

# THE Shepherd's Fold

December 3, 2023

*The First Sunday of Advent*

## NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD!

The words, “Nun danket alle Gott...” are from Martin Rinckart, a 17th century Christian. They were set to music by Johann Cruger, and the hymn has been used ever since that time to celebrate the power and wonder of God’s unending presence and love. It is a powerful hymn when sung from the heart. However, in order to do that the human soul must do an enormous amount of recalling and remembering; contrasting the experiences of life so that we really know why we are to be thankful. If one has never been hungry then how can hunger be understood? Death remains a vague but far away concept, unless the heart has been ripped apart by loss.

This blessed season wears a heavy veneer of blessing, joy, family, and wholeness and all of that is as it should be, but is not perceived that way by some fellow travelers. Thanksgiving, Advent, New Year’s are all periods in time which wounded souls are grappling with facing these seasons without a familiar loved one, or feeling broken by divorce, or perhaps numbed by the loss of a much needed job.

What are we to do? We do what the church does best: we pray, worship, and remember. The power of Jesus Christ manifested by the Holy Spirit can use a community to turn emptiness into fullness, grief into a gentle acceptance, and darkness into light. It becomes possible to smile and to cry at the same time.

An opportunity for healing presents itself on **December 4, at 6 p.m.** with our annual Light in the Darkness Service for those for whom the holidays might be a bit rough. Fr. Andy will be leading the service. He invites you to bring a small picture of a loved one who has joined the saints in glory. Mitzi McCoy will be down at the altar to receive those photos and she will place them on the altar for you.

As a priest, I would be derelict it duty if I did not say to one and all, “Rejoice! Be proactive. The God of Light and Life wants to meet you face to face and push back the shadow.”

We are all in God’s hands,

*Fr. Andy+*

## **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS**

This year we have two devotionals available. The first one, Journey to Joy, is for families, and the focus of this devotional is joy. A joyful heart is possible despite what is happening around us because we know God is faithful and more powerful than our circumstances. With Bible-based reflections to ponder, prayers to pray, and simple faith-based actions, author Kate Wicker helps families to seek the joy of Jesus' birth throughout the Advent season. The second devotional, A Little Child Shall Lead Them, offers daily reflections on both Scripture and selected works of Henri J.M. Nouwen. With depth and clarity, popular author, blogger, and editor, Elizabeth Scalia, prayerfully unpacks how God's divine love is best revealed through Jesus. Both are available in the lobby. Pick up one today!

## **THANKSGIVING THANK YOU**

Our Thanksgiving lunch served 40 people with a wonderful variety of covered dishes as well as desserts, smoked turkey, baked turkey, sliced, baked ham, and of course, Harriet's delicious turkey dressing and gravy! Robin and Kathleen Bailie want to recognize and thank those who made this special God-given day a true blessing: Harriet Deas, Mollie Baldwin, Maureen Rece, Jessie Bass, Fran and Donald Bailie, Noah Enoch, Mary Gaffney, Emily Mumford, and Nathaniel Simmons.

## **ADVENT PAGEANT**

The children of Good Shepherd will present the annual Advent Pageant on **December 17th** during the 9:00 am service. In preparation for that day, however, there are many steps along the way. Please head to the SHELL for calendar details.

## **YOUTH POINSETTIA DRIVE**

We are no longer taking orders for poinsettias! Please plan on picking up poinsettias on Sunday, **December 3rd**. All proceeds support the Good Shepherd Youth Ministry.

## **SPECIAL ANTHEM**

We invite you to join us this Sunday, **December 3rd, at the 11:15 am** Service. The offertory will be an anthem composed by Good Shepherd choir member, Mark Swanson, inspired by one of the beautiful illuminations within the Gospel portion of the St John's Bible. Mark utilized what is known as text or word painting, a musical technique that reflects the literal meaning of the text. Mark chose the musical style of impressionism of the late 19th century which focuses on mood and atmosphere. Listen closely to hear the water swirling around Jesus as he is submerged by John The Baptist and as the Dove lifts itself away to Heaven. The anthem is presented "With love and dedication to Jim Nord and The Good Shepherd Choir."

## **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.

### ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree will be in the Parish Hall. 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. Scan the QR code to sign up.



### 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 3rd**. Join the Posada tradition at Good Shepherd and sign up in the lobby.

### MEN'S NIGHT

Join us on Thursday, **January 11**, beginning at 5:30pm. The menu will include Brats and beer, beans, sauerkraut, pie and tea. Please invite someone ! Text or email Robin at 706-736-4460 or email robin.bailie@gmail.com by **January 10**.

## 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.

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE ACOLYTES

Please sign up on the SHELL for acolyting through Advent and on Christmas Eve. We need 5 acolytes at the 9am & 11:15am services on **December 3rd, 10th, & 17th**. On Christmas Eve, we need 10 acolytes at the 4pm and 6pm services and 5 at the 10pm service. Thank you for acolyting!

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Youth Christmas party will be on Wednesday, **December 20th**. Grades 6th-12th will gather from 5:30-7:30 pm. Come join us for Caroling, Dinner, and a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Bring a gift of \$20 in value or less

### YOUTH GROUP

We look forward to another fun evening of fellowship this coming Sunday, **December 3rd!** Dinner will be provided by Lori Morgan. Youth Group schedule is as follows

**5:00 - 6:00 pm: Rite-13:**  
Meet in Youth Lounge (Room 303)

**6:00 - 6:30 pm: Rite-13 & J2A:**  
Gather for Dinner in Small Parish Hall

**6:30 - 8:30 pm: J2A:**  
Meet in Youth Lounge (Room 303)

# Servers of the Shepherd

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

**8:00 AM**

Celebrant..... Joe Bowden  
Preacher.....Ted Clarkson  
Organist..... Wayne Lord  
Lay Reader..... Bobbie Ingenito, Bob Nesbit

**9:00 am**

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams  
Preacher.....Ted Clarkson  
Organist & Choirmaster.....Jim Nord  
Verger..... Ed Enoch  
Lay Readers.....Mitzi McCoy, David Lentz  
Acolytes..... Clayton Adams, Porter Adams,  
Kate Lee Smith Julian Barrett, Catherine Barrett

**11:15 AM**

Celebrant..... Joe Bowden  
Preacher.....Ted Clarkson  
Organist & Choirmaster.....Jim Nord  
Verger.....Jerry Woods  
Lay Readers..... Heather Wheeler, Yvonne Harrison  
Acolytes..... Frank Anderson, Camille Jones  
Jack Manton, Milly Manton

**6:00 pm**

Celebrant & Preacher.....Ted Clarkson  
Organist.....Nick Lowery  
Lay Readers.....Lynn Smith, Carleton Vaughn

**All Services**

Altar Guild..... Team I  
Breakfast Ministry..... Team V  
Vestry Person of the Day..... Ed Enoch

**CHRISTMAS AT  
GOOD SHEPHERD**

**December 24** 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service  
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with the Saint  
Gregory Choir  
10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with the  
Good Sheperd Choir

**December 25** 11:00 am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

## ***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: \_\_\_\_\_