



# *The Eagle*

December 2014



**Christmas at  
ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE**

**Wednesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**

4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service  
8:30 p.m. Carol Prelude  
9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

**Thursday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:15 a.m. Christmas Day Service

**Sunday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>**

8 & 10:15 a.m. 1st Sunday after Christmas

**Sunday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>**

8 & 10:15 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas

*The St. John's office will be closed on  
Thursday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>  
as well as Thursday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>*

# Adult Education: A brief history and theology of Holy Eucharist

## By Bradley Pace

Beginning Sunday, November 23rd, Jack Sullivan and Bradley Pace will present a brief history and theology of Holy Eucharist. The Mass, the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, or the Eucharist is the central part of our normal worship and has been since the earliest beginnings of the Church. Classes will be held between Sunday services on 11/23, 12/7, and 12/14 in St. John's Commons. The last class will focus on Open Communion, the practice of allowing all people to receive Communion whether or not they are baptized. Grab a cup of coffee and join in. For more information, contact Bradley at 765.742.4079 or [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org).

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### From the Rector

#### By Bradley Pace

Mary's song, the Magnificat, in the first chapter of Luke is one of the most beautiful and memorable passages from all of Holy Scripture.

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.

It is such beautiful imagery and a wonderful description of God's Kingdom. It describes what God is up to in the world. And it is particularly poignant to those who have been made to feel like nobodies—the poor, the outcast, the oppressed. If the world simply does not work for you, Mary's words are there to give you hope, to remind you that God is at work in the world, and that God will redeem even the lowliest of people. God has not forgotten his promises to the people of Israel, and by extension, God has not forgotten his promises to all those who have received a raw deal. The fact that these words are so beautiful, so evocative, so powerful, only underscores the fact that they are recorded only in Luke's Gospel. Mary does not have a single "line" in Matthew's Gospel. John and Mark say nothing of Jesus' birth, and

Matthew does not mention Elizabeth in his version. There is no other record of Mary speaking the powerful words of the Magnificat.

But Luke has very important reasons for to telling the story this way. On the one hand, Luke tells the story so we know that Jesus is special, but special in very specific ways. Jesus is born in Bethlehem, the city of David, because his adopted father is a descendent of David. David is of course the proto-typical Jewish king, the Messiah. This says something about Jesus' lineage—he is descended from kings, exactly what one would expect if the newly born Messiah. Never mind that he isn't *really* Joseph's son. Elizabeth's part in the story is important because she is descended from the high priestly family, and since Mary is her cousin, so is she. That means that Jesus is descended from the high priests. That means, to use Paul's language, that Jesus is both high priest and king. Again, this is exactly what we should expect of the newly born Messiah.

An interesting side note is worth mentioning here about the Magnificat. The Magnificat is attributed to Mary. But it makes more sense if they had been Elizabeth's words. Elizabeth was barren. But through God's intervention, she gave birth to a son—John the Baptist—the herald of the new Messiah, Jesus. The Magnificat mirrors perfectly the passage known as "Hannah's song" in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel. Hannah was a barren woman. But through God's intervention, she gave birth to a son—Samuel—the herald of the new Messiah, King David. Some early manuscripts of Luke's Gospel

actually attribute the words of the Magnificat to Elizabeth. It is she, the mother of the Messiah's herald who says words that mirror Hannah's words in the Old Testament. In terms of Luke's purposes—showing us that Jesus is the Messiah in this particular way—this makes perfect sense.

This is one of the things I love most about Holy Scripture, the ways the stories connect and amplify one another. There is a profound beauty in all of this. We miss much of it because we are reading stories all of which are at least two millennia old. But the early readers would have gotten the references. Those connections would not have been missed.

Still, the Magnificat is more than simply a plot device for Luke the novelist. It's more than a beautiful speech or hymn said by Mary. It is a prayer, a response to what God is doing. And for Mary, this prayer is—in the words of Richard Rohr—a stance. Mary's prayer is not just about the words, as beautiful as they may be. Prayer is a stance. Hear Mary's words in the Magnificat.

His mercy is for those who fear him from  
generation to generation.

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior....

God has shown strength with his arm....

He has helped his servant Israel, in  
remembrance of his mercy,

According to the promise he made to our  
ancestors

This is the way Mary sees the world. She stands ready to acknowledge the presence of the one true God. She stands ready to see God at work in the world. She hopes that God will act. She expects God to act. And when God acts, she announces it and rejoices.

What about us? Like Mary, do we acknowledge God's presence in our lives? Like Mary, do we stand ready to see God at work in the world? Like Mary, do we hope that God will act? Like Mary, do we expect God to act? Like Mary, do we stand with God in bringing about God's purposes?

The Magnificat is a great plot device for Luke the novelist, if that's what it is. It is a

beautiful, beautiful prayer worthy of the Church's tradition. But it is much more than that. It is the way Mary sees the world and it reflects her stance in the world.

My dear friends, sisters and brothers in Christ, as the Advent of our Lord Jesus comes—as our time of preparation begins—may you be ready to see God at work in the world. May you hope that God will act. May you expect God to act. And when God acts, may you announce it and rejoice.

May each of you have a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmastide.

Bradley+



### Next Eagle Deadline

The deadline for submissions to the January Eagle will be Wednesday, December 8. Email to [eagle@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:eagle@stjohns-laf.org) or place items in *The Eagle* mailbox on the porch.

## Liturgical Calendars

Follow the course of the church year at home with the Episcopal Church Calendar for 2015. The calendar is edited to conform to the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*, with the calendar dates in the proper color for the day.

On the back of each month's calendar sheet are printed the lessons and psalms for each Sunday and major feast days, along with liturgical notes and suggested concluding collects for the Prayers of the People. Under the calendar pad is found Tables of Feasts and Fasts, together with useful information about lessons and psalms.

Call the parish office, **742-4079**, to reserve your calendar at the cost of **\$5.00 each**.

## Youth Group Updates

The Youth Group met for an overnight lock-in at the church November 7-8. We played games (watch out for Shelby, she's a ninja!), had a romp through the bible (ask the youth about what the bible says happens to youth who mock bald men), and ate more sugar than you could imagine. On Saturday morning (in spite of the late bedtime and early wake up) the youth diligently assisted in sprucing up the church.

Next up? Shopping for Jubilee Christmas on December 7<sup>th</sup> and a Christmas party on December 21<sup>st</sup>. For questions about how to get involved with youth group please see either Bradley or Hilary.

## Calling all runners and walkers!

Save the date of March 28, 2015 for this year's Circular Logic Marathon Relay. Once again the "St. John's Steeplechasers" will take to the field to complete the 26.2 mile course. Last year's event, while a little chilly, was great fun and we look forward to more good times this year!

## December Lunchtime Concert! By Michael Bennett

December 10th will bring a familiar face to our lunchtime concert series. Local violinist Karen Isaacs will play some audience favorites including *Gesu Bambino*, Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Greensleeves*, Handel's *Pastoral Symphony* from *Messiah*, and more. The concert begins at 12:10pm and lunch follows – hope to see you there for a break from the holiday rush!

## Welcoming and Hospitality

On Saturday, November 15 Kathy Copas, the Diocesan Communications Coordinator met with members of St. John's to explore how to improve our welcoming and hospitality. It was a great start to the process and I think most (if not all) of us left with some concrete ideas about where to go next. However, the work is not done, it's only beginning. If you are interested in getting involved in this very important part of life at St. John's please contact Hilary Cooke ([hilary@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:hilary@stjohns-laf.org)), and look for more information to come in next month's Eagle.

## St. John's New Website is Live



Check out [www.stjohns-laf.org](http://www.stjohns-laf.org). Thanks to Randy Brist, Greg McClure, Bradley Pace, and the site's designer Amanda White.

## Year End Planning

Each week throughout the year contributions that are delivered to the office, either in person or through the mail, are counted and then deposited with any offerings received on the following Sunday. December 28 will be the last opportunity to have your contributions counted and deposited for 2014. Hand delivered contributions should be delivered to the office by December 24. If you are mailing your contribution please allow five to seven days for delivery. Mailed contributions should also reach the parish office by December 24.

## Food Pantry Update

The food pantry has been hopping! Last Thurs, we had 53 clients, with ½ of those representing large families (>4 people). You may not know that SNAP (previously food stamps) recipients cannot use SNAP to purchase cooked foods or paper products. So, essential items like toilet paper, women's sanitary products, etc., can't be bought with SNAP. Items most needed by the food pantry: **toilet paper, boxed cereal, oatmeal, canned fruit & vegetables, pasta, and rice.**

## Cooking Demos at the Food Pantry

In Oct we brainstormed with pantry clients ways to stretch a can of beef stew.....we came up with about a dozen options like vegetable beef soup filled out with beans, rice or pasta.

We also held our first session of “**Couponing 101**”, examining the basics of couponing to stretch food dollars. Coupons are not only found in the Sunday paper, but also online (can be printed or loaded to your smart phone). Some stores, like Payless and Walgreens, allow

you to load coupons directly onto your store card, no printing or smart phone necessary. By matching weekly sales with coupons, I usually save 30-40 % on my weekly grocery bill. That represents a significant savings for a fixed income family.

On Nov 19 we'll continue discussing coupon strategies, and learn how to budget effectively at local drugstores such as Walgreen's and CVS.

Do you get the Sunday paper? Donate coupons that you don't need to the pantry's coupon tub. Someone else on a fixed budget can use them. Also, try matching weekly store sales with coupons to maximize savings and donate some of those items. For instance, I've bought brand name cereal for as low as \$1.77 each and added a 50 cent coupon so each box totaled \$1.27....that's a great savings when the regular price is \$3.29. I purchased 6 boxes, 3 for home use and 3 for the pantry.

Lastly, we're looking for **donors for our cooking demo monthly drawing.** We've given away items that help family's cook healthy meals such as crock pots and George Forman grills. Contact Lynn Johal 765-543-5238 if interested.





## December 2014 Jubilee

We are hosting 40 families with 97 kids. What can you do to help?

1. Mark December 13, 2014 – 10:00 –noon on your calendar
2. Volunteer to help set-up the store. Children and families are welcome. Come for an hour or the entire time, but come.
  - December 9 – 7:00-9:00
  - December 10- 6:30-9:00
  - December 11- 6:30-9:00
3. Volunteer on December 13. Job descriptions are posted. We need many hosts, wrappers, drivers, store monitors, and folks to fill in where needed. Childcare is available in the nursery from 9:00-noon.
4. Donate snacks of cookies, fruit, veggies, and other festive goodies for our guests and volunteers to enjoy after working up an appetite with all the shopping and wrapping activity.
5. Donate new, non-violent toys.
6. Donate cash to defray the costs of hams, food vouchers, teen gift cards, household items, extra gifts, and other needs to spread the Christmas magic for the 40 families.
7. Return completed stockings.
8. Pray for the families and our community as we respond to those in need.

The signup sheet is up in the Commons. Take a bell to help with your shopping. Check the Jubilee Christmas Signup board for opportunities to help. Jubilee Christmas is a special day; any and all assistance you can give goes a long way. See Maggie McClure with questions.

## Evening Prayer Readers Needed

How would you like to participate in observing a tradition as old as the fourth century and as modern as right now at St. John's? For almost 20 years it has been a tradition at St. John's to read Evening Prayer on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Benedictine religious have observed periods of communal prayer seven times a day since the fourth century. When Archbishop Cranmer wrote the first edition of the Book of Common Prayer in 1549, he collapsed several of the Benedictine evening services into Evening Prayer.

As people's schedules and commitments have changed, we now need a few more readers. The intention is that we have enough people so that no one needs to read more than a few times a month and that we have enough readers to cover vacations and illness.

As the newest reader, I have found the experience to be beautiful and uplifting, even though I'm usually the only one there. I feel that my witness represents our parish and is part of the continuing prayers of the larger church.

If you are interested, please contact Bradley or Hilary. Training will be provided.

## Michael Martin Prints By Linda Jeffries

The holidays are quickly approaching. The 2010 ESE Committee would like to remind you that there are a number of Michael Martin prints still available for purchase. The framed pictures are on display in the



Commons. The picture of the boy is priced at \$65.00 and the picture of the girl is priced at \$55.00. This is a wonderful opportunity for

you to remember those special persons in your life with a truly unique gift. All proceeds of the sale of these prints will be Michael's gift to the ESE campaign. If you have questions, or wish a picture, please contact Linda Jeffries. In writing your check, please put "Martin prints – ESE" on the note line.

