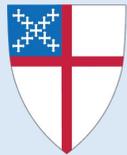


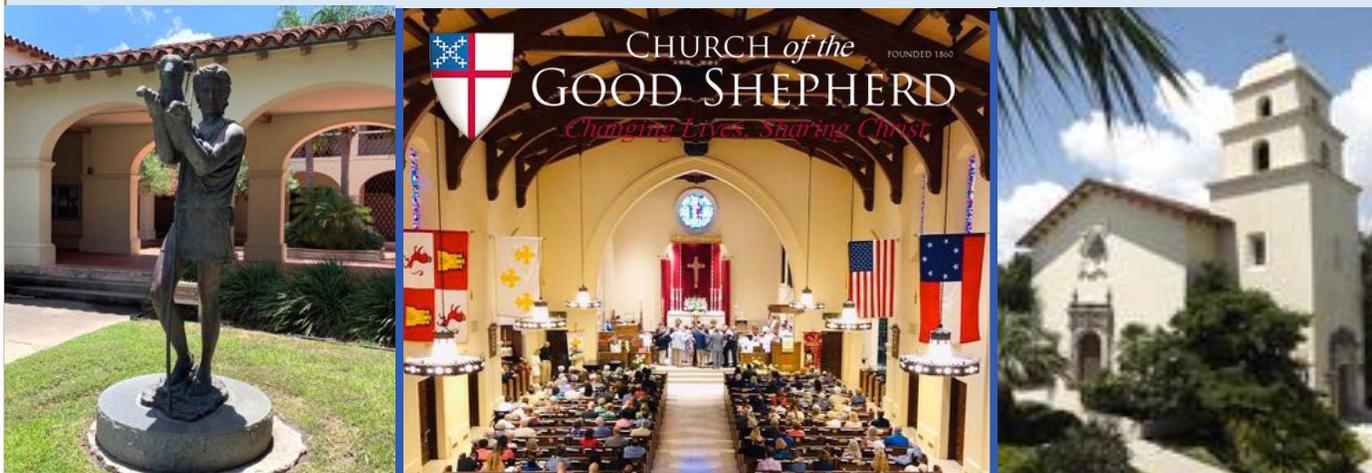
2021



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 51, Issue 4



Alleluia, Alleluia!



Happy Easter to you all! The Lord is risen! We have so much for which to be thankful!

Alleluia means "Praise the Lord." During the season of Lent we withhold our Alleluia's until the Great Alleluia of Easter. But there is a lot more emotion packed into that little word than just praise and thanksgiving; there is a collective sigh of relief, a massive exhale. And that is what I am experiencing this Easter, I hope you are as well.

The season of Lent 2020 seemed to go on until now. We were unable to celebrate the Great Alleluia of Easter last year, and Lent seemed to drag on through a year of pain and suffering. Of course, we celebrate Easter every Sunday, thank goodness, but there was a sense that we never left the darkness of Lent until now. But Easter is really happening, and there is a huge collective sigh of relief going on this Easter; Praise the Lord!

Some things did not survive the freeze, but Spring has sprung, and new life is breaking forth. People are digging out and feeling safer, and ready to return to the resurrected life. It is so refreshing to see our folks back in worship, and to feel that collective energy and excitement. There is a sense that Easter is really happening right now in the lives of so many. There is hope and new life all around.

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord. (Psalm 122:1)'" We are so glad to be returning to the "the House of the Lord." Worshipping together is a life-giving experience; it's transformative and regenerative. We feed off of each other, we draw strength

(continued on page 2)

FROM THE RECTOR (continued)

and encouragement, and we share in the Spirit of the Lord who is present and alive in His people gathered.

Come and be with us. We have a new "Celebration Chapel" for the kids, and we are offering an Easter Bible Study of the Book of 1 John, entitled "Walking in the Light." Come join us in Sunday School as we continue to learn to walk in the resurrected light of Christ. Coming off this past year I want to encourage you to take the next steps toward walking in the light of Christ each and every day. It is life giving and good for your soul.

Happy Easter to you all! The Lord is risen! We have so much for which to be thankful!

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Milton +

Sunday Worship Services

8:00 a.m. ✦ 10:30 a.m. ✦ 5:30 p.m.

The Church offers three Sunday worship services in-person. **We are following our Phase 2b Protocol and Guidelines** in order to continue to provide a safe way to worship in our sanctuary.

Online Options:

We record one of the Sunday morning services and then email the service to our congregation. It is also posted on our website at cotgs.org. Live Stream is also available on our website and our app at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Wednesday Evening Worship

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

(Healing portion of the service will resume after Lent.)

This is the perfect service for those who want a smaller setting with fewer people. Healing prayers are offered for your health, addiction, mental well-being, restoration, and peace.

We have a Church App!

Our church app is called MINISTRY ONE in the App store on your mobile device.

Once you download the app, church members can request to set up a personal profile. The directory will only be visible to members with these credentials.

Members can also access their account. Contact the Church Office if you have any questions at 882-1735.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Church of *the* Good Shepherd

Easter Services

Sunday, April 4

8:00 a.m. ❖ 9:30 a.m. ❖ 11:00 a.m.

Flowering of the Cross will be in the Courtyard between each service. Bring flowers to adorn the cross.

Alleluia Egg Hunt will be held on the church lawn following the 11:00 a.m. service.

Holy Week Services

Stations of the Cross - Online

Video available to view on our website during Holy Week

Wednesday Lenten Service

Wednesday, March 31

5:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 1

5:30 p.m.

In-Person Worship

(Also available on Live Stream at cotgs.org)

Good Friday

Friday, April 2

In-Person Worship for both Services

7:00 a.m. Communion from Reserve Sacrament

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

(Also available on Live Stream at cotgs.org)

FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

**Easter Sunday
April 4**

**Before all Services
in the Courtyard**



The Cross will be located in the Courtyard to be Adorned with flowers before all services. Everyone is invited to bring fresh flowers to adorn the cross.

ALLELUIA EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday, April 4

**At 12:00 noon
on the Church Lawn**

The annual Alleluia Egg Hunt will be held at noon on the church lawn. No matter which service you attend, all children are welcome to the Egg Hunt at noon.

Candy-Filled Eggs Needed

Please bring two dozen treat filled Easter eggs to the Church Office by Friday, April 2nd.

*No Chocolate - it melts



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Theme for the Season of Easter

WALKING IN LIGHT: TRUE LIFE IN 1 JOHN

New Sunday School Class and Bible Study Six-Week Series

Find True Life and Authentic Fellowship through
the Wisdom of the Apostle John

**Begins Sunday, April 11
9:30 a.m.**

John, whose life was transformed from a “son of thunder” to “the apostle of love” through his relationship with Jesus, has much to say to us about the life found by following Christ.

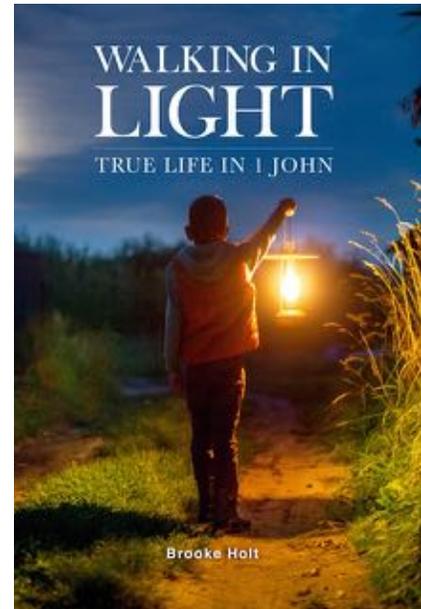
Aligning with readings of this year's Easter season of the Revised Common Lectionary, *Walking in Light: True Life in 1 John* looks at the following topics:

- Week One: Real Fellowship
- Week Two: Abide in Him
- Week Three: Children of God
- Week Four: Love One Another
- Week Five: God is Love
- Week Six: Child of the Light

The world is longing to see authentic Christianity lived out today. This study is meant to lead our congregation into the truth, light, and love of the Lord so that our personal lives may be transformed to more fully reflect His truth, light, and love to this world.

Walking in Light is published by Rev. Charlie Holt's Bible Study Media and was written by his wife, Brooke Holt. Books will be available in Sunday School and in the Church Office.

This study will be presented in our general adult Sunday School class, as well as in our parent class on Sunday mornings.



Tacos & Coffee Under the Pergola



**Sundays
8:45 - 9:15 a.m.**

We will have delicious breakfast tacos to pass out with coffee under the pergola outside Dobbins Hall on Sunday mornings. (Donuts provided for children.)

*Not on Easter Sunday

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adult Sunday School

WALKING IN LIGHT: TRUE LIFE IN 1 JOHN - New Class begins April 11

9:30 a.m. in Munds Hall Auditorium - Led by the Rev. Milton Black and the Rev. Philip May

The Rev. Milton Black and the Rev. Philip May lead an adult Sunday School class together during the Season of Easter on a new topic: Walking in Light. This new study by the Rev. Charlie Holt's wife, Brooke Holt, will take us through 1 John. John, whose life was transformed from a "son of thunder" to "the apostle of love" through his relationship with Jesus, has much to say to us about the true life found by following Christ. Books will be available in Sunday School.

WALKING IN LIGHT: TRUE LIFE IN 1 JOHN for Parents - New Class begins April 11

9:30 a.m. in Dobbins Hall Adult Classroom - Led by Rev. William Campbell

During Lent, Fr. William will guide parents through Walking in Light. The book of 1 John will help us to be more like John. John had a deep love for God and God's people. The book of 1 John was intended to strengthen its readers in faith and truth. Fr. William will help parents explore this not only for themselves, but to help their children walk in light, as well.

ADULT INQUIRERS CLASS

9:30 a.m. in Munds Hall Library - Led by Rev. Frank Fuller (Zoom can be requested.)

The Rev. Frank Fuller leads an Adult Inquirers Class for anyone interested in officially joining the Episcopal Church. This class gives a wealth of information about the Church and what it means to be an Episcopalian. If you are interested or have any questions, please email Fr. Frank at fef3t@aol.com.

New Wednesday Evening Classes - Begin April 7th

WOMEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Online and In-Person in the Parlor

Contact the Church Office or Visit our Website to get Zoom Information (cotgs.org)

Led by the Rev. Philip May

Fr. Philip will begin a new study on the Women in the New Testament. Women in the New Testament shows how the stories of women are an integral part of the Gospel and its meaning for us. It also relays how we can respond to the challenge these women represent, whether we are men trying to understand or women trying to find our voices within the tradition of faith found in the New Testament. The book *Women in the New Testament* by Mary Ann Getty-Sullivan can be found on Amazon.

WHEN GOD SURPRISES: FAITH IN CONFUSING TIMES

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Dobbins Hall Adult Classroom (April 7th - May 5)

Led by the Rev. Frank Fuller fef3t@aol.com

We almost never quite anticipate what the future brings, or what God has in store for us just right around the corner. Faith is a challenge, but facing life without it is almost impossible. This study will look at surprising moments in the history of the Church when God's amazing grace brought us unexpected answers to the most vexing questions of the age. Topics will include the early church and growth of the New Testament, the end of persecutions in the Roman empire, the conquest of the barbarians, the Crusades, and the splitting of the church, east from west and north from south.



Is it Easter Yet?

Since we didn't get to celebrate Easter together last year as a Church family, I've heard many people say that this past year of pandemic has felt like an extended Lent. It's a great simile—and if we do the math, then come Easter Day, we will have observed Christ's 40 days in the wilderness "with prayer, fasting, and self-denial" for a whopping 402 days. And in each of those days we have been tempted in ways similar to how Christ himself was tempted:

the devil has tempted us to worry over food (among other "essentials"), he has tempted us to throw ourselves down in despair and in loss and in fear, and—perhaps most pointedly—he has tempted us away from our habit of gathering together to worship God.

We have spent 402 days in a season filled with changes designed to save lives—to protect ourselves and those around us—but what about our eternal lives? Psychologists estimate that it takes, on average, 66 days for a new behavior to become automatic. By this Easter, we will have had 6-times that amount. That is sobering to contemplate.

As our state reopens and more and more of us become vaccinated, I find myself wondering: when can church get back to "normal" again? And it seems that my family and I are continually revisiting the question of what is an "acceptable risk" to take? Where do we start?

These are questions we are all asking ourselves, and the answers will differ for each person and family. And they may change from day to day and week to week. I encourage you to keep thinking about returning to worship in person with us. It may not be the right time for you this week, but maybe it will be the week after that.

These days it has more meaning to me that Christ was rather patient with the devil tempting him in all ways except for one: when the devil tempted him to stop worshiping God. In that moment, Christ immediately called out, "Begone, Satan! for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve'" (Matthew 4:10, RSV). At those words, the devil left Christ's presence. What's more: angels came to minister to him.

As we approach the Easter season this year, I am so very looking forward to celebrating Christ's defeat of death and Satan once and for all! It is my earnest prayer that you will be able to join us in person on our great Festival Day. And if you are not ready for that yet, I pray that you will be encouraged to stand fast in your faith as you continue to worship with us online. I can hardly wait to greet you in our Risen Lord's name.

His Peace,

William

CHURCH COMMUNITY

MORNING PRAYER

Morning Prayer by Zoom

Led by the Rev. Philip May
Monday - Thursday at 8:00 a.m.

Join Fr. Philip for *Morning Prayer by Zoom*, Mondays through Thursdays. The Zoom link is on the Church web page, and on our Ministry One app.



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Confirmation Sunday is April 25

Confirmation Fair for Families & Sponsors
9:15 a.m. in the Parlor

Confirmation with Bishop High
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Our confirmands have been busy all year learning about the Lord and their faith through confirmation class and confirmation projects. The Bishop will be with us to confirm our sixth graders, as well as our adult confirmands.

Confirmation Project

Our sixth grade confirmands have been hard at work on their group confirmation project led by Van Greene, John Mason, and John Perabo; It's a community garden.



Sixth Grade Confirmation Project
A Community Garden

WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Psalms:

Prayers of the Heart

Tuesdays from 10:00 - 11:30
in the Parlor

This study focuses on 12 psalms and how to pray them. It is a group-led study with six women from our congregation taking turns leading the discussion questions.

The book that guides this study is *Psalms: Prayers of the Heart* by Eugene H. Peterson. The study teaches you how to relate to God as you pray your doubts, fears, and anger and will show you how to respond to God in praise. The book can be ordered on Amazon.

ELIZABETH BLACK'S ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Pilgrim's Path: A Study of the Psalms

Pilgrim's Path is for those who seek to know and love God more, to discover God's purpose for their lives, and find their life in it.

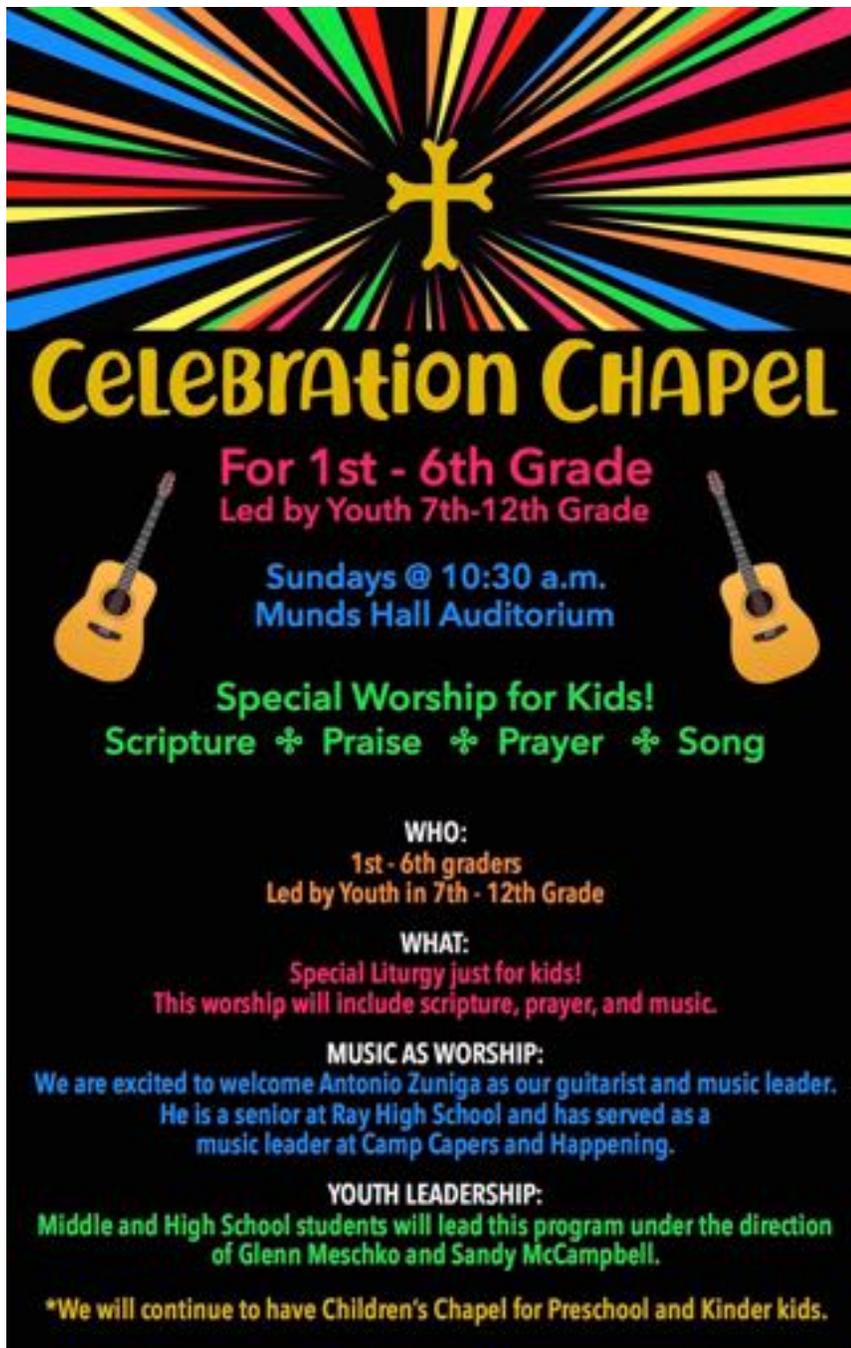
To Learn More Go To:

<https://elizabethheadblack.com/psalms-study/>

Register online: <https://elizabethheadblack.com/psalms-registration/>

\$10 cost for all online materials.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



WHO:
1st - 6th graders
Led by Youth in 7th - 12th Grade

WHAT:
Special Liturgy just for kids!
This worship will include scripture, prayer, and music.

MUSIC AS WORSHIP:
We are excited to welcome Antonio Zuniga as our guitarist and music leader. He is a senior at Ray High School and has served as a music leader at Camp Capers and Happening.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP:
Middle and High School students will lead this program under the direction of Glenn Meschko and Sandy McCampbell.

*We will continue to have Children's Chapel for Preschool and Kinder kids.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

3 year olds - Kindergarten

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

We are happy to provide Children's Chapel during our 10:30 a.m. service. Chapel is led by Pam Greene and Sonia Hall.

- We will practice social distancing.
- We will join the parents in the church for communion



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School is offered for all ages. Masks are required and we will social distance. Each of the three age groups will be in separate classrooms.

3 Year Olds - 5th Grade: Room 107

6th Grade Confirmation: Room 106

Youth-aged students will assist with Sunday School.

NURSERY

Ages 1 - 2

Sundays from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Until further notice, we will only be able to accept children ages 1 - 2 in the nursery. All infants under the age of 1 are welcome to go with their parents to the adult Sunday School classes. They are also always welcome in the sanctuary during worship.

HAPPENING

For 10th - 12th Grade

Next Happening:

May 14 - 16

The diocese has pushed the date for Happening from March to May to ensure the safety of all participants. Registration is now open.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

APRIL 4

No Youth Group (EASTER)

APRIL 11

Regular Youth Group

APRIL 18

Tacos Not Bombs @ 11:30 a.m.

(Meet at the Youth House)

(No Evening Youth Group)

APRIL 25

Regular Youth Group

Times

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Middle School Fun

7:30 - 8:00 p.m. Middle/High School Dinner

8:00 - 9:00 p.m. High School Fun

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the Date!

June 14 - 18

Preschool - 4th Grade

Counselors Needed

Incoming 5th - 12th Graders

Theme:

Rocky Railway



Through life's ups and downs,
Jesus' power pulls us through!

Games & Crafts

Bible Stories

Songs

Snacks

Snow Cone Truck

and Other Fun Surprises!

Registration will begin soon!

YOUTH SUNDAY

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, May 23

10:30 a.m. Service

Please mark your calendars with this important date for our youth. Middle and high school youth will serve in various ways at this service. We will also recognize our Acolytes and our graduating Seniors.

Adult & Youth Volunteers Needed for Vacation Bible School

We need your help to make VBS a success! We are thrilled to be able to offer a fun and meaningful VBS experience for your children this summer, however, we can't do it without your help. Join us for a week of fun as we share the love of Jesus through games, crafts, movies, songs, Bible stories, snacks, and much more. We need help with the above activities. Please contact Sandy McCampbell to let her know what you would like to help with. (Counselors are needed: incoming 5th - 12th graders)

Sandy McCampbell

779-7742

sandymccampbell@aol.com

MISSION & OUTREACH

OUTREACH PROJECT FOR LENT

Last day for Donations is Easter Sunday, April 4

Coastal Bend Food Bank

The Coastal Bend Food Bank is busier than ever helping many local people in our community get the food that they need. We are having a special food drive during the season of Lent.

Items you can donate:

Canned Foods

VEGETABLES: Carrots, Peas, Green Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Tomatoes

FRUIT: Peaches, Pears, Pineapple, Mixed fruit, Oranges

PROTEIN: Ham, turkey, chicken, salmon, tuna, beans, peanut butter

SOUPS: Low sodium soups



Non-perishable Food Items

GRAINS: Pasta, Macaroni & Cheese, Rice (Brown), Cereal

OTHER ITEMS: Pasta Sauce & Juice

Personal Care and Household Items

Toothpaste, shampoo, soap, toilet tissue, baby diapers, detergent, dish soap



Where to donate items:

Donation boxes will be located in the Narthex in the Church and in the Church Office.

Monetary donations can be made to the church for the Food Bank

Please make your check out to COTGS and put "Food Bank" on the memo line. You can also donate online on our website or on our app. Please choose "Other" and indicate "Food Bank" in the notation area for online giving. We will take all donations and write one check from the church.

Egg Ladies Easter Egg Creations Ready for Pick-Up

Call the Church Office

Pay with exact cash, a check, or pay online

If you pay on our website at cotgs.org or on our Church App, click "Other" and type in "Egg Ladies."

If you pay with a check, make your check out to the Egg Ladies.

If you are not on the Egg list, you can call the Church Office and be added to the wait list. You will be called when Eggs become available.



Deconsecration Service Church of Reconciliation, Corpus Christi Property

A Message from Bishop David Reed:

Dear Friends in Christ,

The buildings and property that housed the Episcopal Church of Reconciliation in Corpus Christi has sold. Founded in 1991, the mission held its final service and disbanded in October 2017.

The closing on the sale is set for March 31, 2021. On Tuesday, March 30, at 11:00 a.m., I will preside at a brief service of deconsecration. The property is located at 4518 Saratoga Boulevard, in Corpus Christi.

Please let the people in your churches know, as there may be some former members of Reconciliation, Corpus Christi or others who would like to be present to remember and give thanks for the life of the church.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+David
David M. Reed
Bishop of West Texas



St. James Episcopal School's 1st Annual Sporting Clay Shoot + Spring Festival Saturday, May 22 Come out and support our school!



St. James' Spring Fling is going to look very different from past years, due to COVID. In lieu of a large indoor gathering, they have created a NEW outdoor event to celebrate with our community. **The school is excited to introduce a Sporting Clay Shoot and Spring Festival for the whole family!**

The school invites you to join them at the Corpus Christi Gun Club on Saturday, May 22nd for a Clay Shoot at 8:30 a.m. followed by an afternoon of fun beginning at 11:30 a.m. The school will sell BBQ plates for lunch and have a Live and Silent Auction, as well as music, games, face-painting, and inflatables for kids.

Visit the St. James website, <https://sjes.org/giving/spring-fling/>, for more information about registering for the Clay Shoot and joining us for our outdoor celebration benefitting the scholars of St. James Episcopal School.

WORSHIP SERVICES & HOURS

Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. Traditional Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Family Eucharist
5:30 p.m. "Come As You Are" Eucharist

Nursery For the Little Ones

1 - 2 Years in the Nursery 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
3 Years - Kinder in Children's Chapel 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.
From Children's Chapel they join their families in Church before Communion.

Sunday School Classes

Sundays 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Children Meet in the Water Street Classrooms
Youth Meet in the Water Street Classrooms
Adults:
Large Group w/Rev. Black & Rev. May in Munds Hall Auditorium
Parent class w/Rev. Campbell in Dobbins Hall Classroom, and
Adult Inquirers class w/Rev. Frank Fuller in Munds Hall Library

Weekday Services

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Healing Service with Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Monthly Services

(Suspended until further notice.)

We offer a service of Holy Communion at the Trinity Towers retirement community at 3:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month.

St. James Chapel Services

Tuesdays at 8:05 a.m. K-2nd Grade Chapel
Tuesdays at 8:40 a.m. 3rd & 4th Grade Chapel
Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. Preschool Chapels (4 services)
Thursdays at 8:05 a.m. Middle School Chapel

At this time, we will not be able to accommodate parents at our chapel services. It is for scholars and faculty only until further notice.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

700 S. Upper Broadway

Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-3521

(361)882-1735 cotgs@cotgs.org