



# CATHEDRAL LIFE

St. John's Cathedral // Los Angeles, CA // Summer 2022

## TRANSITION NEWS

By Fr. Daniel Ade and Fr. Mark Kowalewski  
*Deans and Rectors*

As we come to the final months of our ministry at St. John's, we wanted to give you an update and the details for the months ahead. We are so blessed to have had the opportunity to be your priests and pastors over these many years and look forward to these final months serving you.

Our last regular Sunday will be August 28. Starting September 1, we will begin vacation, sabbatical and study leave through the end of January 2023. We will return for one final Sunday, November 20, the Feast of Christ the King and the end of the liturgical year. It seems fitting that we formally end our ministry on that day and celebrate the service of leave-taking from a congregation.

While we remain officially the Co-Deans of the Cathedral during this time, we have arranged for Bishop Frank Brookhart to be the interim Bishop in Charge until the end of January. Many of you know Bishop Brookhart from his visits to the Cathedral, he has taught some classes here and was the bishop who confirmed and received our 2020/21

confirmation class as we moved out of the pandemic. He has been a member of our neighboring congregation, St. James in the City since his retirement as Bishop of Montana. We believe he is an excellent choice to guide St. John's during this initial period of transition.

While some initial work towards visioning for the future will take place through the end of the year, the Vestry will engage with all of you in the work of discerning who will come as your new Dean and Rector in the new year. This will be a time of transition and change. Change is always uncomfortable, but this will also be a time of hope and looking forward. We are confident God will lead you into a bright future.

## A STATEMENT FROM THE WARDENS

By Erik Knutzen and Michael Tracy  
*Sr. Warden and Jr. Warden*

If we liked change we probably wouldn't be Episcopalians. Life on this mortal coil, alas, is more about change than stasis. The good news is that our Lord is with us in the changes and transitions that define our lives.

Our deans, Fr. Dan and Fr. Mark, faithfully served this parish for over a decade and a half and will be greatly missed. I know we speak for this parish when we say that we'll be sorry to see them go and that we ask for God's blessing as their ministry continues on the East Coast.

Our deans will continue to serve us through the end of August. In September, Bishop Frank Brookhart will begin serving as Interim Bishop in Charge until the end of January 2023. Then a longer term interim priest will be appointed. The vestry will be forming a search committee made up of members of the parish who will begin a national search to find replacements for our deans.

We want to reassure the congregation that we as a vestry are united with and committed to our talented staff, Ada, Chris, Zach, Stephen, Kelsey and Kyle and with our clergy Deacon Margaret and Mother Lyn. As the Wardens we're also committed to a smooth transition as well as the maintenance of the things that make St. John's unique, our



worship style, our music programs, our educational programs, our food bank and our commitment to social justice.

While periods of transition are scary they are also opportunities to listen to the Holy Spirit, and deepen our commitments to each other and to our community. Please don't hesitate to contact us or any other member of the Vestry with your concerns and with your vision for our future together as a congregation.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

By Kyle Black

*Canon for Parish Administration*

Effective churches and ministry organizations thrive in an atmosphere of collective groups who perform specific tasks with a single mission and are led by individuals who focus their efforts in strengthening those ministry units. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again,

if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken." What a powerful passage. During this upcoming season of change at St. John's, it will be important to remember your bonds as brothers and sisters in Christ and what our Catechism from the Book of Common Prayer teaches: "The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." As you begin the process of calling a new Rector, the entire staff looks forward to equipping you – the body of believers – to "do the work of ministry."

# ADULT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, SUMMER 2022

Sundays, July 10 through August 14

## **The Word of Life and Love: Abiding with Jesus in the Gospel of John**

By Fr. Mark Kowalewski  
*Dean and Rector*

Each Summer, for the past several years we have spent several weeks touring through a biblical book in a focused way. We have spent some time surveying the general landscape, and other times doing a focused visit through particular places in the text. We can describe these expeditions as time travel as well, since we have to place ourselves in the ancient world of the biblical writers and their first readers, and by doing so gain new spiritual insight for our own.

While previous years have brought us to books we were reading in the course of the summer lectionary -- sometimes a Gospel, sometimes an Epistle of Paul, sometimes a book of the Old Testament -- this year we journey through the Gospel of John. We don't read it in the lectionary for this year, but it is my favorite Gospel and since this will be my last time to be your guide through a biblical book at St. John's, I thought it a good idea to allow our cathedral's patron to lead us on our summer travels.

The first words Jesus speaks in John are these: "What are you looking for?" That's a question we all should hear Jesus asking us. As the Gospel continues, Jesus invites us to come and see where he is abiding, to go more deeply into meeting Jesus, to listen to him as our "rabbouni," our beloved teacher, as Mary Magdalene will refer to him later in the story.

You may know that John's Gospel is different from the other three. While the basic story is similar, John focuses on particular encounters Jesus has. His teaching seems to shuttle between telling a story in the life of Jesus and the reflection of the risen Jesus on the meaning of this event for the post-Easter Church. Many of the stories recounted only appear in John and not in the other Gospels.

I began by saying that these Adult Vacation Bible classes have been "tours." I hope they have been much more. On a tour you often drive through a place. You don't mix with the locals as much. You stay superficial. Instead let's go together on pilgrimage into the Gospel of John walking along with Jesus, hearing his invitation to come and see where he abides.

Adult Vacation Bible School begins Sunday July 10, through Sunday August 14 at 11:30 am. You can participate in person, or digitally on Zoom.



*Mary Magdalene hears Jesus call her name on resurrection morning (John 20) Giovanni Girolamo Savoldo, c1535.*

# CATHEDRAL MUSIC



## A MESSAGE FROM DR. CHRISTOPHER GRAVIS

*Canon for Music & Cathedral Arts*

This is a time of transition at St. John's Cathedral. As you no doubt have heard and read, Fr. Mark and Fr. Dan are retiring after 17 years of co-leadership in this place. This is remarkable for a number of reasons, but perhaps mostly because the longevity of their tenure speaks to each of their steadiness and faithfulness amid a dynamically changing society and national church. Largely gone are the days when a parish priest might serve his or her flock for 20 or more years. The average length of a rectorship in the Episcopal Church is around 5-7 years. Anyone who has worked within institutions understands that when it comes to leadership – whether those leaders be major orchestral conductors, university deans and chancellors, professional sports coaches, or even diocesan bishops, the “bloom is off the rose” rather quickly. Leaders, even great ones, are simply human beings after all. And institutions are complex

organisms, with internally competing interests, with sometimes external pressures that make leadership very challenging – let alone long-lasting leadership.

In the Episcopal Church the dean or rector is responsible not just for the spiritual health and sacramental life of a community, but also staffing, the faithful stewardship of the budget, and the very physical fabric of the building itself (in our case a building of historical significance). They partner with wardens and vestry to ensure that all of these important interests are maintained and hopefully left in better state than when they arrived.

In this way, Fr. Mark and Fr. Dan have truly been transformational leaders at St. John's, from our time as an historic parish church, to our decade-long elevated status as the Pro-Cathedral, to being named the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Los Angeles. And all the while living into what others might consider to be competing interests at odds with one another: celebrating the rich and beautiful cultural diversity of our community, the responsibilities that come with serving as the mother church to one of the largest diocese in the national church, ministering to one of the most economically underserved areas in Los Angeles, yet in the shadow of a wealthy major research institution. And to say nothing of the trials of various development projects, major political shifts, a global pandemic...the only constant in life seems to be change itself.

I have had the pleasure of serving as a church musician for 20 years now, in various parishes, serving many different clergy. Some of them had special affinities for music and liturgy; while for a few other of them, music seemed more like something to be tolerated – an inconvenient distraction from the things they felt were more important to ministry. Admittedly, some of those years were more happy than others. But in the five years since I

came to St. John's, I have had no greater, more symbiotic, more fulfilling working relationship between priest and musician than with Fr. Dan and Fr. Mark. They have been deeply supportive, gentle in their guidance, warm in their praise, and always deeply respectful of the unique role of the lay musician in liturgical leadership. At their core, they have understood that our first and foremost role is to worship God in the beauty of holiness. And that, within our Anglican ethos, music has the potential to draw us into the great mysteries of our faith. It has been the true honor and pleasure of a lifetime to serve God and their combined ministries in this place, and I will miss them very much, both professionally and personally. Fr. Mark and Fr. Dan, from everyone in music ministry at St. John's, we thank you and wish you a very happy retirement. Thank you.

To the people of St. John's, know that I will be working closely with our wonderful wardens, our vestry, and Bishop Brookhart (for whom I have the utmost admiration), as we continue to live into our Christian mission during this time of transition. The music of our tradition, much like the taste of the wine, the whiff of incense, or the poetry of the Prayer Book, is one of the ways in which we hold on to our faith, both ever ancient and ever new. Our sacramental life together will continue to flourish with music and liturgy as the bedrock of what we do at St. John's Cathedral. I am already looking forward to an excellent program year of beautiful music in praise and worship to Almighty God.

I look forward to walking this journey together, as we embark on this exciting new chapter in the life of St. John's Cathedral.

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## GIVING THANKS

By Stephen Salts

*Director, Cathedral Choral Academy*

With great pride, we have come to the end of the 2021-22 Cathedral Choral Academy season, the year of our cherished return to singing together in person and the third year of this important ministry. The Choral Academy families and I are so grateful for the support of the Deans, clergy, staff, and congregation.

Our Choristers achieved many great accomplishments this year, including singing in ten Cathedral services, progressing impressively in skills such as reading music, understanding music theory and other languages, and they took part in acts of community service such as volunteering at our Food Pantry. All together, these experiences make being a Chorister at St. John's full of joy and reward. As the children take their well deserved

summer break, our work moves to recruitment so we might welcome new children to our community this fall. The Cathedral Choral Academy welcomes ALL children, regardless of previous musical experience. The most common age range is from 7 to 13, and tuition is covered in full for every chorister thanks to the generous support of St. John's Cathedral Arts sponsors. Please join me in spreading the word to your family, friends, and neighbors who are most welcome to take part when we resume in September.

Congratulations to our talented 2021-22 Choristers! Have a safe and fun summer!

*Noor Isis Elhawary*

*Jasmine Ford*

*Ryan Ruiz*

*Leonard Waldman-Karr*

For information about the Cathedral Choral Academy, contact Stephen Salts at [ssalts@stjohnsla.org](mailto:ssalts@stjohnsla.org)

## COMMUNITY



### OUR PARTNER, BRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Margaret H. McCauley  
*Deacon*

Alleluia! Thank you for your generous donations to our partner, Bright Elementary School. The principal, Renee Smith, the 5th grade teachers, and the Kindergarten teachers welcomed our donation with gratitude and joy.

St. John supported the purchase of special t-shirts for the 5th grade field trip and a festive kindergarten culmination ceremony. Here at St. John's, we are loving our neighbors, Birdielee Bright Elementary School. Amen!

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## BREAKING GROUND

By Hamilton Yang  
*Vestry Member*

On June 2nd, we "broke ground" on an important project: upgrading our internet streaming, audio, and video capabilities. This project has been in various stages of planning for over a year, but it is incredibly gratifying to start to see some physical changes take place. Once this project is finished, these

upgrades will result in major improvements to St John's streaming quality, allowing those who experience St John's services virtually to more fully appreciate our unique and beautiful combination of liturgy, music, and architecture. This project will span multiple weeks - scheduling and supply chain issues means that we need to space this process out. If you have questions about these upgrades, please reach out to vestry members Hamilton Yang at [hamiltonyang@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonyang@gmail.com) or Erik Knutzen at [homegrownevolution@gmail.com](mailto:homegrownevolution@gmail.com), who are heading this up on behalf of St John.



## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

By Jeffrey McLellan  
*Food Pantry Administrator*

As our deans transition into retirement Fr. Dan and I have discussed who would assume his administrative responsibilities for the St. John's Food Pantry moving forward. As a longtime volunteer with the Food Pantry I am happy to inform the congregation that I am that person! We have a great group of volunteers that contribute to this meaningful ministry, but we always have room for more participants. The Pantry distributes food every 3rd Saturday of the month with a volunteer start time of 7:45 am to pack produce bags, staples and other items. Currently, we could use some help from a couple able bodied individuals to help me unload cases of fresh fruits and vegetables to set up the produce bags. If we get enough volunteers for this task it might only be an every other month need.



Please contact the parish office or me [farmerjeffrey49@hotmail.com](mailto:farmerjeffrey49@hotmail.com) with any questions or to volunteer your time and talent! Thank you.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

By Nancy Koehring  
*Treasurer*

Our first pandemic-free summer since 2019 has finally arrived! Summers can be busy, filled with travel, enjoying the outdoors, visiting family and friends and getting well-deserved time away from work or responsibilities. As you enjoy your summer, please remember that the daily works, and related expenses of your Cathedral continues. We encourage our parishioners to remain current on their pledges, and remind everyone to remember the Cathedral during the summer. Pledges can be mailed to

514 W Adams Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007  
or sent electronically on our website [www.stohnsla.org](http://www.stohnsla.org)

The clergy and vestry appreciates your generous support.

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## SUMMER SCHEDULE



### PRACTICE THE TITHE

JULY 10, 2022

Each summer at St. John's we offer an opportunity to engage in a special spiritual practice of financial giving called "Practice the Tithe". This is one way we can take an extra step in faith we may not feel able to make every week in addition to your normal financial pledge to St. John's. When all of us give to the level we are capable, we will make

a significant impact on the ability of the cathedral to do ministry within the congregation and through our outreach to the wider community.

Here's how to participate: (1) Determine your weekly income; (2 ) Take 10% of that amount; (3) Make your donation online through our website [www.stjohnsla.org](http://www.stjohnsla.org) and select "Practice the Tithe" or you can also place your donation in person, on July 10 or any time during the campaign, there will be envelopes on the welcome table.

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### BOOK BAG DISTRIBUTION

JULY 16, 2022

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Book bags will be distributed to the children of our Food Pantry guests on July 16, 2022. If you would like to learn more or have questions you may contact [churchoffice@stjohnsla.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsla.org).



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### SERVICES

Said Mass | Sundays at 8:00 am | In-Person Only

Choral Mass | Sundays at 10:00 am | In-Person and Online

Evening Prayer | Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 pm | Via Facebook Live

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### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Fully vaccinated parishioners are all welcomed to visit the Parish Office or the Cathedral for work or prayer Tuesday-Thursday from 10:00am-4:00pm. Saturday from 8:00am-11:00am (arranged with our Sexton, Ada Galindo) and Sunday Mornings starting at 7:00am.