

# THE Shepherd's Fold

November 19, 2023

25th Sunday after Pentecost

## GIVING THANKS

We are now heading into Thanksgiving Week (our secular culture now focuses on more than just Thanksgiving Day), so it is appropriate to reflect on the meaning behind this celebration. The modern observance of Thanksgiving is the result of many historical twists and turns, but there is no dispute that events of the first year of the Massachusetts Bay Colony are at the heart of its development. Those colonists are remembered for giving thanks to God and their Native American neighbors for their survival of their first brutal year (especially the winter) in the New World. Thus, the observance has always been about gratitude for blessings received.

We continue to celebrate Thanksgiving in our country because we continue to receive blessings from God. As human beings, we are blessed beyond all measure by God's gift of God's son, Jesus, for our salvation. As Americans, we are further blessed by our freedoms in this great country. From a material standpoint, most of us at Good Shepherd are blessed beyond the wildest dreams of those early colonists: adequate security, food, clothing, shelter, and a standard of living that is the envy of the world. So it is meet and right that we should gather to give thanks for our many blessings, which we do every Sunday as we gather for the Eucharist, which is a Greek word for thanksgiving. Thanksgiving, as a national holiday, is the particular time when we as a nation express our gratitude for the blessings we have received as Americans.

So how do we express gratitude to God? What can we give to God that does not already belong to God? The answer is love, our love. That is what God desires of us: to love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Sadly, our modern secular holiday of Thanksgiving has become, for most, a feast of self-indulgence (and don't get me started on Black Friday). So, as we gather with family and friends in the coming week, let us take time to show our love of God and neighbor. Worship on Thursday at 10:00 AM is a good start for loving God. Finding ways to share our material blessings with the less fortunate is a good way to express our love of neighbor. Whatever we choose to do for Thanksgiving, we should make sure that it expresses in love our thankfulness for God's blessings.

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## PARISH NEWS

The parish offices will be closed Wednesday, **November 22**, at noon through Friday, **November 24** for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## THANKSGIVING DAY

Join us Thanksgiving day, **November 23**, for our service at 10 am, then stay for Lunch in the Parish Hall. Sign up to bring a side dish in the Parish Hall. Wine, turkey and dressing are provided.

## SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE SURVEY

Our year with the Saint John's Bible will end on the first Sunday in Advent, December 3rd. Interest in events associated with the Saint John's Bible has increased substantially in the second half of our "year," and there is the possibility of having the Bible with us for another year. Because of the significant efforts and resources involved in hosting the Saint John's Bible, scan the QR code, we want to hear from you.



*Scan me*

## VISIO DIVINA

Visio Divina will resume Wednesday nights, **November 1-29, at 6 pm**. This is an opportunity to experience more from the Scriptures and Illuminations in The Saint John's Bible. Each week we will look at a different Illumination and Scripture reading. Please join us for a meaningful way to move into the Advent Season. Visio Divina will not meet Thanksgiving week, **November 22nd**.

## YOUTH POINSETTIA DRIVE

We are now taking orders for poinsettias! You can pick up a form in the lobby or register online at **bit.ly/youthpoinsettias**. All payments and order forms are due Sunday, **November 26**. Please plan on picking up poinsettias on Sunday, **December 3rd**. All proceeds support the Good Shepherd Youth Ministry.

## LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

In the midst of the holiday season, there are those whose joy is diminished because of loss of a loved one and/or grief. Join us in the church on **December 4 at 6 pm** as we seek Light in the Darkness. This is a service of remembrance and joy. We express to God our sorrow, but we also lay claim to the hope given to us by our faith in Jesus. We encourage you to bring a small picture of a loved one to place on the altar prior to the service.

## ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Join us at 10:00 am, Sunday, **December 3rd**, in the Parish Hall to construct your Advent wreath. Families and individuals of all ages are welcome. Please bring clippings from your own or friends' evergreen bushes or trees and your own clippers. All other materials, foam wreath base, candle holders, and four Advent candles will be available for \$20. To purchase only the set of candles, the cost is \$5.

## GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK SALE

Our book, On This Hill, Upon This Rock, makes a great Christmas present! Pick up your copy in the church office or in the Parish Hall on

Sundays. Cost is \$30. You can pay with check, cash or venmo @cogsaugusta.

### ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree will be in the Parish Hall next weekend. Please help a child in need this Christmas season. Please take a tag and return gifts to the church by **December 3rd**.

### ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please join us for a celebration of Lessons and Carols presented by the Good Shepherd and St. Gregory Choirs, December 17th at 6:30 pm. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Please bring a dish to share, wine and beverages are provided.

### POSADA

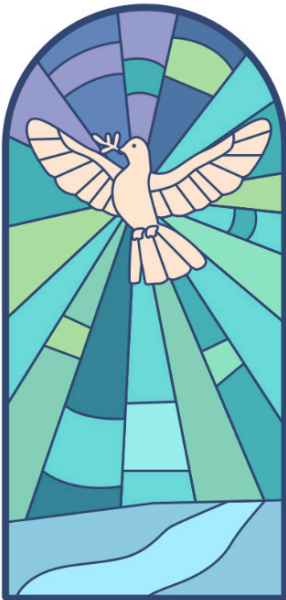
The modern version of this old Mexican tradition uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph to travel from home to home, giving each participating family the chance to create their own celebration of making room for Jesus in their lives. Posada travel begins the first Sunday of Advent, **December 3**. Join the Posada tradition at Good Shepherd and sign up in the Parish Hall.



## YOUTH NEWS

**Head to the Shell Newsletter for details & to sign-up for up coming events.**

For any questions, email Mary Grace Wynn at [mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org](mailto:mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org).



### HAPPENING #108

Please keep the Good Shepherd Youth attending Happening #108 from November 17th-19th in your prayers: Adam Austin, Addison Andrew, Emeline Andrew, Lindsey Brittingham, Rob Tracy, Roland Brune, Rosalie Brune, and Spencer Weston

### Blessing for Happening #108's Candidates & Staff:

May God the Father who created you, guide your footsteps; May God the Son who redeemed you, share your journey; May God the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you, lead you on life's pilgrimage; and, The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you wherever you may go. Amen.

*-From Pilgrimage Prayer, Canterbury Cathedral*

### BASKETBALL COACHES NEEDED

We are looking for 2 more coaches for Church League Basketball. One for our U9 team (7 & 8-year-olds) and another for our U19 team (15-18-year-olds). If you would like to volunteer, please let me know by this Friday. Thank you for your help!

# Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, November 19, 2023

8:00 AM

Preacher .....Ted Clarkson  
Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams  
Organist ..... Wayne Lord  
Lay Readers ..... Bobbie Ingenito, Lynn Tyson

9:00 am

Preacher .....Ted Clarkson  
Celebrant..... Joe Bowden  
Organist & Choirmaster .....Jim Nord  
Ushers ..... George Sancken, Mark Pritchett  
Verger..... Stovall Walker  
Lay Readers ..... Jennie Haynes, Bob Nesbit  
Acolytes ..... Baker Daniel, Anne Harper Daniel  
Hub Wier, Liam Selby, Savannah Selby

11:15 AM

Preacher .....Ted Clarkson  
Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams  
Organist & Choirmaster .....Jim Nord  
Ushers ..... Jonathan Adams, Fred Palmer  
Verger..... Choppy Woodward  
Lay Readers ..... Andrew Austin, Tom Smyth  
Acolytes ..... Charlie Hargrove, William Hargrove,  
Sam Hargrove, Julian Barrett, Catherine Barrett  
Si Williams

6:00 pm

Celebrant & Preacher.....Ted Clarkson  
Organist .....Nick Lowery  
Lay Readers ..... David Lentz, Jim Price

## All Services

Altar Guild ..... Team VI  
Breakfast Ministry ..... Team III  
Vestry Person of the Day ..... Mary Margaret Adams



*Christmas Tree  
Lighting Service*

**Bring a friend and join us on the church lawn for hot chocolate and carols as we light our Christmas Tree to begin the Advent Season on November 26 at 6:00 pm.**

## Christmas Altar Flowers

Contribute to the altar flowers at Christmas by completing and returning the form below. Make your gifts payable to Good Shepherd marked as *Christmas Flowers*. Forms must be received by December 15 in order to appear in the order of service.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of/memory of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_