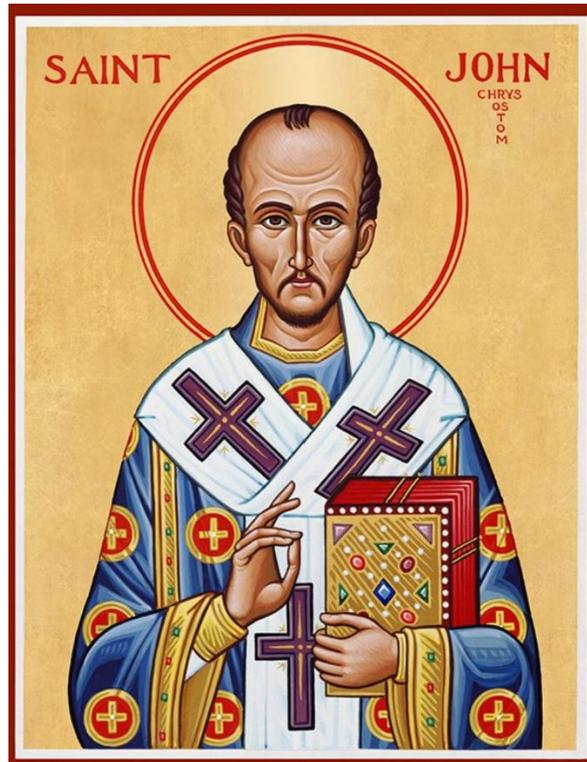




The Episcopal Church of the Advent
January 27, 2026 Newsletter
Third Sunday after the Epiphany



John Chrysostom lived from AD 347 to 407. His feast day is January 27, and he is remembered for his preaching skills, his liturgy (The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, still in use in some Eastern Orthodox churches today), his compassion for the poor, and his willingness to stand up to those in power who refused to keep God's Law.

A message from Father Tryggvi

On the Third Sunday after the Epiphany, the readings proclaim God's light breaking into places of darkness and despair. Matthew shows Jesus beginning his public ministry in "Galilee of the Gentiles," fulfilling Isaiah's promise that a people long overshadowed by oppression and loss would see a great light. Once conquered and humiliated, these forgotten regions become the setting for hope and renewal.

Having made his home in the city of Capernaum by the sea, Jesus calls his first disciples—ordinary fishermen of differing means and backgrounds—demonstrating that his call is rooted in grace, not status or achievement. Unlike the rabbis of his time, Jesus seeks out his followers rather than waiting for the worthy to approach him.

The disciples' immediate response might lead us to question our own commitment to Jesus's call, but Sunday's gospel is not meant to shame us into measuring our faith by their actions, as if faithfulness earns God's favor, or that obedience, commitment, or good works secure God's love. Falling into such a trap is what we call works-righteousness; the illusion that we can save ourselves. Worse yet, such an illusion turns God into an idol; i.e. a god whose grace is conditional, whose love must be earned, and whose mercy is limited. That is not the God Jesus reveals. Neither does it reflect God's grace which we are incapable of earning, and whose scope is beyond measure and our imagination. Christ calls each person differently—sometimes to leave, sometimes to

stay, quite often to slow down, and always for us to talk less and listen more for what the Holy Spirit might be seeking to tell us.

Jesus still brings light into shadowed places and still calls ordinary people to follow.

Where might Christ be calling your attention this week? What would it mean to respond with openness rather than fear?

As always, peace and blessings to you, Tryggvi+

Episcopal 101 – Third session tomorrow night!

Please join us as we learn more about what it means to be an Episcopalian. On Wednesdays during Epiphany, starting at 6:00 in the Parish House, we'll have soup and bread supper followed by conversation about our Anglican tradition. An offering for new members, seekers, and longtime Episcopalians alike we will look at the different components that make us who we are as Episcopalians; i.e. Holy Scriptures, the Book of Common Prayer, the sacraments, prayer and worship, and our tradition.

Please RSVP. [Click here to RSVP](#)

Parish Annual Meeting summary

The parish met on Sunday the 18th. The summary was published in last week's newsletter. [Click HERE for a copy of the Annual report.](#)

Request for Volunteers! Lay Readers, Organ Tech, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Are you interested in serving as Lay Reader, a Lay Eucharistic Minister (L. E. M.), or becoming an expert button-pusher to make the organ play? If you're ready to join as a volunteer to help by reading lessons, becoming an "organ tech", or assisting at the altar during the eucharist as an L. E. M., now is a good time to sign up — the new Rota will be put together during the coming weeks and you can join the schedule.

Contact Richard Simpson (richardsimpson.georgia@gmail.com, (706) 474-4821) if you're interested as a new volunteer in these various ministries. You can also talk to Fr. Tryggvi or Richard if you have questions and want to learn more about these different jobs. All are welcome and we all greatly appreciate the help our volunteers provide in making our worship happen here at Church of the Advent!

Start the New Year by Joining the Altar Guild or Flower Guild

Altar Guild and Flower Guild could always use some new members, too. Both guilds operate with teams made up of church volunteers, serving once a month. You can join either guild by contacting:

1. Altar Guild, Peggy Hawkins at peggyminerhawkins@gmail.com, (229) 881-2584
2. Flower Guild, Rick Crown at treadwellcrown@gmail.com, (706) 474-8302

Rota for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany February 1, 2026

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Booker—10:30 A.M. Booker

1st Reading: K Jackson

2nd Reading: Hudson

Altar Guild: McCauley-Burriss-Harrell

Flower Guild: Eskew

Organ Tech: M Dartnell

Vestry of the Day: Burriss

**Readings for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 1, 2026**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Parish Prayer List

Robert Boswell, Fr. Dann Brown, Susan Crosher, Liz Cunningham, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Kate Jackson, Kim Jackson, Beth Tamplin Jones, Marcy Lay, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Gloria Leo, Jack Leo, David Medlock, Jennifer Mize, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Kathie Schmidt, Helga H. Stefnisdóttir, Betty Thomas, Etwanda "Tink" Wade, Gloria Ward, Jack Ward, Eric Wiemann, Jay Whitcomb, Laura, Caroline

January Birthdays: **2** David Brown, **11** Helen Harrell Horton, **14** Bill Abbott, **30** Susan Kurtz, Frank Walsh, **31** David Land, Kim Jackson

Anniversaries: **18** Bill and Beverly Abbott

Recurring weekly calendar

- Rite I Eucharist: Sunday, 8:00 AM
- Sunday school (adult): Sunday, 9:15 AM
- Rite II Eucharist: Sunday, 10:30 AM
- Morning Prayer service: Wednesday, 9:00 AM
- Off the Rails AA group: M, Tu, Th @ noon
- Madison AA group: Th, F, Su @ 7:00 PM

Pastoral Care Requests: email pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com for:

- Additions to the Prayer List
- Inquiries about weddings, baptisms, or funerals
- Use of the Memorial Garden
- Requesting Eucharistic visits
- Short-term meals following surgery or during illness

Morgan County Transit System provides transportation to local addresses to include grocery stores, workplaces, doctors' appointments and others. \$2.00 per person/ \$1.75 for seniors 60 and over. Advanced reservations are required. For detailed information see <https://www.morgancountyga.gov/158/Public-Transportation>

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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