

Advent is for Waiting | Formation Hour in December | Discover All Saints | and more...

THECROWN

December 2023



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Common Prayer

our common life together consists of our worship of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Common Learning

our common life together consists of teaching one another how to be obedient to Jesus in all things

Common Service

our common life together consists of loving one another and the world as Jesus loves us

ACNA Provincial Assembly



Early bird registration is now open for our Provincial Assembly in Latrobe, PA on June 25–28 for \$375, which includes admission to all plenary sessions, breakouts, events, and meals. All Saints will be taking a group to celebrate the province's 15th anniversary in a conference-like gathering where our next archbishop will be elected. You can register at anglicanchurch.net. The registration cost increases to \$475 on January 1 and to \$600 on March 16. Flight arrangements and hotel accommodations will be secured at a later date. Scan the QR code to register and please let Fr. Wes know if you plan on attending.



A Note from Lou & Marty Courcelle

Lou & I would like to thank the All Saints family for all the prayers for Tracy before her passing and for all the love, prayers, hugs, cards, meals, and flowers showered on us since our loss. All Saints is truly a family and an example of how God's world should be.

Thank You,

Lou & Marty Courcelle

Advent is for Waiting

by Dn. Nan Thomas

Advent is coming soon, December 3 to be exact! Here's the thing, Advent is about **waiting for Christmas**. As a Presbyterian, my family waited in Advent:

- On Sundays we had special dinners in the dining room, lighted the Advent candles, read Scripture, and sang a line of a Christmas carol;
- We opened an Advent calendar;
- We had Advent Parties and sang Christmas carols;
- We decorated a live tree in mid-December (having kept it in a bucket in the garage!);
- We tried not to do much Christmas baking until the week before;
- The Prayer of the Dawn became a practice that I anticipated all year.

We waited.

Our waiting centered on remembering the first coming of Jesus and anticipating his second coming. And yet, I always wondered what else might we be doing while we waited...as we prepared for his coming. It wasn't until we became Anglican nine years ago, that I learned that Advent is a penitential season. And then it clicked! The way to prepare for Jesus is to follow Isaiah and John the Baptist and repent and believe: the Kingdom of God is near. Repentance makes us ready for Jesus and the changes he brings into our lives.

"The irony of the Faith is that we wait. We wait for restoration. But our waiting is not without action. The most important activity of a waiting church is repentance – turning from our known sins and disobedience to God's Word and walking from this day forward in holiness and righteous living in Him. We don't long for the glory days, but rather we long and wait for the Lord, as J.R. R. Tolkien quipped, to make all the sad things come untrue." - **Archbishop Foley Beach**

So come and wait with us on **Saturday, December 9 8:30-11:30 am** at the Advent Silent Retreat on the grounds of Mission Abbey (and this includes the new nave!). Bring your journals, a guide will be provided and Advent Bread and Coffee!

Other Ways to Observe Advent

- **Noonday Eucharist.** We invite you to observe Advent by participating in our mid-week Eucharist said services on the Wednesdays of December 6, 13, and 20.
- **Rite of Reconciliation.** Consider making an appointment with one of our priests to receive the Rite of Reconciliation (confession). See page 223 in your Book of Common Prayer to learn more.
- **Morning Prayer.** We offer four Morning Prayer services each week at All Saints on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 8:15 am. Note that we will not be having Morning Prayer services the week of Christmas.

Join in Our Common Life

Lessons & Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 4:30 PM
HUB CITY BREWERY

Join us for a night of Lessons and Carols hosted by Mission Saint James. There will be light refreshments after the service. Invite a friend and bring the whole family!

Festal Choral Eucharist

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 10:00 PM
ALL SAINTS NAVE

Join us for a choral Eucharist service to celebrate the arrival of Christmas with a string quartet.

Youth Christmas Party

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 | 5:45 PM
THE VAILES' HOME | 52 WILDWOOD DR.

All students 6th–12th grade are invited to a Christmas Party at the Vailes' home. Food will be provided. Contact Dn. Kevin Vailes for more information.

Healing Prayer

EVERY TUESDAY | 12:00–2:00 PM
ALL SAINTS NAVE

Members of our Healing Prayer Crew are available to offer prayers to anyone in need. No appointment necessary, and feel free to invite others. Everything is confidential and done with care.

Morning Prayer

MON–THUR | 8:15 AM
ALL SAINTS NAVE

Considering going deeper into our practice of Common Prayer by joining us for Morning Prayer, Monday through Thursday.

Ladies Koinonia

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 | 5:30 PM
ALL SAINTS | PARISH HALL

Join the ladies of All Saints for this final get together of the year. Come for dinner and a time of both private and corporate reflection with the Lord and each other.

ASIS Angel Tree

This year All Saints Immigration Services (ASIS) is organizing our annual Angel Tree so we can specifically care for ASIS clients and their families. Thanks to your generosity, all the tags have been claimed. Remember to return your wrapped gifts by Sunday, December 17 with the family's name on each gift.

Formation Hour in December

by Fr. Wes Gristy

Our new Sunday morning schedule that includes a Formation Hour for all ages at 8:45 am hit the ground running on November 19. We have been so encouraged by all of those who have made this a priority. We're still adjusting and trying to tweak a few things so that together we might be even more prepared to encounter God at our Holy Eucharist service at 10:00 am. Here are a few things we're learning:

1. The Formation Hour for our children is most effective if they are able to be present for the entire hour. Please make every effort to have your child checked in by 8:45 am.
2. The Adult Formation Hour begins at 8:45 am in the Hospitality Room off of the narthex for a time of coffee and fellowship. We then move into the nave around 8:55 so that we can distribute material and begin our reflections at 9:00. Feel free to show up at 9:00 instead of 8:45 if that is what you prefer.

3. People are encouraged to bring their own journal, Bible, and Book of Common Prayer to use during the Adult Formation Hour, or these will be provided for you.

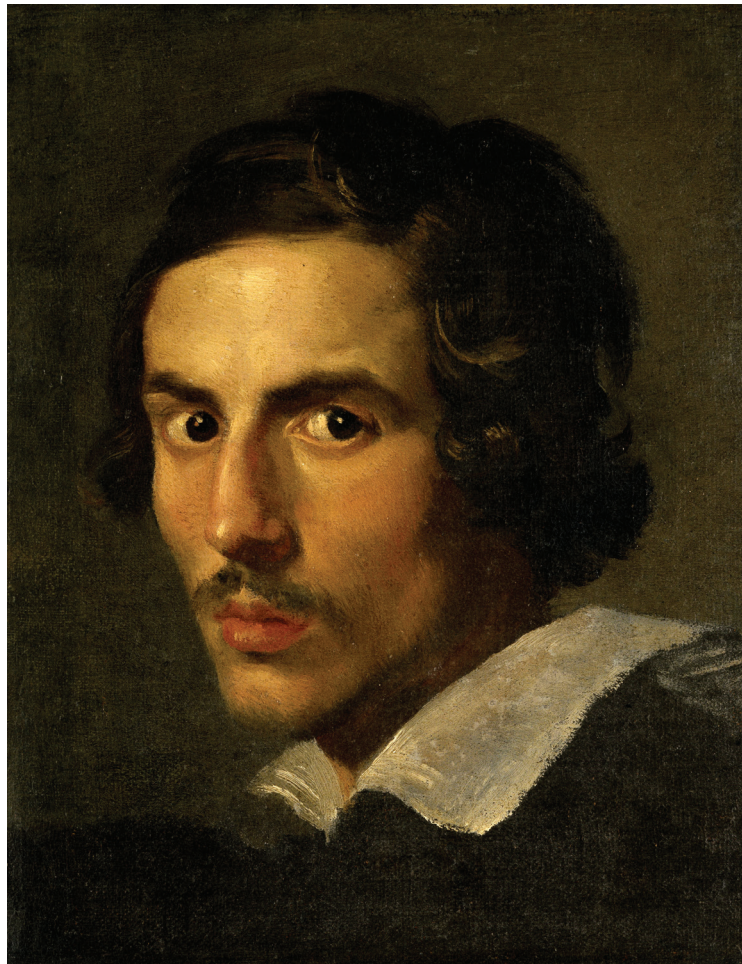
4. We aim to conclude the Adult Formation Hour no later than 9:40 so that parents can immediately retrieve their children from the Parish Hall and return to the nave for worship without being rushed. As the Adult Formation Hour ends, we encourage everyone to keep silence in the nave so that others can prayerfully prepare for worship.

We give thanks to Greg Jordan for helping us to reflect upon certain aspects in Paul's letter to the Philippians. For the first three Sundays of Advent, Olivia Abernathy will be helping us to reflect upon our appointed readings from the prophet of Isaiah. Please note that will not be offering a Formation Hour on the Sundays of December 24 and 31.

Observing Advent and Christmas on the Same Day?

Every so often, the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve, which means we observe Advent and then later celebrate Christmas on the same day! Here's what that will look like for us on Sunday, December 24:

- NO FORMATION HOUR (there will also not be a Formation Hour on Sunday, December 31)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist observing the Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 4:30 pm Christmas Lessons & Carols led by Mission Saints James at Hub City Brewery
- 10:00 pm Festal Choral Eucharist celebrating the arrival of Christmas with a string quartet.



Just One Thing

Bernini

by Dr. David Thomas

Caravaggio created the baroque style in painting: passionate, personal, human, and always dynamic. Gian Lorenzo Bernini arrived in Rome the year Caravaggio left (1606), appears to have studied Caravaggio, and brought the baroque to sculpture. Both were brilliant, visionary artists, both were famous for their emotional outbursts, and both were committed to capturing the human drama of transformation. Unlike Caravaggio, plenty of written evidence indicates that Bernini became a deeply devout Christian. As a mature adult, he attended Mass daily, worked through the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises multiple times, and sought to live faithfully.

The depth, range, and quality of Bernini's work is startling. He was a mind-boggling mix of talent, work ethic, longevity, ego, and unlimited funding. Bernini's most famous work you have seen: the spiral-columned baldachin (canopy) over the high altar of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. But most of the rest of the interior of St Peter's was designed by Bernini as well, giving the newly completed St Peter's the grandeur and emotional power that it carries today. Bernini also redesigned St Peter's Square, building its massive double colonnade.

“There is no greater drama than God’s transformative love, it reminds us, and we are part of the play.”

– Dr. David Thomas



Saint Peter's Baldachin, Vatican

These most-seen pieces beckon us to the rest. His artistic career – sculptor, architect, painter, set designer -- spanned seventy years, from childhood to shortly before his death at age 82.

His loveliest piece might be *The Ecstasy of St Teresa*, constructed for a side chapel in the Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria in the late 1640s. Bernini captures Teresa in the middle of her vision of God's love, a moment, she wrote, of supreme ecstasy and pain. The Latin root of the word “statuary” implies “standing”, but this statue isn't standing so much as moving: clothes awry, head tipped back, mouth agape. An angel is on the verge of plunging his golden arrow into Teresa's heart. The chapel wall bulges outward from the force of the angel's descent and golden rays stream from above, illuminated as if by the Holy Spirit. It is as animated as marble can be: sensual, theatrical, and beautiful.

St Teresa is installed in the Cornaro chapel, also designed by Bernini. Members of Cornaro family look on from the sides, two watching, others talking, one reading a book. (Bernini preferred to talk with his models rather than have them be still, to



St. Teresa

better capture their likeness.) They look on as you and I might look on from theater boxes at a stage production. There is no greater drama than God's transformative love, it reminds us, and we are part of the play.

St Teresa is unmistakably rich in theology and devotion. As a starting point, its beauty testifies to



Aerial view of St. Peter's Square, Rome

the human love of beauty, itself a unique gift from God. The statuary is part of the Catholic counter-reformation and thus responds to Protestant pursuit of direct relationship with God. In *St Teresa*, the Spirit has descended to visit and inspire Teresa with an ecstasy of love. Teresa's union with God is spiritual and physical, transcendent and sensual, divine and human, action in the midst of contemplation. The work is deeply Christian and sacramental, intended to inspire us, as well. To add a final layer of meaning, the eschatology is clear. Teresa's vision and Bernini's art point to that time beyond time when we will be united with the God who loves us at the recreation of heaven and earth (Rev 21).

For more: Smarthistory.org is a nifty webpage that introduces us to art history in a series of five-minute videos. Here's the one for [The Ecstasy of St Teresa](#). There is also one for the Cathedra Petri: <https://smarthistory.org/bernini-cathedra-petri-chair-of-st-peter/> and a half-dozen more on other Bernini sculptures. Among the small library of available books, the one I found most rewarding is Simon Schama, *The Power of Art* (2006).

Wrapping up the Year

Healing Prayer Study

Want to join the Twenty-Six Healing Miracles of Jesus online class? This is the signature study of the Order of St. Luke, the Physician, an international organization dedicated to Christian healing prayer. This class is basic training for those interested in exploring blessing and healing prayer team ministry at All Saints. This 14-week class meets Saturdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Zoom, and is facilitated by Deacon Terry. Interested? Email Terry at tblakley365@gmail.com for more information and scan the QR code to register. Class begins **Saturday, December 9**.



My Beautiful Rose

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas can be a season of bittersweet memories of loved ones lost. No matter the time passed, short or long, our hearts seem to beat with that hard strain of sorrow.

Sound familiar? You are not alone! Please be our honored guest at the first annual “My Beautiful Rose” commemoration event on **Wednesday, December 13** in the Parish Hall at 6:00 pm.

This informal group-circle event is open to the church and community. Participants will be invited to choose a special rose in honor of their loved one. And for those who wish to do so, participants may share with the group a beloved living memory of their cherished loved one. Facilitators: Deacon Terry, Dr. Nita Mehr, and Olivia Abernathy

Christmas Flowers

You can contribute toward the purchase of the flowers used to decorate our Christmas Eve service by filling out a form at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex, by clicking the link included in our weekly email, or scanning the QR code to the right. Dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



End of Year Giving

Thank you so much for supporting All Saints in 2023! If you plan to make an end-of-year gift or final donation for 2023, please drop it by the church by noon on **Friday, December 29**. We are also still accepting 2024 pledge forms. All pledges will be used to determine the final operating budget for next year. If you need a form, please come by the church office, or email Donna Taylor at donna@allsaintsjackson.com.



Looking Ahead to January

Next Baptism Service

Our next baptism service will be on Sunday, January 7, the First Sunday after the Epiphany, which is always The Baptism of Our Lord. We are thrilled to announce that five of our children will be receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism: Avery Abernathy, Parker Insalaco, Bradley Salcedo, Grey Slack, and Stella Slack. Let us know if you would also like to receive or have your child(ren) baptized on this day.

Fourth Annual Retreat on Prayer

Longing to grow stronger in the practice of prayer? You are invited to the 4th Annual Retreat on Prayer, Saturday, January 20, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at All Saints. Featured topics will be on the inner life and practices of intercessors who long to deepen their devotion to God and ministry to others. And as a special treat, John Rice, from The Blessing Place in North Carolina, will return to teach a special session on the practice of blessing prayer for those who are ill. This event is free to the church and community. Lunch onsite included. Please register for this event beginning Sunday, December 31.

Discover All Saints

Discover All Saints (formerly Inquirers) is an introduction to All Saints and the Anglican tradition for those who would like to learn more. This home group is required for membership and is also the first step toward confirmation for those who choose, but long-time Anglicans are always free to attend. The group will meet for five weeks on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 beginning on January 22. Scan the QR code to register.



Epiphany House Blessings

In keeping with an ancient tradition of the Christian Church, we will be blessing homes on the Feast of Epiphany on Saturday, January 6 as a way to celebrate the entrance of the light of Christ into our lives. Signups will be available in mid-December. Be sure to join one of these house blessings.

DECEMBER

at a glance

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ADVENT BEGINS Formation Hour 8:45am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Birthday's Anniversaries	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am Healing Prayer 12:00pm - 2:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm Lucy Beavers Abbie Gristy Brandon Moore	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am Noonday Eucharist 12:pm Youth Encounter 5:45pm	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am	1	2 Cindy Tang Aaron & Keely Beasley Julian & Sheila Williamson
Formation Hour 8:45am Holy Eucharist 10:00am	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am Healing Prayer 12:00pm - 2:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm Brad Box	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am Noonday Eucharist 12:pm Youth Encounter Christmas Party 5:45pm My Beautiful Rose 6:00pm Lloyd & Lynn Tatum	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am	8	9
RETURN ASIS CHRISTMAS GIFTS Formation Hour 8:45am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Ladies Koinonia 5:30pm	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am Healing Prayer 12:00pm - 2:00pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Vestry Meeting 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cal Phillips Hannah Vailes	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am Noonday Eucharist 12:pm Marty Courcelle	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am	15	16
CHRISTMAS EVE Holy Eucharist 10:00am Lessons & Carols (St. James) 4:30pm Festal Choral Eucharist 10:00pm - 12:00am	CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (12/25-1/1)	19	20	21	22	23 Riley Burleson Brad Priester Larry Smith
Holy Eucharist 10:00am Sylvia Beavers Paula Kirby Jay & Katie Beavers	25	Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am Healing Prayer 12:00pm - 2:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm Charlie Blaschke Ross Priddy	27 Sally Dabney Taylor Laird John & Lyn Fields	28 Fr. Chuck & Gretchen Filiatreau	29	30 Rob Binkley Grace Ann House
31	1	2	3	4	5	6



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