

# Shepherd's Voice

The monthly parish newsletter of

**GOOD SHEPHERD ANGLICAN CHURCH**



EASTER 2024

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR EASTER 2024

### HOLY WEEK

**Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM**

*Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—Palm Sunday*

**Wednesday, March 27 at 6:00 PM**

*Stations of the Cross*

**Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 PM**

*Maundy Thursday*

**Friday, March 29 at 3:00 PM**

*Good Friday*

### EASTER SEASON

**Sunday, March 31 at 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM**

*Easter Sunday*

**Sunday, April 7 at 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM**

*Eastertide 2*

**Sunday, April 14 at 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM**

*Eastertide 3*

**Sunday, April 21 at 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM**

*Eastertide 4*

**Sunday, April 28 at 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM**

*Eastertide 5*

**Sunday, May 5 at 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM**

*Eastertide 6*

**Thursday, May 9 at 12:15 PM**

*Feast of the Ascension*

**Sunday, May 12 at 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM**

*Sunday After Ascension*

**Sunday, May 19 at 10:00 AM**

*Pentecost*

### **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-  
shipped 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.

## **THE LIFE CHANGING NEWS:**

### **EASTER AND THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION**

Easter, which commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, is more than just an historical event. It is a transformative narrative of hope—a hope that not only changes lives, but is instilled in the hearts of believers. The resurrection is not merely an event that happened two thousand years ago; it is a reality that Christians can experience in their daily lives. It is an assurance that no matter how dark the night, the dawn of a new day is at hand.

The resurrection offers a paradigm shift from despair to hope, from death to life. It is a testament to the triumph of life over death, of love over hate, of hope over despair. It invites us to look beyond the temporal and see the eternal. It beckons us to look beyond the grave and see life. It calls us to look beyond our failures and see redemption. The resurrection is a beacon of hope that illuminates our path and gives us the courage to face the challenges of life.

The hope of the resurrection is not just a future expectation; it is a present reality. The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians stated, “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,” (Ephesians 2:6). This means that believers share in Christ's resurrection and are spiritually alive. This spiritual resurrection gives us the power to overcome sin, despair, and death.

The resurrection is also a promise of physical resurrection and eternal life. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die,” (John 11:25-26). This promise of eternal life gives us hope in the face of death and assurance in the face of uncertainty.

The resurrection is the heartbeat of the Christian faith. It is the cornerstone that holds together the edifice of our beliefs. Without the resurrection, our faith is futile and we are left without hope. But because Christ has risen, we have a living hope, a hope that does not disappoint, a hope that sustains us in the face of trials, a hope that empowers us to live victorious lives, and a hope of eternal life.

But how do we respond to this life changing good news? We respond by embracing the resurrection as our own. We respond by believing in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We respond by living a life that reflects the reality of the resurrection—a life of love, forgiveness, and selflessness. We respond by sharing this good news with others so that they too can experience the transformative power of the resurrection.

As we celebrate Easter, let us remember that it is more than just a commemoration of an event; it is a celebration of a reality, a reality that we can experience, a reality that changes lives, a reality that offers hope. The life changing good news of Easter is that Christ has risen, and because He has risen, we too shall rise.

In conclusion, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, and the promise of our own resurrection is the hope that fuels our daily walk. It is the good news that changes lives, breaks chains, and sets hearts ablaze with love for God. This Easter, let us embrace this hope, live this reality, and share this good news. Christ has risen, and that, indeed, is life changing good news!

*Until next month, let your light shine!*



**Fr. Randall M. Graf, Rector**

## NOTES FROM RINDA

Alleluia! He is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

After the Lenten season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we enter the season of Easter, the most special season of the Liturgical year. We have abstained from speaking or singing the word "Alleluia" during the penitential season of Lent. The word "Alleluia" means "God be praised" and it is definitely an expression of exuberance at the observation of the resurrection of Christ.

The hymn "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" has in each of its stanzas a sentence followed by an Alleluia. With each successive line of the hymn the excitement builds. Anglican priest turned Methodist hymn writer Charles Wesley wrote the text which was published in 1739. After several different settings, the tune that we use today was finally settled upon.

The final stanza combines the symbols of the cross of redemption, the grave, and the skies of eternal life.

Wishing you a blessed Resurrection Sunday!

Let us sing with the joy of the resurrection filling our hearts.

Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!**

**Following our exalted Head. Alleluia!**

**Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!**

**Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

**Rinda Coleman**

*Music Director*



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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024—SAVE THE DATES

Good Shepherd will host our annual Vacation Bible School this summer in July and this year's format will be a little different than previous years. Christian Education Director, Margaret Aucoin announced that our Christian Education team will be implementing a "mini camp" format this year. The format calls for a Friday evening and half day Saturday morning meeting times and those dates have been set for Friday, July 12 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM and Saturday, July 13 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. The students will then participate in our Sunday morning worship on the 14th where they will share some of what they learned in their classes.

More information will be forthcoming, but volunteers are needed. Please see Margaret Aucoin for more information on how you can help!

## WILL YOU BE LIKE SIMON?

While there are numerous amazing figures in the Bible, perhaps my favorite is Simon of Cyrene. Why? Because on Jesus' grueling walk carrying His own cross to Calvary, he became so weak that he fell to the ground under its weight. Luke's Gospel says, "And as they led Him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus."

Some also spiritualize Simon's conveyance of Jesus' cross in relation to how we as believers are to "bear our own crosses" as we follow Jesus. Simon of Cyrene provides us with an example of what that looks like. It's not easy to follow Jesus. Simon most likely received taunts and insults just as Jesus did.

This all leads me to the importance of the cross at Good Shepherd and the great Anglican tradition of the procession. The idea of the procession is straightforward: we are gathering for worship from our outside daily lives and are approaching God through Christ. Therefore, the cross goes before us. As we leave, we are being sent back out into the world, with the cross leading the way.

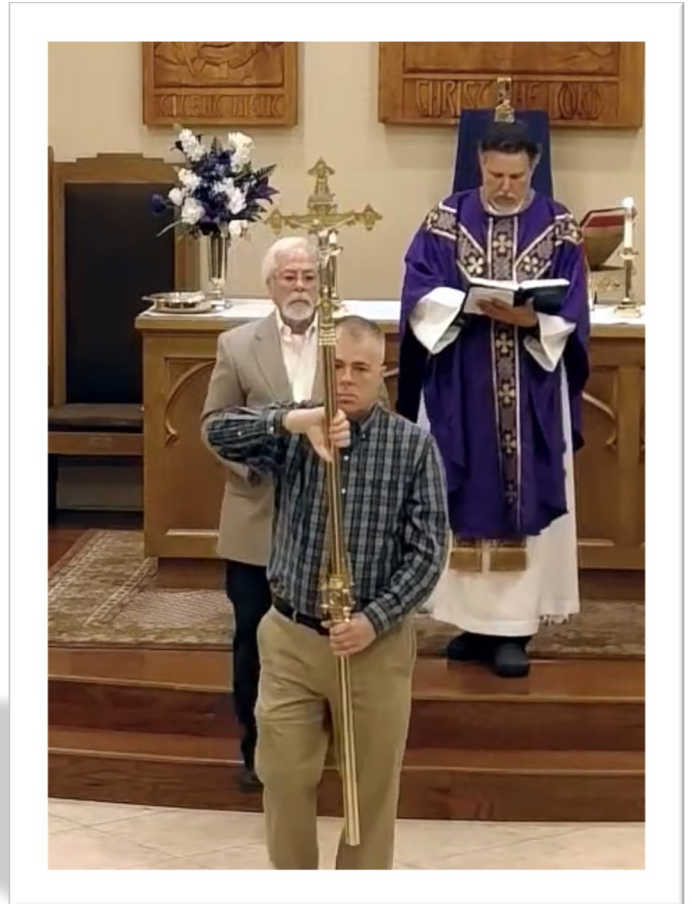
In that spirit, it is my belief that having a crucifer (the person who leads the procession by carrying the processional cross) each and every Sunday is essential. Ever since I was an acolyte as a kid, I always considered it an honor to carry the cross in the procession. The same honor of service holds true for choir members, lectors, chalice bearers, those who work with our children, gift bearers, the sexton, our music director, etc.

Unfortunately, my church attendance has not been what I'd like it to be! When I'm not here for Holy Eucharist, we need someone to carry the cross in the procession and recessional. I assure you that it's not that heavy. While I hope to improve my attendance, I also hope that when Fr. Randall asks for someone to carry the cross, they will say yes. And for those who are wondering if they can really do it, I am always available for tips and pointers, and yes, you can do it!

Stay tuned for more news on the procession to include acolytes carrying torches, the choir, and a banner-bearer!

Yours in Christ,

**Scott Ball**



## KEEP UP WITH GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH ONLINE



[www.FaceBook.com/GSCMet](http://www.FaceBook.com/GSCMet)



[www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet](http://www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet)



[www.Twitter.com/GoodShepherdMet](http://www.Twitter.com/GoodShepherdMet)



[www.GSCMet.com](http://www.GSCMet.com)



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



## COLLECT FOR EASTER DAY

*O God, who for ou redemption gave your only begotten Son to die upon the Cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the devil and the power of death: Grant us grace to die daily to sin, that we may live with himi in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.*

*From the ACNA (2019) Book of Common Prayer, page 610.*

## **REJOICE AND BE BLESSED: OUR ANNUAL DIOCESAN WOMEN'S GATHERING**

The Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast will be hosting our annual gathering of women from across our Diocese at St Timothy's Anglican Church in Spring on May 31st and June 1st. Teachings from our keynote speaker, Jenny Noyes, will center around the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes. Hence, the event's name is, Rejoice and Be Blessed.

### **Keynote Speaker: Jenny Noyes**

Jenny says, as a global networker, it has been my privilege to lead New Wineskins since 2016. New Wineskins is an Anglican mission-mobilizing agency and host of the New Wineskins Global Mission Conferences. Before my tenure with New Wineskins, I helped Alpha courses spread throughout the U.S. and overseas over the past 30+ years, working as Southeast Director for Alpha USA from 2009-2012. I helped coordinate the Hope and A Future Conference in Pittsburgh in 2005, then became the Coordinator for Evangelism for the Anglican Communion Network (ACN), forerunner of the ACNA. I created the ACN's Good News Initiative, hosting eleven Sharing Our Faith conferences across the U.S. with a team led by the late evangelist Rev. Dr. Cn. Michael Green. I also served as director of evangelism, missions and outreach at an Anglican church plant in Northern Virginia for nine years, where we used Alpha extensively to reach our community and grow the church. Larry and I have been married for 40 years and have three grown children and two daughters-in-love.

### **Worship Leader: Natalie Johnson**

We are thrilled to have Natalie Johnson back again this year to serve as our worship leader. Natalie, who serves at Grace Anglican in Katy, describes herself as a Christ follower, teacher, mother, and worship leader passionate about intimacy with the Trinity and music. If you were with us last year, you saw evidence of that intimacy at many points during the event.

### **Schedule**

Our gathering will begin on Friday evening with dinner and our program, and we will conclude on Saturday afternoon at 3 pm. Traveling participants will need to make their own overnight arrangements. Various breakout sessions will be offered on Saturday.

### **Early Bird Discount & Registration link:**

<https://registrations.planningcenteronline.com/signups/2208883>

You can also scan this QR Code on the next page, to register. Please note, the early bird discount is limited to the first set of registrants.

### **Scholarships**

A limited number of partial scholarships will be available this year, please email Anthea Kotlan at [womensministry@dwgc.org](mailto:womensministry@dwgc.org) to learn more.

Check out our social media posts on Facebook and Instagram to get the latest updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/ladiesofthedioceseofthewesterngulfcoast>

[https://www.instagram.com/dwgc\\_ladies/](https://www.instagram.com/dwgc_ladies/)



# REJOICE & BE BLESSED

May 31 - June 1

Registration QR Code



*Scan me*

## Annual Gathering for Women of the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast



Early Bird Registration is Open

at St. Timothy's Anglican  
6819 Louetta Road, Spring, TX



More info or a scholarship - [womensministry@dwgc.org](mailto:womensministry@dwgc.org)

# Ms. Maria's Lasagna

Good Shepherd Anglican Church

5122 W. Esplanade, Metairie LA.

Sunday, **April 28th**, 2024



## **TO GO!**

Pick-up Time

12-1:30

Lasagna, Vegeta-  
ble, Salad, and  
Garlic Bread

Donation \$18.00

**PLATE \$18**

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## EVANGELISM LIFE WEEKEND COMING IN MAY!

Perhaps you recall the incredibly awesome **Holy Spirit Weekend** our diocesan team put on at Good Shepherd a couple of years ago. Well, the team is scheduled to return the weekend of **May 17-19**, this time offering **Evangelism Life Weekend!**

Evangelism often seems daunting to many, but there can be no making of other followers of Jesus apart from introducing them to the One they are to follow. Come learn how to invite not-yet-believers to journey with you through the Gospel according to John, becoming His tour guide in the greatest adventure ever, that they might come to believe in Jesus, and by believing, have life!

During the Friday and Saturday times, folks from the Diocesan Evangelism Life Weekend Team will be leading the children of our congregation in their own Evangelism Life Weekend, on their level.

The weekend will kick off with a dinner on Friday, followed by worship/teaching. Saturday morning will begin with a continental breakfast and lunch will also be served. The day will be filled with teaching, learning, praying, and fellowship. The entire weekend will culminate with our Pentecost Service on Sunday morning which will be led by Bishop Clark.





# The Jefferson Chorus

(an affiliate of JPAS)

presents

## "Shakespeare in Love"

Thursday, April 18

7:30 PM

Good Shepherd Church

5122 West Esplanade

Metairie

Sunday, April 21

3 PM

Our Lady of Prompt Succor

146 4th Street

Westwego

directed by

Dr. Louise LaBruyère

Concert is free and open to the public. Donations gladly accepted.



## MEN'S CLUB NEWS

On Saturday, March 16, members of the Good Shepherd Anglican Church Men's Club met to toss some meat on the grill and enjoy some fellowship. Unfortunately, a number of our men were unable to make it due to scheduling conflicts, but those present certainly enjoyed a great time. As part of their business meeting, the Men's Club agreed to organize a work day to plant a satsuma tree in the prayer garden. The satsuma tree is being generously donated by the Good Shepherd Women's Guild.

The next meeting of the Men's Club will be held on Saturday, April 16 at noon. For more information, see Mel Aucoin.



### GOOD SHEPHERD MEN'S CLUB

*Standing l to r:*

Michael T. Abadie, Joe Edwards, Fr. Randall,  
Mel Aucoin, Scott Ball

*Seated l to r:*

Mark Cabrera, Ricky Gonzalez

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## CHURCH YARD SALE

Mark you calendars for the next church yard sale which is scheduled for Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4. If you have items to donate for the sale, please bring them to church.

We will need volunteers to help with the sale on Friday and Saturday, and we'll also need volunteers in advance of those days to help us set up and price items.

For more information, please see Mel Aucoin.

# He is Risen!



E A L P F O R G I V E M  
 S A G J B S E J L D R N  
 F L S K I M L N P C O I  
 D H T T U I E A O S Y T  
 N O J P E G D P M A R B  
 B M S V Q R Y X D T K U

B J A H E T S J S O T F N B E Z G B O A G U  
 P C F Q R O F P A H Y U E I U R Q T E G O D  
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 D F L E R A O H D N G M A S G N H S G V I C  
 B M K A G V X F A Q O L M D T C J A T E U E

CELEBRATE  
 CROSS  
 EASTER  
 FORGIVE  
 FRIDAY  
 GOD  
 HAPPY  
 HOLY

I K I Y E B C E L E B R  
 O A U L E H N E G R L S  
 R J E S U S A F O A G L  
 O X H J Y O H G Y A R B  
 T D T R T F S U K P C H  
 H G B I O Z R C J L H E  
 U F L Q G T B I D V A E  
 R T A B C K U V D M P I  
 S K R M T C H R M A P M  
 D I S O M B E Z I X Y T  
 A C O T R X P A U F M S  
 Y P H D J H O L Y V L E

JESUS  
 RISEN  
 SATURDAY  
 SAVIOR  
 SINS  
 SUNDAY  
 THURSDAY  
 TOMB

## 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

5122 West Esplanade Ave

Metairie, LA 70006

504.454.0764

[www.GSCMet.com](http://www.GSCMet.com)

Father Randall M. Graf, Priest & Rector

### REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES

#### Holy Eucharist

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM every Sunday

#### Red Letter Holy Days

12:15 PM or 6:30 PM

