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285 South 208 Street 402-289-4058

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Advent 1
Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Baptism
Sunday, November 27, 2022
10:30 AM

Please know that this service is being live-streamed through Facebook Live, and those attending in person may be visible during the service.

PRELUDE

Instrumental

ENTRANCE HYMN

Sleepers, Wake!

H 61

1 "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: "A -
heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she
saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their
wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her
harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -
 Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -
 ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
 rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
 tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."
 heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
 greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

SALUTATION FOR BAPTISM

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;
People There is one hope in God's call to us;
Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People One God and Father of all.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me, *
“Let us go to the house of God.”

² Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

⁴ To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Holy One, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of God.

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
“May they prosper who love you.

⁷ Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

⁸ For my kindred and companions’ sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.

⁹ Because of the house of the Holy One our God, *
I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

¹¹You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *O day of God, draw nigh* H 601

All stand.

1 O day of God, draw nigh in beau - ty and in power, come
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid, the
3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure, and
4 Bring to our world of strife thy sov - ereign word of peace, that
5 O day of God, draw nigh as at cre - a - tion's birth, let

1 with thy time - less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.
2 qui - et of a stead - fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
3 fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
4 war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
5 there be light a - gain, and set thy judg - ments in the earth.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said to his disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Benedict Varnum

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE

The Celebrant says

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

The Parents and Godparents say

I present Joseph Allen Sundell to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Celebrant then continues

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

The Celebrant then asks

Question

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer

I renounce them.

Question

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer

I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

The Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Celebrant then says

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

All stand

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?
People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People I will, with God's help.

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE

The Celebrant says to the congregation

Let us now pray for Joe who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

People The Lord be with you.

Celebrant And also with you.

People Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel

out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE BAPTISM

Joe, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

Joe, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. *Amen.*

The Celebrant then says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

After the Baptism, the Clergy and People process back to their places.

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: David Fritson, Avenly Churchill, Angie Gallegos, Alexis Mann, Barb Peckham, Brody Ptomey, and David Cook

Anniversaries:

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 life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Celebrant says

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:15, 16

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Offered by The Canterbury Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
God, all crea-tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy

Sally Hodges

Celebrant and People

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your
7 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in - the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
13 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

EPICLESIS

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.
[*Amen.*]

COMMUNION HYMN *Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes* H 72

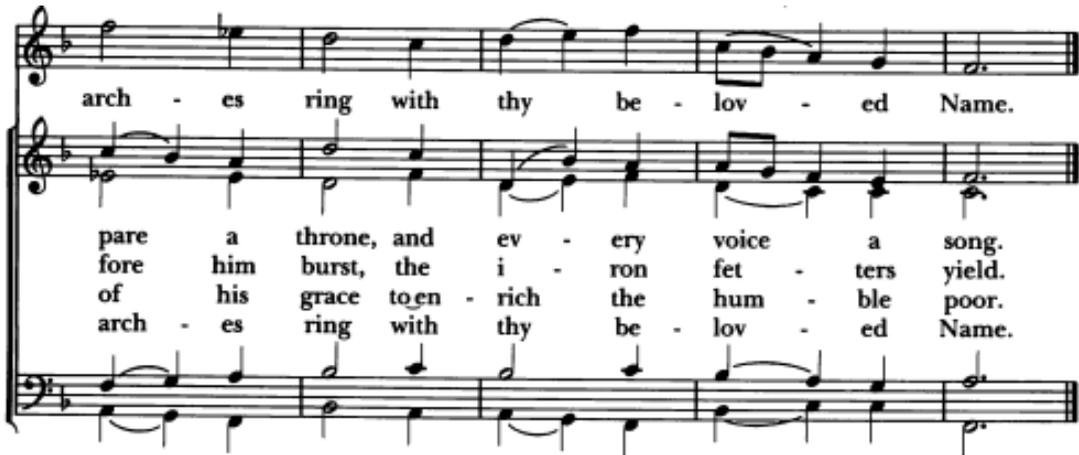
Descant

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
 2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal



arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Loving God,
 we give you thanks
 for restoring us in your image
 and nourishing us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
 Now send us forth
 a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
 that we may proclaim your love to the world
 and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The Wisdom of God
the Love of God
and the Grace of God
strengthen you
to be Christ's hands and heart in this world,
in the name of the Holy Trinity. *Amen.*

(source: Celtic)

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Come, labor on H 541

Sung through twice



1	Come,	la - bor	on.	Who	dares	stand	i -	dle
2	Come,	la - bor	on.	The	en - e -	my	is	
3	Come,	la - bor	on.	A -	way	with	gloom -	y
4	Come,	la - bor	on.	Claim	the	high	call -	ing
5	Come,	la - bor	on.	No	time	for	rest,	till



1	on	the	har - vest	plain,	while	all	a - round	us
2	watch - ing	night	and	day,	to	sow	the	tares, to
3	doubts	and	faith - less	fear!	No	arm	so	weak but
4	an - gels	can - not	share—		to	young	and	old the
5	glows	the	west - ern	sky,	till	the	long	sha - dows



1 waves the gold - en grain? And to each ser - vant
2 snatch the seed a - way; while we in sleep our
3 may do ser - vice here: by feeb - lest a - gents
4 Gos - pel glad - ness bear: re - deem the time; its
5 o'er our path - way lie, and a glad sound comes



1 does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."
2 du - ty have for - got, he slum - bered not.
3 may our God ful - fill his right - eous will.
4 hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.
5 with the set - ting sun, "Ser - vants, well done."

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Instrumental*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greening of the Church

Join with the St. A's Altar Guild for the Greening of the Church after services **TODAY at 11:30am**. We will need families of all ages to drape garland, hang wreaths, place florals in windows, and hang ornaments from the ceiling. Ladders and treats provided!

Advent Wreath Making

Please join us for a Multi-generational Advent Wreath making Workshop in between services **TODAY!** Please bring your metal wreath form from last year if you have it. We will have fresh greenery, decorations and all of the supplies you will need. If you are able to give, we will be accepting good will donations to cover the cost of supplies. Any surplus will go to the Youth Fund.

Holiday Greenery

Holiday Greenery is here! You can pick up your order at Morgan Hall after either service **TODAY** or during regular office hours (M-Th 9-12). Please stop in the office or call ahead so someone can open up Morgan Hall for you. If you did not pre-pay when you placed your order, payment is due at the time of pick-up. This year, all proceeds will benefit Dean Fricke Episcopal Community Outreach.

Christmas Poinsettias

Each year prior to Christmas, we ask for donations towards our Altar Flower Fund. This fund purchases the lovely greenery and flowers for the Christmas season as well as the flowers that adorn the altar throughout the year.

Special envelopes are on the table in the narthex near the bulletins for you to use to remember loved ones or give thanks for your blessings. We will add the names of remembered loved ones to our Christmas Bulletin.

Special Collection in November

Today is the last Sunday to contribute to our special collection for November which will be donated to the Fricke Episcopal Food Ministry (formerly Dean Fricke Memorial Food Pantry). They have changed their name to reflect their new mission of supporting broader community needs. They now provide those in need with food and non-food items, such as personal care and hygiene items. In November, we are collecting both monetary donations (as always, please include First Sunday or Fricke on the memo line of your check) and items donated for a toiletry drive. Please see our weekly email newsletter for a list of suggested items.

Confirmation and Newcomers Meets Next on December 4!

Fall, 2022, Specific Sundays at 9:30

This Fall, we'll have a class for **youth (8th Grade & Up)** and **adults**, meeting at 9:30, between our two services several times a month (see schedule below). For high schoolers, this is a chance to make a first young adult claim on their faith tradition, and ask Fr Ben and others real questions about what it means to grow up as a Christian as they get ready to go forth in the world in the next few years. For adult newcomers, this class is a chance to learn about traditions and practices, how to live faithfully as a member of St Augustine's, and bring your questions as well!

Everyone who participates (youth and adults) will have a chance to be Confirmed (a sacramental blessing like baptism) or Received (a formal reception into the Episcopal Church for those already Confirmed) by Bishop Barker on his visit on **February 12th, 2023**.

Sunday Confirmation Class Dates:

December 4th, January 8th, January 22nd, February 5th

Celebrating Christmas with COPE!

COPE (Christian Outreach Program of Elkhorn) Adopt-a-Person is back!

Please feel free to take one or more tags. Or, if this is not something you want to do alone, consider pairing up with another family or friend to adopt someone. We have less tags this year as COPE continues adding new churches to help with their outreach. If you find that all of our people have been adopted or prefer not to adopt but would still like to contribute, we would still love you to help by donating a \$25 gift card that will be used for someone.

All gifts need to be brought to the church by **Sunday, December 4**. Please put all gifts in a large bag with the family tag attached to the bag. Please put gift cards in a plain envelope with the person's tag attached.

We will need **youth** to help with pick up on **Thursday, December 8**. Be sure to save the date and look for a sign up coming soon! As always, **THANK YOU** for your caring contribution to the COPE Christmas gifts!

Altar Flowers

Would you like to remember or celebrate someone special by purchasing altar flowers to be displayed on a particular Sunday? Now you can. We'll even make it easy for you by ordering bouquets from Magdalene Blooms and getting them onto the altar. Starting this week, St. A's is accepting donations (suggested donation is \$50 earmarked for altar flowers on the memo line). If you are donating in someone's name or for a specific date, please let us know that as well so we can include the information in the bulletin.

Don't Forget to Pledge!

2023 is just around the corner!!

Have you thought about completing your 2022 pledge, prepaying your 2023 pledge or just making that additional contribution to St. Augustine's for tax purposes? All money must be deposited by December 31, 2022, in order for you to be able to deduct your charitable contribution on your 2022 tax return.

Considering holidays and office closures, we have some options for you and deadlines to consider.

- If you want to use our PayPal system, you need to have it in no later than December 24, as it takes 2-3 business days to reach our account after we initiate transfer.
- If you are paying by check, please make sure it is to the office by December 30.
- If you want to take advantage of our brokerage account through Charles Schwab, plan early!!! With the transfer from your account to our account and then taking into consideration the sale time and not to mention getting the check written to St. Augustine's and getting it deposited by December 31 – well do we need to say more?? Please contact treasurer, Maggie Wellman, for the needed information to access our account.

If you need to know your pledge balance for 2022, please contact Jay as she has all the updated information. Thank you for working with us to meet our deadlines and to make the end of the year a smooth transition into 2023!!

Free Firewood

There is a small pile of fire wood located on the south east garden boundary free for the taking at any time and hour. We need to get it moved out. Contact Jim Keepers at jlkeepers45@gamil.com or call 402-618-8837 if you have any questions.

Blue Christmas Service

On **Saturday, December 10, 5:00 pm** we will be holding a service for remembering loved ones through this time of preparing for Christmas, with readings both sacred and secular. This service gives us a moment to lift up those who are in our hearts through this tender time of year, light candles in memory of them, and celebrate the Holy Eucharist to gather together with Christ's Table at which all in this world and the life to come are united in God's love.

Please feel free to invite others who may need a moment of prayer and tradition to remember our loved ones.

Magdalene Omaha Product Sale

Please join us on **Sunday, December 11 during both Coffee Hours**, in supporting our friends at Magdalene Omaha by getting some Christmas shopping done with some amazing products designed and hand made with love by survivors. They have bath and shower products, body creams, lip balms, candles and scented waxes. Every purchase supports Magdalene Omaha and the survivors of sex trafficking.

Wrapping Party!

During Youth Group **Wednesday, December 14 from 6-8 pm** parishioners are invited to a Wrapping Party! Free will donations for youth wrapping or babysitting are welcomed and appreciated. You are welcome to bring your own supplies, and wrap your own presents while youth babysit or drop off presents for youth to wrap. Please contact Kate (ministries@sainta.net) for more information.

Lessons and Carols and Cookies

On **Sunday, December 18th at 9:30 AM** we will have a combined worship service, and the only service that day. There will be no Sunday School so your children are able to enjoy the service with you! We would love for you to save a plate of cookies or Christmas goodies to share at our coffee hour after the Lessons and Carols service!

Fricke Ministry Representative to Help Youth

One of the ministries in our broader area is the Fricke Episcopal Community Ministry, coordinated by our cathedral, Trinity Episcopal. This ministry has identified various needs over the years, and invites each local parish to have a representative that helps learn about their work and communicate it back. Barb Hall has been our representative, and as she shifts into other ministries, she's ready to help someone else step into this role for our church. Currently, the Fricke Episcopal Food Ministry is coordinating special drives for toiletry needs for youth in local schools, including soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tampons/pads, toilet paper, and laundry detergent. This support of hygiene needs fills in a need that often falls through the crack, helping support hygiene and preventing bullying, teasing, and self-esteem hits. If you'd like to help us keep aware of the Fricke Episcopal Food Ministry's work, and how St A's can assist with it each year, please contact Fr Ben at rector@sainta.net! This volunteer role involves meeting with the Fricke team

and our Outreach Committee here at St A's, currently chaired by Julie Pendegraft, and helping with occasional drives for support.

Sacred Ground, Pilgrimage, and Session 12 Racial Reconciliation Opportunities at St A's

Over the past few years, we've had more and more conversation at our parish about the Christian call to reconciliation, and how to apply that to the work of inclusion and racial reconciliation in particular. In a time when public discourse can break down really quickly on these topics, the enduring voice of our faith tradition has powerful teachings, vocabulary, and a fundamental theology of the dignity of every person God has made to help us find a solid foundation.

This year, we will have some organized opportunities to learn more together and gather in prayer, study, and fellowship as part of our parish's mission, "to be a growing, faithful, inclusive, and caring community committed to the ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ." Here are some basics of what's coming up:

- **Sacred Ground**, Sunday afternoons this Spring. This 11-session curriculum meets for 2 hour sessions with a group that commits to take the whole program together. You get to know your group members well and build trust for earnest and serious conversations. Each session has some videos and readings to prepare – probably 3-4 hours of prep time over the 2-weeks between each meeting. Documentaries, articles, prayerful reflections, and conversations help build awareness and understandings as we talk together about what faith calls us to do.

**Sacred Ground Dates, Sundays 3-5 pm: 1/22, 2/5,
2/19, 3/5, 3/19, 4/2, 4/16, 4/30, 5/7, 5/21, 6/4**

- **“Session 12,”** quarterly. Several Sacred Ground alums met with Fr Ben to discuss a regular opportunity to gather over topics of reconciliation. This is meant to offer several things: a chance for Sacred Ground alums to continue talking together and learning more, a chance for people to be part of Christian conversations about reconciliation to see if they’d like to commit to the larger Sacred Ground classes, and a chance to invite others into conversation about what Christian faith can teach us about loving our neighbor as ourselves. The first Session 12 is planned for **Sunday, December 4th, from 4-6 pm with Brother James Dowd,** with a broad orientation to The Episcopal Church’s teachings around reconciliation, opportunities for engagement in our church and diocese, and small group discussion topics. Tentative future dates are Sunday, February 26th and Sunday, April 23rd.
- **Pilgrimage 2023: Monuments and Roads,** June 6th-12th, 2023. Our Diocese of Nebraska is planning a Pilgrimage around the racial history of the United States. Any adult who has completed Sacred Ground prior to the trip (including our Spring group) is eligible to register and attend. St A’s member Pam Wright has been instrumental in helping develop our itinerary, which includes bus travel from Omaha to Memphis, Tennessee, then Oxford, Mississippi, and on to Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery in Alabama, before returning by way of Memphis. Sites involved will include the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, a walk on the Edmund Pettis Bridge, and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, among others. Several Episcopal churches will also welcome us and offer teaching and reflections from their own parish’s connections to historical events. More information is at <https://episcopal-ne.org/Events/2023-pilgrimage.html>, and we do

anticipate that we will have some parish scholarship available to those who need it to attend the trip.

Parish 2023 Nominations

We are accepting nominations and self-nominations for official parish roles in 2023. Each year, we elect several offices for various terms at our Annual Meeting (January 29th). This year, we will have openings for the following:

- **Vestry Member.** The Vestry is our legal parish board, and regularly reviews financial and administrative requirements of our church, as well as receiving reports from the parish committees about our ministries and programs at St Augustine's. They meet monthly over three year terms, on 3rd-Sundays of the month from noon to 1:30. Vestry members must be Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church (for information, contact Fr Ben at rector@sainta.net – Bishop Barker's next visit will be on February 12th and include a chance to be Confirmed or Received).
- **Legacy Society Director.** One of our parish's financial tools is a Legacy Society. Anyone can join the society by pledging to include St Augustine's in their estate planning and giving, and the Legacy fund is designed to grow and provide distributions to specific uses including outreach, formation, and building needs. It can assist our operating budget to an intentionally-small degree, to serve as a help but not replacement for our annual giving. Each director serves a 3-year term, reviewing the fund documents quarterly and ensuring that the policies are followed. Directors may not also be serving Vestry members according to our policies. We will elect one Director to a 3-year term and one to an open term with 2 years remaining.
- **Annual Council Delegate.** Each year all parishes send delegates to our diocesan Annual Council, which meets in October and gathers all of our Nebraska communities for worship, learning, fellowship,

and the business of the diocese (which includes budget review, election of offices, and sometimes resolutions around either administrative matters or diocesan positions). St A's is eligible to have up to 3 delegates and 1 alternate attend Annual Council, which will be held Thursday evening, October 26th through Saturday noon, October 28th in North Platte in 2023. Because it is sometimes difficult to know schedules so early in a year, any seats left unelected at our parish Annual Meeting are left open to be filled by the Vestry at a later point in the year.

Vestry Notes – November

The Vestry met on November 20th for their regular meeting

- Financial statements and October minutes were reviewed and approved
- Garden Steward Jim Keepers gave a full report on the Hitchcock Memorial Garden this year, and a grant request for next year
- The Vestry reviewed parish nominations for offices so far
- The next Vestry meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 18th** after the combined Lessons and Carols service, and will include reviewing the proposed Budget for 2023. As a reminder, all members are welcome to attend any Vestry meeting, and if there are topics to consider, please contact Fr Ben at least a week beforehand so they can be added to the agenda for that meeting. If you have questions about the agenda, please contact Fr Ben at rector@sainta.net.

Save The Date

Sunday, Dec. 4	Sacred Ground Session 12
Saturday, Dec. 10	Blue Christmas @ 5:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 11	Magdalene Omaha Gift Boutique
Wednesday, Dec. 14	Gift Wrapping Party
Thursday, Dec. 15	Culture Club December Outing to <i>Sister's Christmas Catechism</i>
Sunday, Dec. 18	Lessons & Carols w/Cookie Exchange Combined Service @ 9:30 AM
Saturday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Services @ 3:00 & 10:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 25	Combined Christmas Day Service @ 9:30 AM

Ministers of the Day	This Week 11/27/2022	Next Week, 12/04/2022
Musicians 8:30am:	Joyful Noise Band	Joyful Noise Band
Musicians 10:30am:	Sally Hodges Canterbury Choir	Sally Hodges Canterbury Choir
Celebrant:	Rev. Ben Varnum	Rev. Ben Varnum
Deacon:	Rebecca Smith	Rebecca Smith
Liturgical Shepherd:	Jim Lewis	Erin Rhian
Acolytes 10:30am:	Cash Stubbendieck Truman Stubbendieck Luke Fassero	Joseph Kielion Luciana Kielion Danica Suhr
10:30 am Greeter:	Pat & Jerry Grothendick	Vicki Luther & Jean Lahti
8:30 am Lector:	Bill Smith	Judy Tomanek
10:30 am Lector:	Jimmy Ellsworth	Carole Seitz
Altar Guild 8:30 am:	Mary Jane Smith	Kathy Lake
Altar Guild 10:30 am:	Marissa Kreifels	Marissa Kreifels
Sunday School	9:40 – 10:20 AM	9:40 – 10:20 AM
Coffee Hour	OPEN	OPEN