

JANUARY 2022

Shepherd's Voice

The monthly parish newsletter of
GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH



WHAT WE BELIEVE...

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down
from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver
of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son
who with the Father and the Son is wor-
shiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the for-
giveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

Happy New Year! I know many are glad to see 2021 come to a close and are hoping and praying for a better 2022. No doubt, as the pandemic continued in 2021, most folks are feeling a bit run down from dealing with it for close to two years now.

As I look forward to 2022, I look forward to some of the goals I have for us at Good Shepherd Church. One of those goals I'd like to share with you in this column. In 2022, I along with lay leadership, will take on the task of rewriting our church's bylaws. I realize that just the mention of this task causes many an eye to simply gloss over. But it is work that must be done for the betterment of the parish.

One of the things we will be examining as leaders is what constitutes an appropriate number of leaders on our Council. When Good Shepherd Church was founded in 1976, ten members seemed to be a good number. These were folks who were placed up for consideration by a nominating committee and then elected to serve by the membership. Many things have changed since 1976 and as has been discussed at Council in recent years, ten members may no longer be a good number.

One of the things we learned in the early months of the pandemic, when the world was seemingly shut down and meetings were simply not a possibility, was the reality that leadership still needed to make decisions and act on behalf of the local church. Much of this fell upon what is called the Executive Council which is made up of the pastor and the four primary officers of the Council. A smaller, leaner, more nimble leadership board will likely be a part of the new bylaws in 2022.

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In past years our nomination committee has faithfully served to fulfill their role of nominating members for vacant positions on Council. Much of the time, this seems to have resulted in previous members of Council simply being renominated and reelected to a new Council. While we are blessed to have many members who do not mind being “recycled” on to Council, one of the weaknesses of this mode of operating has been that the Council has never adequately communicated to the nomination committee exactly what sort of leadership is needed on Council. Thus, another likely change in the new bylaws will call for Council members to prayerfully discern exactly what gifts and talents are needed within the leadership body and then to actively seek to recruit, disciple, and equip others from the membership body to replace them. Rather than a nominating committee serving as a middle step to new leadership without any knowledge of what exactly is needed by the leadership body, the leadership body itself will be charged with identifying gifts and talents that will be missing as particular Council members cycle off of the leadership and intentionally seeking to replace those leaders with new leaders who bring to the table skill sets, gifts, and talents that are truly needed by the organization.

Our new bylaws will have to be carefully crafted so as to make certain we are not in violation of any canons of our province (the ACNA) or our diocese (Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast). As our bylaws currently read, we are actually out of compliance with **ACNA Title 1, Canon 6, Section 5 – Concerning Boards**, which states:

There shall be a governing board of each congregation, often known as the vestry, which is chosen and serves according to applicable laws, diocesan canons, and the congregational by-laws. The Presbyter in charge of the congregation shall always be a member of the governing board and its presiding officer except as provided by diocesan canon. The governing board is responsible for the temporalities of the congregation and, except where otherwise provided by canon, supports the clergy in the spiritual leadership of the congregation.

The end of one thing always brings about the start of something new. As I write this column in the final days of 2021, I do so looking forward to the start of something new in 2022 and I do so with a newfound sense of excitement. Why do I say that? Perhaps like me, you have found the past two years to have been a time of feeling constrained by all that couldn't be done. My resolution for 2022 is to focus on what CAN be done, prioritizing what NEEDS to be done, and teaming with folks here at church who WANT TO GET IT DONE. I pray you'll be in that number!

Until next month, let your light shine!

Fr. Randall M. Graf, Rector

SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2022

Sunday, January 2 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 12 @ 12:15 PM—Midweek Midday Prayer (online only)

Thursday, January 6 @ 6:30 PM—Feast of the Epiphany at Holy Cross BR (leaving GSC at 5:00 PM)

Friday, January 7 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)

Sunday, January 9 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, January 11 @ 10:00 AM—Women's Guild Holy Eucharist (but EVERYBODY is invited!)

Tuesday, January 11 @ 7:00 PM—Mothers Prayer Group

Wednesday, January 12 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, January 14 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)

Sunday, January 16 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 19 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, January 21 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)

Sunday, January 23 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 26 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, January 28 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)

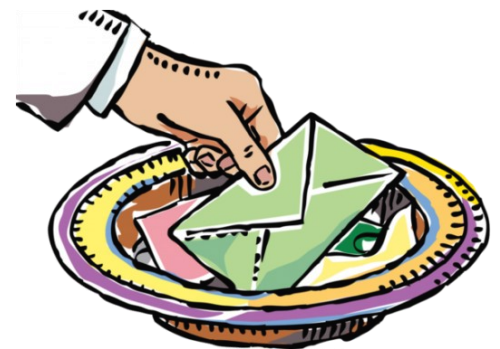
Sunday, January 30 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

PLEASE NOTE: As we continue through this time of pandemic, we remind our parishioners that the 8:30 AM Sunday Holy Eucharist is set aside as a "mask required" service. If you are attending this service, please remember to wear a mask. All other services and events are mask optional. All services are held in-person unless otherwise noted as "online only". In addition to being offered in-person, our Sunday morning Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM is also live-streamed. Our YouTube channel is located at www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet.



PLEDGING TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH

The mission and ministry of Good Shepherd Church can only happen because her members lend support in the form of time, talent, and financial gifts. If you have not yet completed and turned in your 2022 Pledge Card, please do so. This data is used to help our Budget and Finance Committee create the budget that will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 6, 2022. Completing a Pledge Card greatly enhances the accuracy of our budget and your continued generosity greatly enhances our Good Shepherd's ability to continue to minister to her members and reach new people with the love of God through Christ our Lord.



As a reminder, a few parishioners have not yet picked up their 2022 offering envelopes. The remaining envelopes are arranged alphabetically in the narthex of the church.

NOTES FROM RINDA

Happy 2022! There's an old saying "Time flies when you're having fun." Well, I've always felt that time flies whether you're having fun or not! The year 2021 was filled with challenges, but with challenges come opportunities. I am grateful to be a part of a church family that turns challenges into opportunities.

One of the most exciting challenges of the year was purchasing prayer books and hymnals for the pews. I am so thankful for all of you who purchased sets in honor or memory of loved ones. As I placed the dedication stickers in each book, I thought of the connections to family, friends, and mentors that those stickers represent. Even if you don't use the set that you purchased, you can also see those connections as you open the books that serve as worship aids during our weekly service of Holy Eucharist. What a blessing to honor those who have gone before and those who inspire us by their living the gospel message daily!



Everyone knows how much I love hymns, and I am learning so much as I read prayers, collects, and services in the Book of Common Prayer. The liturgy becomes more meaningful each time we participate.

Don't forget that if you would like a copy of the "old" hymnal, please take a copy from the choir room. They are on top of a filing cabinet right behind the robes.

Wishing you peace and blessings in 2022.

Rinda Coleman
GSC Music Director



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNER

Congratulations to Kelly Frilot, the winner of Good Shepherd's 2021 Christmas raffle! Kelly had the lucky winning ticket that brought her \$500 Christmas cash! The winning ticket was pulled on Sunday, December 19 at the annual Breakfast with Santa event held in our fellowship hall.

Thanks to all who sold raffle tickets for this fund raising event and very special thanks to Ms. Sandy Graci of Graci Real Estate and Appraisal, LLC for making this fundraiser possible!

When you see Kelly, make sure you congratulate her and when you see Ms. Sandy, make sure you thank her!



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Good Shepherd Church welcomed five new members into our local family of faith on Sunday, November 28, 2021. Pictured from L to R: Melva Geiger, Noah Huntley, Fr. Randall Graf, Gwen Martinez, David Whaley, and Kay Boutte.

When you see one of our newest members, make certain you introduce yourself and welcome them. Remember, as an “old member” it's easy for you to know who they are, but it takes a while for each new member to get to know each of us by name. So, greet them, welcome them, and tell them how excited you are to have them with us at Good Shepherd Church!



WESTWARD LEADING WE'RE PROCEEDING TO BR FOR EPHIPANY

On **Thursday, January 6, 2022**, Good Shepherd Church will celebrate the **Feast of the Epiphany** by traveling westward to Baton Rouge. There we will worship with our brothers and sisters at Holy Cross Anglican Church where Fr. Jarrett Fontenot serves as Rector.

The service will begin at **6:30 PM** and we will carpool from the parking lot of Good Shepherd Church. We plan to **leave our parking lot** on that evening **at 5:00 PM**.

If you would like to drive or need a ride, please let Fr. Randall know so that we can assure that we have enough vehicles lined up.

We were blessed to have about a dozen members of Holy Cross travel to Metairie to worship with us last Epiphany and we look forward to worshipping at their church this year!



KEEP UP WITH GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH ONLINE



www.FaceBook.com/GSCMet



www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet



www.Twitter.com/GoodShepherdMet



www.GSCMet.com



***PLEASE got to our
website and
subscribe to our
e-newsletter!***



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars to make certain you are with us for our annual congregational meeting to be held on **Sunday, February 6** immediately following the 10:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist.

Those leaders submitting **annual reports should e-mail them to Fr. Randall by January 17th** so they can be organized and distributed before the meeting.

Because of the annual meeting, we will only hold ONE WORSHIP SERVICE on Sunday, February 6 and this will be at 10:00 AM. We are canceling the 8:30 AM service and encouraging everyone to attend the 10:00 AM service so that we can easily transition from worship into our annual meeting at the conclusion of worship.

PRAYER REQUESTS

A reminder that you may submit a name or cause to be entered on to the Good Shepherd Church prayer list by completing a prayer card found in the pews and placing the card in the offering plate. Please note that the computer program used to track our prayer listings places a time limit on entries. If a name or cause that was included on the list is no longer listed and you would like it to be, simply complete another prayer card. Likewise, if you would like to update a prayer request and have it removed from the list before it automatically cycles off by reaching its time limit, this too can be done using the pew prayer cards.



SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS & REMEMBRANCES AND ETERNAL FLAME SANCTUARY LAMP

A reminder that each Sunday affords an opportunity to honor, remember, and celebrate people and events. Want us to offer prayers of gratitude for a wedding anniversary or prayers of remembrance for a loved one who has returned home to the Lord or prayers of thanksgiving for a special person's birthday? Let us know by filing out the blue **"Sunday Celebrations, Honors, and Remembrances"** form.

The "Sunday Celebrations, Honors, and Remembrances" form is available in the narthex of the church. By completing the **brief form** with the necessary information (e.g., John and Jane are celebrating 20 years of marriage on June 15 or Mike and Sue wish to honor the memory of Sue's mother, Pauline on what would have been her 100th birthday) and turning it in along with **a small \$5 honorarium**, you can be assured that the Sunday of your choosing includes the publication of your honor in our Sunday bulletin and prayerful remembrance during our Sunday service.



Additionally, the **2022** book is now opened for sponsoring the **Eternal Flame Sanctuary Lamp**. If you would like to dedicate the Eternal Flame in memory of a departed loved one, please see the open dates in the red folder in the narthex. The suggested minimum **honorarium for the Eternal Flame Sanctuary Lamp is \$15**.

For more information, please see Fr. Randall.

PRAYING AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began, Good Shepherd Church has been streaming our 10:00 AM Sunday morning Service of Holy Eucharist each week. During the distribution of Holy Communion, the lector reads a prayer entitled ***An Act of Spiritual Communion*** for those who are watching at home and are unable to partake in the reception of Holy Communion sacramentally. That beautiful prayer comes from the Book of Common Prayer (pg. 677, ACNA 2019) and can be prayed by a Christian any time they are longing for the grace of Holy Communion but are unable to receive the tangible elements of the sacrament. These are the words to that prayer:

***Dear Jesus, I believe that you
are truly present in the Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to possess you within my soul.
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people
gathered around every altar of your Church,
and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.***



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

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Father Randall M. Graf, Priest & Rector

REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES

Holy Eucharist

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM every Sunday

Service of Midday Prayer

12:15 PM Wednesday (online only)

Service of Compline

9:00 PM Friday (online only)

