



# ALL ANGELS BY THE SEA WEEKLY TIDINGS

December 30, 2021

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## SUNDAY SERVICES 8:00 and 10:00 am

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 January 2*



Altar Flowers for Sunday, January 2  
are given by Cathie Wilt  
in loving memory of her parents June and Bill Mohr.



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## Scripture Readings, January 2

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

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

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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. The All Angels Office will be closed from December 28 to January 3rd.

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## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Last Sunday's Service  
12-26-21

Christmas Eve Service  
12-24-21



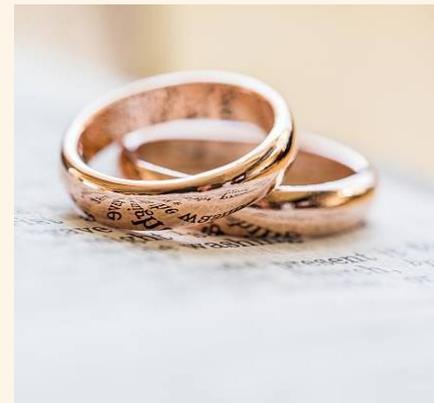
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## JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays



### Anniversaries



11 Holly Bruce  
16 Fred Emrich  
23 Virginia Spitler  
24 Ed Ortiz  
27 Linn Torres  
29 Ann Williams  
31 James Thomas

13 Hank & Jinx Kochan  
15 David & Catharine Burke  
20 Larry & Pam Elder

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## 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, Brian and Nora. 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.

For the repose of the soul of Stan Long.  
May light perpetual shine on him,  
and may his soul and the souls of all the departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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## **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 Gallery table. If you would like help, sign up and we will find someone to show you how it is done.

### **Choir 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

**12:30** Music in the Park

New members are always welcome in the choir.

Contact Dale for more information: 941 896 5541,

or [dhooey@verizon.net](mailto: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 January 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

Discussion Groups will return on January 4 and 6, 2022.

Here is the article for discussion:

*How To Live When You Are In Pain*

## 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](http://AllAngelsLBK.org)

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Masks are highly recommended for indoor events.

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## REFLECTION

### *Soft-spoken Jesus*

A clergy friend of mine wrote something that has struck a chord in me. Fr. Mike Flynn wrote, "The closer we get to Jesus, the quieter he speaks. This necessitates that we constantly listen, and have humble faith, so that we are persuaded by his soft still voice." It is reported in all four Gospels that Jesus went to quiet places to pray. Since no one has ever been closer to God than Jesus it behooves us to pay attention to his habits.



There are two distinct paths of discernment (to discern God's direction and will). One way is to talk to someone. The Church calls it a "holy conversation"; the business world would call it "bouncing ideas" off each other. The other method is to sit quietly, to think and listen and draw close to the Creator and Sustainer. Maybe Jesus had the same two paths and would either bounce ideas off other people or go off to quiet places to think and talk to God. The Gospels give examples of Jesus doing both of those.

Back to the main issue – the closer one is to Jesus, the quieter he speaks. This means those who are far off hear him well and those who are near do not. That is not how we, as humans, like things. I never imagined the prophet Isaiah having a hard time hearing God speak. Jeremiah, Noah, even Jonah, seemed to hear God loud and clear. Yet, based on Fr. Flynn's

principle, they too, like you and me, must be intentional when listening to God. The Magi (wise people) heard nothing from God, instead, they followed a silent star. On the other hand, when they arrived in Jerusalem and talked to the religious/political elite, their voices must have sounded very loud – “The Messiah has been born!” Using the Flynn principle, the Magi had a close relationship with God and as such only saw a silent star during the silence of the night; King Herod, who heard their words, was spiritually speaking far away from God.

Imagine Mother Teresa in conversation with God. You would think she was so close to God that she could hear the Lord easily. But, based on the Flynn principle and on what she herself reported, she had to strain to hear God the same as you and I. That also means the so-called holy people of our day have to really pay attention to what God is saying because his voice is so quiet to them.

This is a humbling principle. I think that God speaks loudly to folks we call new Christians. They're on fire for the Lord. But the closer they draw, the softer Jesus speaks which might lead to discouragement. I know folks who have entered AA and clearly heard God. But, the more steps they took, and the deeper they lived into their sobriety and faith, the quieter Jesus spoke. I heard Jesus quite well during my discernment. But then, during my three-year formation in seminary, the voice of Jesus got softer and softer. It's nice to know if Jesus' voice is still and quiet, it's not that I'm not drifting from Jesus, rather he is inviting me to draw even closer to hear. During very difficult times in ministry, I feel as close to Jesus as if I am sitting at a small coffee shop table with him. Yet, in those intimate times, Jesus beckons me to come closer and speaks in a whisper barely discernable from the noise of the cafe.

As we live into the season of Epiphany, remembering when God illuminated people's hearts and minds, we should also remember the

practice of listening for God's soft whisper on a gentle breeze.

-Rev. Dave

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*Angels  
gather here*