



10:30 AM
December 21, 2025
Advent IV





TODAY

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Join us for lunch today in Taliaferro Hall following our spectacular Christmas pageant!

Next Sunday, December 28

Join the Rev. Dr. Linda Privitera for an Art Walk & Talk to explore the beautiful pieces currently on exhibition in Taliaferro Hall. Immediately following the 10:30am service.

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

ENGAGE @ JAX CATHEDRAL POP-UP

Jan. 10 | 9:30am | Mandarin Museum

See the best Hidden Gem in Jacksonville and its exhibit on Harriet Beecher Stowe (author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin"). After the Civil War ended, Stowe resided here and was one of the biggest promoters for northerners to visit and move to Florida. Susan Caven will tell us her story and we will tour the museum and grounds. Join us! Contact: Linda O'Dell at lodell@jaxcathedral.org.

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.

EPIPHANY DEAN'S FORUM

A Window into our Faith

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

9am | Taliaferro Hall

Did you know Episcopalians have a 3-legged stool that supports our balanced faith? Find out how on January 11! We begin with Scripture: the fascinating mystery (Dean Kate), the 5 "C's" of the Bible (Tom O'Dell) and tools we can use to explore scripture (Mark Anderson). This class will be interactive: bring your questions! Each class is stand-alone and perfect for anyone new or interested in learning more about the Episcopal faith.

JANUARY OUTREACH

Clothing Drive for DESC Jax

From **January 1-31**, St. John's Cathedral will be holding a clothing drive for DESC (Downtown Ecumenical Services Council) Jax.

Clothing, shoes, and coats for men, women, and children will be accepted and gathered to donate on **February 1**. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our outreach ministries.

Phone: (904) 356-5507

Email: info@jaxcathedral.org

Address: 256 E. Church Street Jacksonville, FL 32202

Website: JAXCATHEDRAL.ORG



DESC

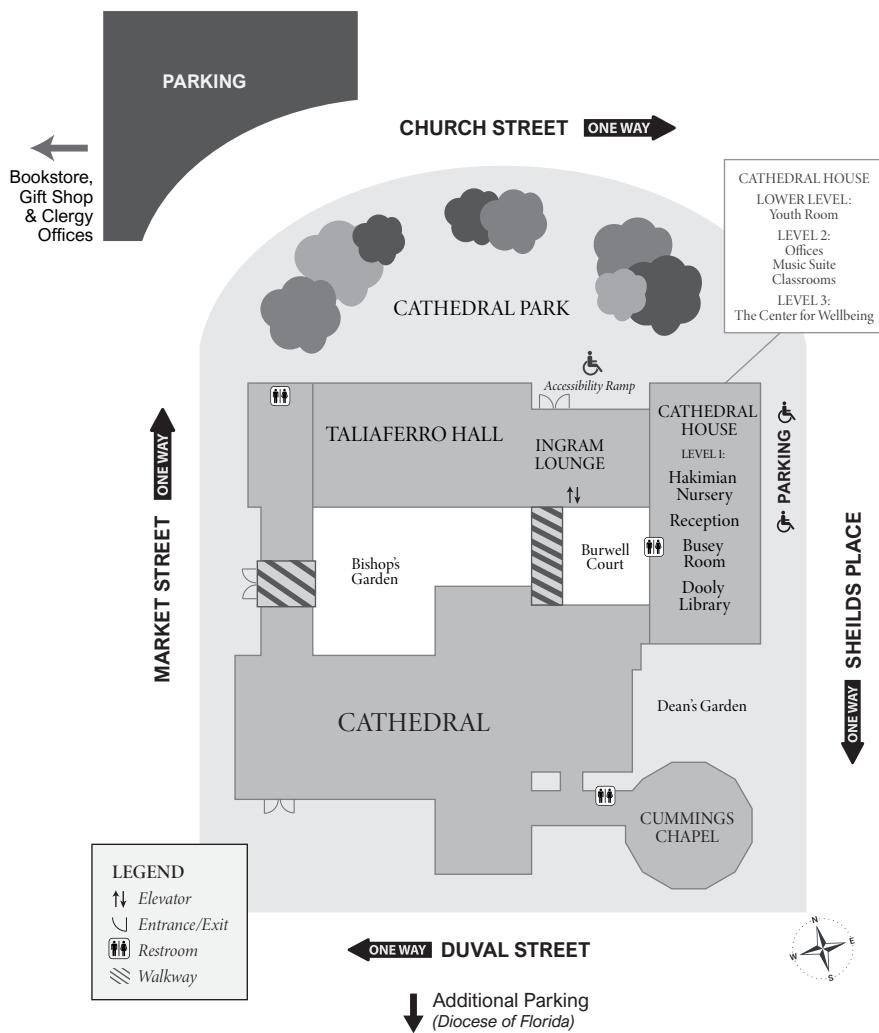
WELCOME

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* (No Forum this Sunday)

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

Magnificat, Dietrich Buxtehude

Introit

"O" Antiphons for Advent IV
Eric Jordan-Mobley, cantor

O EMMANUEL, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all Nations,
come and save us, O Lord our God.

O WISDOM which hast come out of the mouth of the Most High,
and mightily ordered all things, come and teach us the Way of wisdom.

In Procession, Hymn #616

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed" *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*

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.

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 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Away in a Manger

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Hymn #79

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Hymn #99

Go Tell it on the Mountain

The Nativity as a devotional practice began with St. Francis in the 1100's in Italy.

All sing verses 1-2. Hymnal 1982

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” is a based on an 1868 text written by American Episcopal clergyman and author Phillips Brooks (1835 –1893). The music is by Brooks’ collaborator Lewis Redner (1831-1908), an American organist and composer active in the Philadelphia area.

All sing. Hymnal 1982

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” is an African-American spiritual which was first published in 1901 by John Wesley Work, Jr. (1871-1925). It would have originally come from an oral tradition. Its popularity spread throughout the 20th century and is now among the most beloved of carols derived from the Negro Spiritual tradition.

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.*

Like an icon set before us, may this pageant help us more clearly see your coming among us. Help us to perceive the light that breaks into the darkness and the hope that interrupts our waiting.

Christ our Emmanuel,
Come, Lord Jesus.

For all who live on the edges like the shepherds of old: the poor, the unhoused, the overworked, the unseen. For those who are overlooked by the world but who you visit first.

Christ who finds us in the fields,
Come, Lord Jesus.

For the angels, the messengers of your peace, and for all those in our day and time who continue to declare your message of justice, peace, and love. Open our ears to hear the good news of great joy.

Christ who still speaks,
Come, Lord Jesus.

For Mary, your willing servant, who said “Let it be” without knowing how it would unfold: give courage to any who are afraid of what obedience might cost.

Christ who calls us to holy bravery,
Come, Lord Jesus.

For Joseph, quiet and faithful, who chose mercy over pride and compassion over reputation: bless all who stand by others in costly love, and all who hold to their convictions when no one is watching.

Christ who honors quiet faithfulness,
Come, Lord Jesus.

For the hospitality of innkeepers and hosts: stir our hearts to open doors that are closed in this community and the world. Make this cathedral a sanctuary of grace for all who arrive weary, searching, or alone.

Christ who seeks a place among us,
Come, Lord Jesus.

For the wise ones of old and the wise ones still journeying today: questioners, doubters, and all who look for you by starlight, science, or longing of the heart. Guide their steps, and guide ours, until we kneel together in the warmth of your love.

Christ who draws all people to yourself,
Come, Lord Jesus.

For those who are sick, grieving, imprisoned, or in any need. Let the peace sung over Bethlehem take root in our city, our homes, and our hearts.

Christ, Prince of Peace,
Come, Lord Jesus.

For those who have gone before us in your love: grant that, surrounded by their witness and strengthened by your grace, we may bear your light and share your joy, until we all behold you face to face.

Christ who was, and is, and is to come,
Come, Lord Jesus.

God of promise and fulfillment, you have shown us your heart in the child of Bethlehem. Receive the prayers we offer this day, and make of our lives a living pageant of your love, that all the world may see your coming and rejoice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

“Ave Maria,” Reihards Dubra

*Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God
pray for us sinners
now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

Hymn #56 (St. 7 & 8)

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer G

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:

Sanctus S-130

Franz Schubert

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.

The celebrant concludes the prayers.

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

1982 Hymnal

This ancient song, called the Sanctus, is sung by the angels in the book of Revelation. All kneel or stand as able.

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

Organ	Prelude on the Chorale, "Behold a Rose Bursts into Bloom," Johannes Brahms
Hymn #54	"Savior of the nations, come" <i>Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland</i>

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.

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

Comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not for I will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

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 #57

“Lo, he comes with clouds descending” *Helmsley*

All stand. 1982 Hymnal

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

Prelude on *Puer nobis nascitur*, Gerald Near



The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God.

Calendar

MON. 12/22

8am - Centering Prayer, *Zoom*

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

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.

WED. 12/24

4pm - Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

6pm & 11pm - Candlelight Holy Eucharist

Featuring the 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.

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

WED. 12/31

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

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

12:10pm - Healing Service, *Cummings Chapel*

A weekly gathering of prayer and the Holy Eucharist.

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.

Please note that St. John's Cathedral offices, Bookstore/Gift Shop, and Center for Wellbeing will be closed from 12pm on Dec. 24th through Dec. 26th, and from 12pm on Jan. 1st through Jan. 2nd.

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