

Providing a welcoming community in which all can, with open hearts and open minds, receive God's grace through worship, fellowship, learning and outreach to others.

Christmas at Holy Apostles

At the time of printing for this newsletter, we are planning on the following services for Christmas:

Thursday, December 24th

5:00 pm - Holy Eucharist in the Parish Life Center
(with Bluegrass musicians and virtual Children's Pageant)

10:00 pm - Holy Eucharist in the Nave (with Choir and music for the season)

Friday, December 25th

4:00 pm - Holy Eucharist in the Nave



All services will abide by the current approved safety precautions for in-person worship. Plans are subject to change, so please continue to read the weekly parish email for up-to-date communications. Regardless of what Christmas looks like this year, the clergy, staff, and lay ministry volunteers of Holy Apostles are working to enable our community to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, safely, reverently, and joyously.

Rector Search Committee Update - Parish Survey

In September, the Vestry commissioned a group of 11 of your fellow parishioners to serve as the Rector Search Committee, tasked with identifying, interviewing and recommending qualified candidates for this important role.

As the first step in this process, we are conducting a survey to identify the needs and interests of the entire parish regarding our priorities for the church and the desired skills and attributes of our new Rector. The information derived from the survey will be used to inform our Ministry Profile, a document that serves as both a job description and recruiting tool for potential candidates.

To ensure that this is representative of our entire parish body, we invite and encourage everyone age 18 or above, who identifies Holy Apostles as their primary church, to complete this survey. (One survey per person; not per household)

While the survey is relatively short, each of the questions are very important and meaningful. As such, when you respond, we encourage you to take the time needed to give prayerful consideration to your answers.

You will receive an email on **November 30th** providing a link to participate in the online survey. Please respond promptly, as our deadline for completing the survey is **December 11th**.

If you do not receive an email, or if you prefer a paper copy of the survey, please contact Tiffany Siegel in the Parish Office and she will arrange to provide one to you, with a plain envelope to use when returning the completed survey. You can contact Tiffany at tiffany@holypostlesthq.net or 901.937.3830.

Regardless of whether you participate online or use a paper form, be assured that your responses will remain completely anonymous.

On behalf of the entire Committee, we thank you in advance for your participation. Please feel free to reach out to any member of the Committee with questions.

Yours in Faith,
The Holy Apostles Rector Search Committee

Mike Siegel, Chair

Judy Potter, Co-Chair

Wilson Barton

Lesley Cullen

William Gates

John Paul Kevin

Lorena Sappington

Christina See

Andrea Smith

Trish Spore

Zachary Tatum

Holy Apostles Youth



EYC
6th - 12th
Graders

EYC Advent Zoom

During the season of Advent, we will meet for EYC on **Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm on Zoom**. During this time, we will be joined with other youth from the Memphis Area to pray, talk, and play games, followed by Compline Live on Instagram at 8:00 pm. Follow the link in your weekly email beginning Wednesday, December 2nd.

Check us out on Twitter or Instagram @holypostlestn or like our Holy Apostles Youth Page on Facebook!

Wait for the Lord: A Taizé Style Prayer Service for Advent

Wednesday,
December 9th
6:00 pm

A meditative service of prayer, with simply chanted scriptures amid silence and candlelight.

2021 Stewardship Campaign

An Attitude of Gratitude

Thank you, Holy Apostles, for so generously supporting this year's Walk in Love Stewardship campaign.

We know it is a difficult time for you and your family to forecast the future and we are so very grateful to you for stepping out in faith to support our church.

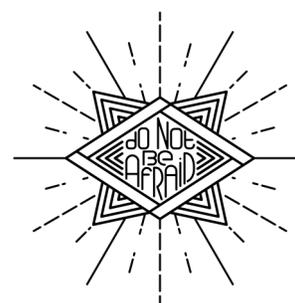
Final tallies will be available soon. However, it's not too late to be included in our totals. You can drop your pledge by the office, mail it in or pledge on line.

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is such a special time of gratitude, reflection and anticipation. The Stewardship Committee is grateful for your continued support of Holy Apostles, is appreciative of your willingness to share your treasures with us in pursuit of God's work and wishes you a safe, joyous holiday season and a healthy 2021.

Advent at Holy Apostles

Do Not Be Afraid!

- ... To Hold HOPE
- ... To Bring PEACE
- ... To Practice JOY
- ... To Choose LOVE



The inspiration for our Advent theme comes from the angels' message in the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke: "Do not be afraid!" This phrase is an instruction God gave to God's people throughout their history, and it's a message God continues to give to us today. This Advent, we invite you to explore what it looks like to hold hope when life feels really uncertain, to bring peace in the face of fear, to practice joy when everything seems burdensome, and to choose love, when sometimes, it's just really hard. You'll be invited to wonder more deeply about this classic story, to imagine some of the details that aren't filled in for us, and to make connections to your own context this season.

On the **first Sunday of Advent (November 29th)** at 11:00 am, Advent resources and books will be available in the courtyard. We will also have Advent candles and calendars for sale.

Advent Family/Intergenerational Devotions

November 29th - December 20th

Sunday nights at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Devotions and lessons will be led by Cynthia McCarty. No materials are needed and we encourage **ALL AGES** to join!

Virtual Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant may look a little different this year, but the message is the same! We would love for parishioners of any age to participate in our virtual program to be presented on Christmas Eve and online. We have parts of all sizes for anyone and everyone! Please sign up by Sunday, December 12th (the sooner, the better!) using the link in the weekly email. Scripts and instructions will be sent to you and you will record your parts at home.

Email Cynthia (cynthia@holypostlestn.net), if you have any questions.



Adult Forum and Christian Education

Our online Adult Forum presentations will proceed through the month of December as we continue to provide Christian education opportunities in the safest possible manner. While admittedly it is not always easy to sit through another video presentation, restrictions on in-person gatherings require this approach, for now. We do, however, look forward to in-person learnings opportunities as soon as permitted. With that being said, I have greatly appreciated your feedback and responses to the Walk In Love video series, which can be accessed via the parish website and the church's two Facebook pages. If you have not yet had a chance to watch these presentations, I hope that you will take the time to give them a try. I would love to hear what you think.

Here are the topics we will be covering in December during Adult Forum:

Sunday, December 6th

Gathered Together in Unity - The Creeds

Sunday, December 13th

Written for Our Learning - The Bible

Sunday, December 20th

Continually Given to Good Works - Salvation and Grace

Sunday, December 27th

No Adult Forum - Merry Christmas!

Of course, we are continuing our weekly Adult Bible Study groups on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. All parishioners and their guests are welcome to attend any of these opportunities, as well. Please don't hesitate to drop me a line at tom@holypostlestn.net with any questions or comments. - Tom Carpenter

Holy Hikers

December 12th



The Holy Hikers will tromp locally after a short drive to Herb Parsons Lake this month.

Meet at the church at 9:00 am on Saturday, December 12th. It will be a scenic hike since the leaves will be gone.

Dress for the weather in layers, bring a bag lunch and plenty of water. Hiking poles are always helpful. People of all ages are welcome, so use the hike as a good excuse to get outdoors and breathe deeply of the fresh air! We hope to see you then. Call Frank Potter at 901-230-1818 with questions.

§ HONORED & REMEMBERED §

In memory of Thelma James

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Potter

In memory of Bill McCarty

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Britt

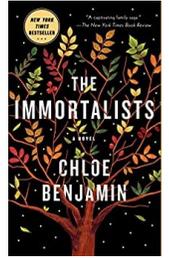
In memory of Gayle and James Schafer

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Potter

Reading with Holy Apostles: December

Reading with Holy Apostles

book club will meet to discuss our December selection, *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin on Tuesday, December 15th via Zoom at 6:30 pm. Check your weekly HA email for the link.



A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: *Washington Post* • NPR • *Entertainment Weekly* • *Real Simple* • *Marie Claire* • New York Public Library • LibraryReads • The Skimm • Lit Hub • Lit Reactor

“A captivating family saga.”—*The New York Times Book Review*

If you knew the date of your death, how would you live your life?

It's 1969 in New York City's Lower East Side, and word has spread of the arrival of a mystical woman, a traveling psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die. The Gold children - four adolescents on the cusp of self-awareness - sneak out to hear their fortunes.

The prophecies inform their next five decades. Golden-boy Simon escapes to the West Coast, searching for love in '80s San Francisco; dreamy Klara becomes a Las Vegas magician, obsessed with blurring reality and fantasy; eldest son Daniel seeks security as an army doctor post-9/11; and bookish Varya throws herself into longevity research, where she tests the boundary between science and immortality.

A sweeping novel of remarkable ambition and depth, *The Immortalists* probes the line between destiny and choice, reality and illusion, this world and the next. It is a deeply moving testament to the power of story, the nature of belief, and the unrelenting pull of familial bonds.

Our nonfiction read for January 2021 will be *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi.

Check out the list of all the books we will read in 2021 on our website!

www.holypostlestn.net/ministries/adult-christian-education

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THE ACTS DECEMBER 2020

Weekly Offerings

Sunday

Holy Eucharist, Rite II at the church* at 10:00 am in the Nave.
***Live Stream this service at home via our YouTube channel**
Children's Chapel/Sunday School lesson on Facebook.
Bluegrass Evening Prayer at the church at 5:15 pm in the Nave.

Monday

Men's Bible Study via Zoom at 7:00 am.

Tuesday

Adult Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm.

Wednesday

Morning Prayer with Father Clay at 10:00 am on Facebook.
Prime Timers Zoom Gathering via Zoom at 11:00 am (*every other week*).
Compline for Parish Choir via Zoom at 7:00 pm.
EYC Midweek via Zoom at 7:30 pm.
EYC Compline at 8:00 pm on Instagram.

Thursday

Women's Bible Study via Zoom at 11:00 am.
Adult Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm.

Friday

Compline with Father Clay at 8:00 pm on Facebook.

For more information on these and other events at Holy Apostles, visit our website (www.holyapostlestn.net), where you can sign up for our weekly email announcements.

Like us on Facebook (@hapestles) and follow us on Twitter (@hapestles) and Instagram (holyapostlestn).