ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



A WHIMSICAL CELEBRATION RETELLING "THE NATIVITY STORY" & THE HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord December 24, 2023 5:00 P.M.

You are welcomed whether you are a guest or a member, and we invite you to join us in our worship of God.

If you are worshiping with us for the first time, please introduce yourself to our clergy following the service. We also invite you to please take a moment to sign our Guest Book which can be found at the Welcome Center. Service Bulletin contains all that you will need to worship with us this morning.

If you have a prayer request, please write it in the book that is located at the prayer desk just outside the back of the sanctuary.

Please note that this worship service will be recorded and live streamed.

As you enter the church, please pick up a glow stick from the Narthex. Families with small children are invited to sit in the first two rows so they may have a good view of the pageant.

+ LETTER FROM THE RECTOR +

Merry Christmas and welcome to St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church!

We pray that as you worship here during this Christmas season, you will join us in praising God for the best gift given—Jesus Christ the Son of God and Savior of humanity. We are so pleased that you chose to share your Christmas with us here at St. Augustine's. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive and loving community made up of people very much like you who are in fellowship with one another and seek to follow the person and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. We do not insist that we know all of the firm and final answers to life's most important questions, but we commit ourselves to listening to God, loving the questions, being an active part of God's ongoing work, and reaching out to show that faith can bring peace, justice, and hope to the world, the local community, and in each other's lives.

I invite you to participate in this online worship today. You will find St. Augustine's to be that place where you will receive a radical WELCOME, experience thought-provoking and inspiring WORSHIP, and meet other disciples of Jesus ready and willing to WITNESS to all that God is doing!

Again, Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Blessings,
Fr. Joseph C. Alsay +
Rector

+ THE GATHERING RITE +

Prelude Music: "What Child is This"

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman"

"I Wonder as I Wander"
"Christmas Time is Here"

Christmas Time is no

"Linus and Lucy"

arr. Vince Norman arr. Vince Norman arr. Vince Norman Vince Guaraldi Vince Guaraldi

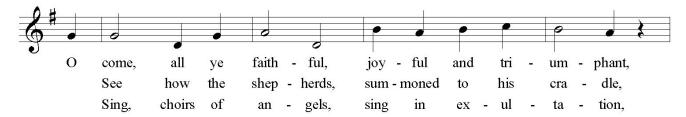
Welcome

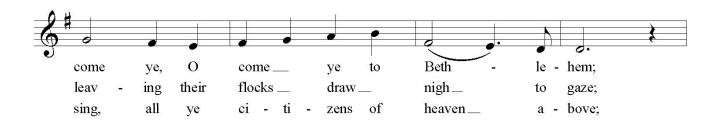
Opening Acclamation

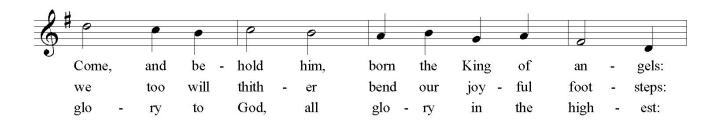
Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God. People Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Text: John Francis Wade Tune: Adeste Fideles Arr. Vince Norman







Refrain





Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

+ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD +

A Dramatic Retelling of the Christmas Story

Tonight, we testify to the miracle of Jesus' birth through the eyes of a common shepherd. We endeavor to sing songs from multiple genres and offer a different perspective on the ancient and beloved Christmas story according to the Gospel of Luke.

About the Nativity Pageant Puppets

You will notice in our space dedicated to children, there are four oversized puppets. Puppets and masks have been in existence all around the world for thousands of years. Every country or culture has its own unique artistry and traditions expressed by beautiful and creative masks and puppets. They are used for storytelling, entertainment and all kinds of religious and cultural celebrations. Some are used to depict characters in a story; some may be used to honor those who have died; some represent animals or spirits; and still others are simply a disguise. The face is often a prominent part of a puppet that emphasizes a unique feature or characteristic of the entity that it depicts.

You will see that the faces are by far the most prominent part of our four oversized creations: Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, and the Angel. Each face is based on art representing a specific ethnic background. This is meant to celebrate not only the diversity but also the interconnectedness prevalent in the world, and which is also reflected in the people of St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church.

<u>Mary</u> — The face of this puppet was inspired by the icon of Our Lady of Ferguson (2016), created by Mark Doox and commissioned by the Rev. Mark Francisco Bozzuti-Jones. The icon depicts the Madonna as African American and was created in response to the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson Missouri in 2016. Archeologists and anthropologists have long believed that all cultures in the world emanated from Africa. Thus, depicting Mary — the mother of the church and all humanity — as black, or African American, is poignant.

<u>Joseph</u> – This puppet was inspired by the love the Hispanic communities hold for St. Joseph, guardian of our Lord. It is a well-known fact that within the first decade of the conquest of Mexico by Spain, St. Joseph was held in great devotion. In fact, Joseph was proclaimed patron of the Viceroyalty of New Spain (present-day Mexico, Central America and the Philippines). A retablo from northern New Mexico was used as the model for the face of this puppet.

<u>Baby Jesus</u> — This puppet was inspired by our desire to honor the Native American people and the land that this great congregation was born and built upon. It is based on a Native American image of the "Holy Family." As many of us know, the name "Oklahoma" means, Red People and our state is known as being the place where the Trail of Tears found its end.

<u>Angel</u> – This puppet honors those of European heritage, and was inspired by all of the winged creatures that fly through the air and cause us to gaze up at the heavens God gloriously created.

Our beautiful puppet creations were made possible by the gracious contribution of Melissa and John Miller & Glen and Stephanie Toney, and they were created by Toni Mikulka of "Giant Puppets Save the World" in Oakland California.

Pageant Music

"O Come O Come Emmanuel"
"Born in the Night, Mary's Child"

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
"In Bethlehem a Babe was Born"

"A Brand New Day (Everybody Rejoice)"

Arr. Sufjan Stevens Geoffrey Ainger, ©1964, Stainer & Bell Ltd. CCLI#11349900

Words: French carol; Music: Gloria; Arr: Vince Norman ©1986 by Barbara Mays

Luther Vandross All rights reserved

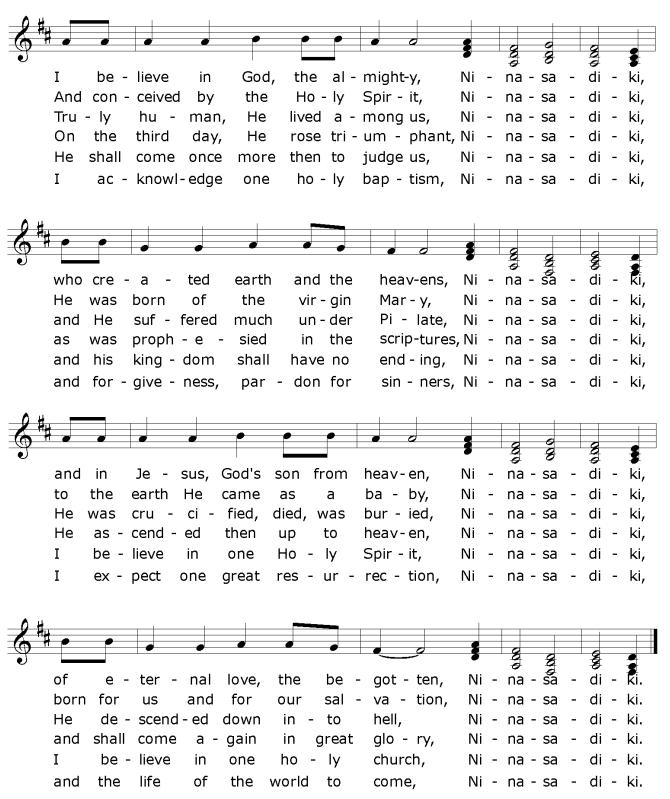
During the singing of Brand New Day, professional dancers will present three styles of dance: modern, jazz, and ballet dances.

The congregation (children and adults) are invited to join in the aisle as we give praise for the birth of the Lord of the Dance; the Christ-Child.



Nicene Creed: "Ninasadiki"

Nasadiki



Responsive Prayers of the People

Intercessor Glory to God in the highest,

People and peace to God's people on earth.

Intercessor Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

People Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Intercessor Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

People Have mercy on the sick, and dying, and all who suffer this day.

Intercessor Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

People Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

Amen.

Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

+ THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARISTIC MEAL +

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

During the "Offering in Song," please sign the Canterbury Connection Cards in the service bulletin and kindly drop it in the wicker basket with your offering, followed by placing the "sleeping bags on either side of the Altar.

To submit your offerings electronically, text the amount you would like to give to 405-645-6608 or go to "bit.ly/GiveSAC" in your browser and follow the instructions.

Thank You.

Offering in Song: "Joseph's Lullaby"

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Brown Bannister and Bart Millard Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

Tune: O Come All Ye Faithful

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.
People And with you His servant.

Presider Lift up your hearts unto the Lord

People With hearts uplifted, thanks to Him we render:

With joy we come before Him. In gratefulness implore Him.

With thankful hearts adore Him evermore!

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

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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

Tune: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored! Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!

Hail, Hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh. In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing;

Hail, Hosanna! Praises due. Be forever, Lord, to you.

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us. We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death, Rising, you restored our life, Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with the blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, Saint Augustine of Canterbury, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and forever. AMEN.



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

The Lord's Prayer

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre, venga tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo.

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.

Perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.

No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal.

Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria, ahora y por siempre. Amén.

Breaking of the Bread

Presider God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

People Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Distribution

All Baptized are invited to receive the Holy Meal at the Lord's Table.

For Communion, come forward as the ushers release you from your seat.

If you wish to receive the bread dripped in wine, please receive a napkin from an usher. The bread will be dipped in the wine for you by one of the clergy, then placed on the napkin. After consuming the bread, please place the napkin in one of the wicker receptacles.

If you wish to drink from the cup, please proceed to one of the two chalice bearers to the far ends.

Continue down the outside aisle to return to your seat.

Please note that gluten-free bread is available for those who request it.

Kindly let the usher know if you need the clergy to bring the bread to you.

If you wish to only receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Meditations: "Some Children See Him" "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Wihla Hutson & Alfred S. Burt Donna J. Krieger and George F. Root, Arr. Wilson Family



+ THE SENDING RITE +

Post-Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people on heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Announcements & Recognitions

Blessing

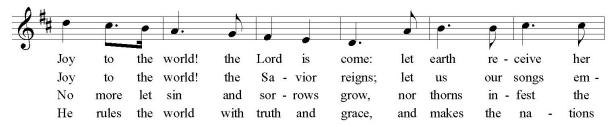
Presider The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and

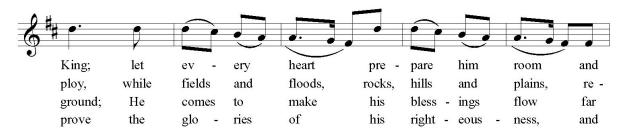
remain with you for ever.

People Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Joy to the World"

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: Antioch









Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Christmas is Coming"

by Vince Guaraldi

©1966, Lee Mendelson Film Productions, Inc; All rights reserved

+ 2023 CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS +

Tom & Dianne Norton In loving memory of Alice M. Norton

Sally & Chuck DeBellevue In honor of our families

Nancy Loeb In loving memory of Al Loeb

Robin Troutman In memory of Claude & Lola Long, Bob & Jean Lombardo,

and Mary Stephens

Susan Shebester In memory of Kelly Bishop

Claudia Estrada In memory of Manuel Estrada and Carmen De La Torre

Nancy Walker In memory of Robert Walker

Ann Knutson In memory of Kay Conwell, Christine Gunn,

and Karen Knutson

Diana & George LaufferFor the blessings of the past yearClaren DenningFor wonderful friends & family

The Narvaiz Family

In memory of Donald Eugene Layman

The Wilson Family In memory of Helen Manuel

Bud & Biel Johnson In memory of Catherine English

Pam Alltizer In honor of Clarence & Mary Lou Smith

Valerie LewisIn honor of The Lewis FamilyJerry ScribnerIn memory of Sally Scribner

Jason Seabolt In memory of Sam & Mary Seabolt, Elaine Cox and Mary

Matlock.

The Current Family In memory of Tom Current, Jr.

Gil & Jeannie Haas In memory of Mr. & Mrs. C.C. McEachin and Mr. & Mrs.

Gilbert G. Haas



+ PRAYER LIST +

For those with medical and other concerns: Maxine Grayson, Collin Wilbur, Debra Greene Jolly, Erlinda Layman, Nahomi Gudino, John Wehr, Megan Posey, JonEvah Murray, Cornerstone Counseling and Consulting, Traci Eliot, Breanna Troutman, Shary Weis, Bill Landis, Reggie Egins, Kris Wade, Mahogany Brown, Leanne Hoffbeck, Lynn England, AimeeAnn, Jim Davidson, Anita Kirkpatrick, Angela & Ron Cochran, Judy Spencer, Ann Merritt, Sandy and Bill Hodges, David King, Evelyn Wehr, Bill Collins, Richard Stuhr, Jim Emig, Lee Johnson, Edith Kenney, Evelyn Thrower, Bill Kerr, Judy Reeder, Steve Bauer, Robby Housh, Wyatt Didamo, Barbara Traylor-Lane, Valerie Lewis, Camilla Manning, Philip Worrell, Bill Johnson, Scott Mills, Tess Wade, Michael Parks, Allen Weaver, Kermit Jones, Inna Jones, Felicia Estrada-Trujillo, Ernesto Trujillo, Valdo Trujillo, Claudia Estrada, Ricardo Estrada, Tatiana Velasquez Chicas, Brandi Eaton-Wiles, Charlotte Cascio, Baby Jack, Leah Brashear, Martha Leary, Marina Jones, Julissa Estrada, Ray Friedl, Jaime Mizael Fuentes, Rachel, Eric, Sean Acol, Damian Wiles, Melvin Jones, Luz Estrada, Sebastian Weaver, John Muran, Sr., Lois Muran, Priscilla, Jack Stephens, Patty, Patrick Hays, Jonathon and Alyse, Faith, Evelyn Wehr, Sharon and Don Bole, Neil Ray, Ricky and Eta Womack, Whitney Mayfield, Dobi, Rusty, Cathy, Lee, Pamela, Steve Gilman, Deyanira Gudino, Melissa Nelson, Lazaro Gudino, Antonia Dueñaz, Susan, John, Edward, William, Matt, Ms. Sanders and Daughters, Jan, Viola-Cleo Bradshaw, Cordelia Vogel, Amanda Yoder, Janet Jackson, Patrick Manning, Keely, Jeff, Nahomi Gudino.

For those in the military: Rick Narvaiz, Colby Gibson, J.R. Singleton, Bryce Singleton, Parker Singleton, Joshua Westmoreland, Megan Weimer, Ryan Natale, Rylee Natale, Brody Campbell, Justin Jones, Christopher Rosentreter, Sam Carter, Caleb Mitchell, Aaron Long, Terry Caraway, Reed Hall, Zach Renfroe, Rev. Octavia Lindsey, McKenna McCullough, Noel Puryear, Simon Liszeski, Keaton Latner, Kaleigh Hensch, Kayleigh Henson, Freddie Kegler, Jay Jordan, William VanSant, Nick Coleman, Rebecka Blaire, Stephen Liszeski, Ted Liszeski, Kyle Belt, Andrew Stiendl, James Roberts, John Andrews, Thomas Andrews, Chase Biel Weishaupt, Perry Harding, Nate Phillips, Ashley Adkins, Matt Lake, Derek Wolf, Jefferson C, our troops at home and abroad and their families.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom including *Carter Blue Clark*, *Ed Sturm*, *Carolyn*, *Nicolae*, *and Len Steedman*.

We rejoice with those celebrating birthdays this week: *Norma Egbert, Alan Haynes, Kenny Koch, Anna Green, Daniel Narvaiz, Chris Lapolla*.

We rejoice with those celebrating anniversaries this week: *Charles & Sally DeBellevue, Bud & Biel Johnson, Hugh & Charlotte Long.*

+ MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY +

Presider: The Reverend Dr. James Detrich

Preacher/Assisting Priest: The Reverend Joseph Alsay

Narrator: Zack Rosa-Berrios

Deacon: The Reverend Mary Ann Coffman

Eucharistic Ministers: Claudia Rios-Estrada, Tim Andrews, and Chuck DeBellevue

Oblation Bearers: Aurora Bocanegra, Mia Hinojosa, Jose Hinojosa

Intercessor: Makennah Mack Crucifer: Zack Rosa-Berrios

Acolytes: Amethyst Wressel, Alex Womack, Amy Hinojosa, Matisyn Mack, Maelynn Mack, Jaxon Mack, Makennah Mack, and Eric Rios-Estrada

Organist: Roger Barton

Staff Musicians: Scott Chard and Guy Nembhard

Guest Musicians: The Vince Norman Trio

Piano: Vince Norman Bass: Nelson Gonzalez Drums: David Bowen Trumpet: Randy Polk

Guest Vocalist: Sarah Hunsucker

Liturgical Dancers: Breanna Troutman, Sophia Reyes, and Valeria Herrera Cruz

Greeters: Nicole & Leah Andrews and Janet Mills

Usher: Mike Hall
Cover Art: Freepik.com

+ THIS IS OUR STORY +

In Western tradition, December 25th is the "First Day of Christmas", and the Twelve Days of Christmas are from December 25th to January 5th - Christmas does not precede the Twelve Days. Some scholars believe that this prolonged holiday was an attempt to solve an administrative problem of the newly christianized Roman Empire which was trying to coordinate the solar Julian calendar with the lunar calendars of its eastern provinces. Twelfth Night (January 5th), which is also the title of one of Shakespeare's plays, signaled the end of Christmastide. There is a popular belief that it is unlucky to leave Christmas decorations hanging after Twelfth Night. In England, wassail punch is especially popular on Twelfth Night. Another popular English Twelfth Night tradition was to have a bean and pea hidden inside a Twelfth-night cake. The man who found the bean became King for the night, while the lady who found the pea became Queen. A similar tradition continues in New Orleans and Mobile in our country when a King cake, containing a small plastic baby, is eaten; the guest who finds the baby is thought to be destined for good luck. An Irish tradition is to place the statues of the Three Kings beside Jesus' crib on Twelfth Night heralding the Feast of the Epiphany the following day.

If you have a liturgical question or an inquiry about anything that transpires during or around our worship service, please forward the question you would like researched to: gghaas@aol.com, or drop the question in the offering basin. Please note whether we can credit you as the source of the question.

ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



14700 North May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73134

Telephone: (405) 751-7874
Website: http://www.sac-okc.org/
Email: saintaugustineokc@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook! http://www.facebook.com/St.AugustineofCanterburyOKC

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday – Holy Eucharist – 8:30 A.M. & 10:45 A.M. **Wednesday** – Holy Eucharist – 12 Noon

STAFF

Rector: The Reverend Joseph Alsay

Deacons: The Reverend Karen Hansen and The Reverend Mary Ann Coffman

Administrative Assistant: Coleen Christian
Social Media Coordinator: Daphne Christian-Muran

Bulletins: Jesse L. Heath

Contribution Registrar: Kenny Koch **Staff Musicians:** Scott Chard and Guy Nembhard

VESTRY

Sr. Warden: James Reeg Sr. Warden Elect: Michael Johnston Jr. Warden: Jon Wallingford Jr. Warden Elect: William "Bill" Kenney

Treasurer: Marian Moon

Other Members: Brad Davidson, John Fink, Jay Kyte, Valerie Hall, Rick Inselman, Valerie Lewis, Scott Myers, & Jason Seabolt

Clerk: Renee Lewis

OFFICE HOURS

To offer our staff a Sabbath, the St. Augustine business offices are closed on Mondays, with staff available remotely for urgent matters. Ministry Leaders are welcome to access the building independently with their key, as needed.

Father Joseph Alsay, Rector Coleen Christian, Admin Assistant Tuesday -Thursday 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M Tuesday -Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

AFTER HOURS CONTACT

Father Joseph

James Reeg, Sr. Warden

Jon Wallingford, Jr. Warden

Cell: 405-365-3226

Cell: 405-365-3226

Email: fatherjoe@sac-okc.org

Email: seniorwarden@sac-okc.org

Email: juniorwarden@sac-okc.org