

# Clarion

APRIL 2025



## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

*The mission of the Church of the Epiphany is to offer a home to all those who are seeking God's unconditional love.*

## From the Vicar



The term “Christian nationalism” appears regularly in the news. Often, it is presented in a disapproving manner. You may be asking, what is Christian nationalism? The online Encyclopedia Britannica defines it this way:

“Christian nationalism, ideology that seeks to create or maintain a legal fusion of Christian religion with a nation’s character. Advocates of Christian nationalism consider their view of Christianity to be an integral part of

their country’s identity and want the government to promote—or even enforce—the religion’s position within it.”

On the surface, modeling one’s government after the teachings of Christ would appear to be a very good thing, and I agree with this sentiment. However, on closer inspection, current Christian nationalism can be, and often is, an oxymoron, a contradiction in terms.

The definition of a Christian is one who follows the teachings of Christ Jesus. Again quoted the online Britannica: “nationalism [is an] ideology based on the premise that the individual’s loyalty and devotion to the nation-state surpass other individual or group interests.”

Therein lies the contradiction. Jesus told his followers, “No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other.” (Matthew 6:24)

While the term “Christian nationalism” is fairly recent, Christian nationalism has been around since the fourth century, when the Roman Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity. It did not take long for the rich and powerful in Roman society to switch their worship from the pagan Roman gods to the Christian God, if only to curry favor with the emperor.

By the Middle Ages, the Church and the political power structure were intertwined. The concept of the divine right of kings to do just about anything they wanted became ensconced with the blessing of bishops.

Even after the Reformation began, Christianity and nationalism were virtually inseparable. Each nation-state adopted a state religion, and only worship in state-authorized churches was mandatory. Failure to follow the religion of the state usually meant either death or exile.

Our own mother church, the Church of England followed this rule during its turbulent early years, with the Roman Catholic Queen Mary burning Protestants at the stake and her half-sister Elizabeth jailing and beheading Catholics when she came to the throne.

While modern England is much more tolerant and even welcoming other religions, even non-Christian, the person who wears the crown is still the titular head of the Church of England and bishops are appointed by the king (or queen) on the advice of the Prime Minister. Many of the bishops of the

Church of England also have a seat in the upper chamber of the British Parliament.

And the merging of religion and politics is not unique to Christendom. Almost all cultures in the ancient world combined civil and religious laws. There was no disagreement about that among both the leadership and governed. This can even be found throughout Hebrew Scripture.

Of course, this began to change with Jesus, who was not above breaking the law as part of his ministry. He was often criticized for healing on the Sabbath and other infractions if it meant serving the needs of the poor and disenfranchised. The Good Samaritan highlighted loving one's neighbor meant crossing cultural boundaries and breaking the law.

Jesus made his position clear on the separation of religion and government. When asked whether the Hebrew people should pay taxes to the Roman Empire, Jesus replied, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21) When Pilate asked Jesus if he were a king, he replied, "My kingdom does not belong to this world." (John 18:36)

Modern adherents of Christian nationalism claim that the United States was established Christian nation by the founders. They say the Declaration of Independence clearly states this.

However, this is not true. For example, Thomas Jefferson, the primary author of the document was not a Christian in the traditional sense. He was a Deist who believed in a higher power but rejected the divinity of Jesus and the Bible. This is reflected in his use of the terms "nature's God" and Creator. This also reflects the authors' objection of how the Church of England was governed.

When the U.S. Constitution was written, it was approved with the understanding that a Bill of Rights would include a clause delineating the separation of church and state, just as Jesus emphasized. The First Amendment clearly states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." This means no government, whether federal, state or local, can promote one religion over another.

It didn't take long for those advocating Christian nationalism from finding ways around this article of the Constitution. However, most legislators and judges upheld this constitutional law throughout the years.

Today, we face more challenges to the separation of church and state. Ironically, many who are leading these efforts call themselves Christians, but they are Christians in name only. They do not follow the teachings of Christ Jesus who told his followers to feed the hungry, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, tend the sick and visit the imprisoned. We who do try to follow the teachings of Christ Jesus must stand up for those in need.

Father David+

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

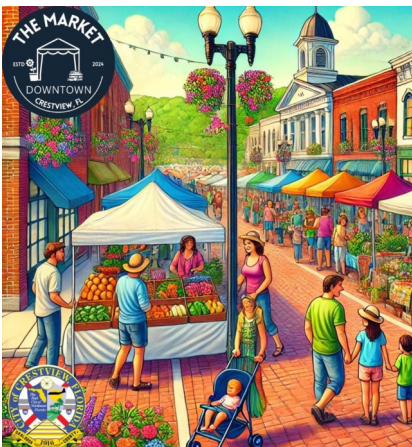


American Legion Post 75, located directly across the street from NWFL State College at 898 E James Lee Blvd, will be having the 1st round of the 3rd Annual Crawfish Competition on **Saturday, April 12.**

50/50 Raffle, gift raffles, giveaways, and more. Show up and eat or judge people's choice, you can do that too. There will be approximately 900lbs of crawfish, 80lbs of shrimp, and hot dogs to eat. All you can eat with no takeout or to go orders.

The 2nd annual Fandom Exchange & Backpack Buddies of Baker food drive is **Saturday, April 12th, from 10 AM to 4 PM**

Crestview's ONLY mini-comic-con, and it's packed with activities! Cosplay Contest with prizes. Artist Alley showcasing talented artists & artisans. Freddie's Southern Eats & Mama's Lemonade. Game Corner hosted by Game Master's Guild. Bring child-friendly to open food to support our food drive for Backpack Buddies of Baker. FREE & family friendly event!



**The Market Downtown April, 26th  
09:00 am**

A vibrant farmers market featuring a wide selection of artisanal and consumable goods. Shop for fresh produce, jams, jellies, baked goods, handmade soaps, lotions, pickles, and more! soulful blues, refreshing brews, unique vendors, and fun for the whole family. Delicious meals from the food trucks on-site.

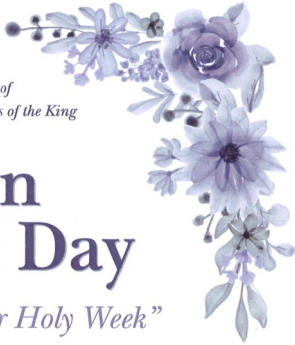
# News from Around the Diocese



The Blessed Mary Chapter of  
The Order of the Daughters of the King  
invites you to a

## Lenten Quiet Day

“Preparing for Holy Week”



Saturday, April 5 \* 9:00  
am - 1:00 pm  
St. Mary’s Episcopal  
Church 1307 Three Notch St.,  
Andalusia, AL

The schedule will include Morning Prayer, followed by meditations led by Father Eric Mancil to help prepare for the journey of Holy Week and time for quiet reflection. We will close the Quiet Day with a service of Holy Eucharist, followed

by lunch in the Parish Hall. There is no cost to attend, but we ask that you RSVP by email no later than Wednesday, April 2.

## Worship in the Woods

A DIOCESAN-WIDE GATHERING

APRIL 27

2:30 PM TO 5 PM

SALOON  
PROPERTIES  
TREE FARM  
2855 Bookers Mill Rd  
Evergreen, AL  
36641

Celebrating in God’s Creation  
Join us for a special Stations of the  
Resurrection with Eucharist and  
fun fellowship.

Followed by a  
“low church shrimp boil”  
Wear closed-toe shoes.  
Bring your water bottles or  
favorite beverage and  
lawn chair or blanket.

Sponsored by  
Convocation IV Churches

St. Mary’s, Andalusia	St. Thomas, Greenville
Trinity, Atmore	St. Peter’s, Jackson
St. Stephen’s, Brewton	St. John’s, Moundville
Nativity, Dethan	St. Michael’s, Ozark
Epiphany, Enterprise	St. Ann’s, Peach
St. James, Fortlaw	St. Mark’s, Troy

CONTACTS

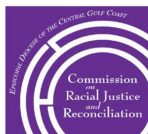
Miguel Hamilton  
(834) 301-8832; miguelham@elmore.rr.com  
Salern Saloom  
(251) 363-4776; salern@saloom.net  
Haden Frey  
(251) 564-1090; haden@frontier.net



Join us for a wonderful day in the woods with a special Stations of the Resurrection with Eucharist and fun fellowship. Bring your lawn chair and/or blanket. Wear closed-toe shoes. A low "church" country boil will be provided.

And come see the new chapel.

9:00 AM - Voyage to the Clotilda site, departing from Gulf Quest  
11:30 AM - Lunch at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, historically African - American Episcopal Church  
1:00 PM - Tour of Africatown Heritage House  
2:00 PM Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage Trail Tour and Historic Franklin House and Gallery. Cost is \$10. Please wear comfortable clothes and good walking shoes.



Saturday, April 26, 2025  
\$10 donation per person & defray costs

Register at Eventbrite  
<https://eventbrite.com/e/2025-04-26>  
or scan the QR Code



Limited to 40 participants.  
Group transportation will be provided between the various sites.  
Wear comfortable clothes and good walking shoes!  
Questions? Contact Robbie Runderman at runderman@gmail.com

## Pilgrimage in MOBILE



9:00 am  
Voyage to the Clotilda site, departing from the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico (900 Davis, 155 Water Street



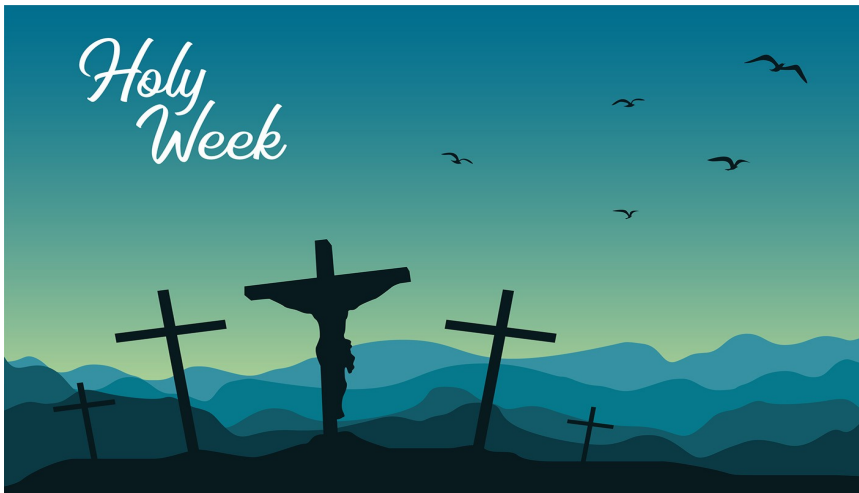
11:30 am  
Lunch at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, historically African American Episcopal church, 605 Donald Street



1:00 pm  
Tour of Africatown Heritage House, 246 Winibush Street



2:00 pm  
Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage Trail Tour and Historic Franklin House & Gallery, 155 North Ann Street



From early times Christians have observed the week before Easter as a time of special devotion. As the pilgrim Egeria recorded in the late fourth century, Jerusalem contained many sacred places that were sites for devotion and liturgy. Numerous pilgrims to the holy city followed the path of Jesus in his last days. They formed processions, worshipped where Christ suffered and died, and venerated relics.

From this beginning evolved the rites we observe today on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. These services provide a liturgical experience of the last days of Jesus' earthly life, as well as the time and events leading up to his resurrection.

The BCP provides special liturgies for each of these days. The eucharistic lectionary also provides proper readings for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week.

Some parishes observe the service of Tenebrae on one of these days in Holy Week. This form of monastic office is commonly adapted for congregational use during Holy Week. The office is structured around psalms, readings, and responsories. A distinguishing characteristic of this service is the series of readings from Lamentations which appear early in the office. The distinctive ceremonial of Tenebrae includes use of fifteen lighted candles, often set on a special, triangular stand. One candle is extinguished as each of the fourteen appointed psalms is completed. The fifteenth candle, symbolic of Christ, is left lighted at the end of the final psalm. But it is carried away to be hidden, which signifies the apparent victory of the forces of evil. A sudden loud noise is made at the end of the service, symbolizing the earthquake at Christ's death. The lighted candle

is then restored to its place, suggesting Christ's eventual triumph. The BOS includes Tenebrae as an option for use on Wednesday in Holy Week.

In many dioceses, the diocesan clergy will make a reaffirmation of ordination vows in the context of a eucharist during Holy Week, usually before Maundy Thursday. The three holy days, or Triduum, of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are at the heart of the Holy Week observance.

In many Episcopal parishes, the liturgical color for Holy Week from Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday is red. Holy Week ends at sundown on the Saturday before Easter, or with the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

[www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/holy-week](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/holy-week)

### ***An Invitation to Holy Week***

Dear People of The Church of the Epiphany,

Holy Week is the most sacred period of our Christian faith. It is a time when we gather together as a community of faith to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, to stand with him before his accusers, to walk to Golgotha, and to stand at the foot of his cross. Finally, on Easter Sunday, we will joyously celebrate the resurrection of Christ, lifting our voices in praise of the hope that is ours and the world's.

Join us for all of it, if you can, remembering that without the journey of Holy Week, Easter loses its deep meaning.

Here is the Holy Week schedule:

April 13 Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

April 17 Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and foot washing

April 18 Good Friday

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

April 18 Good Friday

6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

April 20 Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

See you in church!



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 6 — Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch

April 13 — Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Vestry Meeting

April 17 — Maundy Thursday

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing

April 18 — Good Friday

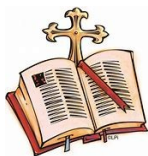
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, 5:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

April 20 — Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Service

April 27 — Second Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



## LECTOR SCHEDULE

April 6 — Fifth Sunday in Lent

1st Reading - Tracy Kueczynski

2nd Reading - Melanie East

April 13 — Palm Sunday/Sunday of Passion

1st Reading -

2nd Reading -

April 17 — Maundy Thursday

1st Reading -

2nd Reading - Cathy Clothier

April 18 — Good Friday

1st Reading -

2nd Reading -

April 20 — Easter Sunday

1st Reading - Ginny Bauer

2nd Reading - Flo Procino

April 27 — Second Sunday of Easter

1st Reading -

2nd Reading - Tracy Kueczynski





## Property Report for March

Maintenance of our property and buildings is ongoing. Several projects that we have been working on for some time are now completed and some are still in work. We are also working on some new projects.

### *Completed*

- ◆ Both toilets in the men's room in the church have been replaced because of age and leaking.
- ◆ The faucets in the kitchen in St. Joseph's Hall and in the kitchen and the sacristy in the church have been replaced due to leaking.
- ◆ Kelly our landscaper did her first lawn mowing and trimming this month..
- ◆ Spayed for ants inside and out of the front of the church after some where found on shelf behind the altar.

### *In Work*

- ◆ Still need to clean and install three window screens for the church building.
- ◆ More pressure washing of walkways still needs to be done.
- ◆ Started to clean out and organize the Garage Shed.
- ◆ Still need a quote for moving the small shed.

### *New Projects*

- ◆ Looking for someone who might want the metal folding chairs in the Garage shed that we never use. We can deliver them.
- ◆ Looking for someone to install a peg board in the Garage Shed to hang tools to help organize the space.
- ◆ The window blind in the nursery needs to be replaced.

If you would like to assist me on a project, or know of something else that needs attention, please let me know.

*Maurice Phillips, Junior Warden*

## EPIPHANY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

No Birthdays this month



No Anniversaries this month



# *Parish News*

## OUR SOUP AND SPEAKER LENTEN PROGRAM

The Wednesday night Soup and Speaker Lenten program is being well attended and is great fellowship. Everyone is welcome, there is always plenty of Soup.



On April 16 we also celebrated Father David's Birthday. There was a cake and we sang Happy Birthday.



## EPIPHANY'S FAVORITE RECIPES

### **Bible Cake**

*May God Bless the cook and those who partake of this cake.*

A cake recipe that is influenced from verses of the Bible. This decadent old fashioned bible cake is a wonderful treat to bless your family with for dessert.

#### **Ingredients**

- 4 ½ cups 1 Kings 4:22 (Flour)
- 2 tbsp Matthew 3:4 (Honey)
- 2 cups Isaiah 43:24 (Sugar)
- 2 tsp Luke 13:21 (Baking Powder)
- 2 tsp Exodus 30:23 (Cinnamon)
- 1 cup Proverbs 30:33 (Butter, softened)
- 6 Jeremiah 17:11 (Eggs, separated)
- ½ cup Judges 4:19 (Milk)
- 1 tsp Mark 9:50 (Salt)
- 2 cups Nahum 3:12 (Figs, coarsely chopped)
- 1cup Song of Solomon 6:11 (Walnuts, coarsely chopped)
- 2 cups 1 Samuel 30:12 (Raisins, coarsely chopped)
- 2 cups Genesis 43:11 (Almonds, chopped or slivered)
- 1 tsp each 1 Kings 10:10 (ground Mace, Cloves, and Allspice)



#### **Instructions**

- 1) Blend butter and sugar. Beat egg yolks and add.
- 2) Sift in baking powder, spices, and flour, and add milk and honey.
- 3) Add almonds, walnuts, figs, raisins. \*If the dough seems stiff, add enough Judges 4:19 (or 1 Peter 2.2) to loosen it up before folding in the egg whites.
- 4) Fold in beaten egg whites.
- 5) Pre-heat oven to 375. Grease and sugar cake pans and sprinkle with the cup of chopped walnuts on the bottom of the pans. Pour the mix into pans.
- 6) Bake for one hour until golden brown or until a toothpick comes out clean.
- 7) Cool in pan for 15 minutes before inverting onto wire rack.

***Please remember in your prayers:***

Addice Thomas, Addison Hendrix, Adley Hipwell,  
Amanda Spradlin, Amy & Anthony Lehatto, Barbara Murrell,  
Betty Schwartzkopf, Bill Jones, Brenda Faulkner,  
Buni O'Brien, Carol McCartney, Rev. David Knight, Debra Evans,  
Dennis Jackson, Donna Andrews, Felica Hearn, Florie Angelini,  
Herselie Hendrix, Janice Tyler, Jeff Evans, Judy Tinsley, Julie Hill,  
Karen Traggorth, Kei'Mari Martin, Kim Sung Ki, Lester Taylor,  
Linn Luckert, Lynn Smith, Mary Meehan, Maureen Marcotte,  
Melanie East, Michael Mazzerat, Marilyn "Missy" Jones, Nancy Delierre,  
Nikole Webb, Phyllis Alles, Rocky Robinson, Sandy Menziec,  
Sharon Lundy, Sybil King, Tara Colondres, Terry Algood,  
Ward Hendrix, and Yisrael Goldman

**The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany**

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