

WEEKLY MESSAGE – December 9th - Fr. Thomas

A mother shared a story about a Christmas play that speaks to a life in Christ. She said, "My young daughter, Jana was so excited about her part in the Church play that I was sure she was one of the main characters. But she would never tell me what part she was playing; she wanted it to be a surprise. The night of the performance all the parents and grandparents were in audience. Then one by one the children took their places for the opening scene. I could see the shepherds fidgeting in one corner as Mary & Joseph stood solemnly behind the manger. Behind them three young wise men waited impatiently. Jana was calmly sitting on a chair off-stage to the side. Then the teacher began, "A long time ago, Mary & Joseph had a baby and they named Him Jesus. And when Jesus was born a bright star appeared over the stable. With that cue, Jana got up from her chair, picked up a large tin-foil star, walked behind Mary & Joseph and held the star up high for everyone to see. When the teacher told about the shepherds coming to see the baby the three young shepherds came forward and Jana jiggled the star up and down excitedly to show them where to come. When the wise men responded to their cue Jana took a few steps forward to meet them and to lead the way. Her face was alight as the real star might have been that holy night. The play ended. We had refreshments, and on the way home Jana said, with great satisfaction, "I had the main part!" You did?" I questioned, wondering why she thought that. "Yes," she said, "cause I showed everybody how to find Jesus."

Wouldn't that be a wonderful way to be remembered? That was the mission of John the Baptist, and it is our mission too. We are in the season of Advent, the season of preparation and expectation. We are an Advent people, holding the Star; a light unto the nations, or at least to the people with whom we live, work, and play. We each have a main part to play, to show others how to find Jesus; and if they don't see Jesus through us, even through our saddest or most troubled moments, where else will they look? Remember, the darkest nights produce the brightest stars.

THIS WEEK AT ST. DAVID'S

HOSPITALITY HOUR - is hosted by the St. David's Men's Organization. Next week December 16th it is hosted by the Daughters of the King. *The first of every month, we are in need of volunteers to host Congregation Sunday during our Hospitality Hour. Please take a turn to help set out donated foods/drinks, oversee, and cleanup afterwards.*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – meets on Sundays in the Mark Room at 11:15 a.m.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – meets on Tuesdays in the Mark Room at 7:00 p.m.

HOLY EUCHARIST – Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.

HOLY EUCHARIST AND ROSARY – Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

OUTREACH – Wrapped gifts must be returned no later than Sunday, December 9th.

DAUGHTERS of the KING – meets on Sunday, December 9th, at 8:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN – meets at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 14th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Church.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Sunday, December 16th, 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Election of four new Vestry members, reports of parish ministries and programs, and presentation of 2018 financial statements.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS –contribute to decorating the altar with Christmas flowers, in honor, memory, celebration, or thanksgiving to a loved one. Fill in & return a form with your prepayment, by December 16th.

ADVENT PAGEANT – presented by the Sunday School students, December 16th, at 10:00 a.m.

LIVE NATIVITY - sign up for our Live Nativity on Sunday, December 23rd, 6-8pm; students receive volunteer community service hours, call Jenifer Elmore 561-601-3346.

PLEASE PRAY... For the **sick**: Pam, Iann, Shirley, Christi, Deborah, Ron, Midge, Tom, Assad, Lora, Jan, Rudy, Gina, Iris, Debbie, Ethan, James, Laura, Tim, Bill, Donna, Ashlyn, Robin, Linda. For those celebrating a **birthday**: Nicholas Webber, John Westerholt, Robert Bresnahan. For our expectant **mothers**: Daniella, Kate and Renee. The departed **faithful**: Deborah Eber.

GARDEN of FAITH – a legacy gift – share your memories – with your donation an engraved brick will be created to be added to our entryway accent area. A fill-in form is attached for your prepaid order.

2019 OFFERTORY envelopes/packets & CALENDARS – ready for distribution this weekend.

THE 2019 CALENDAR is open for designations of flowers or candles for your loved one or in honor of a special date or occasion. See Sue Riddle for a form to fill out with your prepaid request.

END OF YEAR GIVING - If you are planning your end of year giving, please consider a couple of options. IRA: Subject to IRS rules, if you are 70 ½ you may be able to give from your IRA to meet the required minimum distribution. The donation would be excluded from your income for the year. Stock at a brokerage firm: If you are thinking of donating stocks, place a funds transfer by December 15th.