

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS AT ALL SOULS

DECEMBER 14, 2025



*The mission of All Souls Church is to be a Christ-centered sanctuary where a diverse and inclusive community worships and serves. We live this mission through faithful celebration of the Eucharist, Christian education, and loving nurture of both members and neighbors.*

## *Today* *The Third Sunday of Advent*

10 am Faith Forum

*The Spiritual Life, by Evelyn Underhill with vEnessa Acham*

11 am

Holy Eucharist

*The Reverend Sara Palmer, Rector*

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's table.

Usher training today following the service. Meet Joe Neal in the back of the church.

Please join us downstairs in the Undercroft after the service for coffee hour.

### *Today's Readings*

#### **The First Lesson,**

Isaiah 35:1-10

*Embry Howell*

#### **The Psalm**

Psalm 146:4-9

*Sung by the choir*

#### **The Epistle**

James 5:7-10

*Rick Taylor*

#### **Prayers of the People**

*Annie Plews*



**T**he **Third Sunday of Advent** is known as **Gaudete Sunday**, which means "rejoice" in Latin. It is a day of joy in the midst of the penitential season of Advent, marked by lighting the rose or pink candle on the Advent wreath. This Sunday serves as a reminder that the arrival of Christ is near.



# Christ House

HEALING AND HOPE FOR HOMELESS PERSONS

## CELEBRATES 40 YEARS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

All Souls congratulates Christ House on its 40th anniversary of providing health care to unhoused persons in Washington DC. For at least 30 of those years, All Souls parishioners have volunteered in the kitchen. Currently, Sheila Arbury, Rick Taylor, and Bill



McKinley represent our parish by preparing a hearty and healthy breakfast each Wednesday morning. For more information on Christ House scan [the QR code](#).

## CUBAN CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Last year we raised \$575 to support a Christmas dinner for our brothers and sisters at Iglesia Episcopal Jesús Nazareno in Santa Clara, Cuba. Project Feliz Navidad began in 2022 after the Covid pandemic to provide a Christmas meal for every Episcopal parish and community in Cuba. With help from many supporters, all 52 communities have held Christmas celebrations each year. Photos are available on the program website.



**We now invite your support for Project Feliz Navidad 2025.** Conditions in Cuba remain difficult with ongoing shortages and limits on basic services. Even so, the church continues with strong hope. Presiding Bishop Rowe recently

consecrated the new Bishop of Cuba, Rev. Angel Rivera, who shared deep gratitude for this program and its impact across the island.

Please make a check out to All Souls Episcopal Church. Write Project Feliz Navidad 2025, Cuba in the Memo line. You can put cash in an envelope to give at the Sunday service collection; mark your name and amount given, plus Cuba Project 2025 on the front of the envelope. You can go to the website, click on Giving, one-time donation and amount; click on drop down box Cuban Christmas 2025.

Thank you so much for your generosity in helping our Cuban brothers and sisters enjoy their Christmas.

*Tom Durham,  
All Souls Outreach Committee*

## FORMATION OF ART GROUP CHAIRED BY LISA WATSON, Sr. Warden

At its October meeting, the Vestry authorized the formation of a small working group to consider the addition of artwork (e.g., an icon, stained glass, or painting) that represents the diversity and inclusiveness of our All Souls community. The Senior Warden will chair the working group, which will develop a proposal for the Vestry that takes into account all aspects of the project. The bulk of the group's work will be conducted in early 2026. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Watson.

## COME MEET OUR BISHOP BUDDE SUNDAY DECEMBER 21, 2025!

Please mark your calendars to come to All Souls on Sunday December 21. Our own Bishop Budde will lead the 10 am Forum, will preach and preside at the 11 am service and attend the Vestry meeting after coffee hour. Come and support our new friends:

Jody Koepp-Norris,  
Trevor Merrifield,  
Aurora Sherman will be confirmed; Tara Mancini and Julia O'Hanlon will be received into The Episcopal Church. We thank God that All Souls continues to grow! Don't miss out on this special Advent service!



**EPISCOPAL 101  
BEGINS IN  
JANUARY  
WEDNESDAYS,  
6:30-7:30 PM**

Begins **January 7th, 2026** and ends **Wednesday, February 25th** (no class on Ash Wed., Feb. 18.) The classes will be held in-person in the Conference room.

I have six people interested already in the January 2026 Episcopal 101 classes. Please email Mother Sara if you would like to join the class which will deepen your spiritual life, help you make new friends at All Souls, enrich your understanding of Episcopal beliefs and practices. Don't miss it!

Attending this class will qualify you for confirmation and reception in The Episcopal Church in May 2026. Email Mother Sara.

## Episcopal Diocese of Washington



Diócesis Episcopal  
de Washington

December 9, 2025

My friends,

Blessings to you in this holy season of Advent.

In the time when we are invited to make room in our lives for Christ to come to us in new ways, I am mindful that many in our congregations and the communities we serve are struggling under the burdens of economic uncertainty and personal hardship.

Earlier this year, the Diocese of Washington launched an **Emergency Relief Fund** to provide direct support to individuals and families in urgent need. Congregational leaders—clergy and wardens—serve as the point of connection. The grant application is intentionally brief so that assistance can be offered without delay. If you or someone in your congregation is in need of financial support, I invite you to read guidelines and the application link on the [Emergency Relief Fund](#) webpage. We are here to help.

If you are in a position to [make a gift](#), your contribution will strengthen our collective response to those who find themselves needing to ask for help. Through our gifts, others may experience something of the love of God.

The opportunities to give in this season are many, and I am grateful for the expressions of love and generosity that I see throughout our diocese. You are a daily inspiration to me.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Faithfully,

*Mariann Edgar Budde*

The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde  
Bishop of Washington



## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

**Woodley House Food Pantry:** Today, on this second Sunday of the month we ask for donations to the food collection for the Woodley House food bank.

**Women's Coat Needed:** a parishioner's disabled friend needs a Women's washable Winter Coat size Large asap. Please email Mother Sara: [rector@allsoulsdc.org](mailto:rector@allsoulsdc.org)

**2026 Outreach Committee Clothing Drive:** will collect on January 18 & January 25 in the Undercroft. See info on welcome table.

## Parish Prayer List

**The Washington Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for:**

St. Thomas' Church, DC,  
St. Thomas' Church, Upper Marlboro, and  
the Chapel of the Incarnation;

**In the Wider Anglican Communion, we pray for:**

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil;

**For those who are sick or in need, we pray especially for:**

Robert, Christopher, Laura, Warren, Shinn,  
Charles, Eric, Joann, Russell, Amanda, Haiti,  
Palestine, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan;

**We Give Thanks for:**

All who brought presents today for  
the needy children outreach  
Christmas drive.



*Submit prayer requests to Andrea in the church office (andrea@allsoulsdc.org) to stay on for a month at a time. We are prepared to pray indefinitely for your requests.*

*Healing prayer is normally available after Holy Eucharist on the 1st and 3rd Sundays,*

### **THE BISHOP'S VISIT** **Sunday, December 21**

Faith Forum, 10 am  
*Come meet the Bishop!*

Holy Eucharist, 11 am

### **CHRISTMAS EVE** **Wednesday, December 24**

5:00 pm Lessons & Carols  
*A family & child friendly service*

9:00 pm Festive Eucharist

### **CHRISTMAS DAY** **Thursday, Dec. 25**

11 am Holy Eucharist



# Christmas at All Souls

**December 7**  
**11 am**  
**Advent Lessons & Carols**

**December 24**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**5 pm, A Lessons & Carols Family Service**  
**9 pm, Festive Eucharist**

**December 25**  
**Christmas Day**  
**11 am**  
**Holy Eucharist with Music**

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