

FALL 2018



# *cathedral life*

JESUS CAME INTO GALILEE  
ANNOUNCING GOD'S GOOD NEWS,  
SAYING,

**NOW IS THE RIGHT TIME!**

HERE COMES GOD'S KINGDOM.  
OPEN YOUR HEARTS, CHANGE YOUR LIVES  
AND BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS!

(MARK 1:14B-15)

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ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL · LOS ANGELES

[WWW.STJOHNSLA.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNSLA.ORG)

TIM SULLENS



## Here comes God's Kingdom

by Fr. Mark Kowalewski

**"Now is the right time. Here come God's kingdom. Open your hearts, change your lives, and believe this good news!"**

This summer we spent several weeks exploring the Gospel of Mark. The first words Jesus speaks in the Gospel are these: "Now is the right time. Here comes God's kingdom. Open your hearts, change your lives, and believe this good news!" This is Jesus' mission statement, and as his followers, it's ours as well.

We need to believe this message for ourselves. God's kingdom is not a place but a way of living. It means we want to live as though God is in charge; to live according to God's values, God's dream for us and for the whole creation.

So what are some of the values we embrace if we live in God's

Kingdom? We decide to love people in what we do and say. We act out God's grace in our relationships rather than judging others. We look at the abundance we've been given, rather than focusing on the scarcity of what we don't have. We try to live in God's shalom—right relationships between God and us, with other people and with the earth. We pursue God's justice and peace by engaging our community and society—we know people can be better than the way they sometimes act. We live with open hands and not closed fists. These are just some of the ways Jesus invites us to live as citizens of God's kingdom.

As we hear this message, Jesus asks us each and all to open our hearts and turn *Continued on page 8*

TIM SULLENS



## Come away by ourselves and rest awhile

by Fr. Daniel Ade

**"Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, 'Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while.'"**  
**(Mark 6:31)**

do you sometimes feel like Jesus and the first disciples must have felt—that you're so busy coming and going, you don't even have time to eat? Jesus knew, as we should know, that we can't keep up the busy pace of our lives, non-stop. We need to come away by ourselves to a secluded place to rest awhile.

Often we think that finding time for a retreat or a pilgrimage is just too difficult or expensive. We can't get away for a whole week-end, let alone a journey to a sacred place like the Camino de Satiago in Spain or the Holy Land. Those pilgrimages and retreats can be life changing moments of transformation, but they aren't the only ways we can come away by ourselves to

rest awhile.

This fall we have three different experiences available to get away for just a few hours, but these can also be times for renewal and rest:

First, On **Saturday, October 6** we have the opportunity to visit the monastic Community of Divine Love in nearby San Gabriel. Brother Dennis Gibbs will lead us in a quiet day focusing on creation spirituality. While we will be at the monastery just part of a day—from 9am until 2pm, many of us who have experienced these quiet days come away feeling a sense of spiritual refreshment.

Second, on **Thursday October 11**, join The Rev. Vanessa MacKenzie at 6:30pm as we explore African spirituality. *Continued on page 4*

## The Guibord Center *Religion Inside Out*

# Celebrating our differences

By THE REV. DR. GWYNNE GUIBORD

We are living in the midst of profoundly challenging times for people of faith and others, where fear and demonization of “The Other” are rampant and where abject hatred is being unleashed toward immigrants, people of color, and those from different cultures and religions. The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that “all people are worthy of respect and honor, because all are created in the image of God, and all can respond to the love of God.” The Guibord Center takes that vision to heart.

We of The Guibord Center are unwavering in our Mission Statement: to bring people together to challenge assumptions, unleash the Holy and affirm the

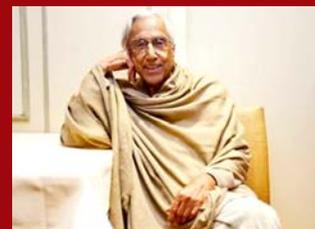
faith that transforms the world.

This Fall we continue to celebrate our many differences by offering programs that address the inherent goodness and decency in all people. These will once more be filmed and live-streamed as all our programs are, as a way to reach out to a growing audience around the world. One of our most important programs has just gone up on the website. “What the Holy Quran Really Says about Women, Violence and Peace” is a touching and richly informative presentation by three articulate and compelling Muslim women. It will be followed by “Saving Grace Too: Continuing Our Faithful Response to Violence Against Women”, on **February 23, 2019**, from 7–9pm at St. John’s.

**On Saturday, October 13th**, Dr. Joseph Prabhu will give a talk from 2–4pm on Raimon Panikkar (1918–2010) at St. John’s. Pannikar was a philosopher, theologian, mystic, priest and poet. “I left Europe (for India) as a Christian, I discovered I was a Hindu and returned as a Buddhist without every having ceased being a Christian.” A reception will follow the talk and allow people to have the chance to interact with the speaker and one another.

**On Sunday, October 21st**, we are presenting “A Faithful Response to the Midterm Elections” from 2–4pm at the Islamic Center of Southern California. This program has grown out of our many faith advisors’ hunger to bring our values and faith traditions to the forefront of today’s elections instead of surrendering them to blaming, name-calling and smearing candidates. It is offered to bring hope and spiritual clarity into the public square. ✦

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**Saturday, Oct. 13  
2–4pm**

**St. Johns**

Dr. Joseph Prabhu, (left) a professor of philosophy and religion at California State



University, Los Angeles, and a member of The Guibord Center’s Advisory Council, will be giving a talk on Raimon Panikkar (1918–2010) (above). Pannikar was a philosopher, theologian, mystic, priest and poet.

## Bishop Visitation



Bishop Suffragan, Diane Jardine Bruce will preach and celebrate both the 8am and 11am masses on **Sunday December 16**. This will also be the day of our annual celebration of

Our Lady of Guadalupe and Latin American heritage. Bishop Bruce will also lead our Adult Education forum at 9:15am, discussing her exciting work with multicultural ministries throughout the Diocese of Los Angeles.



**Sunday, Oct. 21  
2–4pm**

**The Islamic Center of Southern California  
434 South Vermont Ave  
Los Angeles, CA**

An afternoon of meditation, music and insight about how to take our values into the voting booth.

PHOTOS: WWW.THEGUIBORDCENTER.ORG

Stewardship season at St. John's kicks off in the fall and culminates with a big dinner on December 1st. Join us!

# Open your hearts

## Stewardship Season at St. John's

Now is the right time to think about stewardship at St. John's.

This year stewardship season will kick off in the fall and culminate in a big dinner on **December 1st**, "New Years Eve." (The calendar year may begin on January 1st, but the church year begins in December.) On this night we will gather at St. John's for food and fellowship and to offer our financial pledges.

But now is also the right time to start thinking more deeply about stewardship at St. John's—about what stewardship means and why it's so important.

We have inherited so much at St. John's. We have a beautiful building in the heart of Los Angeles, a rich Episcopalian tradition of theology and worship, and a wide array of educational and social ministries. Sometimes, everything at St. John's seems to happen on its own momentum. It's as regular and inevitable as the seasons.

But of course, we know deep down that isn't true. Everything at St. John's happens only because we, the people of St. John's, make it happen. We make it happen with our time, our talents and, yes, our financial pledges.

It wasn't always this way. Throughout

its history, the church has often had powerful patrons. After the Conversion of Constantine, Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire. It enjoyed imperial support. After the Reformation, our ancestor (the Church of England) became the official church of the English monarchy. As long as there was a king or queen, the church was going to be just fine. Even in the United States, the Episcopal Church was known as "the church of presidents." It had an upper-class membership and could always count on big donors to keep it running.

Those days are gone. That might sound scary, but it's also an amazing opportunity. Without the support of emperors, kings, and presidents, we get to sustain St. John's ourselves. In other words, every one of us needs to be a steward. Now is the right time for every one of us to take responsibility for maintaining and building our church community of St. John's.

We on the stewardship committee look forward to the coming season. We look forward to talking with you in the months to come. And we especially look forward to sharing a table with you at the big dinner on December 1st. ✦



Haley Compean (left) and Paul Gleason, Stewardship chairs.

### FR. DAN

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Rev. Vanessa was born and raised in South Africa and is currently Rector of Church of the Advent in Los Angeles. She will bring a wealth of experience sharing a perspective new to many of us at St. John's.

Third, we prepare for Advent with a quiet morning at St. John's led by our Writers' Group on

**Saturday December 8.** This is the second event the group has offered the congregation in the past year and it provides a space for reflection and calm as we begin the busyness of preparing for Christmas.

These three events are meant to assist us in developing a spiritual practice of interior silence and solitude where we can spend time in the presence of our Lord and put aside all the distractions of daily

life. Along with these events, why not intentionally take some time every day—whenever it works in your schedule, to simply be in stillness in the presence of God. It doesn't require words or special practices apart from simply being present to the presence of God. Jesus' advice to his first apostles still is good advice for us—"Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while." ✦

## *You are Invited*

Every member of our cathedral community is cordially invited to a

# "NEW YEAR'S EVE" DINNER

Celebrating the start of the new church year  
and the culmination of our 2019 Stewardship Campaign.

**Saturday, December 1**

6:00pm Reception

7:00pm Dinner

Please RSVP at [churchoffice@stjohnsla.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsla.org)  
or call the church office at (213) 747-6285

Someone from our stewardship committee will call  
if we don't hear from you.

## Stewardship prayer

**Gracious Father, you sent your son Jesus to proclaim to all the good news of your kingdom, and through the power of the Holy Spirit inspired disciples to sow the seeds of your Church: Help us as we continue this work.**

**Give us grace to use the abundant gifts you have given us to accomplish your will in our time, through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.**



TIM SULLENS

# News

## From the Cathedral Arts Guild

By CHRISTOPHER G. GRAVIS, D.M.A.  
CANON FOR MUSIC MINISTRY & CATHEDRAL ARTS

**Wednesday,  
Sept. 26  
6:30pm**

A special Choral Eucharist in honor of the visiting Rt. Rev. Rafael L. Morales, Bishop of Puerto Rico, and celebrated by our own Bishop Taylor.



**Wednesday, Sept. 30  
11am**

**The Feast of St. Michael & All Angels**  
Featuring glorious music.



**Third Saturdays  
5pm**

**Choral Evensong**  
An entirely sung service of prayer.

**First and third Sundays  
8pm**

**Compline at the Cathedral**  
Candlelight, sung prayer and contemplative chanting

**Saturday, Dec. 15  
5pm**

**Annual Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols**  
Candlelight, congregational hymns, and advent carols sung by the choir.

**On behalf of the Choir of St. John's Cathedral and Zachary Neufeld, our Organist, I welcome you to this 2018-19 season**

fall is my favorite season of the year for a few reasons, but perhaps most importantly because it is when we officially welcome the Choir of St. John's Cathedral back from their Summer hiatus! This year, two important liturgies will mark that return. On **Wednesday, September 26** at 6:30pm, there will be a special Choral Eucharist in honor of the visiting Bishop of Puerto Rico and celebrated by our own Bishop Taylor. Secondly, the Feast of St. Michael & All Angels will be celebrated on **Sunday September 30** at 11am. Both services will fill our Cathedral with glorious and resplendent music!

Please mark your calendars for monthly services of Choral Evensong on the **third Saturdays of each month** at 5pm, beginning October 20. If you have not already experienced the majesty of Choral Evensong, I especially invite you to visit. Choral Evensong is unique to the Anglican tradition, and is an entirely sung service of prayer lasting about 45 minutes. You have the opportunity to be enwrapped by beautiful music, architecture, prayers, and to join in hearty fellowship following the service. In October, our friend The Rev. Liz McQuitty will offer a short homily.

In addition to monthly services of Choral Evensong, we are delighted to

offer profoundly beautiful services of Compline on **first and third Sunday evenings** at 8pm. Compline is a service of sung prayer originating in the ancient monastic tradition, and is a stunning experience of prayer and contemplative chanting. Everyone is invited to partake, sit in silent prayer, and enjoy fellowship after the service.

Please also mark your calendars for our annual Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols on **Saturday, December 15** at 5pm. This choral service is derived from the world-famous Lessons & Carols service from King's College, and is replete with warm candlelight, stirring congregational hymns, and gorgeous advent carols sung by the choir. The liturgy starts in darkness at the west wall and moves toward the high altar, symbolizing our movement from darkness into light as we prepare to receive the Christ child.

Finally, I encourage everyone to pick up a copy of the 2018-19 Liturgical Music Schedule in the back of the nave. It is here that you will see all of the music for our entire program year scheduled, as well as special musical events. And please share this information with anyone!

It is indeed an exciting and busy Fall season for Music & Cathedral Arts at St. John's. It is my great honor to serve in this beautiful place, and alongside such dedicated people. On behalf of the Choir of St. John's Cathedral and Zachary Neufeld our Organist, I welcome you to this 2018-19 season, and I hope to meet you during the coffee hour or receptions following any of our choral services! ✦

Christian Education Forum

# Apocrypha & Apocalypse

**O**ur 9:15am Christian Education Forums this fall will deal with two sections of the Bible we seldom study. From two Greek words opposite in meaning—*Apocrypha*, meaning to hide or obscure; and *Apocalypse*, meaning to uncover or reveal. The Apocrypha are books of the Hebrew Bible whose inspiration has been contested in both Judaism and Christianity. Apocalyptic literature, such as the Book of Revelation,

also called The Apocalypse, uses fanciful imagery to convey a deep meaning. Ironically, these images seem to cover up the true meaning rather than uncover it.

Accepted by the early church as part of the Old Testament, the Apocrypha include several writings that emerged in the last centuries before the coming of Jesus. They include several literary genres—narrative, wisdom literature, poetry, history, even apocalyptic literature.



Fr. Mark Kowalewski will lead **Apocrypha & Apocalypse** every Sunday from 9:15 – 10:30am, Sept. 30 through Dec. 9, except for Oct. 28. A list of readings will be available online at [stjohnsla.org](http://stjohnsla.org) and on the welcome table.

At the time of the Reformation, Protestant churches omitted these books from the Old Testament. Anglicans have always kept them, but as a “second canon,” useful for our learning, but not central to the Old Testament story. Portions of these books appear in our lectionary for both the Eucharist and the Daily Office.

Apocalyptic literature has also had a contested history. The Book of Revelation was considered suspect by some segments of the early church. In our day, Revelation and other writings such as parts of the Book of Daniel and even small sections of the Gospel are sources of curiosity and wild interpretations from some segments of Christianity. Understanding the literary form of apocalyptic writing will help us avoid crazy and misguided interpretations.

These sections of biblical literature have a lot to teach us. The Apocrypha help us to gain a better understanding of the religious world of Judaism from which Jesus emerged. While a good understanding of apocalyptic writing will help you understand and refute the misleading interpretations that can have serious and negative spiritual and political consequences, especially in American culture. ✕



TIM SULLENS

## From Deacon Margaret McCauley

**He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)**

## Prophetic Social Witness

**S**t. John’s Community Witness will continue to focus on gun control issues and events. We need the support of our entire church family for the monthly gun control neighborhood march. You may choose to march or stand/sit on our plaza holding a sign which we’ll provide. It’s our intention to consistently remind our neighbors of our commitment to “Thou Shall Not Kill” and “love your neighbor as yourself.”

Gun control advocacy groups successfully doing important work include: Everytown for Gun Safety ([everytown.org](http://everytown.org)); Giffords Law Center to Prevent Violence ([giffordslawcenter.org](http://giffordslawcenter.org)); Coalition to Stop Gun Violence ([www.csgv.org](http://www.csgv.org)); and States United to Prevent Gun Violence ([ceasefireusa.org](http://ceasefireusa.org)). We are visiting and evaluating these websites to determine our voice in the national and local gun violence prevention actions.

Additionally, we are supporting a voter registration drive. Are you registered to vote? Are the members of your family who are eligible registered to vote? Will you commit to asking your neighbors to register to vote? All elections are important but this one especially as the leadership of our country is in chaos. The Everytown for Gun Safety voter registration theme is “If our elected leaders won’t act to keep guns out of schools, we’ll act to keep them out of office.”

Finally, please remember that St. John’s will hold it’s Annual Alternate Christmas Fair. Many of us have enough “stuff” and want to offer support to those who are sorely in need.

Watch out for our communications with you in the Weekly Update, the Sunday Bulletin and on the Welcome Table. ✕



# Fall has **Arrived!**

by JAKE PUTICH  
CANON FOR YOUNG ADULT AND FAMILY MINISTRY

**f**all has arrived! Here's everything you need to know about Young Adult and Children Ministries:

This October, we're excited to host **Versed**—a diocesan event put on by the Program Group on Young Adult Ministry that's designed to engage and empower young adults for a vibrant faith. On the first four Tuesday evenings in the month of October (**Oct. 2, 9, 16, & 23**), we'll discuss Queer Theology and the Bible. Come enjoy some great speakers, awesome food, and refreshing community—surrounded by the beauty of the cathedral. Tickets for the entire series are \$40—dinner included!

The Children's Ministry Team is actively preparing for our program relaunch! This year, we're using a fantastic curriculum called **A Joyful Path**. Through this resource, we'll explore the teachings of Jesus on topics like community and joy. We'll also look at

themes such as forgiveness and justice through the lives of men and women like Desmond Tutu and Wangari Maathai. This is an inclusive, beautiful curriculum that we can't wait to share with your K–6th grade child. And we have an exciting announcement—our program will now be held in a permanent, newly renovated classroom upstairs at St. John's! Children's Ministry at St. John's resumes **every 1st and 3rd Sunday**, starting at 11am on Sunday, **October 7th!**

Lastly, a new season of **Compline at the Cathedral** begins this fall at a brand new time! We're kicking things off a full hour earlier at 8pm. Come experience a beautiful, intimate service oriented around the simplicity of song, prayer, and silence—all bathed in calming candlelight—followed by a joyous time of food and fellowship. Compline resumes **every 1st and 3rd Sunday** starting on **September 16th** at 8pm! ✨

## FR. MARK

Continued from page 2

our lives around to accept this good news. God's reign is possible. That's the hope we have for the world. And so that's the message we have to share with people we meet and those who come through our doors each week at St. John's.

That's why this year we have chosen Jesus' mission statement as our theme for our financial stewardship program. Will we open our minds and hearts to the possibilities of our mission for Christ here in the cathedral community? How might each of us live with more gratitude, more joy-

ous generosity, opening our hands and giving from the abundance we have all received?

I'm asking each of us to consider stepping out with greater faith and generosity this year. The financial costs to do all the ministry we already do here are great. We can imagine doing more both within our community and reaching out beyond our walls, yet we can only do this if you and I step out in trust and increase our giving. Let's commit to making the impact of Jesus' mission greater through the work of St. John's this year. Let's continue the mission Jesus began so that we can more fully proclaim the life changing message of God's Kingdom. ✨

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life

THE MAGAZINE  
OF ST. JOHN'S  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

514 West Adams Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90007-2616  
213.747.6285  
www.stjohnsla.org

The Rt. Rev. John H. Taylor  
Bishop

The Very Rev. Canon  
Daniel Ade  
Dean  
frdan@stjohnsla.org

The Very Rev. Canon  
Mark Kowalewski  
Dean  
frmark@stjohnsla.org

*On the cover:*  
"Summer Over the Judean Desert"  
Photo by Mark Kowalewski