

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 57 No. 4

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025

**CHRISTMAS COMMUNIONS: Baptized Christians admitted to Communion should receive the sacrament on Christmas (Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. or 11 p.m.; Dec. 25 at 11 a.m.) or on the days following. (Dec. 26 at noon; Dec. 27 at 11 a.m. and Dec. 28 at 8 a.m. or 11 a.m.)**

## THE CREED OF NICEA (III)

In the “first edition” of the Nicene Creed (325 AD), the Holy Ghost received a bare mention, largely because there was no controversy about him. It’s not unusual for the Holy Ghost to be minimally acknowledged: self-effacement belongs to the person whose mission in the world is to glorify Christ (John 16:14). As the Arian controversy continued, however, the status of the Spirit came into question along with the Son’s; for the Arians proposed that he also be considered a creature subordinate to and radical other than the Father. As with the Son, however, the subordination of the Spirit threw into question the gospel itself. For how can a created spirit have the power to impart the life of the Creator to human beings? How can the Spirit impart to men the life of God, as Scripture says he does, if he is not God himself?

Accordingly, at the Council of Constantinople in 381, when the Nicene faith of the Son’s deity was confirmed in the “second edition” of the Creed, it was decided to enlarge the treatment of the Spirit. To build the widest possible anti-Arian consensus in support of the this creed, the council fathers chose temperate and biblical affirmations of the Spirit’s deity. Like the Father and the Son, he is confessed as “the Lord”, the conventional representation of the divine Name; and as the “Giver of Life”, for Scripture testifies both that life is the gift of God, and also that “the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life” (2 Cor 3:6). As God he “spake by the prophets” (1 Peter 1:21), for scripture testifies that what the prophets spoke was the word of God, and that the Spirit was its author.

The most important language for establishing the deity of the Spirit is found in the clause “who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified”. In accord with Christ’s command to baptize “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”, the church offers the Spirit the same

honor and glory it offers the Father and the Son. This can only be justified if they have the same indivisible divine nature. Identity of honor (conglorification) implies identity of being (con-substantiality).

The description “proceeding from the Father” (John 15:26 and 1 Cor 2:12) excludes the notion that the Spirit is directly dependent on the Son and not on the Father, in a hierarchically graded triad of beings. In the version used in the Latin west, however, a clarifying phrase was added, “and the Son” (*filioque*, in Latin), in accord with the teaching of Augustine. If the Son is everything that the Father is, except ‘Father’ (the Athanasian teaching), it follows the Son must also be the origin of the Spirit as well as the Father. Though rejected by the churches of the east to this day, there is good reason to retain the teaching of the “double procession”. For to deny that the Spirit proceeds from the Son as well as the Father, leaves an opening for an account of the Son as other or less than the Father, and so undermines the Christological center of the gospel. But Scripture is explicit, that the Spirit of the Father is also the Spirit of the Son.

As the Son is of one indivisible and immaterial divine substance with the Father, so also is the Spirit. The co-inherence of these persons is paralleled in the co-inherence of their works, which is apparent in the parallel between the articles of the second and third paragraphs of the Creed. For after the Creed affirms the deity of the Son, it affirms his true humanity; and after affirming the deity of the Spirit, it acknowledges the mystical Body indwelt by the Spirit, the “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church”. (Though the Prayer Book version omits the word “holy” for reasons unknown, these cannot be theological objections, as the Apostles’ Creed teaches faith in “the holy catholic church”.) Likewise, as the Creed affirms the son’s redemptive suffering for us on the cross, so it also acknowledges “one baptism for the remission of sins”,

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Church Office: 1 West Macon St, 31401 .....(912) 232-1251

Bishop of GA.....The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue  
Rector ..... The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar  
Associate Rector ..... The Rev. Jonathan Jameson  
The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert [Retired].....(931) 327-5489  
Hon. Assisting Priest ..... Rev. J. Patrick Hunt  
Hon. Assisting Priest .....Rev. David Thurlow  
Organist and Choirmaster..... Mr. William Douglas  
Verger ..... Mr. B. Ray Summerell  
Verger .....Mr. James E. Morris  
Acolyte Director/Master of Ceremonies...Mr. Carter C. Hubbard

Sr. Warden: Mr. Graham P. Sadler; Jr. Warden: Mrs. Duncan Pindar (Terry); Treasurer: Mr. Floyd Whittington, Jr; Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan); Clerk of Vestry: Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert; Chancellor: Dolly Chisholm

The Vestry: Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara), Mrs. L. Allan Reynolds, Jr. (Beverley), Mr. Douglas P. McManamy, Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague (Mary), Mrs. Patrick Worsham (Jane), Mr. Charles J. Ezelle, Mr. Stephen D. Ezelle, Mr. R. Scott Howard, Mr. Richard Wright (Rick), and Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry); Chancellor Emeritus & Vestryman Emeritus: M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.; Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. Edwin H. Culver, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.

President, Women of St. John's: Melanie Finnegan; Co-Presidents, Chancel Society: Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan and Mrs. Linda H. Pounds; President, Men of St. John's: Mr. Benjamin Baxter



*Men of St. John's*  
**Annual Oyster  
Roast & BBQ**  
SATURDAY, FEB. 7 11AM – 3PM  
Camp Villa Marie, Savannah  
Mark your calendars now and check back for more details in January with a link to purchase tickets to this popular annual event.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026

For those who use offering envelopes, they are now available for pick-up in the Narthex of the Church this Sunday. Please take your box from the table. Thank you!

## 2026 ANNUAL PLEDGES

If you haven't submitted your annual pledge for 2026, please submit it before the end of December. Pledge card are available at the back of the church or you may go online at [StJohnsSav.org/](http://StJohnsSav.org/) pledge to submit it electronically.

## UPCOMING WORSHIP WEEK OF ADVENT 4

### Monday to Friday:

8:15 a.m. *Online Morning Prayer*

### Monday, December 22

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

### Tuesday, December 23

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

### Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

4:45-6:30 p.m. *Nursery*, Cranmer Hall

5 p.m. *Christmas Eve Pageant &*

*Family Eucharist*, Church/Livestream

11 p.m. *Solemn Sung Eucharist – Midnight Mass*,

Church/Livestream

### Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day

*Church office closed.*

11 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*, Church/Livestream

### Friday, December 26:

**Feast of St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr**

*Church office closed.*

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

### Saturday, December 27:

**Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**

*Church office closed.*

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

### Sunday, December 28:

**The Sunday after Christmas**

*No Breakfast, Sunday School, or Family Service*

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

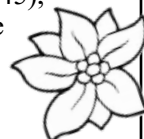
8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. *Nursery*, Cranmer Hall

10 a.m. *Fr. Dunbar's Sunday School*, Chapel

11 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*, Church/Online

## Christmas Decorations

If you'd like to contribute to the decoration of the Church during Christmas, forms are available in the back of the Church. Submit forms/checks (payable: *St. John's Chancel Society*) to the church office for the giving of a poinsettia (\$45), wreath (\$80), or garland (\$80) for the Church. Donations and dedications received after Dec. 14 will be published in the Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> Parish Paper.



# THE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

## SUNDAY, DEC. 21: ADVENT IV

- **Lessons & Carols and Egnog Coffee Hour** – At 11 a.m., join us in the church for a beautiful liturgy followed by a special reception in the Green-Meldrim House featuring Mrs. Lewis's eggnog.
- **Christmas Pageant Rehearsal** – At 12:15 p.m., the youth and children meet in Cranmer Hall to dress and practice for the Christmas Eve pageant.

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant & Family Eucharist (Church & livestreamed) *Nursery and childcare are available in Cranmer Hall.*
- 11 p.m. Midnight Christmas Mass – Solemn Sung Eucharist (Church & livestreamed)

## THURSDAY, DEC. 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

- 11 a.m. Solemn Eucharist (Church & livestreamed)

## SATURDAY, DEC. 27: FEAST OF ST. JOHN'S

- 5:15 p.m. Meet in Cranmer Hall to celebrate the third day of Christmas with a light dinner and refreshments then proceed to the parking lot to board trolleys at 6 p.m. for carol singing around Savannah. Space is limited; RSVP online to reserve your spot.

## THURSDAY, JAN. 1: NEW YEAR'S DAY

- 12 p.m. Holy Communion in the chapel

## ANGEL TREE COLLECTION CONCLUDES



Now that our Angel Tree drive has closed, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who selected tags from our tree or shopped from the Amazon Wish List. We also appreciate the Youth of St. John's who will wrap and deliver these gifts. Your generosity will bring joy and comfort to

the moms and babies supported by The Living Vine Maternity Home. We are deeply grateful for your kindness and continuing commitment to St. John's outreach partner!

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN SAVANNAH

# Christmas At St. John's

December

**24** 5PM Family Pageant Eucharist  
11PM Midnight Mass

**25** 11AM Sung Eucharist

325 Bull St, Savannah, Georgia

Dec. 27 at 5PM

# Christmas Caroling

on Trolleys around Savannah

5PM Meet in Cranmer Hall for dinner & refreshments  
6PM Board trolleys and sing carols around town

Space is limited. Reserve your seat!

## THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

*The nursery (infants to four-year-olds)  
is available from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Cranmer Hall.*

**8 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION**, Church  
*Breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following  
the 8 & 9 a.m. services this Sunday.*

Introit: Psalm 19, BCP pp. 363–364  
The Collects, BCP pp. 95, 90  
The Epistle and Gospel, BCP p. 95

**9 A.M. FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION**, Church

**10 A.M. ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
Cranmer Hall & St. Mary's Chapel

**11 A.M. LESSONS & CAROLS**, Church & Online

**12:15 P.M. SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR  
WITH EGGNOG**, Green-Meldrim House  
*Sponsored by the Women of St. John's, featuring  
Myrtice Lewis's famous eggnog*

**12:15 P.M. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT  
PRACTICE**, meet in Cranmer Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

#### VESTRY OFFERING CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
11 a.m. Mr. Charles J. Ezelle

#### USHERS

Mr. Joseph R. Ross (Rusty)  
Mr. Robert A. Vinyard

#### CHOIR

Choir of Adults

#### COFFEE HOUR

Sponsored by the Women of St. John's

#### CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea)  
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland  
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara)  
Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)  
Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan (Martha)  
Mrs. Nohl A. Braun, Jr. (Alyce)  
Mrs. Jeanne Howell McMillan  
Ms. Linda H. Pounds  
Laura C. Wimbish  
Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr. (Penny)  
Miss Stella Futrell  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Youles (Betty & Charles)

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the sacrament by means of which we receive the benefits of his passion. As the Creed affirms Christ's resurrection, ascension, and coming again in judgment, so also it teaches us to "look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come", when he comes again. The Creed thus teaches us to believe that what the Son accomplishes "for us men and for our salvation", the Spirit accomplishes in us, by his sanctifying work. By the Spirit's work of regeneration, do we share in the benefits of the Son's redemption. In confessing this faith (acknowledging it openly as our own), so we lay claim to these benefits.

This coming feast of Christmas is a celebration of the faith of Nicea. We give thanks for the Son of God's Incarnation, made known to us in his Nativity. "God of God, / Light of Light, / Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb; / Very God, / Begotten not created, / O come let us adore him". We give thanks that the Son of God was made Son of Man, so that the children of men might become the children of God. "Mild he lays his glory by, / Born that man no more may die, / Born to raise the sons of earth, / Born to give them second birth... Hark, the herald angels sing!" It is not one birth but three that we celebrate at Christmas; for the one born in time of the Virgin Mary is the very same who was begotten of the Father from all eternity; and by his Spirit, "we being regenerate, are made his children by adoption and grace", to share in his eternal Sonship, in heaven's eternal Christmas Day. —GGD

### FLOWERS THIS SUNDAY

The flowers in church this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of our parents, Shack B. Wimbish, Jr., Stephen S. Wimbish, Sally D. Wimbish, Suzanne W. McElwee, and dear friends in my church family by Laura Wimbish.

And in loving memory of Dr. Edwin Collier Shepherd and Betty McCuen Shepherd by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Shepherd, Jr. and family.

And for the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Chatham Howard Sr., Chat Howard Jr. and Haskin Pounds by Linda Howard Pounds.

*To offer flowers for the altar, please call the Church office. After Sunday, the flowers are delivered to the sick, sorrowing, and shut-ins.*