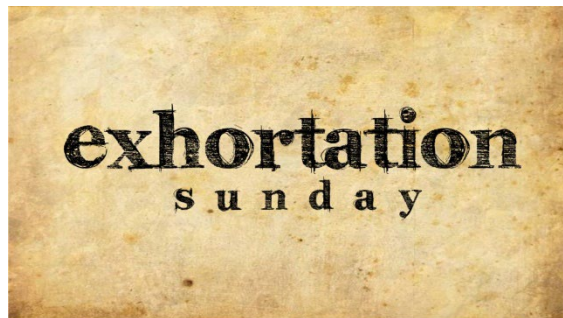


St. John's
Episcopal Church
Oklahoma City, OK

Fab Friday - December 15, 2023

EVERYTHING HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S THIS WEEK (AND MORE)



As the Administrative Assistant for the church, one of my main responsibilities is to prepare the weekly bulletin. With this new liturgical year, I decided to dig deeper into the scriptures as I place them in the bulletin, as well as the elements of special services such as the Exhortation. I have been reading the commentary in the Lector's Guide which gives additional insight to each of the readings, including the Psalms and Gospel readings. It's kind of been my own Bible study. When I come to the service, I am then able to sit and listen and absorb the readings. I have learned so much and find this has resulted in a richer experience of service.

I have to admit, though, that I found it difficult to understand the Exhortation. So, I asked Fr. Nate to give me a brief explanation. His reply was "an expanded form of self-reflection prior to the confession of sin." And that's what it really comes down to.

In my search for answers, I also found a number of words associated with "exhortation" - admonishment and encouragement, incite action, summon, beseech, and entreat. These words are helpful, but I also found historical context behind St Paul's exhortation to prepare carefully to receive the sacraments of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus.

In the words of [Douglas A. Campbell](#), "the church at Corinth was a mess." Campbell said their questions and concerns about the rules of marriage and divorce, women in church, and money echo the questions faced by many early believers then and those in every generation to follow. They faced doubt over whether Christ really rose from the dead.

"Word had reached [...] Paul that the Christian community in Corinth had fallen into a variety of serious moral errors," according to [Andy Rau](#). First Corinthians, written to a "spiritually struggling Corinthian church was not intended just to harangue them for their failings. Paul challenged his Corinthian brothers and sisters [to] emulate[e] Jesus Christ." Admonishment and

encouragement.

So, there you have it. If you haven't fully understood and embraced the Exhortation, perhaps this will help. It helped me as well as giving me pause to read the passage carefully to find the full meaning St Paul's direction.

Here is your [Sunday bulletin](#). We hope to see you on Sunday as we wait for the coming of our Savior!

Peace be with you,
Nancy

Isn't this beautiful? **Barbie G is providing luminarias for the 10:30 Christmas Eve service.** She needs a volunteer helper to put them in place before the Mass. Can you meet Barbie at the church at **9:45 that night to help put the luminarias in place? Please text Barbie at 812-453-0607 if you can help!** There is a rain plan in place, just in case of rain.



Gift Wrapping by Cherie will take place following the service **this Sunday the 17th.** This is a great opportunity for you to **get your gifts wrapped and ready to put under the tree,** just in time! Cherie has lots of experience wrapping packages and loves to serve others. Don't miss this! You will be so grateful you remembered to bring those gifts.



Sunday School News Update

Correction: Sunday School will break from December 17 through January 7 and reconvene on January 14. Adult formation will, however, begin their exploration of Gospel of Mark on January 7, and continue from Epiphany through Easter season.



Deason Lisa is excited to announce that we exceeded our goals in collecting items for distribution at the Food Pantry at St. James Episcopal Church. Collectively, we were able to donate:

- 60 boxes/bags of stuffing
- 53 instant mashed potatoes
- 58 instant gravy packets

Thank you all for your generosity!



We have been invited by the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma to honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. on **Monday Jan. 15!** They are doubling the capacity of their volunteer shifts on this day! Our shift is 9:30 - noon. Children as young as 8 can attend. Look for the signup sheet in the narthex through Dec 31.



Cookies, Bars, Cakes, Breads, and Scones, Oh My!

Help us raise money for a new adult-size changing table for St. John's Church. As our congregation grows, we want to be ready to welcome people of all ages and abilities. This is an important addition to our church to make this goal possible.

Bring your favorite sweet treat to sell at our Sunday bake sale and help us with this project.



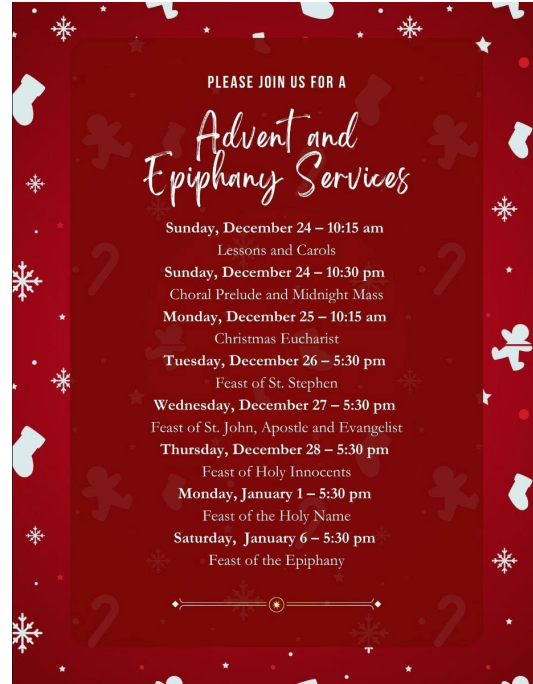
A first look at Advent and Epiphany services. Sunday, December 3 is the First Sunday of Advent with the Great Litany in Procession.



*Weekday Services
December and January*

Wednesday, Dec 6	5:30 pm	First Wednesday Eucharist
Wednesday, Dec 13	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday, Dec 20	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday, Dec 21	5:30 pm	Feast of St Thomas the Apostle
Tuesday, Dec 26	Noon	Feast of St. Stephen
Wednesday, Dec 27	Noon	Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday, Dec 28	Noon	Feast of Holy Innocents
Monday, Jan 1	5:30 pm	Feast of the Holy Name
Wednesday, Jan 2	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Saturday, Jan 6	Noon	Epiphany Eucharist
Wednesday, Jan 10	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday, Jan 17	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday, Jan 24	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday, Jan 31	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Friday, Feb 2	5:30 pm	Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Savor the most wonderful time of the year through our intimate evening services this Holy Season.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Advent and Epiphany Services

Sunday, December 24 – 10:15 am
Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 24 – 10:30 pm
Choral Prelude and Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25 – 10:15 am
Christmas Eucharist

Tuesday, December 26 – 5:30 pm
Feast of St. Stephen

Wednesday, December 27 – 5:30 pm
Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Thursday, December 28 – 5:30 pm
Feast of Holy Innocents

Monday, January 1 – 5:30 pm
Feast of the Holy Name

Saturday, January 6 – 5:30 pm
Feast of the Epiphany