



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23 , 2018

8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

*Please observe silence before the service for prayer and meditation, so that all may prepare heart and mind for worship.
All mobile telephones, pagers and electronic devices with audible alarms should be turned off
prior to the service.*

THE RT. REV. LARRY BENFIELD, BISHOP
THE REV. DR. JOSHUA DANIEL, PRIEST

www.StMarksJonesboro.org

Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, we are glad you are here! Please complete a Visitor card and place it in the offering plate. St. Mark's is a traditional church for contemporary people and we believe that God's love is for everyone. This is an open-minded congregation where we actively seek, question and wonder about our faith. We also believe that we are the hands of Christ, and mission work within our community is a vital part of what we do here.

AN OPEN TABLE

All are welcome to receive communion here. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let the minister know when you are at the altar rail. You are invited to come forward and kneel as you are able to receive the bread. You may drink from the cup or take the wine by "intinction," or dipping the wafer into the cup. If you prefer a blessing only, cross your arms over your chest.

SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Liturgy of the Word for Children is held at 10 a.m. for children ages 4 through 5th grade in our smaller John Roberts Chapel. Children enter our Nave during the processional hymn and return from the chapel during the Peace so that they may share the Eucharist with their families. Liturgy of the Word for Children is a special time for these children, and they sing, pray, craft and hear the Gospel.

FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH Children in kindergarten through 6th grade meet at 6 p.m. for dinner and fellowship, then split up by age. Classes end at 7:30 p.m. Youth in grades 7-12 meet at 5:30pm on Wednesdays.

ADULT FORMATION AT 9:00AM SUNDAY MORNINGS IN THE PARISH HALL This is an Adult Education Group that allows us to engage in conversation, reflect on the diverse points of scripture and go deeper into our faith.

NURSERY SERVICES

The nursery is located in the short hallway between the Narthex and the Parish Hall. Nursery is provided for children birth through age 3 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The friendly, two-room nursery suite is staffed by a wonderful group of compassionate caregivers who are church members and mothers, too!

RESTROOMS

Are located to the left of the main entrance, through the Parish Offices door.

COFFEE BAR

In between the services, enjoy a cup of coffee at our coffee bar, located in the front left corner of the Narthex. Additional church information about our ministries and upcoming events can be found there as well.

OUR SERVICES

Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sundays (Nave)

Compline Service at 6:30 p.m. Sundays (John Roberts Chapel)

Healing Eucharist at 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays (John Roberts Chapel)

JOINING

If you are interested in joining St. Mark's, please let us know on the Welcome Card.

DIGITAL BULLETINS AND WI-FI ACCESS

Digital bulletins are available; to download please visit <http://stmj.us>. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the building.

THE WORD OF GOD

All standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Celebrant then continues

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 Celebrant says (3x)

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 forever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON A Reading from Micah (5:2-5a)

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.,And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;and he shall be the one of peace.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80 :1-7

Qui regis Israel

Read Responsively by whole verse

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

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

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered

despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

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

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND LESSON A Reading from Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' in the scroll of the book it is written of me." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

John 18:33-37

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Joshua Daniel, Ph.D.

THE NICENE CREED

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM IV

Deacon or other leader

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against thee

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved thee with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in thy will,

and walk in thy ways,

to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

THE PEACE (*All stand.*)

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE BIRTHDAY PRAYER:

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as they begin(s) another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PRESENTATION OF ALMS

All: **All things come of thee O Lord, and of Thine Own have we given Thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING- RITE II, PRAYER A

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a [Proper Preface](#) is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us

for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior

Christ has taught us,

we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

In Lent, Alleluia is omitted, and may be omitted at other times except during Easter Season.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All are invited to share in the bread and wine of holy communion. To receive the bread, place one hand in the other with palms up and extend them to the minister distributing the bread. To receive the wine, please assist the minister with the cup, grasping the base and guiding the cup to your lips; or you may dip the bread in the cup. If you choose not to receive the bread or the wine but instead receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant and People

**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.*

ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen**

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.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

*Flowers on the altar today are given in honor of Rankin Margaret Duke's birthday
by Terry and Adele Barnett*

Advent

Christmas is all too often celebrated long before it is actually here; this is especially true in the commercial areas of our society where pre-Christmas sales are of ultimate importance. The church, however, spends the four weeks before December 25 waiting for Christ to come. This season is called Advent, and is marked by the wreath in the nave and the blue vestments. Our church year restarts from the beginning and over the next twelve months, we re-tell the story of Jesus' birth, teachings, death, resurrection, and final victory over sin and death. It is also a time for introspection as we prepare our hearts and minds to receive the light of Christ, not only in a manger 2000 years ago, but again this year in our modern lives.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today Sunday

8:00am	Holy Eucharist
9:00am	Adult Formation in the Parish Hall
10:00am	Lessons and Carols

2:00pm Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Pageant 2
3:30pm Handbell Rehearsal
5:00pm No EfM
6:30pm Compline

Mon 5:00pm Children's Christmas Pageant
10:00pm Prelude/10:30pm High Eucharist

Tues 10:00am Christmas Day Service

Wed No Activities or Services

Sat 10:00am Two Saints' Kitchen, Team # 5

*The Church office will be closed Dec. 26 thru New Year's Day-
The Church doors will be open Dec. 26 thru 28 and on Sunday, Dec.30.
If you would like to drop anything off, please use the drop box on the office door.*

SAVE THE DATE

Dec. 23- 2:00pm Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Pageant

Dec. 24- 5:00pm Children's Christmas Pageant
10:00pm Prelude/10:30pm High Eucharist

Dec. 25- 10:00am Christmas Day Service

January 26 - 53rd Annual Pancake Day / Book and Bake Sale

Birthdays

12/24 Holli Davis

12/28 Rankin Duke

Anniversaries

12/27 Rusty and Sheila Guinn

Parishioners: *If you know of someone who is in the hospital, ill, injured, or elderly and they would like to receive home Communion or a visit, please let the church office know. 932-2124*

Helping Neighbors Food Pantry : you donated 62 pounds of food this past week. Great job!

Vestry Elections St. Mark's has four vestry members ending their terms in January, and will need to elect four new members. The vestry functions as the leadership council of the church, caring for facilities upkeep, financial endeavors, and church policies. Serving on the vestry can be a very fulfilling way to offer your gifts of creativity and service to our St. Mark's community. We are looking

for positive, dependable folks who are passionate about St. Mark's to run for vestry at our annual meeting in January. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, please call or email the church office.

EYC News- We meet Wednesdays from 5:30pm-7:30pm- ***If you are willing to provide a meal for EYC on a Wed. night, please contact me or the office.*** If you are interested in our Youth Group you can call or text me with any questions 870-340-5559. Stephanie



Christmas Pageant -Our annual Children's Christmas Pageant is scheduled for tomorrow Monday, December 24th at 5pm. The last rehearsal is today, December 23 at 2:00pm. Only main characters will need to attend practices. Preschool age children who play *little angels or little shepherds do not attend practices. I would like to encourage all school aged children to take part in this wonderful enactment of the birth of Christ. We will also need volunteers to help during rehearsals and the day of the pageant. Registration forms for the Christmas Pageant can be found in the narthex.* Contact Rose Mary at rosemarylatanich@gmail.com or call (870) 935-0236



For Our Children We are now inviting the children to take a more active role in the church's offering. We're asking our kids to bring a can of food or some other non-perishable item so that during the offertory they can bring the food to altar as an offering. We'll then donate the food to Helping Neighbors. So if you have a child, help remind them to bring a can of food!

Look at Things to Donate.

Things to Donate to Helping Neighbors: Things to Donate to Helping Neighbors: *We are asking all our friends to help us collect the following: items which are easy for children to eat- Beef Ravioli , microwaveable mac and cheese, hearty soups, peanut butter, cereal bars, peanut butter crackers, Dinty Moore ready in 60 seconds meals, applesauce single packs, please items that are easy for children to eat and prepare at they are not in school over the Christmas Break.*

Two Saints' Kitchen



Two Saints Kitchen On December 15, 2018 Team #3 served baked chicken, dressing, green beans, sweet potatoes, bread, and fruit to 39 people with about 21 to go plates.

Charitable Contribution Deductions for 2018 Donors must deliver checks on or before December 31, 2018, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2018. Checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2018 will be deductible in 2018, even if they are not received by a church until 2019. Church doors will be open Dec. 26-28.

Folks! FYI If you shop at Kroger and have a Kroger Card, you can add Two Saints Kitchen Inc. to your Community Rewards. Kroger will make a donation to Two Saints based on the amount you spend! ***This does not cost you anything and does not affect your other Kroger rewards, such as Fuel Points!*** To sign up: log on to your Kroger card account and then look on the top left for the menu tab. Scroll down until you find “Community Rewards” tab, enter the enrollment number for Two Saints. Inc. : UY029.

As an example, for the year of 2018 I have donated \$11.04 from my card since May of this year. This has fed around 5 people this year with me doing nothing but shopping for groceries!

This does not affect your fuel points, this is just part of Kroger’s community service program. Thank you for helping feed the hungry in Jonesboro!

Online giving also available by scanning here, using the [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) mobile app, or going to <http://give.stmarksjonesboro.org>

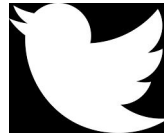


ST. MARK’S STAFF

Father Joshua Daniel, Priest-in-Charge	joshua.daniel@stmarksjonesboro.org
Rhonda Dauer, Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@stmarksjonesboro.org
Dana Moses, Secretary	secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org
Joy Sanford, Organist	jandjazz@suddenlink.net
Rhonda Dauer, Music Director	music@stmarksjonesboro.org
Rose Mary Latanich, Children’s Ed. Director	rosemarylatanich@gmail.com
Stephanie Matthews, EYC Director	sepmatthews@gmail.com
Betty Donnell, Stephanie Matthews, and Keisha Dunavin	Nursery attendants

ST. MARK’S VESTRY

Erik Gilbert, Senior Warden	870-926-7167	erik.gilbert@gmail.com
Matthew May, Jr. Warden	870-819-1632	mattmay_0419@ymail.com
Carol Neves, Secretary	870-919-4830	carol.neves@jonesboroschools.net
Terry Barnett	870-974-2842	chiroinc@gmail.com
Scott Darwin	870-972-8354	sdarwin@suddenlink.net
Reneilia Hampton	870-215-6446	reneilia@yahoo.com
Tom Haynes	870-215-6500	twhaynes@gmail.com
Yvonne Nipper	870-904-3353	yvonnenipper@gmail.com
Phillip Poston	870-926-2942	ptposton@suddenlink.net
Steve Replogle	870-680-0922	stephen.replogle@gmail.com
Bill Smith	479-466-5636	bismith75@gmail.com
Tasha Weeks	870-612-7784	tashamweeks@gmail.com
David Worlow, treasurer	870-932-8448	dworlow@jonesborocpa.com



The Episcopal Church welcomes you!



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Day School

531 W College Ave., Jonesboro, AR 72401

(870) 932-2124

www.StMarksJonesboro.org