



**SAINT TIMOTHY'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CREVE COEUR, MO



**December  
2023 -  
January  
2024**

**St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**

**Creve Coeur, MO**



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

- Luke 2:10-11



# From the Rector



I wrote the following reflection in the wake of the Uvalde shooting on May 24th, 2022. As the Diocese has decided to recognize December 10th as Gun Violence Prevention Sunday, I want to share why this observation is deeply personal for me.

*This has been a tough week for me. Of course, as a parent with young children, the shooting in Uvalde has shaken me to my core. But more than that, it's also brought back a lot of difficult memories. When I was twelve, a shooter came onto the campus of my school and sprayed bullets into the high school prayer circle before school. The shooter was fourteen, a fellow student. He had broken into his neighbor's garage and taken guns that he knew would not be locked up. He also took his father's guns that he had access to. Three girls died and many others were wounded. Some left with lifelong disabilities. Not strangers to me, but friends. Our entire community was left with these scars. It was a small town and no one was left unaffected.*

*I was home sick that morning. If you ask my mother about this story, she remembers me being on death's door, so sick was I. Surely it was divine intervention! ...I'm about 90% sure that I was faking it that morning.*

*In the days that followed, there were grief counselors and news crews and candlelit vigils and an uncomfortable triple funeral that included an altar call and the pledge of allegiance. But the thing that really sticks out were the changes that were made to our school. Although the shooter was a student, suddenly we were on alert. Sheep on the lookout for wolves. We all received name badges that identified us as "belonging." Big chain link fences were installed around the perimeter of the school. Backpacks were to be checked at each door through a lengthy search process done by teachers. All of these things were done in the name of safety. We were twelve years old and we joked that unless those name badges were bullet proof, there was nothing they could do to keep us safe. There was nothing a grown up could do to make us feel safe. Ever again.*

*But what I did feel in those days, was loved. Loved by so many people that I had no idea loved me so deeply. The people in my church gave me big, long hugs. The community theatre director let us sit around and talk instead of rehearsing. People from all over the world said that they were praying for our community. The teachers were so honest in telling us that*

*they were feeling just as broken and confused as us. It was a revelation to see teachers as vulnerable humans. And it was the first time I ever saw my stalwart parish priest weep. It was also, I think, the first time I had ever seen him truly angry.*

*Jesus said, "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."*

*Alas, our walks of faith are not ones of safety. The world has made sure of that. But our walks of faith can be ones of prayer, vulnerability, and—above all—love. It may seem like such a small thing in the face of such big pain. But I am telling you because I know first hand. It is not a small thing. Because for someone young or even someone not so young, sometimes the love you show is the only thing they have to cling to in times of despair.*

*Our love is Christ revealed in a broken world. Our love is the promise of resurrection revealed to a dying world. Our love is Divine Comfort revealed to a world that may never be safe.*



On December 10th, The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and St. Timothy's will be observing Gun Violence Prevention Sunday. Between the 9 and 10:45 a.m. services (as well as after the 10:45 a.m. service) Fleming Hall will be set up for our parishioners to engage in a very important letter writing campaign to our representatives. "The fight for common sense gun legislation faces an uphill battle in the Missouri Legislature, to the point where sensible gun bills rarely even get a committee hearing. We are encouraging parishioners to sign letters to Senator Caleb Rowden, Senate President, and Representative Dean Plocher, Speaker of the Missouri House, asking that sensible gun legislation gets assigned to committee in a timely manner so we can have a public debate on the issues. We are not addressing specific legislation at this time. We are simply asking that proposed gun bills calling for reasonable restrictions and limitations be allowed to come through the democratic process for discussion." Letters, envelopes, and stamps will be provided. All we need is your signature and your prayers.

I'm asking for your help on December 10th for an issue that is, unfortunately, quite near and dear to my heart. I want my children to live in a world safer than the one I grew up in. Signing a letter to change a schedule may seem like such a small thing, not nearly enough. But I can testify to the importance of seemingly small acts of love in the face of overwhelming violence and grief.

*In addition to the letter-writing campaign, there will also be an interfaith prayer vigil cohosted by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and the Central States Synod of the ELCA on December 10th, at 6pm, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 N Euclid Ave., St. Louis. Join us to remember the victims and survivors of gun violence.*

# Advent and Christmas Events and Services

To the Community of St. Timothy's,

The season of Advent is quickly approaching! Advent is the holy season where we prepare our hearts and minds for the mystery of the Incarnation. So great a mystery, that we require four whole weeks to get ready! I'd like to highlight a few Advent and Christmas offerings:



**Advent Event:** Sunday, December 3 from 9:40 - 10:30 a.m. in Fleming Hall

We will have fun with all sorts of seasonal crafts. Make something to adorn your own Christmas tree, or to give to someone special. Decidedly not a crafter? Come admire the work of others while you visit over cookies and coffee.

**Cookie Walk:** Sunday, December 10 in the Library

You won't want to miss St. Timothy's Annual Cookie Walk! Peruse a delectable array of sweet treats baked by our members and pay by the pound! They make great gifts, too. The Cookie Walk will be open between the services starting at 9:40 a.m. and after the 10:45 a.m. service. Proceeds benefit the community life of St. Tim's.

**Advent in Narnia:** Wednesday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a special, intergenerational program at St. Tim's. Using C.S. Lewis's world of *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*, we will be exploring and playing with the ways we prepare for Christmas. ALL AGES are welcome to join us for discussion, crafts, games, dinner, and prayer. Reading the book or having seen the movie is NOT required, although this might be a good excuse to read or revisit this classic tale! Please email [garron@saint-tims.org](mailto:garron@saint-tims.org) if you and your family are planning to attend.

**Greening of the Church:** It's all hands on deck to deck the halls! After the 10:45 a.m. service on December 17, please stay to help hang greenery and decorate for Christmas Eve. Hot cocoa provided in appreciation.

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent:** Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 a.m.

The calendar decided to be a little tricky this year, with The Fourth Sunday of Advent falling on Christmas Eve. We will celebrate Advent 4 with a 10 a.m. Morning Prayer service led by Deacon Dayna Jewson. *This will be the only morning service.* Then we make a swift pivot into Christmas, with our regularly scheduled Christmas Eve services.

## Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24

**Stations of the Nativity:** We invite you and your family to enter into the Nativity story at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve. St. Timothy's will offer a special, interactive Stations of the Nativity service, including Holy Communion. The service will begin in Fleming Hall, moving to the Sanctuary for Prayers and the Eucharist. All are invited to come experience anew our familiar Christmas story.

**Music of the Season:** Join us at 8:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve (12/24) for a peaceful, musical respite of 30 minutes of seasonal music in our beautiful sanctuary before the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. A selection of choir anthems, organ pieces, and carols for the congregation will set the mood for us to welcome the Christ Child into the world.

**Festival Eucharist:** At 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve (12/24), we invite you to join us for our Traditional Christmas Eve celebration on the Feast of the Nativity. The service will include many of your favorite hymns, led by our talented choir. A candlelit singing of Silent Night at the end of the service will leave you in awe of the Incarnation.



**Christmas Day:** On Monday, December 25 at 10 a.m., we hope you will join us for a combined service on Christmas morning! Please join us for this casual and festive service celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Many Advent Blessings!  
The Rev. Meghan Ryan

## *Advent & Christmastide at St. Timothy's*

### ⌘ **ADVENT I** ⌘

3 December

Holy Eucharist 9:00 and 10:45 AM

*Advent Event: 9.40-10.30 AM in Fleming Hall*

### ⌘ **ADVENT II** ⌘

10 December

Holy Eucharist – 9:00 and 10:45 AM

*Cookie Walk – Before and after each service.*

### ⌘ **ADVENT IN NARNIA** ⌘

Wednesday, 13 December – 5.30 PM  
*in Fleming Hall.*

### ⌘ **ADVENT III** ⌘

17 December – *Gaudete*

Holy Eucharist – 9:00 and 10:45 AM

*Greening of the Church following the 10.45 service.*

### ⌘ **ADVENT IV** ⌘

24 December

Spoken Morning Prayer – 10.00 AM

### ⌘ **CHRISTMAS EVE** ⌘

24 December

Stations of the Nativity & Holy Eucharist – 4.00 PM  
*and*

Music of the Season – 8.30 PM

Holy Eucharist – 9.00 PM

### ⌘ **CHRISTMAS DAY** ⌘

25 December

Holy Eucharist – 10:00 AM



## **Altar Guild: A Ministry of Love**

By The Rev. Meghan Ryan

The website of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Monrovia, California, describes altar guilds this way:

"Altar Guilds in the Episcopal Church developed in the late nineteenth century. In the early days of the Church of England, altar care was the task of clerics. Many years later, laymen and eventually women were included in this ministry. Altar guilds today are people who are called to serve God by preparing and tending the places where we



worship, enabling the liturgy. ("Liturgy" literally means, "the work of the people.") The altar guild has a special role as the priest's liturgical

partner by making the worship life of the parish run smoothly. The work is an offering of time and talents. It is a ministry of love undertaken in the name of Christ." [saintlukesmonrovia.org](http://saintlukesmonrovia.org)

St. Timothy's is looking for new members to join the Altar Guild. This important ministry includes setting out and cleaning up the elements for Eucharist, refilling, lighting, and extinguishing the candles, laundering used linens, and preparing for special services. This is a vital ministry for our church. It's perfect for those that would prefer to serve "behind the scenes" and/or those that are detail oriented. This ministry is open to teenagers and adults. For many years, the altar guild was designed as a "ladies' ministry" but that is no longer the case! Any and all may participate. If you'd like to discern a call to this ministry, please contact [meghan@saint-tims.org](mailto:meghan@saint-tims.org) for more information.



# Be an Angel to Children in Need this Christmas

By Tina Warhover

As many of you know, ministering to children in St. Louis City and County detention centers is exclusively led by the Episcopal Church. Episcopal City Mission (ECM) provides on-site chaplains who provide counseling and mentoring to youth as they navigate the justice system and move back to school and society.

ECM believes that every child should know the magic of the holiday season. With your help, every child in detention will have at least one gift to unwrap. The message they receive is the true gift: they are beloved children of God, someone cares, and there is hope for a better life!

You can help by taking some tags off the Angel Tree located in the St. Tim's Gathering Space, purchasing the items listed, dropping them off by **Sunday, December 10.**

## Suggested gifts:

- ◆ GAMES: Connect 4, Scrabble, Jenga, Sorry, UNO, SkipBo, Playing Cards, Ping Pong Balls & Paddles
- ◆ Jigsaw Puzzles (50 - 200 pieces)
- ◆ Word Search Books (no wire/spiral binding, no Sudoku, no Crosswords)
- ◆ Children's version Bible Trivia
- ◆ Composition Notebooks—Black ONLY—for journaling (no spiral/wire binding)
- ◆ Coloring books & crayons (Super Hero and Teen-themed)
- ◆ Individually Wrapped Candy (no gum, peanuts, or lollipops)

Place the gift under the Angel Tree in the Gathering Space at St. Timothy's and hang an angel on the tree, or contact Tina Warhover for porch pickup.

**You can also buy a gift card or make a donation.** Gift cards can be in any amount, from Target, Walmart, Amazon, or Old Navy. They are combined to purchase a personal gift for each child.

**Monetary donations** can be in the form of a check to St. Timothy's (with "ECM Angel Tree" on the memo line) or through online giving [HERE](#) using "ECM Angel Tree" as the Designation. Please drop off gift cards or make donations by **Sunday, December 10.**

Contact Tina Warhover at [tinawarhover@gmail.com](mailto:tinawarhover@gmail.com) or at 314-750-7009 with any questions.

By Leslie Corey

LinkSTL and the Hyde Park Community Collaborative are working together to provide after school and summer programs for children in the Hyde Park neighborhood. Hyde Park is an historic North St. Louis neighborhood which lost its prosperity to industrial disinvestment after WWII. Revitalization of our city neighborhoods is so important. The Hyde Park Community Collaborative aims to foster sustainable community development and collaborate with local partner organizations. LinkSTL works out of the old Clay Elementary School; they and other organizations provide services such as educational programming. I teach a class there called the De-Stress Cafe, providing a free dinner and babysitting so that parents can come and talk and learn tools to help with the stressors of everyday life.

This holiday season, LinkSTL is asking for your help to bring joy to the children of Hyde Park. They are collecting new, unwrapped toys for girls and boys ages 5 - 14. Your donation will help every child have a happy and memorable holiday season. If you're not sure what to get, they accept monetary donations which will be used to purchase toys for the children. Every dollar counts!

If you would like to purchase a toy, please take a tag from the Angel tree or simply purchase a toy for children in these age ranges:

Boy 5-7, Boy 8-10, and Boy 11-14  
Girl 5-7, Girl 8-10, and Girl 11-14

## Gift ideas include:

**Ages 5 - 7:** Paw Patrol, Action figures, (Spiderman), Brown or Black Barbies

**Ages 8 - 10:** Legos, Arts & Crafts Kits, Squishmallows, Games

**Ages 11 - 14:** Footballs, Soccer balls, Board Games, Bath and Body Sets.

**Please return unwrapped toys by December 15.**

Donate to the Hyde Park's toy drive using their Cash App [HERE](#) or send a check to: LinkSTL, Clay Community Resources Center, 3820 N. 14th St., St. Louis, MO 63107

*Thank you for being an angel!*



# PREPARE THE WAY OF LOVE THIS ADVENT

episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove

## WHAT IS A RULE OF LIFE? WHAT IS THE WAY OF LOVE?

### Introducing a Rule of Life

The idea of a rule of life comes from the Latin word *regula* and suggests a way to regulate or regularize our lives to stay on an intentional path. A rule of life is not just a set of rules to live by; rather, it is a gentle framework to guide and support us on our way...

A rule of life is meant to be simple, realistic, flexible, and achievable. While the phrase “Rule of Life” may be new to many people, we likely already follow one; we just don’t often recognize it as such. Think of a rule of life as a pattern of your day or commitments to regular practices. An example is a commitment to exercise, or do yoga three times a week, or a commitment to eat dinner with your family every night. These are elements of a rule of life.

### Introducing the Way of Love

The Way of Love is one type of spiritual rule of life. This is not the only such spiritual rule... A spiritual rule of life is a purposeful tool to help us grow into a more meaningful life with God. As such, following the practices in the Way of Love can change one’s relationship with God, ourselves, and others with whom we share the earth.

The Way of Love invites us to a rule of life that leads to incarnating Divine Love in the world, so it is appropriate to initiate a journey on the Way of Love during Advent, the season we slow down to get ready to welcome Jesus, God incarnate, anew. The Way of Love focuses on seven different spiritual practices. On your [Journeying the Way of Love Advent Calendar](#) (on opposite page), you’ll notice each week follows a pattern.

#### Sunday: Worship

**Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and dwell with God.** When we worship, we gather with others before God. We hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, give thanks, confess, and offer the brokenness of the world to God. As we break bread, our eyes are opened to the presence of Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are made one body, the body of Christ sent forth to live the Way of Love.

#### Monday: Go

**Cross boundaries, listen deeply and live like Jesus.** As Jesus went to the highways and byways, he sends us beyond our circles and comfort, to witness to the love, justice, and truth of God with our lips and with our lives. We go to listen with humility and to join God in healing a hurting world. We go to become Beloved Community, a people reconciled in love with God and one another.

#### Tuesday: Learn

**Reflect on Scripture each day, especially on Jesus’ life and teachings.** By reading and reflecting on Scripture, especially the life and teachings of Jesus, we draw near to God and God’s word dwells in us. When we open our minds and hearts to Scripture, we learn to see God’s story and God’s activity in everyday life.

#### Wednesday: Pray

**Dwell intentionally with God daily.** Jesus teaches us to come before God with humble hearts, boldly offering our thanksgivings and concerns to God or simply listening for God’s voice in our lives and in the world. Whether in thought, word or deed, individually or corporately, when we pray we invite and dwell in God’s loving presence.

#### Thursday: Bless

**Share faith and unselfishly give and serve.** Jesus called his disciples to give, forgive, teach, and heal in his name. We are empowered by the Spirit to bless everyone we meet, practicing generosity and compassion and proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ with hopeful words and selfless actions. We can share our stories of blessing and invite others to the Way of Love.

#### Friday: Turn

**Pause, listen and choose to follow Jesus.** Like the disciples, we are called by Jesus to follow the Way of Love. With God’s help, we can turn from the powers of sin, hatred, fear, injustice, and oppression toward the way of truth, love, hope, justice, and freedom. In turning, we reorient our lives to Jesus Christ, falling in love again, again, and again.

#### Saturday: Rest

**Receive the gift of God’s grace, peace, and restoration.** From the beginning of creation, God has established the sacred pattern of going and returning, labor and rest. Especially today, God invites us to dedicate time for restoration and wholeness—within our bodies, minds, and souls, and within our communities and institutions. By resting we place our trust in God, the primary actor who brings all things to their fullness.

# ADVENT CALENDAR 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3 Worship</b> <b>Advent 1</b> Read Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus? Where do you see them in your worship today?	<b>4 Turn</b> Read Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently? How might this lesson change the way you celebrate or recognize this holy season?	<b>5 Learn</b> Read Matthew 4:18-22. How do these verses from Matthew inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes? Try reading several different translations of this passage. See how the language might change your reading of it.	<b>6 Pray</b> Pray along with the Collect for Advent 1, found on page 211 of <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> . Set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you.	<b>7 Bless</b> Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.	<b>8 Go</b> Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.	<b>9 Rest</b> Spend at least 45 minutes outside today, without doing yard work or fixing lights or redoing bows on the garland. Take some time to just sit outside and let the air wash over you, taking away the stress and worry of the moment. Read Psalm 100 before and after your outside time. See how this psalm may help you rest and recharge your spirit.
<b>10 Worship</b> <b>Advent 2</b> Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?	<b>11 Turn</b> Turn away from the busyness of the world right now. Turn your heart and mind toward giving thanks for this time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal.	<b>12 Learn</b> Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week. It can be someone you have known for a while who has not heard the faith part of your story.	<b>13 Pray</b> Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> . As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass. Ask God to bless them in their lives and work. See how this changes the way you go about your week.	<b>14 Bless</b> Spend a significant amount of time today discerning if there is a special blessing or gift you can share with your church, a local ministry, or with your community. Ask God to inspire and equip you with the fortitude and tools to make this gift something truly memorable and heartfelt.	<b>15 Go</b> Go out of your way to have a conversation with someone you might not normally visit with today. Ask God to open your heart to hear this person as God does.	<b>16 Rest</b> Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two. Whatever happens in that time, you can handle later. Give this time to yourself and Jesus, to rest and recharge for the week ahead.
<b>17 Worship</b> <b>Advent 3</b> Imagine the faces you'd like to see at church — an all-star list of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for those folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.	<b>18 Turn</b> Do you have amends or apologies or adjustments you need to make? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God's help, to make those changes.	<b>19 Learn</b> Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah's speech returns, he praises God. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.	<b>20 Pray</b> Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> . How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.	<b>21 Bless</b> We know that angels are God's special messengers to us, and that Gabriel spent intentional time with Mary, helping her to understand her part in God's story. Who has shared an important lesson or their presence with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.	<b>22 Go</b> Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God's presence in your community.	<b>23 Rest</b> Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone or while sitting next to each other on the couch or across the table. Just give it a try. Make sure to set aside time after your silence to pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest.
<b>24 Rest</b> <b>Advent 4</b> The conventional wisdom is that new parents should rest when the baby is resting. Make sure you take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus — and marvel in the wonder of a fresh, new, clean, shiny, tiny, precious start. Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.						



## Christmas Eve: The Sermon I Never Preached

By The Rev. James H. Purdy, Retired Clergy Associate

For four and one-half decades, I found leading worship on Christmas Eve a strange experience, one filled with emotion. The holiday coincides with end-of-year ministry performance conversations and statistical reports, reviewing pledge and capital campaigns, clearing and opening files, and new year budgeting. Those are emotionally-draining tasks. Being the designated head of any organization or household is complicated at this moment each year.

Worship was especially challenging. We bring powerful experiences with us into church buildings. Many were positive—welcoming and being with family (three or four generations in a pew), watching children perform and serve, singing wonderful songs, remembering childhood, anticipating a future filled with pleasant surprises placed beneath yet-unseen evergreens.

Some were more difficult—sadness at things not working out as hoped or planned, unresolved grief from the year's losses, feeling pressured financially, the onerous demands of dealing with family stress or personal addictions, remembering childhood, facing the inescapable realities of aging.

From the pulpit, I saw it all—worries, fears, hopes, ambitions, successes, failures, smiles and tears. Before the exhausting pre-Christmas labors, all of us in the church building had done much in the previous twelve months. Too much. Too much and too many and too often. All of us were busy with some thing. We were all running after some thing whether it was a lightning-fast sprint or a slogging jog. Around and around we had gone, stirring our little pots, making them boil...and our plots and our fancies and our prancing little egos, making them spin, keeping them spinning.

My heart went out to everyone, to both the elated and to the suffering. Some years I barely made it through the Homily—I knew the admixture of joy and pain seated before me. Many Christmas Eves, as I walked up the aisle in the first procession, I wanted to forge ahead to singing “Silent Night” and hearing the words of Dismissal: “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

But worship never went that way. There were prayers of intercession and confession and thanksgiving and petition to offer, an absolution to receive, honestly peaceful greetings to exchange, blessed bread and wine to share. And, of course, there was a Gospel to proclaim, a Story that begged responses from the preacher and everyone in the room.

Yes. A response. A sermon. I have never shared aloud and abroad thoughts that a friend and I cobbled together in

conversations years ago. But, thankfully, he did one Christmas Eve (a rough paraphrase):

“Let’s stop. For just a moment, let’s just - be. Be present. Be open. Do nothing. Force nothing. No more striving. Only watching and waiting. No more rushing in mind or body. Let’s be open, like a night lily to the stars, open to the music, to silence. Just be awake. Let’s catch our breath. Stop, for Christmas...”

“The good news is that we have little choice. Like Mary had no choice. Only to praise. Only to wonder. ‘For unto us a child is born.’ We are that child. You are. I am. So let God scatter our pride in the imagination of our hearts. We, too, listen for angels. Angels of mercy and angels of healing and angels of celebration, angels of mystery, angels of birth. Listen for melodies of angels chanting, watch for angels dancing in the candlelight around us in a field under stars of wonder, stars of light.

“Christmas Eve. Listen. Imagine. Do nothing more. Just wait. Wait for a miracle. Wait for the hint of a little birth stirring inside each of us, a life more precious, more urgent, more near than our own. A little burst of joy. A harbinger of hope. Beyond all seeking, beyond all striving. Just be. Here. Now. Together.”

Forrest recalled that as he and that congregation greeted each other in the night air, “There was a sense of relief. We did it! We stayed together! We lived the year! We faced its challenges, we embraced its opportunities! And, with the grace of God, we made it through every thing.”

And they have done it again and again. So, in God and God in us, do we. So will we make it through every thing.



Christmas is a gift to be observed and celebrated in the here and now of personal ways: Christmas takes place when we decide to love those around us, to take the first step to be at peace with a loved one or a foe; when we meet someone who asks for help and we assist that person with all of our heart; when we take time to speak with, and listen to, someone whose voice is rarely heard; when we understand that resentment can be transformed by forgiveness; when we let go of something to give to someone who needs it more than we do; when we choose love and joy in the place of fear or timidity. When we do any of these and more, we shall turn every moment into the new light of Christmas whether we are in December or the middle of August.

There is a wise saying: Whenever everything seems dark, consider that **you** may be the light.



## The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

By The Rev. Garron Daniels

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a feast day that has quickly picked up a lot of attention, interest, and celebration all across the Christian faith; especially within the Episcopal Church.

The feast day is all about a man named Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin who saw the Virgin Mary on two different occasions: December 9 and December 12, 1531. In these visions, the Virgin Mary told Juan Diego to ask the archbishop to build a church on the hill of Tepeyac, which is in present day Mexico City. When Juan Diego went to the archbishop with this vision, the archbishop didn't believe him and asked for proof of this vision. When Juan Diego returned to Tepeyac, he found roses growing there! He quickly gathered as many as he could into his cloak to show the bishop. Keep in mind these were roses growing in December—a time they wouldn't normally grow! Juan Diego spilled the roses across the floor in front of the bishop to show him. When he spilled them, both of them noticed that an image of the Virgin Mary was imprinted onto his cloak! By this point, the bishop was convinced of the miracle and built the church. Pilgrims from all over the world now travel to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City where the cloak with the imprinted image still resides.

Over the course of time, Our Lady of Guadalupe has taken on many titles from faithful Christians. By many she is referred to as the "Queen of Mexico," "Patroness of the Americas," "Empress of Latin America," and "Protectress of Unborn Children." She has gained a mass following and has drawn so many towards the faith.



For people of Mexican heritage, like myself, she is our Lady. She is our depiction and representation of the blessed mother in our culture and tradition. This is unique compared to other sightings of her elsewhere in the world. Hence you will see quite a few images of her in my office if you look!

For all of these reasons, we will be having a celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Timothy's to commemorate such a special feast day. **Please join us at Noon on Tuesday, December 12 for a short spoken Eucharist at St Timothy's.**

## Remembering Those We Have Lost



As 2023 comes to an end, we remember our loved ones who died this past year.  
Let us pray for all of these souls, and for their loved ones who grieve.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon them.  
May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercies of God,  
rest in peace. Amen.*

Beverlee Critchell, December 11, 2022  
Brandon Reiber, January 20, 2023  
Betty Harris, September 5, 2023

George E. McLean, July 24, 2023  
The Rev. Deacon Jan O'Neil, September 8, 2023  
Rose-Marie Bell, May 25, 2023

*Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn;  
that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Report from the Treasurer

### October 2023



October 2023 was a challenging month financially. Pledge income was down significantly, coming in at \$14,800 (in September it was \$56,000). Our quarterly distribution from the endowment fund of \$6,000 helped to boost overall income a bit, but in total, our income for the month was \$23,900. Compared to the total income in September of \$58,700, this was quite a drop.

The months of November and December are typically times of great generosity from our parishioners. Your faithful support in the next couple of months will ensure that St. Tim's finishes the year in a strong financial position. We are truly Rooted in Abundance and have so much to be grateful for.

Expenses for October 2023 were \$55,000 in total. Two outreach grants were made totaling \$8,000. These grants were made to Episcopal City Ministry (ECM) and Trinity Food Pantry. Otherwise, expenses were slightly under budget. As a result, we experienced a deficit of \$31,000 for the month of October, which now gives us a YTD deficit of \$20,800. There is a good chance that we can bring this back up to our budgeted deficit of \$15,000 over the next couple of months. Our cash on hand to support ongoing operations was impacted by the deficit for this month and now stands at \$275,600.

If you would like to view the detailed financial statements for October 2023, please click [HERE](#) for the balance sheet and [HERE](#) for profit & loss. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the treasurers at [treasurer.at.saint.tims@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.at.saint.tims@gmail.com)

- Kurt Zwikelmaier, Treasurer

## Music Notes



What time is it?  
What day is it?

As we get closer and closer to Christmas life becomes increasingly...well...crazed. Volunteers and staff preparing for a variety of Advent activities and the multiple Christmas services at St Tim's can certainly attest to occasional moments of "Which way is up?!"

Conversely, the Choir is very much focused. Rehearsals are moving along very nicely. And there is cautious optimism on the part of the Choirmaster that, in the words of Dame Julian of Norwich, "All will be well." What a dedicated bunch of singers!

The early Christmas Eve service at 4.00 PM will begin in Fleming Hall with Stations of the Nativity. The

music will be led by The Reverend Brooke Myers.

Later, at 8.30 PM in the Church, as has become tradition at St Tim's, there will be a time of seasonal music before the 9.00 PM service. A selection of Choir anthems, organ pieces, and Carols for the congregation will set the mood for us to welcome the Christ Child into the world. Yes, I think that it will be quite lovely. And the Church always looks so festive.

So, as you can see, there are a lot of preparations taking place at St Tim's to make the Advent and Christmas seasons festive and meaningful. I do hope that you'll take full advantage of all the offerings.

In the meantime, my sincerest and warmest Holiday Greetings to everyone. I look forward to seeing you at Church!

Pax,

*Mark*

Mark R. Scholtz  
Director of Music





# Dates to Remember

## December Birthdays

1	Jacob Sidor	12	Jane Perna	24	Ginni Campbell Johnson
2	Stacia Kaufman	14	John Loomis	27	Kristi Atkinson
3	Toby Hafeli		Mary Robert		Mike O'Neil
4	Pat Hutchison		Addie Joyce Sidor	31	Jason Mihal
5	Jane Wyland	15	Scott Wischnowsky		
	Kurt Zwikelmaier	16	Stewart Rayfield		
6	Ian Fogt	18	Madeleine Snyder		
7	Cheryl Gelstein	19	Louann Boyd	11	Hongxia Wang
8	Marlene Gruber Clark	21	Nya Moenkhaus		& Mark Vanacht
	Patricia Feeney		John Wischnowsky	19	Marj & Dick Gold
	Nancy Setzer	22	Doug Hagrman		Lynn & Dennis Whittington
10	Robyn Merschen		Louise Pooley	27	Jeanne & Ken Dobbins
	Dennis Whittington	23	Steve Cameron		Bev & Larry Rhea
				29	Ruth & Wayne Birch

## December Anniversaries

11	Hongxia Wang
	& Mark Vanacht
19	Marj & Dick Gold
	Lynn & Dennis Whittington
27	Jeanne & Ken Dobbins
	Bev & Larry Rhea
29	Ruth & Wayne Birch

## January Birthdays

1	Ryan Linneman	21	Keith Boyd
	Sue Ann McAvoy	29	Amy Conard
6	Grant Schuh		Ron Fleck
8	Phyllis Knight		Bob Magers
10	Madeline Zwikelmaier		Marian O'Reilly
12	Jason Atkinson	30	Jennifer Wischnowsky
	Callahan Morgan	31	Norma Rayfield
13	Ellen Ciesla		
16	Charlotte Bukowski		
	Gary Gannon		
	Gary Shreiner		
19	Ella Kaufman		
	Emma Kaufman		

## January Anniversaries

3	Mary Robert
	& David Hawley
7	Cathie & Rob Muschany
8	Celeste & Robert Roberson
12	Madeline & Kurt
	Zwikelmaier
21	Pat & John Wootton
22	Emmy & Jim Purdy

*O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

*BCP, p. 830*

## Stewardship 2024 Update

St. Timothy's is truly and deeply Rooted in Abundance. We have an abundance of caring clergy and members who are welcoming to visitors and fellow members, provide meaningful liturgy, insightful educational opportunities for all ages, as well as fellowship opportunities that can make us all feel like we belong.

But for St. Tim's to continue with its ministries and activities, it takes all of us working together and providing financial support.

As of December 3, we've received 87 pledges totaling \$499,255, which is 87% of our \$575,600 goal. This includes 81 pledges for the same or higher than last year. We also received 10 pledges from those who did not pledge last year—a very encouraging sign! However, that means we still have \$76,345 remaining to reach our goal.

There is no "too late" in this process. The doors are always open for more good news and additional generosity. If you haven't done so yet, please prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2024, or perhaps even increase one that you have already submitted.

All of us are needed to contribute to remain deeply Rooted in Abundance.

Gratefully, The Stewardship Team

Celeste Roberson, Karen Sharp, Marc Vanacht,  
Fr. Garron, and Mother Meghan

## A Note from the Pastoral Care Team

Sometimes getting a meal on the table is a real challenge. Whether you are recovering from surgery, dealing with an illness, or have a new baby, meals are always appreciated. While providing meals is not currently something the Pastoral Care Committee has the capacity to do, we are pleased to provide an online "Meal Train" so that church members and other loved ones may provide meals. Simply contact Mother Meghan and give her the preliminary information/dates. We will share the link in Tim's Times and you are free to share the link with your other family, friends, and neighbors.

## Sunday School and STYL Update

As 2023 winds down, I'm grateful for such a fantastic semester of Sunday School and youth programming with so many kids and teachers learning and teaching about Christ in our lives and His presence all around us.

I wanted to let you know that Sunday School and STYL will meet through Sunday, December 17. Sunday School will have their usual classes in between services that day, and STYL will meet at St. Peter's that evening for an exciting Christmas Party! We will not have Sunday School or STYL on the following weeks to give our students and our teachers/youth ministers a break during the busy holiday season.

Be on the lookout for announcements about the Spring 2024 calendar for Sunday School and STYL events. We have a lot of exciting things planned in the new year! Please contact me at [garron@saint-tims.org](mailto:garron@saint-tims.org) if you have any questions, or feel a calling towards being a Sunday School teacher or Youth Minister. No experience necessary to take part in this amazing ministry!

- Fr. Garron

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