

Clergy, Vestry, and Officers

Fr. Joel E. Hampton, SSC, Rector	210-542-0751
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Phil Rigdon, Jr. Warden	817-991-7246
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Jane Andrus	972-342-6956
David Mince	817-808-4963
Dehn Wilson	817-366-9194
Charra Wright	817-313-9061
David Walker, Treasurer	817-917-2811

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sun.:	7:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	8:00 a.m.	Said Mass (No Incense)
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School/Forum (<i>School Year</i>)
	10:00 a.m.	Sung Mass (Incense)
	After Mass	Coffee Hour
Mon.:	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	4:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Tue.:	8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	9:00 a.m.	Said Mass & Unction
	4:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Wed.:	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	4:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Thu.:	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	4:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Fri.:	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer

*Prayer Book Holy Days—Masses are celebrated as announced.
Confessions may be made at announced times and by appointment.*

Return Service Requested

e-mail: haposdes@swbell.net

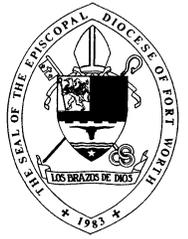
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THE EPISTLE

A PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

DECEMBER 2018

The purpose of the Church of the Holy Apostles is to glorify God through worship, discipleship, stewardship, fellowship and love.

FROM THE RECTOR

But there will be no gloom for her that was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. —Isaiah 9:1-7

The Christmas decorations in my family's subdivision started going up on *All Saints' Day*, November 1, this year. To my reckoning, this is some sort of record. I am accustomed to strings of light, inflated gingerbread men, yards full of Styrofoam candy canes, and the like being spread across houses, trees, and lawns in our neighborhood no later than *Thanksgiving Day*, but this year, the Halloween decorations came down and were replaced, immediately, by the Christmas decorations.

Forget what you've heard. The Church does not exist to ensure that no one, anywhere, at any time has any fun. It is also untrue, rumors to the contrary notwithstanding, that your Rector is actually The Grinch, who seeks, each year, to steal Christmas. My December *Epistle* article is not designed as an annual "ain't it awful" litany of complaints about the commercialization of Christmas and its concomitant dumbing down.

No, my point this year, as every year in Advent is to invite you to the observance of a Holy Advent, to take your cue from the accumulated wisdom of the Church, to benefit

from the received tradition, which bids us contemplate with awe and wonder the great saving acts of God in Christ during Advent, so that when Christmas arrives on December 25, we can celebrate this Feast of the Church with the fullness of joy that it contains, when properly understood and appreciated.

The foregoing passage from the Prophet Isaiah, makes clear, some seven centuries before the birth of the babe in Bethlehem, that what takes place in Advent and Christmas is far more meaningful and far more spiritually enriching than merely having a "holly jolly Christmas." (No offense intended to Burl Ives, whatsoever.)

Advent is a season of joyful expectation. We are not called to be glum or morose during Advent. Yes, there is an austere beauty to the season, but it is not preceded by the Imposition of Ashes or a call to a forty day fast. Isaiah says that "there will be no gloom for her that was in anguish." We joyfully expect God to act decisively for us and for our salvation in sending His Son, the light of the world, for "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." Yes, that prophecy was initially given, some 2,700 years ago to the ancient nation of Israel. It was their Messiah Who was foretold by Isaiah, but He who was to come in the prophecy of Isaiah as Messiah, the glory of His people, Israel, was also given as a light to enlighten the Gentiles—that's us.

Advent will challenge us, as all worthwhile things inevitably do. Advent will urge us to watch and wait and wonder before we launch into our joyous celebration of Christmastide, the glorious twelve days of Christmas. Before we open our presents and sing our carols and raise our glasses, let us pause for a brief four Sundays to contemplate the darkness that exists apart from the light of Christ, so that we might properly praise Him Who is The Light of the World. Joyful expectation. That is Advent's call to us, so that we might ultimately worship Him Who is the realization of our salvation, in His coming to us as the babe of Bethlehem at Christmas.

Every blessing be yours this Advent and Christmas,

Fr. Joel

FROM THE ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR

Dear Holy Apostles,

I have a confession to make of sorts: I went to Walmart on the evening of Thanksgiving. The reason that I did this was not for “black Friday” deals or shopping for a particular season that we haven’t gotten to yet. Instead, I was there because (believe it or not) I had to pick up a few things for the family and it was open. Being the introvert that I am, it is hard to find a more difficult setting for me to navigate.

Honestly, it filled me with great sadness. Please don’t misunderstand this sadness. I do not wish to say that there is anything wrong with shopping, with crowds gathering, with wanting to save some money, or anything else that I witnessed on this shopping experience. I do not wish to begrudge anyone, and I certainly don’t want to lecture anyone on these topics.

Priests and pastors of every stripe usually try to say something very profound during this time of year, which often simply gets distilled into some type of sound bite, like “keep Christ in Christmas.” However, that often just gets translated into “think about Christ at Christmas while you do all this other stuff.” I would like to propose something very old that has been all but forgotten: the Church is to be a counterpoint to the world that surrounds her.

What makes us different? What moves us? What drives us on even through the darkness? These are the things that define us. How we orient ourselves dictates how we spend our time and what gets our attention. The season of Advent can be a time of preparing ourselves in such a way as to discover the answer so that we can recognize it when it appears.

You and I already know that we run around aimlessly far too often. It can be tiring enough without the society telling us we must do more of it. So, as the Church reminds us of “God with us,” what does that mean? How would things be different if we lived as if it were true?

In Christ,

Fr. Joseph

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Holy Apostles has really been contributing to the community in the last weeks! Following a great turnout for our first annual *Trunk or Treat* event, the Election day usage of our facility was a real success! Over 700 people came through our doors to cast their votes. I understand that several people asked for and received a brief tour of our building. Hopefully, they will return on a Sunday for services and become a part of our parish family. I can’t say enough THANK YOUs to everyone who worked to make this a success: Jim and Doris Reaugh, Gene Armiger, Peg Donovan, Jane Monahan, Gerry and Joe Stevens, Jane and

Collin Andrus, and anyone else who might have stopped in for acting as “ambassadors” throughout the day. Tim Smith, the Election Judge for the precinct, commented to me several times about our facility and how extremely nice everyone was. All this around a success!

We had a Parish Clean Up day on November 16. Several people spent the morning both inside and outside sprucing up the place for the fall. Our beautiful property needs our careful maintenance to keep it beautiful. Thanks to Phil Rigdon for working to make this happen!

Our stewardship drive is underway and you should have submitted your pledge card by the time you read this. Of course you can still turn it in and know that you can update your pledge at any time throughout the year by contacting David Walker, our Treasurer. The Vestry will be approving the budget at our December meeting in preparation for the new year. It is important that you get your pledge card turned in so that we can make wise decisions about the budget.

December will be a very busy month and there are many opportunities to serve. Please take a look at the signup sheets on the bulletin boards in the Parish Hall and volunteer to serve at one or more service, especially during Christmas week. Watch the calendar for all the dates so you don’t miss out anything!

As always, please let me know if I can answer questions or address concerns that you may have.

Cindy Bartlett

ALTAR GUILD

As we approach the end of the year, I wanted to give thanks to those who have given the Altar Guild gifts this year. Linda Lou and Phil Rigdon gave a wonderful silver bread box, Nikki and Dave Wilson gave the new holy water dispenser, Donna and Jim Stubblefield gave the new red vestments, Melanie and Glenn Russell gave the new alms basins, and Jane Andrus had another server’s chair reupholstered in blue fabric.

As you may know, the Altar Guild has a wish list that is posted in the Parish Hall. Every item on the list has been approved or suggested by Fr. Joel. Some of the items are rather expensive, but some are not. If you would like to give even just a little, just put that in an envelope and let Father decide what it goes to. If several of you want to go together and make a contribution, that would be great too.

And as I always say, all the members of the Altar Guild are so dedicated. We really have a wonderful bunch of folks that work very hard behind the scenes. Next time you see one of them, be sure and tell them thanks.

Gods blessing on us all,

Dehn Wilson

FLOWER GUILD

Sunday, December 2, is the First Sunday of Advent. There will be no Altar flowers until Christmas Eve, except for Rose Sunday, December 16. As is our tradition, the Altar will be adorned with beautiful Poinsettias on Christmas Eve. If you would like to help offset some of the cost for the Poinsettias, please designate Flower Guild on your check or giving envelope.

I would like to wish each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas, especially my team members.

Margaret Pinnau

HAMS (HOLY APOSTLES MEN)

At the last breakfast meeting, we discussed potential uses of some of our group’s accumulated funds. However, we decided to delay a decision until the next meeting. We joined the volunteers and helped with the cleaning of the Church.

Our next breakfast meeting will take place on December 15, with Morning Prayer at 7:30 a.m., breakfast following at 8:00 a.m. A short business meeting will follow breakfast and we expect the meeting will end by no later than 9:00 a.m.

Michael Pinnau

PRAYING FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

As our Church Year changes to Advent, we will tend to “forget” our persecuted Christian brothers and spend more effort on finding a bargain on a bigger TV! Let us remember that their struggle goes on, just to provide another meal for their family or a roof over their head is major.

Our missionary friends, Fr. Jerry and Stacy are on their way back to Northern Iraq, at present. They want to be there to do what they can to share the Christmas message and blessings with the hurting people. Imagine not even being able to worship at this time. How fortunate we are.

May we all try to renew our prayers at this time with love and compassion so that the Christmas star may again shine where it all began.

Peggy Bruce

ROSARY CHAPTER

The First Sunday of Advent (December 2 this year) is the beginning of the Church Year. As the Civil New Year begins in January, we might be easily confused when comparing the Secular Calendar to our Church Calendar. When it comes to Mary, the calendars seem to be reversed.

We acknowledge Mary’s Death on August 15 (Assumption)—after her death, we recognize her Birthday

on September 8 (Nativity)—later (still in reverse) we establish her Commencement on December 8 (Conception). So, the Secular Calendar has turned Mary topsy-turvy. She dies before she is born and is born before she is conceived. Conception in the womb of St. Anne is both last and first.

The Reformation Movement has washed away much of the devotion to Mary. Protestants do not support many of the established Traditions and Dogmas that come to us through Church History but dismiss them as pious beliefs and legends—they are looking for clear references in the Scriptures and ignore what the Church Fathers have established. They also overlook the fact that the Bible itself is part of Church Tradition (remember there was The Church for over 300 years before there was The Bible). Many Anglo-Catholics do not support this Fundamentalist Resistance and rightly accept what Holy Church has taught throughout history.

Mary is worthy of devotion because of who she is, the Mother of God. Her immaculate Conception is important to us because she was chosen by God the Father to be Mother of His Son. Her Nativity is remarkable to us because she is Mother of God. Her Assumption into Heaven is miraculous because it is an Act of God, and Mary is Mother of God!

Holy Apostles Rosary Chapter will meet on Thursday, December 13 in the Lady Chapel at 6:00 p.m. to pray the Glorious Mysteries. Mass will follow at 6:30 p.m.

Fred Keller

*Advent Wreath on Christmas Eve
Photo by Gordon Henry*



<u>Income and Expenses through October 2018</u>		
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Income	\$207,121.00	\$205,847.00
Expenses	\$207,815.00	\$206,639.00
<u>Average Attendance at Sunday Masses</u>		
<i>Year to Date</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>
95	96	95

SUNDAY ROTA—DECEMBER 2018

	DECEMBER 2 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	DECEMBER 9 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	DECEMBER 16 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	DECEMBER 23 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	DECEMBER 30 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
<u>8:00 A.M.</u> LECTOR	JOANN PATTON	ANDREW MARTIN	CHARRA WRIGHT		
ALTAR SERVER(S)	JANE ANDRUS SHORTY MENDOZA	JIM OWENS CHARRA WRIGHT	JANE ANDRUS SHORTY MENDOZA	JIM OWENS CHARRA WRIGHT	JANE ANDRUS SHORTY MENDOZA
GREETER(S)					
COFFEE HOST(S)					
<u>10:00 A.M.</u> LECTOR	TAYLOR TEAGARDEN	PHIL RIGDON	MICHELE WALKER	LINDA LOU RIGDON	BETTY CASTLEBERRY
SUBDEACON	TRACEY MINCE	MICHAEL PINNAU	MIKE ROBINIUS	TRACEY MINCE	JIM STUBBLEFIELD
CHALICE BEARER	TIM SCHWARZ	DAVID MINCE	JOE STEVENS	BRANT STOVALL	TRA HALL
CRUCIFER/SERVER	KELSIE UPWARD	TIM SCHWARZ	TRACEY MINCE	KYLIE UPWARD	ELI HAMPTON
TORCHBEARERS	MADDI REAVES RACHEL SCHWARZ	BEN MATTHEWS EMILY MATTHEWS	MADDI REAVES RACHEL SCHWARZ	BEN MATTHEWS EMILY MATTHEWS	MADDI REAVES RACHEL SCHWARZ
THURIFER	MIKE ROBINIUS	JIM STUBBLEFIELD	TRA HALL	KELSIE UPWARD	SPENCER STUBBLEFIELD
OBLATIONERS	PINNAUS		RIGDONS	PAT HENDON BETTY ANN HORNICK	
USHERS	PINNAUS	KEVEN MATTHEWS	FRED KELLER ROD REAVES	GENE ARMIGER PHIL RIGDON	FRED KELLER ROD REAVES
GREETER(S)	REAUGH	PHIL RIGDON	MICHAEL PINNAU	ROBINIUS	
ALTAR GUILD	RON MCCLELLAN GERRY STEVENS	JANE ANDRUS SUSAN HENRY	CINDY BARTLETT KATHY SIMPSON	BETTY CASTLEBERRY PEG DONOVAN DEHN WILSON	RON MCCLELLAN GERRY STEVENS
FLOWER GUILD	MARGARET PINNAU	LINDA HENTZ	LEAH LANCASTER	NIKKI WILSON	BETTY BRADLEY
COFFEE HOST(S)	HALLS	HORNICK	WARNER	PARISH LIFE	
VESTRY REPS	JANE ANDRUS DAVID MINCE	PHIL RIGDON CHARRA WRIGHT	DAVID MINCE DEHN WILSON	PHIL RIGDON CHARRA WRIGHT	JANE ANDRUS DEBBIE REDDICK

Church of the Holy Apostles

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>25</p> <p>CHRIST THE KING Proper 29 Gathering Sunday 7:30am Morning Prayer 8:00am Said Mass 9:00am Sunday School</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Feria 9:00am Morning Prayer 4:00pm Evening Prayer 7:00pm 12 Rules for Life Book Study Submission Deadline for Epistle Articles</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Feria 8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Said Mass & Holy Unction 4:00pm Evening Prayer 7:00pm Parish Life</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Bl. Kamehameha & Emma of Hawaii 9:00am Morning Prayer 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Feria 9:00am Morning Prayer 4:00pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>30</p> <p>ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE 9:00am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Said Mass</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Bl. Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637 9:30am Altar Guild</p>
<p>2</p> <p>THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7:30am Morning Prayer 8:00am Said Mass 9:00am Parish Gathering 10:00am Sung Mass</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Bl. Francis Xavier, Priest, Missionary, 1552 9:00am Morning Prayer 4:00pm Evening Prayer 7:00pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>St. John of Damascus, Priest, Doctor, c. 760 8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Said Mass & Holy Unction 4:00pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>5</p> <p>St. Clement of Alexandria, Priest, Doctor, c. 210 9:00am Morning Prayer 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Advent Program</p>	<p>6</p> <p>St. Nicholas of Myra, Bishop, c. 342 9:00am Morning Prayer 4:00pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>7</p> <p>St. Ambrose of Milan, Bishop, Doctor, 397 9:00am Morning Prayer</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</p>
<p>9</p> <p>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7:30am Morning Prayer 8:00am Said Mass 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Sung Mass</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Advent Feria 9:00am Morning Prayer 6:00pm Evening Prayer & Vestry</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Advent Feria 8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Said Mass & Holy Unction 10:00am Outreach Commission 4:00pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Our Lady of Guadalupe 9:00am Morning Prayer 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Evening Prayer 6:00pm Advent Program</p>	<p>13</p> <p>St. Lucy of Syracuse, Virgin, Martyr, 304 9:00am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Deaneary Clericus-Library 4:00pm Evening Prayer 6:00pm Holy Rosary</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Bl. John of the Cross, 1591 Bl. A. Mackonochie, 1887 9:00am Morning Prayer</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Advent Feria 7:30am HAMS</p>
<p>16</p> <p>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7:30am Morning Prayer 8:00am Said Mass 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Sung Mass</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Advent Feria "O Sapientia" 9:00am Morning Prayer 4:00pm Evening Prayer 6:00pm St. Margaret's Guild 7:00pm Men's Bible</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Advent Feria 8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Said Mass & Holy Unction 4:00pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Ember Day 9:00am Morning Prayer 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Evening Prayer 6:00pm Advent Program</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Advent Feria 9:00am Morning Prayer 4:00pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>21</p> <p>ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE 9:00am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Said Mass</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Ember Day</p>
<p>23</p> <p>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7:30am Morning Prayer 8:00am Said Mass 9:00am Sung Mass 10:00am Sung Mass 11:30am Greening of the</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Vigil of Christmas Parish Office Closed 7:00pm Said Mass with Hymns 10:30pm Carol Service 11:00pm Sung Mass</p>	<p>25</p> <p>THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: CHRISTMAS DAY Principal Feast Parish Office Closed 11:00am Said Mass</p>	<p>26</p> <p>ST. STEPHEN, DEACON & MARTYR Parish Office Closed 6:00pm Said Mass Submission Deadline for Epistle Articles</p>	<p>27</p> <p>ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST Parish Office Closed 6:00pm Said Mass</p>	<p>28</p> <p>THE HOLY INNOCENTS Parish Office Closed 12:00pm Said Mass</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 7:30am Morning Prayer 8:00am Said Mass 10:00am Sung Mass</p>	<p>31</p> <p>St. Sylvester of Rome, Pope, 335 Parish Office Closed</p>	<p>1</p> <p>HOLY NAME (CIRCUMCISION) New Year's Day Parish Office Closed 9:00am Said Mass & Holy Unction</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Christmas Feria 9:00am Morning Prayer 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Christmas Feria 9:00am Morning Prayer 4:00pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Bl. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Sisterhood Foundress, 1821 9:00am Morning Prayer</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Vigil of Epiphany 9:30am Altar Guild</p>