

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL // LOS ANGELES, CA // WINTER 2021

CATHEDRAL LIFE



Growing In Faith

BY FR. MARK KOWALEWSKI
DEAN AND RECTOR

As we begin a new church year on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28, we launch into a new season of Christian Education. There are several events to look forward to over the next few months.

During Advent, our Sunday morning series at 11:30, The Words of the Prophets focuses on the Old Testament readings for each Sunday. This provides the opportunity to explore several prophets of Israel including Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Micah and one many may not be familiar with, Baruch, a prophet who doesn't appear in some Bibles, we will find out why. During our Advent study, we will look at the historical context of each of these prophets and then spend time soaking up the message the particular reading has for us as we prepare for Christmas.

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"Luke's Gospel focuses on the role of women, the lifting of the poor in the Kingdom of God, and it's the Gospel from which we get most of the elements in our Christmas story of Jesus' birth"

- Fr. Mark Kowalewski

Christian Education

Classes that explore in depth a book of the Bible, or questions about the Christian moral life or theology.

Most Sunday mornings at 11:30 am.

We'll look at the Gospel of Luke during the Epiphany Season in January - the Gospel we hear the most from this year in our three-year lectionary cycle. Luke's Gospel focuses on the role of women, the lifting of the poor in the Kingdom of God, and it's the Gospel from which we get most of the elements in our Christmas story of Jesus' birth, with the exception of the Magi who appears only in Matthew. We will explore this beautiful Gospel in detail as we did with Mark last year.

Finally, Epiphany Season also marks the start of our annual Basic Christian Formation course. Every year we offer this program over several weeks to give newcomers to St John's an opportunity to take a look at the foundations of the Christian faith. This is especially useful for those who have not been part of the Episcopal tradition or perhaps have little background in the Christian faith generally. It's the class that prepares those who have never been baptized or confirmed in the Episcopal Church to receive those sacraments and also helps those who want to restart their faith and get a fresh perspective on the Christian life. The class will take place again this year on Saturday mornings via ZOOM. We will return to the special blessings for all the participants in person on Sunday mornings throughout Lent.

So these are only a few of the new things in store for us as we grow in the faith as life long learners, and are formed more deeply as disciples of Jesus, here at St. John's.





Step Into The Spirit

BY FR. DANIEL ADE
DEAN AND RECTOR

Every year as we prepare for the coming of Christmas at St. John's we join many other churches across the nation in the Advent Conspiracy – a way to separate our pre-Christmas practices from the hype of the consumer culture. The Advent Conspiracy invites us to “Worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all.” These simple actions allow us to step into the spirit of Advent preparation.

As hard as it may be, let's not give in to the stressful, frantic, anxious spirit of buying and busyness. Rather, spend time in quiet and prayer to prepare for the coming of Jesus more fully into our own lives. As strange as it may seem, spending less money on gifts with little meaning provides an opportunity to be thoughtful and creative in giving more of ourselves – maybe giving the gift of time together, or a handmade gift, or give something in the name of the person you might otherwise give a gift they may not really need.

Here at St. John's, we have the perfect opportunity at our alternative Christmas fair during the Sundays of

Advent. Last year we couldn't offer this experience because of the pandemic, but this year it's back! This year all proceeds from our Christmas fair will go to our Choral Academy and our food pantry. You will have the opportunity to give to these ministries and you will receive a card that lets your friends or family members know you gave a gift in their name to either feed people in need, or to help children learn to sing and gain important life skills through the Choral Academy. This year Fr. Mark's jams and preserves will also be on offer again as a homemade gift for those on your shopping list. 100% of the proceeds go to these two ministries as well.



"This year all proceeds from our Christmas fair will go to our Choral Academy and our food pantry."



We will have a Christmas giving tree (new this year). Everyone who gives a gift to these ministries will have their names placed as ornaments on the tree as a visible sign of love incarnate given to our neighbors. This year, we also are partnering with a neighborhood school. While we are exploring with their principal ways we can make a positive contribution, we will also invite them to participate in our choral program – an opportunity many children may not otherwise have to learn music.

The last theme in our Advent Conspiracy is to love all. That's at the heart of everything we do. Jesus came into our world, our neighborhood, as the child of Bethlehem and he loved us so much that he gave himself for us. So, as we prepare for this Christmas season, let's love our neighbors, those around us at St. John's, and all those we encounter this Advent. While anxiety ramps up around us, let's give kindness and joy. The world turned upside down at Christmas when God's love was made flesh for us -- good tidings to make us very merry all year long.

"Everyone who gives a gift to these ministries will have their names placed as ornaments on the tree"

- Fr. Daniel Ade

The Start of the Holiday Season

BY DR. CHRIS GRAVIS
CANON FOR MUSIC & CATHEDRAL ARTS

Advent and Christmastide are musically rich times of the liturgical year in our tradition. But it has been two years since we have last sung these antiphons and carols of the season in person. So this year marks a very special return to a much-loved time of the year. Please join us for the many upcoming musical services this month.

On Sunday, December 5 at 5:00 pm the Choir of St. John's Cathedral will once again offer an Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols. It is a stunning celebration full of symbolism and ritual. The service begins in candlelit darkness as a single chorister sings the first verse of Come thou, Redeemer of the Earth. And we end in resplendent light at the high altar, as the entire choir and faithful gathered sing "Lo! He comes with clouds descending". There will be a warm reception following the service, and all vaccinated people are welcome to come. This time-honored tradition marks the start of the holiday season for so many of us.

If you're in the holiday spirit early, I invite you to come to a free winter concert at St. John's on Wednesday evening, December 8 at 7:00 pm featuring the combined choirs from California State University, Los Angeles. Highlights of the concert will include a joyous gospel arrangement of the old German carol *Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming* and Bach's Cantata 196: *Der Herr denket an uns*, with orchestra.

The nationally renowned ensemble Tonicity will present *Stories from Home – Stories of Inclusion and Care for Displaced Neighbors* at St. John's Cathedral on Saturday, December 11 at 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Tonicity has received rave reviews from coast to coast, and we are so pleased to partner with them in their important mission. Tickets are available on their website.

On Sunday, December 12 at 10:00 am, we honor the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We'll be joined by Mariachis, bless the icon of Our Lady, and sing Guadalupe songs. Following the service, we'll enjoy a delicious Mexican lunch. This is always one of the most beloved Sundays in the entire year at St. John's Cathedral.

We'll have two services on Christmas Eve, the first at 5:00 pm – A Family Carol Service. This happy (and shortened) service will feature children of our Cathedral Choral Academy and offer familiar Christmas Carols, the message of Christmas, and a joyful Christmas party for children following the service. At 10:00 pm the Choir and Orchestra of St. John's will fill the cathedral with beautiful carols before the 10:30 pm mass. If you've been longing to sing "O come, all ye faithful" as the choir and clergy move in solemn procession, surrounded by candlelight and billows of sweet incense, then here is where you belong!

Words fall short in describing the sense of joy and profound beauty of Christmas at St. John's Cathedral. I hope you and your loved ones will join us for this and any of our liturgical and musical offerings this month.



*Blessings to you and your family
this Advent & Christmas Season!*

- Dr. Chris G. Gravis,

The Advent of Joy

MR. STEPHEN SALTS
DIRECTOR OF
THE CATHEDRAL CHORAL ACADEMY

As the season of Advent begins, I find myself reflecting on the last few months at St. John's. Beginning grandly on the Feast of St. Michael & All Angels, our Cathedral services are once again adorned with the glorious sounds of our Cathedral Choir, the organ, and the budding voices of the children of our Cathedral Choral Academy. Over these months, I have also had the joy of meeting with our young choristers every Thursday evening for our weekly Choral Academy lessons and rehearsals. Simply put, there are few more rewarding moments in my week than the time spent making music at our Cathedral.



The excitement in the room last month when the choristers opened their music folders to find the likes of "Once in Royal David's City," "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day," and "O come, O come Immanuel" was palpable and brought a smile to all our faces. Music throughout Advent, then followed by beloved Christmas tunes, holds a special place in the hearts of many Episcopalians, especially young choristers. The Cathedral Choral Academy children are very much looking forward to sharing music with you for our Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols, and our Children's Choral Eucharist on Christmas Eve. I wish you all joyful hope and reflection this Advent, and a most blessed Christmas ahead.

"Christmas tunes holds a special place in the hearts of many Episcopalians, especially young choristers."



ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 5, 2021 | 5 PM

Prepare your heart for the season of Christmas. Come experience the ancient tradition and joyful expectation of the Advent carol service, sung by the Choir of St. John's Cathedral.



FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

Friday, December 24, 2021 | 5 PM

Join us for a service of Christmas carols and the message of Christmas, featuring the children from the Cathedral Choral Academy. Followed by a children's party with food and games.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS WITH CHOIR, ORGAN & ORCHESTRA

Friday, December 24, 2021 | 10 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Saturday, December 25, 2021 | 10 AM





Winter Services Schedule

Said Mass | Sundays at 8:00 am

Followed by Coffee Hour. (In-Person Only)

Choral Mass | Sundays at 10:00 am

Followed by Coffee Hour. (In-Person and Online)

Christian Education |

Most Sundays at 11:30 am

Candlelit Compline |

Every 1st Sunday of the month at 8:00 pm

Followed by Social Hour

(There is no Compline service in December.)

Evening Prayer |

Tuesdays & Thursdays at 6:30 pm

via Facebook Live

Food Pantry |

Every 3rd Saturday of the month
from 8:30am-10:30am



NOW ACCEPTING
DONATIONS!

FOR OUR NEXT FOOD PANTRY IN
DECEMBER, WE'RE GIVING
COOKIE GIFT BOXES TO
FAMILIES.

Contact Us

514 W. Adams Blvd,
Los Angeles, CA 90007
Phone: (213) 747-6285

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