

**Word to the Wise...LaPosada**

Las Posadas is a Mexican celebration that dates back over 400 years. The celebration lasts for 9 days and it tells the familiar story of the Holy Family’s search for *posada* (or lodging) before the birth of Jesus. While we have only been celebrating La Posada for a fraction of that time, it has become a well loved tradition here at St. Mark’s!

Our celebration lasts only one night, which is why we refer to it in the singular, La Posada. We begin the night at 6 pm under the porte cochere joined by Mary and Joseph, played by members of our youth. We follow them in procession around the church as they go “inn to inn” requesting lodging before the birth of Jesus, only to be turned away at every stop. We sing songs as we process together, until we arrive at the last inn, where Mary and Joseph are finally offered *posada*. Our younger children follow the procession and gather in the final scene, the nativity, dressed in characters such as the star, angels, shepherds, barn animals, and the three wise men.

After this, the congregation is welcomed upstairs in Payne hall for a true fiesta! We will have a live mariachi band, tamales, and piñatas for the children, both young and old. This is truly an extraordinary event, not to be missed! Please join us.

Lauren Johnsen

**Christmas Poinsettias and fresh green wreaths**

will adorn the Church on Christmas Eve.

Please sign up with the insert in the Sunday bulletins. Your dedication will be listed in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.

Cost: \$30 poinsettias, \$40 wreaths.

**The deadline is, Dec. 17.**

**Advent Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve**

The music for our 2018 Advent Lessons and Carols will include “O Come, O Come, Immanuel”, the Carol of the Advent know as “People, Look East”, “Jesus Christ the Apple Tree”, “The Lamb”, “Prepare the Way, O Zion, your Christ Is Drawing Near”, “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, “Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day”, “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”, “The Holly and the Ivy”, and “Once in Royal David’s City”.

Lessons and Carols in the Anglican tradition began in 1878 and was formalized as a Christmas Service in 1880 by the Bishop of Truro, later Archbishop of Canterbury, Edward Benson. An Advent version of the service developed slightly later at King’s College and is now celebrated around the world. Scriptural readings are interspersed with choral anthems and hymns, all reflecting our hope and expectation for both the first and second coming of Christ our Lord. The Bidding Prayer begins the liturgy “Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.”

Our Christmas Eve Services this year will be musically embellished by our Guest Soloist, Dr. Timothy Jones, who will conclude our Prelude Music before both early and late services, singing the well-known solo, “O Holy Night.” Later in the service his vocal selection will be the beautiful “I Wonder as I Wander out under the Sky.” When I played my first Christmas Eve services at St. Mark’s some 24 years ago, Dr. Jones sang both of these selections. I am most grateful that he is returning this year, in particular, to sing for us and be present as I play these final services before my retirement.

*Soli Deo Gloria!* (To God alone be the glory.)  
Jerome Wells

**Please Pray For...**

Margo Abshire	Carol Bayard	Michael Boyer	Wilbur Butler	Angela Broussard	Tom Broussard	Gabriel Carreon
John Clark	Richard Clark	Hal Clarke	Ann Cobb	Howard Cobb	Rebecca Couverette	Marty Craig
Brenda Davis	Chris Dobson	Nicholas Edwards	Carleen Faucett	Chad Ferguson	Tracy Mabry Fink	Misty Ford
Katherine Gardner	Mary Anna Glasgow	Elizabeth Gwin	Cherie Ball-Harding	Cindy Harland	Margie Nell Harris	Pryce Haynes
Brittney Henslee	Bridget Hoke	Jessie Hoke	Jeannie Hood	Harrison Jordan	Kevin Kabelle	Betty Kirwin
Wanda Lawhorn	Eileen Monte	Emilie Neild	John Nelson	Neal Nielson	Clare Parker	Sherry Perkins
J. T. Richard	Joyce Richardson	Rachael Risch	Dale Robinson	Shirley Salisbury	Chris Sherman	Sue Simcox
Melissa Miller Sitos	Katie Smith	Sheila Smith	Larry Talley	Millisent Taylor	Charlie Thompson	Sharon Wagner
Margaret Wheelus	Melinda Williams	Kelly Wilson	Ben	Beverly		

**For those who have died...**

Joyce Williams

**For those serving in the Military...**

Joe Alexander	Danny Anders	Christian Bornefeld	Justin Clark	Tony Clark+	Stephen Davis	Travis Goodwin
Isaiah Grant	Brad Holton	Jimmy Howell	James Fredericks	Kaffrey Jacobs	Erwin Jasmin	Madison Johnsen
Michael Kobilijak	Lucas Low	Joseph Lynch	Joshua Lynch	John Matlock	Colton Means	Collin McBride
Logan Nunez	Will Odham	Tony Ogden	Stephen Ricker	Gavin Ritchie	Donnie Romero	Jesse Russell
Grady Salisbury	Adam Schlegal	Brian Shajari	Daniel Lee Smith	Matthew Smith	Morgan Smyth	Gary Tipton
Tim Uncapher	Stuart Williams	Roland Zech				

**The Weekly Word**

December 16, 2018

**St. Mark’s Calendar**

**This Week:**

December 16

**LaPosada Rehearsal**

9:00 a.m.

**LaPosada**

6:00 p.m.

**Save the Date:**

December 23

**Advent Lessons and Carols**

10:15 a.m.

**Jerome Wells’ Farewell Reception in the Cloister**

11:30 a.m.

December 24

**Christmas Eve Services with Guest Soloist,**

**Timothy Jones**

6:00 and 10:00 p.m.

(Christmas Carols begin at 5:45 and 9:45 p.m.)

December 25

**Christmas Service**

10:00 a.m.

December 25 and 26

**Parish Office Closed**

December 31

**New Years Eve**

Parish Office closed

January 1, 2019

**New Years Day**

Parish Office Closed

January 6

**Burning of the Greens**

6:00 p.m.

Join us in Payne Hall Sunday, December 23, after the 10:15 Service for a reception honoring Jerome Wells as he retires from St. Mark’s as Choirmaster/Organist.



We still have ornaments!  
Get yours before they are gone!!

## Happy Birthday!

Dec 16 – Molly Gajeske, Laurel Shrontz, Melinda Williams  
 Dec 17 – Candye Anderson, April Cerkiewicz  
 Dec 18 – Mitch Louvier, Merice Mills  
 Dec 19 – Kathy Boudreaux, Judy Linsley, Cynthia Spangler  
 Dec 20 – Emily Shuffield  
 Dec 21 – Marcia Bourque, Jim Hansard, Austin Miller, Carol Summerlin  
 Dec 22 – Tim Conway, Kirk Rouse

Timothy Jones, Bass-Baritone, Guest Soloist for St. Mark's Christmas Eve Services including Prelude Music at 5:45 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.



American Bass-Baritone Timothy Jones enjoys a reputation as a charismatic presence on operatic and concert stages throughout the United States, Europe, and South America. The Boston Globe hailed his voice as "stentorian and honeyed" and the Chicago Tribune called his "complete connection with the text extraordinary." The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review praised him for his theatricality, noting that he "relished the dramatic possibilities of the songs' text and music." His eagerly anticipated performances combine intelligent musicianship, commanding vocal technique and a unique ability to connect with audiences.

**All 2018 contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31.  
 Thank you for your continued support of St. Mark's!**

### Parish Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday  
 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
 Friday  
 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

### Weekday Worship:

Holy Eucharist -  
 Tuesday 12:00 Noon  
 Thursday 9:45 a.m.  
 Friday 7:00 a.m.

### Morning Prayer -

Monday-Thursday  
 9:00 a.m. (The Abbey Room)

### Sunday Worship:

Holy Eucharist at  
 8:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and  
 6:00 p.m.

### Contact us:

409-832-3405  
 409-832-8045 fax  
 info@stmarksbeaumont.org  
 Facebook and Twitter  
 @stmarksbeaumont  
 www.stmarksbeaumont.org

### The Treasure House

409-832-0253  
 treasure\_house@yahoo.com  
 Monday – Friday 10:30 a.m. -  
 6:00 p.m.

Although frozen chili is sold out, spice packs and St. Mark's Christmas ornaments are still available for sale at \$5.00 each. They make great Christmas gifts for family and friends near and far!