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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Wednesday, Dec 14- Tuesday, Dec. 20



I can't stand waiting. I get very anxious. I used to play a lot of cricket (think 'baseball', but for 30 hours per game). I would bat at the top of the order (in baseball-speak, I was 'the lead-off hitter'.) This was not because I was a good player – actually, there were way more talented batters on the team than I was. No, the reason they made be bat first was that no one wanted to be around me while I was waiting. I was terrible at waiting.

without strikes and without the need to run when you hit the ball straight to an infielder... Baseball is a pitcher's game; cricket is a batter's.) So, in cricket a player can be 'on deck', waiting to bat, for hours. My team-mates didn't like me when I was waiting. I'd pace up and down, predict doom and gloom, chew the handle off my bat, prostrate myself on the ground and pray that God would take this trial away from me. I was scared rigid by the prospect of failure. My anxiety was infectious. So, just out of wanting to be rid of me, they made me lead-off.

I still find waiting hard, especially when I have to do something. Advent, then, can be difficult; and I don't just mean the 3-4 weeks until Christmas. I mean the BIG wait for God's kingdom to come in all its fulness. That is an agonizing wait. Each day brings signs of decay and brokenness. I wonder if I have the strength and courage to last until Christ returns – whether that is in a universal way, or in an individual return to take me home.

Waiting can be easier when we remind ourselves what we are waiting FOR. So, when we talk about the coming of Christ to complete God's kingdom, what do we mean? Here are a few we considered at the Rector's Forum last Sunday.

- **Global community.** Yup, an end to conflict and anger. Gotta love that!
- **Moral Perfection.** You, only more so!
- **Worship.** OK, so maybe you're not very excited by this prospect; but remember, we'll be resurrected into a state and condition where worship will not be dull or not-to-our-taste, but will be our deepest joy.
- **Reconciliation across lines of race.** No more racism, xenophobia or cultural superiority.
- **Reconciliation across lines of gender.** An end to animosity between sexes, no more nasty power-plays. Say goodbye to our failure to understanding each other!
- **Reconciliation across lines of economics.** No one will be hungry, or sick, or live impoverished lives. All will be fully satisfied in every way.

Now, **THAT** is worth waiting for. I have no need to be anxious in case I fail. All I have to do is wait with patient expectation. **So, we join the ancient Advent chorus: 'Come, Lord Jesus!'**

-Duncan

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We are Waiting Rector's Forum Advent Course

Join Duncan for a lively exploration of the great Advent theme of "Waiting".

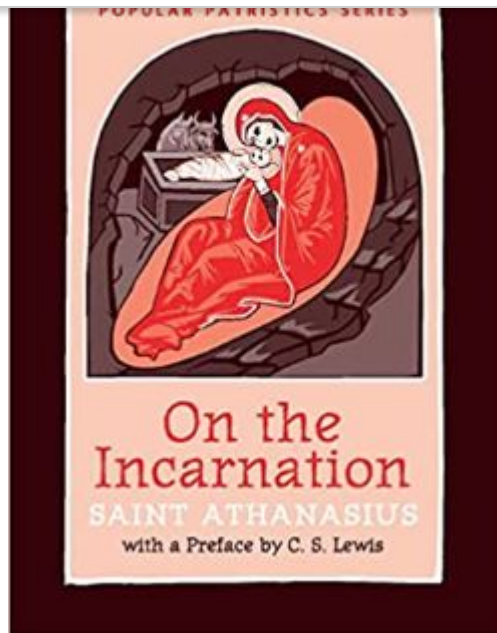
December 4th: [Why are we waiting?](#)

December 11th: What are we waiting for?

December 18th: How shall we wait?

Session one and two will start at 9:15am and session three will begin at 9:00am. This is to accommodate the Christmas pageant at 9:45am.

Links to previous weeks can be accessed by clicking the links above.

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Online Advent Book Study

Join Deonna online Tuesday nights from 7pm-8pm during Advent (11/29-12/20) for a book study on the 4th century ancient text *On the Incarnation*, by St. Athanasius. The hope is that this book will help you experience Christmas in a deeper and more meaningful way.

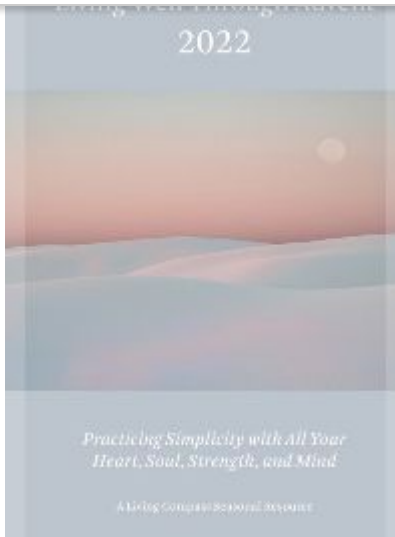
The last class is on TUESDAY Dec 20 from 7pm to 8pm

There will be 15 copies in the bookstore.. You can order your own online as well. We will be using the SVS Press "Popular Patristics" Edition.

[The text is also FREE by clicking here](#)

Just a fair warning, because we will be doing a close reading of this 4th century text, it will be a theologically intensive class and will require some heavy intellectual lifting at points. However, Deonna has complete confidence that you are all very much up to the task!

[Click here for the Zoom link](#)

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An advent reflection group will meet on Sundays at 6:00 at the home of Polly Williamson (1248 Westmoreland Ave.). If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact Carrie Shaw (gracyegray@gmail.com)



Christmas Pageant

Dec. 18 9:45 AM

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join us for the Christmas Pageant *this Sunday*, December 18, at 9:45 AM. This is an intergenerational worship service, all are welcome and encouraged to come enjoy beautiful music while the children of the parish show us the reason for the season.





Christmas Flowers.

If you would like to contribute money towards decorating the church for Christmas, you may do so by writing a check to St. John's, or you may pay online [HERE](#). If you would like to add honorarium or memorial names, please list them in the memo section or fill out an order form at the church. All Memorial & Honorarium names will be included in the Christmas bulletins.

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JOEL GREGORY

Organist and Choirmaster of St. Johns Episcopal Church

Presents

*A Christmas
Organ Concert*

Featuring music by Vivaldi, Pietro yon, Tchaikovsky, D'Aquin, Sumsion,
Buxtehude, and Scott

22 DECEMBER 2022 | 07.00 PM
ST. JOHNS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
113 MADISON AVE
MONTGOMERY, AL 36104

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Dec. 24- Christmas Eve Services
4:30- Carillon Concert
5pm – Children’s Christmas Eucharist
7pm – Holy Eucharist Rite II
10pm – Holy Eucharist I,
with chants & incense

Dec. 25- Christmas Day Service
10am - Holy Eucharist II

January 1- New Year’s Day Service
10am – Holy Eucharist II

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Young Adult Supper Club Christmas Party

Dec. 20 @6:30 pm

Dustin and Georgia Holmes will host our Young Adult's Christmas party on December 20 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Everyone should bring a side dish, appetizer or dessert to share. Please wear your favorite "tacky sweater". We will play Dirty Santa, so please bring a wrapped gift under \$25. This will be an adults only gathering this month.

782 Felder Avenue



Club 56 Christmas Party

Dec. 18 5pm-7:30pm

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child should bring a GAG gift (for the Dirty Santa game), and the price limit is \$20. this group is for 5th and 6th graders only.

There will also be pizza and popcorn, so come hungry and invite a friend! **We will meet in the parish hall (of St. John's) from 5-7:30 pm.**

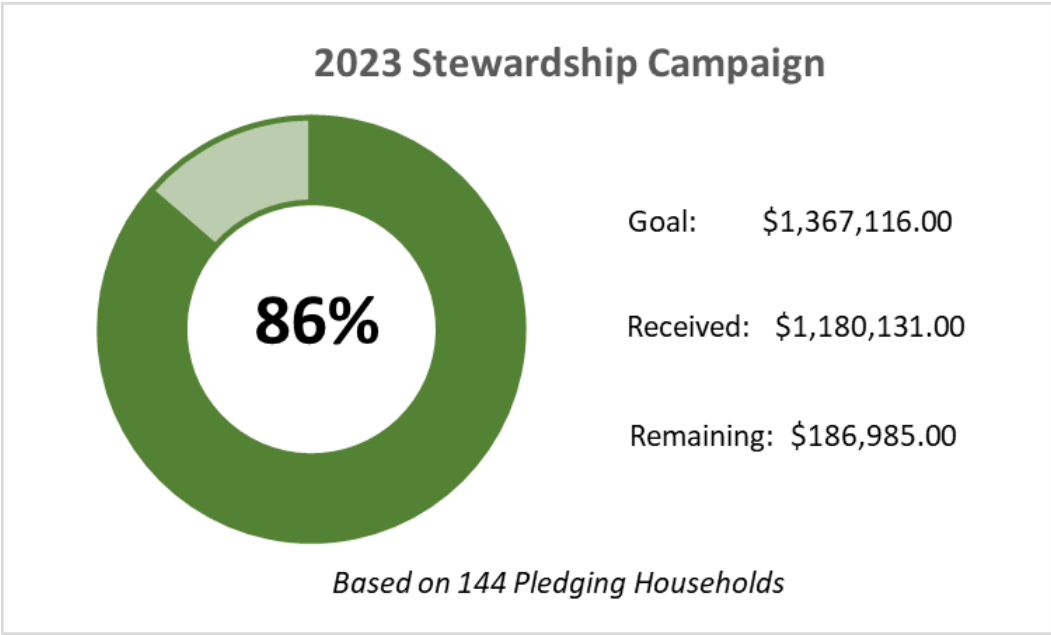
Please RSVP to Sarah Collier (sarah@stjohnsmontgomery.org) if you can attend.



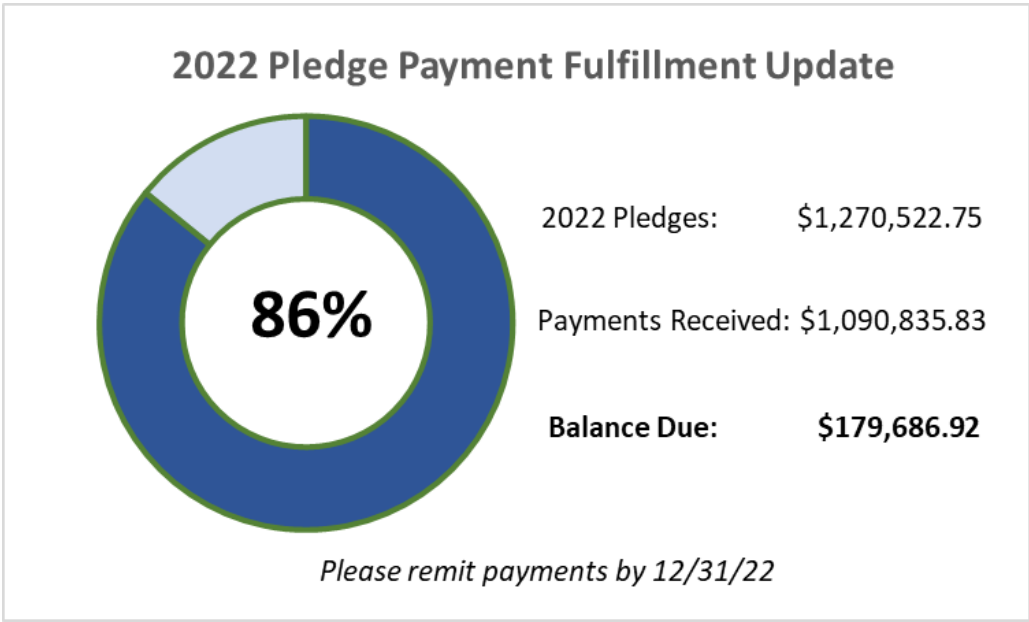
Mercy House Lunch Servers

Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to volunteer at [Mercy House](#) this fall. This has been a wonderful opportunity for Ascension and St. John's to come together in service. For anyone who is interested, the work is pretty simple. Mercy House prepares the food to be handed out and we just assist with bagging it and getting it out the door. Some meals are delivered via Door Dash and others are served to clients onsite in take-home containers. A new Sign Up Genius link is

This group could use a few people who would be willing to serve as substitutes on short notice when issues arise. If you are willing to serve in that role, please let Stephanie Norrell know. You can reach her at 334-467-6989 or sbnorrell@gmail.com.



[Click Here to Schedule your 2023 General Fund Pledge](#)



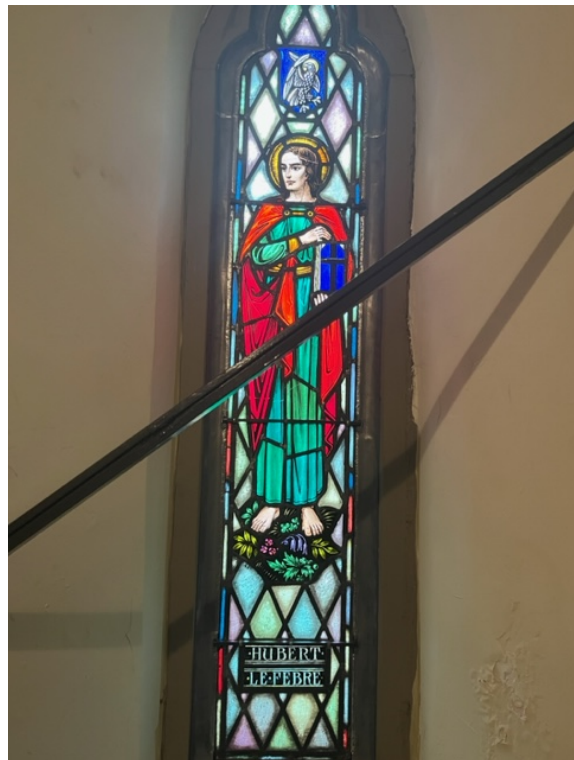
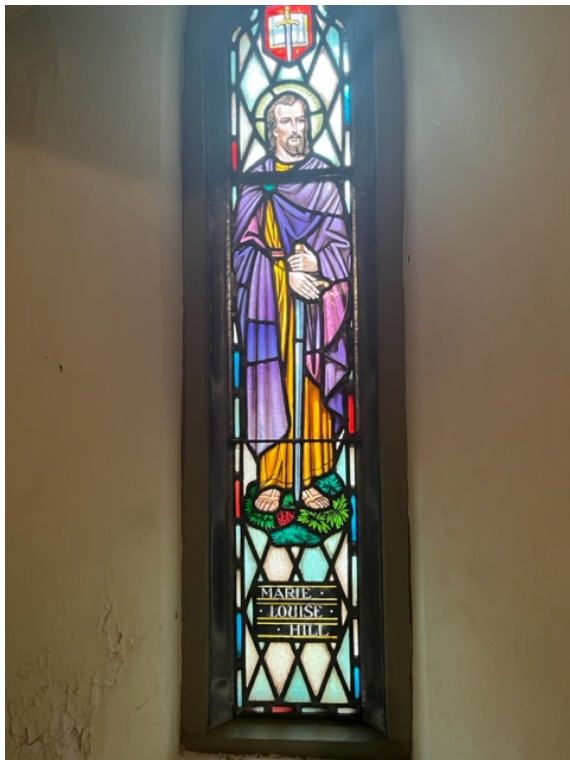
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New pledge envelopes have been mailed and should arrive this week. We are using a new company, so they will look different. Envelopes will now be mailed quarterly instead of annually. **Weekly, monthly and annual pledges may also be made online using the St. John website.** If you would like to make your pledges online, please let Heather Herring (heather@st.Johnsmontgomery.org) know so she can stop your pledging envelopes.



ST. JOHN'S TREASURE HUNT

WE ARE SO LUCKY TO BE SURROUNDED WITH AMAZING TREASURES HERE AT ST. JOHN'S! JOIN US FOR A TREASURE HUNT AROUND THE CHURCH. EACH WEEK WE WILL FEATURE A PRECIOUS ITEM LOCATED SOMEWHERE IN THE CHURCH BUILDINGS OR GROUNDS. IF YOU FIND IT, TELL MS. SARAH AND GET A REWARD.



Can you find me? Clue: I overhear the most lovely sounds!

If you have a favorite treasure that you'd like us to highlight email Constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org.

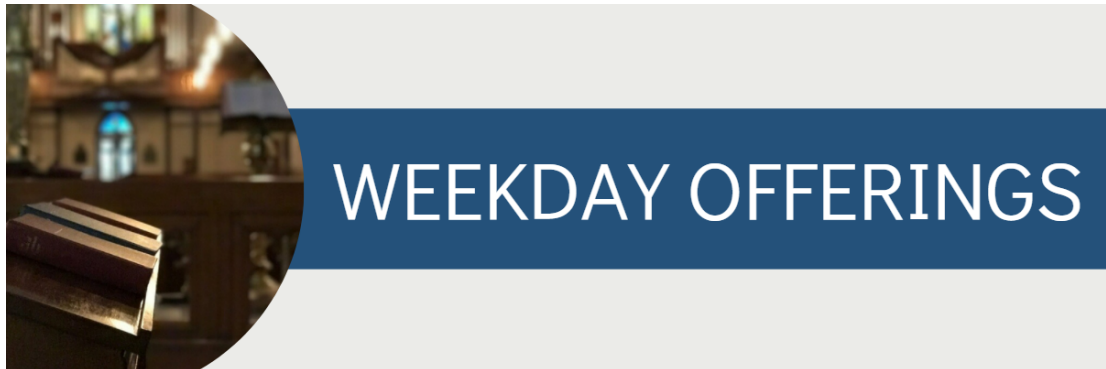
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**Be sure to stop by the bookstore and see the new artwork by
Camilla Armstrong!**

Did you know you can make purchases in the bookstore even if no one is working? Just use the QR code on the wall to pay online!

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1. Open your camera app and scan the QR Code.
2. Click on the ppay.co link- this will open a link to the bookstore
3. Enter the amount of your purchase WITH 10% tax added.
4. You can add an item description in the optional memo field, if desired.



Sundays

- 7:00 PM Family Story Time (Facebook Live)

Tuesdays

- 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist in Chapel
- 9:00 PM Compline (Facebook Live)

Wednesdays

- 11:30AM Contemplative Prayer in the Library

Thursdays

- 12:05 PM Healing Eucharist in Chapel
- 9:00 PM Compline (Facebook Live)

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LAY MINISTRY - DECEMBER 18

REMINDERS

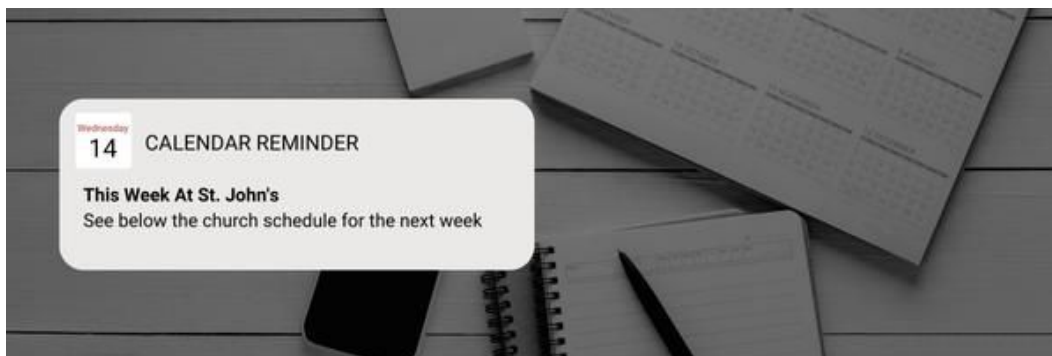
Listed below are who will be serving as Ushers, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Lectors and Flower Delivery on Sunday.

7:30 AM

- *Lector:* Leah Reader
- *Ushers/Greeters:* Will Hill Tankersley
- *Altar Guild:* Chuck Moore

10:30 AM

- *Acolytes:* Bobby Eskridge, Anne Frances Little, Lawton McCollum, J.M. Longshore, Sarah Johnston, Robert Wells
- *Eucharistic Ministers:* Rich Anderson, March Chappell, Morgan Chappell
- *Lectors:* Virginia Banister, Scott Mitchell
- *Ushers/Greeters:* William Haynes, Kathleen Bradford, Josie Eskridge, Dustin Holmes
- *Altar Guild:* Melisa Carter
- *Flower Guild:* Caroline Lawson, Laura McLemore
- *Flower Delivery Team:* Melissa Carter, Will Gunter, Doris Ball
- *Videographer:* Jim Cannon



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202211:30 AM Contemplative Prayer
5:00 PM Instrumentalist Practice12:05 PM Healing Eucharist in
Chapel
12:45 PM Cursillo Reunion Group
1:30 PM Archives Committee
Meeting
5:30 PM Instrumentalist Practice
9:00 PM Compline (Facebook
Live)

SUNDAY 18

7:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
8:15 AM Breakfast
9:00 Rector's Forum
9:45 AM Christmas Pageant
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II
5:00 Club 56 Christmas Party
5:00 EYC Christmas Party
6:00 PM Advent Reflection Group
7:00 PM Family Story Time
(Facebook Live)

MONDAY 19

5:00 Vestry Meeting

TUESDAY 20

6:30 AM Al-Anon Meeting in Loft
7:30 AM Holy Eucharist in Chapel
8:30 AM Prayer Group in SCR
3pm J. Conely organ practice
6:30PM Young Adults Christmas
Party
7:00 PM Advent Zoom Class
9:00 PM Compline (Facebook Live)

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Jim Bennett, Bill and Lida Bowman, Rod Frazer, Karen Jarrell, Leslie Little, Ken Mahan, Christopher Marshall, Richard McCrory, Eddie McDowell, Marilyn Pickett, Shirley Price, Carrie Shaw, Evelyn Sherbert, Tommy Tyson, Larry WorriLOW.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Jodelle Oakley, Rowan Osbourne, Johnathon Pace, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Robert Proctor, Sarah Stone Walker

During Advent we will be refreshing this list. Please let us know if your friend needs to remain on this list, or if you have a friend in need of prayer. You may email prayer requests to Constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org

If you or someone you know needs Pastoral Care, please contact December's pastoral care team: Betsy Cannon, Michelle Shaw, Josie Eskridge, Mary-Nelms Parsons, Renee Taylor, Laura Knapp

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[Click here for this Sunday's Lessons](#)

[Click here to meet our staff and vestry](#)



Links to all of the St. John's Offerings

Church Services:

[St. John's Facebook Page](#)

[St. John's YouTube Page](#) (Sunday morning services & adult Christian Ed classes)



Our mailing address is:

St. John's Episcopal Church
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Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-262-1937

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