



ALL ANGELS BY THE SEA WEEKLY TIDINGS

December 16, 2021

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Blue Christmas, a liturgy of prayer, remembrance, healing and hope, December 21, 5 pm

Christmas Eve, a joyous celebration of the Nativity, December 24, 5 pm

The Marshalls are leaving on December 30th and returning on January 3rd. Fr. Fred will be celebrating the 8 and 10 am services on January 2nd.

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 and 10:00 am

To live stream, go to AllAngelsBK.org, click on the "All Angels

To live-stream - go to [AllAngelsLBK.org](https://www.AllAngelsLBK.org), click on the "All Angels Enter Here" picture and you will be routed to our YouTube channel.

Zoom - go to <https://zoom.us/j/5955701807> and watch and listen live. Be sure to stick around after the service for our coffee hour chat-with-your-neighbor time.

The 10am service will begin with the lighting of the altar candles. If you are participating at home, you are invited to light a candle with us to create a sacred space of worship at home.

The bulletin can be found on the All Angels Website:

[AllAngelsLBK.org](https://www.AllAngelsLBK.org)

or at the following link: [Bulletin for Sunday, December 19](#)

Scripture Readings, December 19

Micah 5:2-5a

Canticle 15

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55

[Click Here for this Sunday's Readings](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Last Sunday's Service





OUTREACH

Diaper Drive

You still have time to donate diapers, sizes 5 & 6 only



SPECIAL REPORT

Diocese Donates More Than \$21,000 to Episcopal Relief & Development to Support Tornado Victims and Other Global Needs

On Monday, December 13, the Diocese of Southwest Florida donated \$21,589 to Episcopal Relief & Development with \$3,000 going directly to cover the excruciating trauma experienced by the state of Kentucky and other states during the 'Quad-State Tornado' storm system on Friday, December 10, 2021.

"This donation comes from the diocesan budget, voted for in convention by all the congregations. However, I encourage and urge all congregations in the diocese in this Advent and impending Christmas season to be generous

to Episcopal Relief & Development for the relief of the tornado victims."

to Episcopal Relief & Development for the relief of the tornado victims," said the Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith, Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida.

As reported by the Weather Channel, the storm system generated more than 30 tornado reports across six states stretching across the Mississippi Valley, Southeast, and Midwest. The most deadly tornado killed at least 70 people and may have set the record for the longest continuous tornado in American history.

[Episcopal Relief & Development](#) works in collaboration with church partners and other local organizations to facilitate healthier, more fulfilling lives in communities that are struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster, and disease. The organization works around the world and here in the US responding to and rebuilding after disasters including the 'Quad-State Tornado' storms disaster.

Episcopal Relief & Development programs impact the lives of more than 3 million people annually. The organization's expertise, experience, and practical knowledge support communities to lasting change with a focus on three key priorities: women, children, and climate.

The diocese also donated \$18,589 to the Episcopal Relief & Development's Sustainable Development Goals which address global poverty, hunger, sustainable community growth, and climate change. You can read more about the Sustainable Development Goals [HERE](#).

You can make a donation online to the Episcopal Relief & Development [HERE](#) or you can send relief checks to Episcopal Relief & Development at P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058. You can also send your check to the Diocesan House, 8005 25th Street East, Parrish, FL 34219 and we will send it to Episcopal Relief & Development.





PRAYERS

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer invites you to pray with them, every day, at 8 am, wherever you are. When you enter into prayer at 8 am (Eastern), you will know that others are praying at the same time.

We Pray for our People

We pray on behalf of all whose needs of body, soul and mind are great. Especially we lift before you the needs of: Downs IV, Holden, and Brian. Grant healing and recovery for Beverly and Bill. Give peace and strength for those going through cancer treatments, especially Jane, Downs III, Victoria, Alex, Connie and Douglas. Visit and comfort all who are under the care of skilled nursing, especially Timothy and Barbara. Be near to all who are in hospice care, especially Stan.

For the repose of the soul of Andres Torres.
May his souls and souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

One of the most important things we do is gather after the service for coffee hour. If you are interested in hosting, the sign up sheet is on the

coffee hour. If you are interested in hosting, the sign up sheet is on the Gallery table. If you would like help, sign up and we will find someone to show you how it is done.

Choir Rehearsals, Hand Bell Rehearsals and Music in the Park

Please note the schedule for Thursday morning Music rehearsals and Music in the Park.

10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

11 a.m. Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal for Christmas Eve

12:30 Music in the Park

New members are needed in each choir.

Contact Dale for more information: 941 896 5541,

or dhooey@verizon.net. This schedule will change after the new year begins.

Art Gallery

New to YOU Art Sale 2022 Update:

We are now accepting art that is no longer being used for our BIG event in February 2022. Please drop off your art to the church office starting now. Accepting: Framed Art, Statues, Fiber, Clay, Pottery, Mixed Media. Have a friend who has unwanted art? Please donate it to our sale.

Let's make this a Great Event!

Not sure if we will accept it? Call Linn at 941-383-8161

Our Artist for December is Chris Connors

Please stop by and enjoy the work of this talented artist. Checks should be written to All Angels by the Sea.





Discussion Groups

Watch for next week's Discussion Group reading to be sent out later.

Men's Group, Tuesdays at 10:00.

Women's Group, Thursdays at 10:00.

Here's the Zoom link

<https://zoom.us/j/5955701807>

Online Giving

If you would like to give to the offering plate electronically, you can find the online giving link on our All Angels website by clicking the link below:

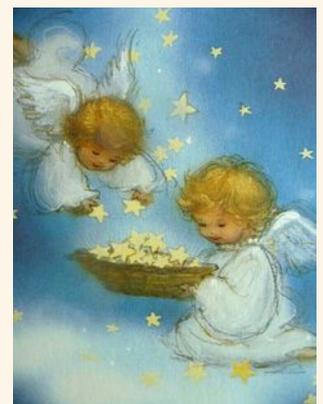
AllAngelsLBK.org

Masks are highly recommended for indoor events.

REFLECTION

Host of Angels

As the song goes, *it's the most wonderful time of the year*. I'm wondering what makes it wonderful for you? For me, it is a great number of things –family and celebration, memories and traditions, church and holy festivities, and chocolate. Lots of chocolate.



The Bible readings this time of year also make it the most wonderful time of the year for me. The passages are full of hope and promise; and angels. Lots and lots of angels. An angel spoke directly to Mary. She asked the angel questions and the angel, Gabriel, responded. It shows a deeper relationship than simply a messenger. An angel spoke to Joseph in a dream. The angel was protecting Mary and her unborn child. The dream-like exchange with Joseph and the angel radically altered Joseph's life – he had to give up something in order to continue with the engagement and marriage plans with Mary. An angel appeared to shepherds keeping watch over their flock at night. After telling them to be not afraid, the message of good news was delivered that the Christ was born this day. Then, a multitude of the heavenly host praised God and sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth."

In this wonderful time of year, our Bible lessons show that angels brought peace, announced good news, invited people to follow along with the plan of salvation for all people, protected the vulnerable, revealed themselves to the lowly and unlikely, and sang. Lots and lots of singing and praising of God.

My theology of angels has changed since coming to All Angels. I used to say, "I believe in angels." I no longer "believe" because I know they exist. Period. I know it is not very Anglican of me to be so black and white, but, after experiencing what I have experienced, and, after hearing so many stories of those who have experienced them, I know they exist. I know gravity exists but I can't explain it; I know angels exist but I can't explain that either.

I hope you have at least one angel on your Christmas tree. It is a Marshall tradition to have an angel at the top and then bunches of them around the tree. Like a "flock of seagulls" or a "pod of dolphins" or an "aggregation of manatees", the group noun for angels is "host". We have a whole host of

angels on our tree and each one looks different. Some angels have a trumpet, others are singing, others yet are smiling. It is a joyous host.

Just because I believe/know that angels exist doesn't mean you have to. Also, some may not think this is the most wonderful time of the year either. I wonder if Mary and Joseph found it to be a wonderful time – being away from family and friends and giving birth in a stable would make it seem not so wonderful. By the time Jesus turned one, they were most likely refugees in Egypt – because angels sent a warning that they need to flee. It took a while for them to be safe enough to return to Joseph's home town of Nazareth. Come to think of it, I wonder if life ever returned to normal for them. Nevertheless, I think and hope they found it to be wonderful. The non-biblical accounts of the Holy Family show that they were surrounded with joy and peace. Some go so far as to say that Jesus was the perfect child. I guess no big surprise there; after all the prophet Isaiah said his name would be Wonderful Counsellor, Prince of Peace.

I can't explain gravity, or angels, or the mystery of the incarnation celebrated in Christmas; but, despite the grief I feel about recently losing my dad, I still choose to believe it is the most wonderful time of the year, I choose to believe that Mary and Joseph found it to be a wonderful time too, and I choose to believe a whole host of angels found it wonderful too.

-Rev. Dave



