learning more about the Episcopal faith. These standalone sessions are open to all--no RSVP required. We hope you'll join us!

Christmas Poinsettias

Celebrate the beauty of Christmas and honor your loved ones by donating a poinsettia for the Christmas altar. Suggested donation is \$25 per name. Donations may be made by filling out an envelope found in the pews or online, using the QR code shown here. Submissions received by December 19 will be included in the Christmas bulletins.



Phone: (904) 356-5507

Email: info@jaxcathedral.org

Address: 256 E. Church Street Jacksonville, FL 32202

Website: JAXCATHEDRAL.ORG

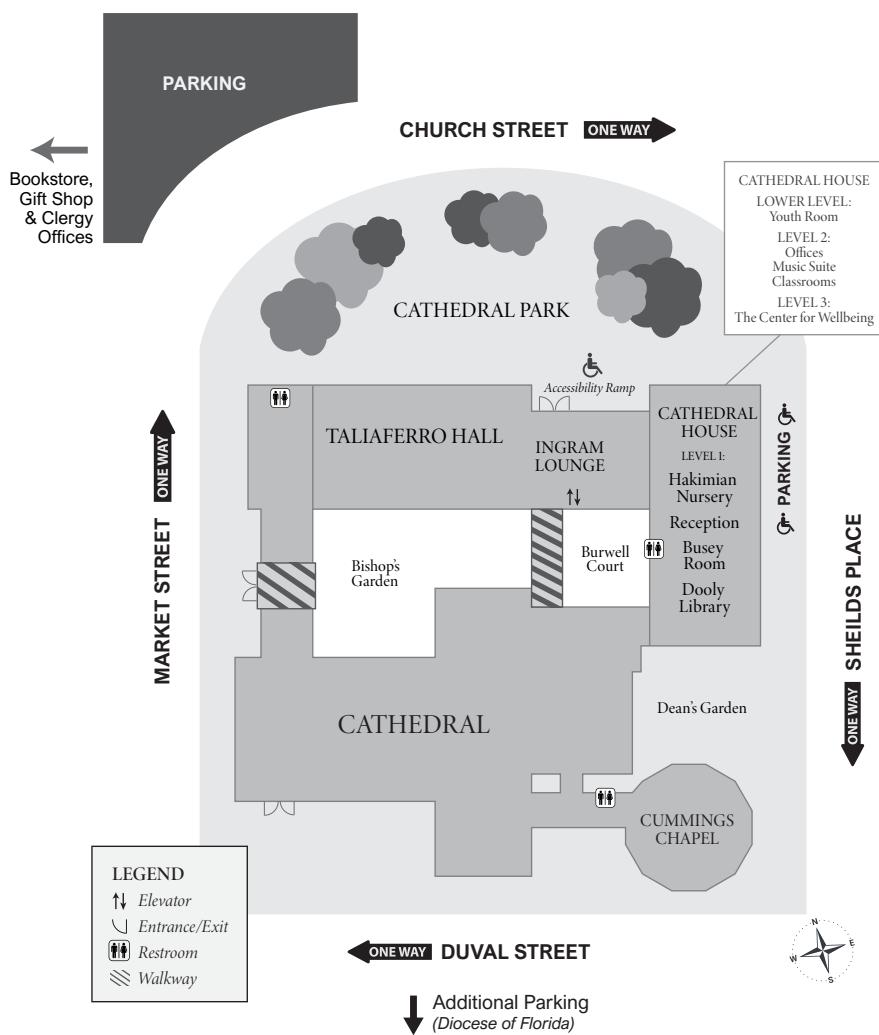
WELCOME

Whether you're visiting for the first time or you've been worshiping here for years, our welcome ministry - Engage@JaxCathedral is here to help you make a home for your faith at St. John's Cathedral.

Fill out the Welcome card in the pew back and place it in the offering plate or hand it to a clergy. Or complete the form online at jaxcathedral.org/welcome (or scan the QR code) so we can get to know you.



MAP



HOURS & INFORMATION

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8am Holy Eucharist, spoken

9am Breakfast
Adult Formation: Dean's Forum, *Taliaferro Hall*

For Children & Families: Family Eucharist (First Sundays), *Cummings Chapel*, Family Flex Cafe (activities for children ages 4 - 10), *Ingram Lounge*

10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
with organ and choir

Children gather in the Taliaferro Hall foyer before the 10:30 a.m. service, and return to their families at the Peace. Blessing Bags with quiet activities are available for children who remain in the service.

11:45am Lunch and Fellowship, *Taliaferro Hall*

Hakimian Family Nursery Hours

10am to Noon

St. John's Cathedral Bookstore & Gift Shop Hours

Sun: 9am to 12:30pm
M-Th: 10am to 4pm
F: 10am to 3pm

Vestry

Steve Busey, *Chancellor*; John Sefton, *Subchancellor*; Martha Cox, *Sr. Warden*; Patrick Kimball, *Jr. Warden*; Paul Arrington, *Treasurer*; John Bass, Donna Walker Bell, John Erstling, Glenn Guiler, Paige Hakimian, Lewis Hunt, Lisa McKenna, Laura Jane Pittman, Louis Russo, Adam Smith, Shane Williams

Clergy

The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll, *Dean*; The Rev. Canon Mark S. Anderson, *Vicar*; The Rev. Dr. Linda Privitera, *Associate Priest of Theology and the Arts*; The Rev. Thomas O'Dell, *Associate Priest for Welcome and Engagement*; The Rev. Saundra Kidd, *Deacon for Pastoral Care and Outreach*

Music

Timothy Tuller, *Canon for Music*

Throughout this service, items in **bold** are spoken by the congregation in unison.

At the sound of the bell, all stand.

1982 Hymnal

This prayer, called the *Collect for Purity*, is said every Sunday. We ask God to purify our hearts for worship.

Silence.

This prayer changes each Sunday and summarizes a theme from today's Scripture readings.

All sit.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Voluntary

Prelude on *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, Kenneth Walton

Introit (10:30 a.m.)

"O" Antiphons for Advent III
Eric Jordan, cantor

O DAYSPRING Brightness of Light Everlasting and Sun of Righteousness,
Come and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.

O KING of the Nations, and their desire, the cornerstone who makest both one.
Come and save mankind whom thou hast formed of clay.

In Procession, Hymn #59 (8 a.m.)

"Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding" Merton

In Procession, Hymn #65 (10:30 a.m.)

"Prepare the way, O Zion" *Bereden väg för Herran*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Blessed be our God.

Forever and ever. Amen.

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 Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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 Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway

shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The words of holy scripture.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God;
Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

“The Lord is My Light,” Lillian Bouknight, arr. Paul Gainer

All stand.

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, the Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, the Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion; whom shall I fear?

7

12

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go

out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The good news of our Savior.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Repeat chant, page 5.

All sit.

A period of silence is kept following the sermon.

All stand.

The Nicene Creed is 1700 years old as of this year. It is a statement of trust, and not of certainty.

“The Lord is My Light,” Lillian Bouknight, arr. Paul Gainer

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll

The Nicene Creed

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

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

The Prayers of the People are read by a member of our congregation and reflect the concerns of our day and our community.

Eternal God, you blessed the whole world when you were born in the form of a tiny child, Jesus, and you bless us now as we wait for Christ to come again. Give us courage, wisdom, and patience to meet the days ahead in the hope of your coming. Word of God, **Come among us.**

We ask you to bless all the peoples of the world, especially those who suffer from hunger, illness, poverty, oppression, loneliness, or despair. Word of God, **Come among us.**

We ask you to bless and carry home all our loved ones who have died, that they may see the brightness of your coming. Word of God, **Come among us.**

Bring peace to every corner of the world, that the entire human race may treat one another with dignity and respect. Word of God,
Come among us.

Give us the conviction and strength to care for this beautiful planet that you have so generously given us. Word of God,
Come among us.

Strengthen us to do your will just as Mary, Jesus' Mother, once did. Word of God,
Come among us.

We give you thanks for all the blessings of this life and for the hope of the life to come. Word of God,
Come among us.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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 Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory Anthem (10:30 a.m.)

“*Virga Jesse*,” Anton Bruckner

*Virga Jesse floruit:
Virgo Deum et hominem genuit:
pacem Deus reddidit,
in se reconcilians ima summis.
Alleluia.*

The branch from Jesse blooms:
a Virgin brings forth God and man:
God restores peace,
reconciling in Himself the lowest with the highest.
Alleluia.

Hymn #56 (St. 5 & 6)

“*O come, O Come, Emmanuel*” *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

The celebrant concludes the prayers.

*All kneel or stand as able.
A period of silence invites us to reflect on our own lives and our need for forgiveness.*

Confession is a process of letting go, forgiving others, and being forgiven by God.

The Resurrected Christ, when he appeared to the disciples, said these words.

As the altar is prepared for Holy Communion, please place your offering in the collection plate as it is passed. You may also give by texting “jaxcathedral \$(amount)” to 73256, or use the QR code to give online. Thank you for your generosity.



All stand. 1982 Hymnal

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

1982 Hymnal

Sanctus S-130

Franz Schubert

This ancient song, called the Sanctus, is sung by the angels in the book of Revelation.

All kneel or stand as able.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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.

These words come from Scripture:

Matthew 26:26-29

Mark 14:22-25

Luke 22:14-20

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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; do this in remembrance of me."

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: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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

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.

Jesus was known to us in the breaking of the bread.

The one whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread. The one who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup. So, take this bread and this wine. In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

Music at Communion (10:30 a.m.)

Anthem	"Let My Prayer Rise Up (Psalm 141)," Arr. Marty Haugen <i>St. John's Celebration Choir</i>
Hymn #60	"Creator of the stars of night" <i>Conditor alme siderum</i>
Antiphon	The Advent Prose for Advent III <i>Eric Jordan, Cantor</i>

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Savior: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Prayer of Sending and Service

Let us pray.

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 he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

In Procession, Hymn #615 (8 a.m.) "Thy kingdom come!" on bended knee" *St. Flavian*

In Procession, Hymn #640 (10:30 a.m.) "Watchman, tell us of the night" *Aberystwyth*

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

Prelude on *St. Thomas*, Kenneth Walton



All who long for God are welcome to receive Communion. If you are not baptized, we invite you to speak with a member of the clergy about Baptism, the doorway into the Church's full sacramental life.

Everyone is also welcome to come to the altar for a blessing, indicated by folding your arms across your chest.

Please let clergy know if you would like a gluten-free wafer.

If you would like to receive communion and are unable to come to the altar, please ask an usher for assistance.

A socially-distant communion table is set in the chapel to the left of the altar (the North Transept). If you are in need of confidential prayers, please come to the Baptismal Font.

All stand. 1982 Hymnal

The flowers on the altar today are given in loving memory of Kamele Oupa Seane.

Calendar

MON. 12/15

8am - Centering Prayer, Zoom

Start your week off with guided centering prayer. Contact Owene at owene_courtney@yahoo.com.

2-3pm - Meditation Class, Center for Wellbeing

A focused meditation that leads us from the mind to the heart.

6-7:15pm - Yoga, Cummings Chapel

Free, gentle yoga practice, led by Megan Cochran.

TUES. 12/16

10am - Art Group, The Painting Place (under Taliaferro Hall)

Come paint with us. Contact Kathie at meuselbachkl@yahoo.com.

11am - Light in the Darkness: An Advent

Stained Glass Tour, Bookstore/Cathedral

We will meet at the Cathedral Bookstore, then make our way into the Cathedral for a guided exploration of the artistry and theology reflected in its historic stained glass, followed by lunch at Taverna in San Marco (not included in the ticket price). \$15, purchase online at jaxcathedralbooks.org.

4-6pm - Cancer Support Group, Center for Wellbeing,

Room 303

All are welcome, regardless of faith tradition or stage in the journey. Contact Lisa at lisamck@bellsouth.net.

WED. 12/17

11am - Growing Through the Word, Busey Conference Room and Zoom

An insightful discussion of the upcoming Sunday's lectionary readings. Led by Deacon Saundra Kidd.

12:10pm - Healing Service, Cummings Chapel

A weekly gathering of prayer and the Holy Eucharist.

6pm - Art Group, The Painting Place (under Taliaferro Hall)

Gather with fellow artists and paint to your heart's content. Contact Heather at chihuahua7044@att.net.

THURS. 12/18

9:30-10:30am - Centering Prayer, Dooly Library

Let go of distractions; open your heart to the divine within.

FRI. 12/19

9-10:30am - Reading Between the Lines, Zoom

An online Scripture study supplemented by art, literature, poetry. Contact Owene at ocourtney@jaxcathedral.org.

SAT. 12/20

No Cathedral Events

SUN. 12/21

10:30am - Children's Christmas Pageant, Cathedral Nave

Step into the heart of the Christmas story as the innocence and joy of children bring it to life in our Live Nativity Pageant.

MON. 12/22

8am - Centering Prayer, Zoom

Start your week off with guided centering prayer. Contact Owene at owene_courtney@yahoo.com.

2-3pm - Meditation Class, Center for Wellbeing

A focused meditation that leads us from the mind to the heart.

6-7:15pm - Yoga, Cummings Chapel

Free, gentle yoga practice, led by Megan Cochran.

TUES. 12/23

10am - Art Group, The Painting Place (under Taliaferro Hall)

Come paint with us. Contact Kathie at meuselbachkl@yahoo.com.

4-6pm - Cancer Support Group, Center for Wellbeing,

Room 303

All are welcome, regardless of faith tradition or stage in the journey. Contact Lisa at lisamck@bellsouth.net.

Please note that St. John's Cathedral offices, Bookstore/Gift Shop, and Center for Wellbeing will be closed from 12pm on December 24th through December 26th.

Christmas Services

WED. 12/24

4pm - Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

6pm & 11pm - Candlelight Holy Eucharist

Featuring Cathedral Choir and Brass.

Incense will be used at the 11pm service.

THURS. 12/25

10:30am - Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

Featuring the Cathedral Choir.

WED. 12/31

4pm - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

A New Year's Eve tradition at the Cathedral, you are invited to join us for a service of Lessons and Carols, sung by the Cathedral Choir. A New Year's Eve champagne reception will follow, complete with a live feed to hear Big Ben chime at midnight in London and ring in the new year together.

Bishop Search Committee: Diocesan-Wide Survey

God is on the move in our Episcopal Diocese of Florida — and so is your Bishop Search Committee! Hot on the heels of 15 in-person and two online Envisioning Forums to gather impressions and insights, we're moving into the next leg of the “input phase” in our bishop search process — a diocese-wide survey during the season of Advent (whose focus on hope, waiting, and expectation aptly dovetails with our bishop search process now). By sharing your feedback through this survey, you'll help us map a “landscape” of our diocese — where it stands, where it ought to head, and what it needs in a new bishop to get us there.

Thank you for doing your part to make this survey a useful tool in gauging the current health and future direction of our diocese — with Christ Jesus, our common denominator, first and foremost in our minds. As Paul reminds us: “It is from Christ that the whole body grows as each different part does its work” (Ephesians 4:16, Worldwide English New Testament). Scan the QR code below to take the survey today.



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Scan the QR code to subscribe to our weekly newsletter, the Eagle.



Realm is an online church community where we can connect with each other outside our Sunday gatherings. We'd love for you to take part! Connecting on Realm gives you access to register for upcoming events, join ministry groups, and manage your giving. To request an account setup link, contact **Linda O'Dell at lodell@jaxcathedral.org**

Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care, visit **jaxcathedral.org/pastoral-care** to complete the request form, and we will respond quickly and confidentially. If you have an emergency and want to reach a priest, please call **(904) 356-5507 and press 4**. For information on Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings, and Funerals, please visit **jaxcathedral.org/life-events**.

Sermon Notes