



The Episcopal Church of the Advent

April 30, 2025 Newsletter

Second Sunday of Easter



The Incredulity of Thomas (Michelangelo Caravaggio), 1602

[The Second Sunday of Easter](#) is familiar to us by the name Low Sunday, but it also has other names, including Divine Mercy Sunday, the Octave Day of Easter, White Sunday, Quasimodo Sunday, Bright Sunday, Antipascha, New Sunday, and Thomas Sunday.

A message from Father Mark

Thomas had doubts. So what? Doubt is not the same as non-belief. Thomas is not a figure to be pitied or disliked for asking questions. On the contrary, I believe that Thomas is critical to understanding this passage of Scripture because he embodies a specific kind of person: Thomas is that person who asks for evidence. And, contrary to a lot of prevailing wisdom about Thomas, I think Thomas asks for evidence not because he doesn't believe, but because he desperately wants to believe.

One of the reasons that the church exists is to make Jesus more real to people. It's fashionable to talk about the decline of the Church in this country. And if you look at church membership, across Christian denominations, fewer people indeed attend weekly services now than did 30 years ago. But don't be fooled. That is not because people don't want to believe. People desperately want to believe. They want to be grounded in something larger than themselves, they want to be inspired. The state of the world can largely be

explained by people casting about wildly for something to believe in. But they want to believe in something real. Friends, Jesus is real. Lots of those people just need to see Jesus.

And that's where you and I come in. We show them Jesus every time we reveal our own wounds and the ways that God has lovingly led us through hard times. We show them Jesus when we do the things that Jesus asked us to do: feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, tend the sick, clothe the naked, and visit those in prison. And we show them Jesus when we love them, listen to them when they need to talk or cry, welcome them into our lives, or just show them some basic kindness.

Question of the Week: In what ways can you help Jesus feel more real to the people around you?

Peace,
Mark+

Curious about joining Advent?

If you're new to the Church or have been worshipping with us for a while and are curious about what it means or how to become a member, we welcome your interest! On the Church's website, there is a specific section on membership. It can be found here: <https://adventmadisonga.com/membership/>. That's a great place to start! If you have questions or are interested in starting the process officially to become a member, reach out to the Church office at adventmadison@bellsouth.net or (706) 342-4787 and we will put in touch with the right person to answer questions or facilitate your request!

Picture Galleries

Great Vigil and Easter Sunday 2025: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/sQREWTkpJj6Ja3wJ9>

Palm Sunday 2025: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/kLX9jqWwMDTwVfxN7>

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 2025: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/WVBEvowq6rQcgkbw6>

Advent past pics and altar/flower guilds: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/VtdMnk8uki3NW6CJ9>

A way of organizing, storing and sharing Advent pictures is taking shape. If you have any pictures of Advent that you would like to share, please send O. J. Booker a copy and he'll add them to the gallery – info@adventmadisonga.com

Wednesday, May 7, Next "First Wednesday" Drop-in

Host: Annie Hunt and Woody Burriss

Address: 912 Dixie Avenue

Please mark your calendars for the next "First Wednesday"! Join your fellow parishioners and guests in a casual gathering from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. Please bring a snack or dessert or beverage to share, and feel free to bring a guest. Those who would like to host a First Wednesday gathering can email the church at info@adventmadisonga.com or call the church.

2025 Madison in May Spring Tour of Homes

Church of the Advent will be in the Spring Tour of Homes, May 16 and 17, 10 AM – 4 PM.

First Wednesday Volunteers!

Hey church family! A "First Wednesday" drop-in is a casual gathering where participants bring a snack, dessert, or beverage to share and where guests are welcome. Want to host a First Wednesday? It's easy.

Here's how it works:

- Choose a month – It's always the first Wednesday of the month. Easy to remember!
- Choose a time – usually two hours in the evening, but it's flexible!

- Open your home – Just welcome everyone in for a great time together. Don't feel like having it at home? Use the Parish House!
- Let the guests bring the food – Everyone will pitch in with food and drinks so you don't have to do much.
- Let the church know that you are hosting on a certain date, time, and location. Call, email, or send a message through the website.
- When we get the notice then it appears in the newsletter.
- Enjoy the fellowship – It's all about connecting, sharing, and growing in community with each other.
- Hosting is simple and a great way to bring everyone together.

First Wednesday gatherings are a gift to Advent; our treasure of friendship and fellowship is one of the greatest strengths of Advent and draws us closer together.

Rota for the Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025 10:30 A.M.

Altar Guild – McCauley-Burriss-Harrell

Flower Guild – Glenn Eskew

LEM/PoP 8:00 and 10:30 – O.J. Booker

1st Reading – Richard Simpson

2nd Reading – Ric Crown

Vestry of the Day – Annie Burriss

Organ Tech - Kim Jackson

Readings for the Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 10:30 A.M.

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Acts 9:1-6

The Psalm: Psalm 30

Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

The Gospel: John 21:1-19

Parish Prayer List

Parish: Carol Blow, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Jeanne Dufort, Sally Green, Kate Jackson, Shandon Land, Kathy and Brian Lehman, MaryAnn Lisle, Janet Mason, Charles, Dutton Morehouse, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Livy Scholly, and Betty Thomas.

Friends and Family: Eugene Broadbridge, Jane Brooks, Hunt Brown, Daphne Carter, Lynn Cupples, Lillian and Turner Eby, Mary Ann Edelman, Joseph Gagliano, Maddie Gartland, Annita Hunt, Grainger Hunt, Johanna Dufort Hunt, Julie Hancock Jones, Jan Kozel, Nancy Labak, Meg Limmer, Tracy Limmer, Jerry Maddox, Ross Mason, Dustin Pullen, Dennis Reeder, Carla Sherrill, Wayne Tamplin, Robin Thomas, Parker Westphal, and Jay Whitecombe.

Community and Beyond: Iliana Arias, Bishop Michael Curry, Beth Tamplin Jones, Bill Kurtz, Sherry MacMahon.

May birthdays: **1** Matt Hurst, **2** Kate Smith Booker, **4** Poppy Grace Buck, **7** Zach Yost, **8** Gertrude Rainwater, Olivia Ramfos, **9** Beth Pridgen, **17** Charles Baldwin, IV, Rhodes Baldwin, **19** Pamela Hall, **22** Shelley MacMillan, **25** Luke Roman, **28** Brennan Easton, **29** Bill Kurtz, **30** Allison Lehman

Week at a glance

Date	Time	Location	Event
Monday, April 28, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open discussion)
Tuesday, April 29, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open discussion)
Wednesday, April 30, 2025	9:00 AM	CH	Morning Prayer, Rite I
Thursday, May 1, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open Book study)
Thursday, May 1, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (closed discussion)
Thursday, May 1, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	Al-Anon (open meeting)
Friday, May 2, 2025	7:00 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (closed Book study)
Sunday, May 4, 2025	8:00 AM	CH	Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
Sunday, May 4, 2025	9:15 AM	PH	Sunday School - Lectionary Study
Sunday, May 4, 2025	10:30 AM	CH	Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
Sunday, May 4, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (open meeting)

PH - Parish House CH - Church

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

338 Academy Street, Madison, Georgia 30650. 706-342-4787.

www.adventmadisonga.com. adventmadison@bellsouth.net.

The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright - Bishop of Atlanta.

Reverend Mark Stewart Johnson - Interim Priest-in-Charge.

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden, Vic Jackson - Junior Warden.

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