



# *Blessings*

8 AM

December 21, 2025

*Advent IV*



SAINT JOHN'S  
CATHEDRAL  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA



**SAINT JOHN'S  
CATHEDRAL**  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

## TODAY

### The Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### Christmas Pageant, 10:30am

Children will bring the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke to life!

#### 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.

## 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.

Phone: (904) 356-5507

Email: [info@jaxcathedral.org](mailto:info@jaxcathedral.org)

Address: 256 E. Church Street Jacksonville, FL 32202

Website: [JAXCATHEDRAL.ORG](http://JAXCATHEDRAL.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

### 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 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! Linda O'Dell: [lodell@jaxcathedral.org](mailto:lodell@jaxcathedral.org)

### 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.



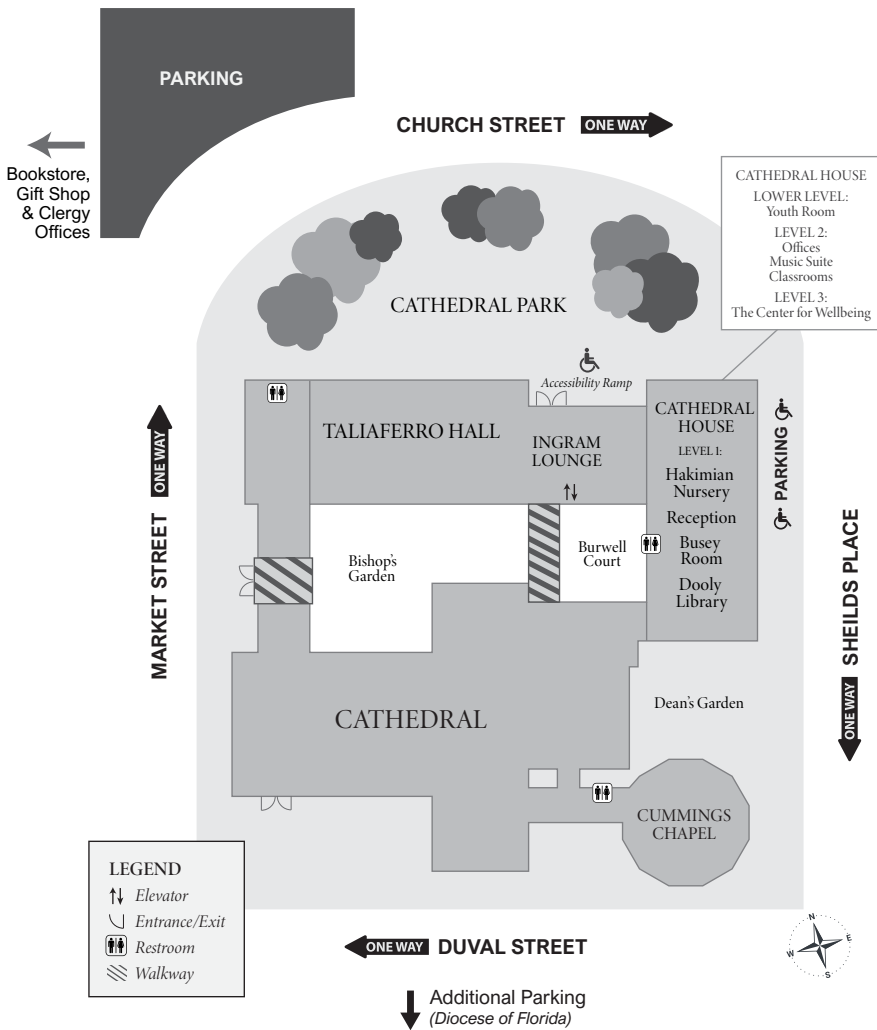
## WELCOME

Whether you're visiting for the first time or you've been worshipping 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](http://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.*

*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

In Procession, Hymn #54 "Savior of the nations, come" *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

## 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 Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The words of holy scripture.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18

**Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

**Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

**You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

**Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

**And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

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

*All stand.*

7

12

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?

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The second staff continues the melody, and the third staff concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Linda Privitera

The Nicene Creed

**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

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

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:

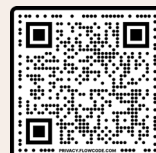
*The celebrant concludes the prayers.*

*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*

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

*All kneel or stand as able.*

*These words come from  
Scripture:  
Matthew 26:26-29  
Mark 14:22-25  
Luke 22:14-20  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

*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  
Transcept). If you are in need  
of confidential prayers, please  
come to the Baptismal Font.*

**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.

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.



## 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.

## MON. 12/29

### 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. 12/30

### 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. 12/31

### 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.



## *Visit. Follow. Engage.*

Follow St. John's Cathedral, Bookstore, and Center for Wellbeing on social media for updates and announcements!



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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](mailto:lodell@jaxcathedral.org)**

## *Pastoral Care*

If you are in need of pastoral care, visit **[jaxcathedral.org/pastoral-care](http://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](http://jaxcathedral.org/life-events)**.

# Sermon Notes

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