

# St. John Baptist Church Newsletter



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## Scriptures to Get You Through a Difficult Holiday Season

<https://larryodonnell.com/blog/scriptures-to-get-you-through-a-difficult-holiday-season>

This year has left all of us facing some level of hardship in our lives. It can be easy to feel beaten down by the current state of our world. Thankfully, as the body of Christ, we have been promised a better life after this one. On days when we are struggling to find light amid the dark and hope amid the pain, we have God and His Word to depend on for peace and strength to get us through difficulty. I know when I faced my own horrific "shipwreck", God was the only reason I was able

to make it through.

The Bible can infuse us with the confidence we need to continue to press through in these trying times. If you find yourself struggling, I encourage you to meditate on the following verses, and even to challenge yourself to memorize them. You might also send these to a loved one who could use extra encouragement right now:

**2 Corinthians 4:8-9, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."**

As Christians, we are told that we will face adversity in this world. God never promised us an easy life, but He did promise He would take care of us in this life and the next. So even when we are feeling defeated by the things going on in our lives, we can remember that we are not forgotten by God and He will see us through.

At times, especially as some of us are

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quarantined or isolated due to sickness, we may feel alone, but the Lord promises that we are never forsaken or forgotten.

**Joshua 1:9, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."**

This verse is one of many about God's faithfulness to us. There is an abundance of unknowns in our world today, and that can be a scary thing to think about. We may not know what tomorrow or even the next hour will bring, but we have confidence that the Lord is right by our side through it all.

This is an especially powerful verse to pray over those who may be battling sickness right now or are praying for their loved one in the hospital. When fear settles in, it can easily distract us from the truth and make us feel even more alone. Putting this verse at the forefront of our minds while we are in the middle of one of life's storms can help us to keep our head up from one difficult moment to the next.

**Psalms 50:15, "and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."**

God is our greatest ally, and prayer is our strongest weapon. We will continue to work through trials, but thankfully, we have the blessing of prayer, the ability to talk to God through every step in our journeys.

Oftentimes, we can slip into the bad habit of asking for prayer without praying ourselves or

complaining about our problems more than we ask God to help us through them. While grumbling might feel good for a moment, true peace and joy come from putting our trust in the Lord by lifting up our requests in prayer and knowing that He is in control. And when others see the peace we have from God even in the face of our worst trials, that is a witness to others as they see the power of God working within us, and brings glory to God.

Especially as Christmas nears and we navigate a less than ideal holiday season, I think we can draw spiritual strength not only from these verses but also from the example of one biblical figure who modeled resilience perhaps better than anyone: Mary, the mother of Jesus.

She was asked to carry out the crucial task of mothering the Savior, all while being a young teenager, by most scholarly estimates. Not only that, but she faced the public scrutiny of being pregnant outside of marriage. She could have easily told the Lord to pick someone else for the job and become preoccupied with what everyone else was thinking about her. But Mary kept her gaze fixated on the Lord, and even while she walked through the difficulty of being a young pregnant woman to the dismay of many of her neighbors, she never let those circumstances take her away from depending on God.

Like Mary and many other biblical heroes of the faith, we have everything we need to survive a trial of life through God's Word and our faith in Jesus Christ. The promise of the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life with Him should be a comfort to us all! What a gift God

SJBC

HEALTH CORNER



# Healthy Holidays



**Flu Shot** - Make sure your child gets their seasonal flu shot to stay healthy during the season



**Healthy Eating** - Give your child healthy meals throughout the day, and don't let them overeat at holiday parties



**Hand Washing** - Maintain your child's usual hand washing routine to prevent spreading infections



**Get Plenty of Sleep** - Keep up with your child's bedtime routine. A good night's rest is also a good way to avoid illnesses



**Holiday Traditions** - Create new holiday traditions that are about celebrating family and time together



**Stay Active** - Limit screen time and encourage kids to partake in physical activities



## *Help Needed!!!*

At the 2025 Annual Church Meeting, a couple of vacancies were announced during the Permanent Organization Committee report:

- + Church Clerk
- + House Committee Chair

If you are interested in assisting SJBC by filling these vacancies, please see ***Mrs. Mary Ann Corpal-Clay***, Chair of the Permanent Organization Committee.

## *In Loving Memory of...*

***Mrs. Nellie L. Murphy*** and her sister, ***Mrs. Luettry L. Wade***, mother and aunt of ***Mrs. Beulah Rankin***, the live flowers for Church's 157th Anniversary and the white poinsettias for the month of December.





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has given to us as believers!



## What Is Church Stewardship?

Simply put, stewardship is the responsible management of the resources God has trusted you with (whether managing the church budget, volunteers, or the mission and vision of our local body).

Stewardship goes deeper than helping the church make more money or managing finances according to church financial best practices. We are called to use our time, talents, and treasure in a way that honors God and furthers His kingdom.

Church stewardship is not a new term. There were stewards in the bible. We can look back to Genesis to see an example of stewardship. Joseph was the steward for Potiphar. We see this in **Genesis 39:4**. Joseph was a servant and an overseer, put in charge of all that Potiphar owned.

Church stewardship is not a "nice to have" for churches... Scripture addresses church stewardship many times. The very first command Adam and Eve received in the garden was about stewardship.

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" (**Genesis 1:26-28**)

Note that God didn't just give all of creation to mankind and say, "Here, it's yours now, I don't want it." All of creation still belongs to God, everything is His. God simply gave us authority to care for it.

He entrusted it to us to look after it. He wants us to be faithful stewards of everything on the earth and take care of it until He returns (**Luke 19:12-13**).

Stewardship starts with recognizing God's ownership: Everything belongs to God; we're entrusted to manage His resources faithfully for His purposes (**Deuteronomy 10:14**).

Shift focus from money to the heart: True stewardship grows from love for God, not guilt, and fosters generosity as worship (**2 Corinthians 9:7**).

Lead by example in stewardship practices: Pastors and leaders should model faithful

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resource management to inspire and guide their congregation (**1 Corinthians 11:1**).

Equip your church with practical tools: Provide education, tools, and opportunities to support financial planning, volunteering, and collaborative resource sharing.

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# CHRISTMAS Christian Word Search



M	F	C	P	Y	D	M	W	K	Z	N	E	J	P	Q	G	Z	L	Z	S	U	K	M
V	F	I	D	D	R	R	Y	T	H	X	R	K	J	O	Y	T	O	W	O	R	L	D
R	J	C	C	E	M	M	A	N	U	E	L	M	E	S	S	I	A	H	O	Q	Y	Q
G	E	V	S	S	J	F	N	U	V	R	A	S	R	T	D	C	T	I	H	J	Q	A
I	E	T	A	U	G	R	E	Y	O	W	W	V	I	R	J	T	V	E	D	H	Z	N
E	T	E	R	N	A	L	L	I	G	H	T	P	E	U	Y	A	E	X	C	D	N	A
F	Y	I	Y	C	T	M	V	Q	Q	L	N	H	D	N	S	B	L	A	H	E	A	G
Q	X	M	J	Y	P	A	Y	L	H	W	P	A	F	E	S	K	Z	A	R	W	T	P
W	H	O	L	Y	S	T	A	R	X	E	T	B	H	T	W	P	J	A	I	I	I	E
U	D	P	W	N	T	D	S	Q	H	D	Y	T	C	P	P	U	R	R	S	S	V	A
O	Z	R	R	Q	R	G	I	S	K	M	T	V	X	L	L	K	F	O	T	E	I	C
M	R	O	G	H	J	H	L	I	G	S	W	U	Q	E	P	V	W	H	M	K	T	E
I	B	P	J	T	L	U	Q	S	I	L	W	H	L	C	V	H	K	L	A	I	Y	O
N	Z	H	G	K	F	J	X	R	G	Z	X	L	R	S	H	O	H	L	S	N	S	N
R	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	M	A	N	G	E	R	L	E	Z	B	G	T	E
B	K	T	T	M	C	C	E	M	D	H	A	T	N	A	U	Y	Y	E	L	O	O	A
W	W	I	S	S	T	A	R	R	Y	S	K	Y	X	O	G	N	G	Y	E	Q	R	R
H	A	C	K	S	B	D	J	R	K	I	N	G	O	F	K	I	N	G	S	G	Y	T
F	T	S	S	H	B	K	O	Y	J	J	N	D	J	P	J	G	F	F	S	Y	M	H
D	K	T	K	S	U	L	Q	S	U	M	V	U	T	U	B	H	W	K	I	G	G	B
Q	D	A	A	N	G	E	L	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	E	T	Y	N	N	J	K	L
X	R	R	O	L	C	L	F	X	S	Y	N	Z	D	I	V	I	N	E	G	I	F	T
C	P	G	X	C	O	P	T	B	M	E	C	Y	D	I	J	Z	M	W	J	K	E	V



CHRIST THE SAVIOR  
ANGEL GABRIEL  
HOLY NIGHT  
PEACE ON EARTH  
KING OF KINGS  
GLORY HALLELUJAH  
FAITHFUL SHEPHERD

EMMANUEL MESSIAH  
HOLY STAR  
JOY TO WORLD  
BETHLEHEM MANGER  
WISE KING  
NATIVITY STORY  
STARRY SKY

ETERNAL LIGHT  
BORN SAVIOR  
DIVINE GIFT  
PROPHETIC STAR  
CHRISTMAS BLESSING  
HEAVEN'S PROMISE





## Can you name the participants from Christmas Program 2010?

For bragging rights, a small token, and your picture in the Newsletter, name all, or at least the most, pictured. If a tie, everyone wins!!!

**Entries are due at the end of services on the 3rd Sunday.**



For November 2025 edition of "The Name Game", there was only one (1) entry!!!

♦ **Mrs. Mary Ann Corpal-Clay**

Front row (standing): Lauren Scurlock, ?? (Niece and Great-Niece to **Mrs. Ruby Johnson** and **Mrs. Rhonda Mitchell**), David Scurlock, Micah Bell

Middle row (standing): Virginia Houston, **Nyla Swett**, Josiah Houston, Erica Gilliard

Top row (Standing): Mrs. Lillie A Williams, Matthew Bell, **Myles Bell**, **Adam Morris**, **Mrs. M Diane Johnson**





# December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study	3	4 Sunday School Evening Svc	5 Marva Turner	6 Deacons' Meeting Official Board Mtg
7 Sunday Services NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY DECEMBER 7	8	9 Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study	10	11 Sunday School Evening Svc Tyuana Williams	12	13 Annual Chrich Mtg
14 Sunday Services Mia Mitchell	15 Kelvin Gaston, Malinda Taylor	16 Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study Alisa Gladney- Petty	17	18 Sunday School Evening Svc Charles Baines	19	20 Jessieonna Wilkins
21 Sunday Services First Day of Winter	22	23 Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study Rosetta H. Peterson	24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas	26	27
28 Sunday Services	29	30 Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study	31 NEW YEARS EVE			MCSCS WINTRR BREAK Dec 22—31

# STEWARDSHIP

K Y F R U Z D L L U L L Y M U R K F F S Y S Y G  
 T U I J M B B Z T P R I V I L E G E D I M B T Y  
 W B V S Q E J T K O C T M L C A M R A K I K I P  
 Y H Q O L Z V N Q Z U M Y S D T F D J R M M L O  
 H Q Z I J T T E L M W S R L S U D E L E D A I S  
 A I E Q U F Q M Z M J N L C N V Q Q C S E H B S  
 G F M X I A A E V X Y J A E O C L R H P K T I E  
 F A X B X X J G E Z M R C V I A Z O R E B B S S  
 R A F Z Y Y R A D O E Q I T T Y D S I C E H N S  
 S Z U L I F O N H R D M H X A K T U S T G V O I  
 T M A F F S X A N X D I T M E L Q O T G N M P O  
 E V P T R D H M B V H S E M R A Z I I F C T S N  
 W Q E R A F L E W I V S K V C E W C A V F D E S  
 A X W P Q G J J N S A I S A Q H Q E N R K M R E  
 R I F D E U L D E X L O J S F Q P R I T J U F Y  
 D W P I Q E U K W Q R N F N V D Z P T C R Z Z Y  
 S I W G N I D R A U G E F A S H R K Y N Q Z T G  
 H D X Z S G O F R C C S N G Y L E Y G O H B Q T  
 I N C M P W Q C H U R C H J X E G W O J N W A Y  
 P E Y G L W V Q Y E Y I Q Q J G A Z P A Y A O W  
 N O R A Y M U E N C J F J J Q D R Y U Z R Y E B  
 O K R S T H G I R F N Y L U Y B D S I E K V Z K  
 A P M G F F S S R D J D W M I O U T E S Y T G O  
 T M M O W H B Z O H R W P G H H O T Y A U Z O I

RESPONSIBILITY  
 STEWARDSHIP  
 CREATION  
 WELFARE  
 CHURCH

SAFEGUARDING  
 MANAGEMENT  
 HINDUISM  
 MISSION  
 BELIEF

CHRISTIANITY  
 PRIVILEGED  
 RESPECT  
 RIGHTS  
 KARMA

POSSESSIONS  
 PRECIOUS  
 ETHICAL  
 REGARD  
 CARE

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