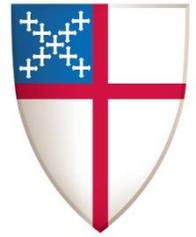




St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

Our Mission is to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel
and to seek and serve Christ in all people



2019 - December Newsletter

From the Rector's Desk,

A new and subtle change has taken place. We have moved from a time of transition and gratitude in which we celebrated those souls that have gone before us, into a newer, quieter piece of time. Advent is the time of pregnant silence. 2000 or so years ago, the world waited to see what kind of God would be born to us. Would he be kind? Would he be just? Would he come with sword in hand as so many people thirsting for freedom would be hoping for?

Now, the story is a little different. Christ has already come. He lived his blameless life among us generations ago, yet here we mark the same passage of time toward the birth of our savior that our ancestor's in the faith did. Only this time we need not ask ourselves what kind of God he will be. Our task is slightly different now. Our task is to find out who we will proclaim this King, God, and sacrifice to be.



We have much to be thankful for here at St. John's. We had an anticipated income this time last year of just over \$132,000. This year, thanks to the work of our Consecration Sunday Leadership Team that number is just short of \$160,000. God is clearly beginning to work in and through our congregation in new and exciting ways. As these new and exciting ways reveal themselves to us, I ask that you continue to channel some of that Advent energy of watching and waiting.

The community of Alamogordo is waiting, even though they may not know it, to hear and see the savior we proclaim. Some of the questions may even seem familiar based on a study of Jesus' own time: Who is it? Will he be just? Will he be loving? Will he be what we have been hoping for? The difference is that it will be our turn to do the proclaiming.

Who we proclaim Jesus to be matters, because it seems all too easy to worship a God that looks like us, loves like us, and hates like us; but now is precisely the time when we must be careful. Advent is not a time of penitence, that will come to us later (though sooner than we think) in Lent, but it is a time of watchfulness and patience. We must be watchful of our own prayers, actions, and behaviors because these are how we will reveal God to others. We must make sure that we are proclaiming with our lips and in our lives the same savior we expect in our deepest hearts. We must, because that is the savior that people in our time and in our city need.

May God give us the courage to proclaim with boldness and purpose the perfect love of his only son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

Diocese of the Rio Grande

Bishop Michael Buerkel Hunn

St. John's Rector:

The Rev. Michael Drinkwater

St. John's Deacon:

The Rev. Aileen Walther

Day School Director:

Christine Duncan

Day School Business Director:

Karla Warren

Organist:

Connie Broughton

Violinist:

Tom Lubenau

Our Vestry

Senior Warden:

Randy Burroughs

Junior Warden:

Ann Bagby

Treasurer:

Available

Susan Schultz,

Roy Benavides, Kim Buie

Ministry Contacts

Altar Guild:

Jane Bedwell

Community Kitchen:

Bill Henchar

Eucharist Ministers:

The Rev. Michael Drinkwater

Lectors:

The Rev. Michael Drinkwater

Mission and Outreach:

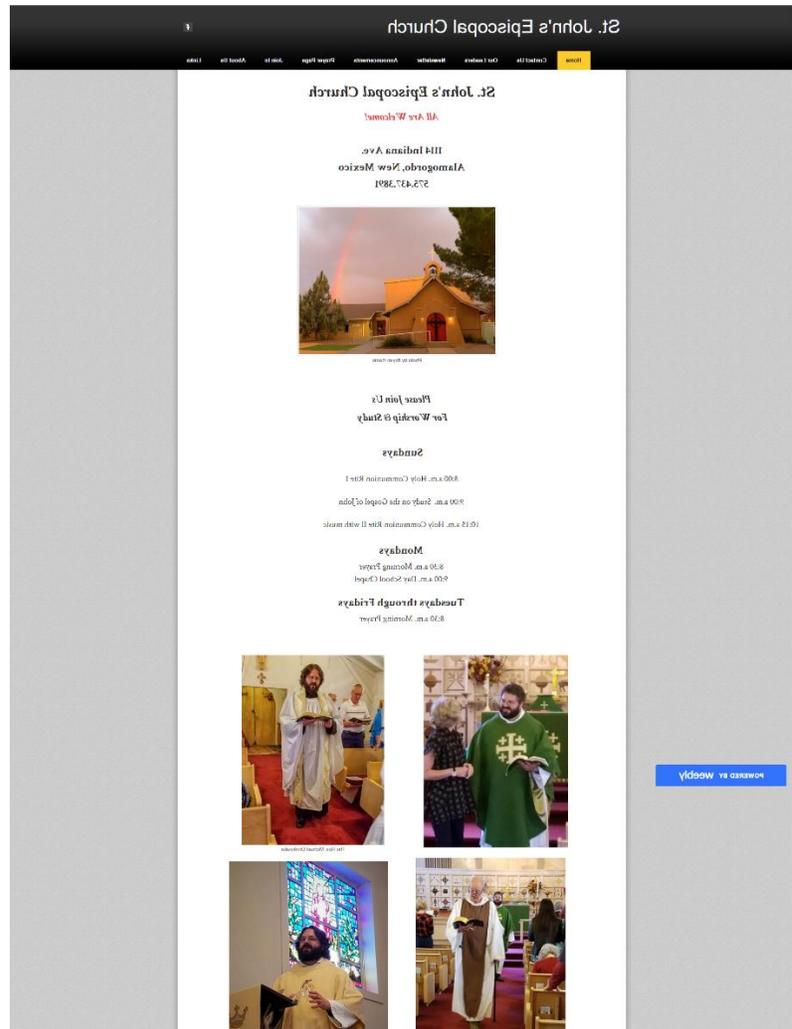
Available

Did you know that St. John's has a web page?

<http://stjohnsalamo.com>

There are good reasons for you to check it out. You may want to check on an upcoming event. Or you may want a way to refer friends and neighbors to join us in worship. Just so you can be up to date on what's on our web site, we hope to feature a different page of the website each month, over the next few months. We're starting with the HOME page. My grateful thanks to all who have sent me photos for use on the web site. I welcome all submissions. You will receive photo credit!

By Nancy Gregory



From the Day School

DECEMBER

Bible Verse: She gave birth to a son. And He gave him the name Jesus. Matthew 1:25 – 26

ANNIVERSARIES: None

Special Dates: We will be closed December 24th, 25th, & 26th for Christmas.

Special Events: School Christmas Programs

Celebrating the birth of Christ is what December is all about (p.j. parties and Box Top parties are fun too).

We have begun practicing for our Christmas program. There will be 2 different Christmas programs taking place at 10:00 a.m. each morning on:

December 17th: Ms. Kami's 4 year olds and Ms. Hortencia's 3 year olds

December 18th: Ms. Bea's 4 year olds, Ms. Roxanne's 3 year olds, and Ms. Randi's 4 year olds

If you would like to attend the performance, please feel free to join us.

We are also very happy to have visitors while we are practicing. We practice most weekday mornings at 9:30. It helps the students to have people sitting in the pews to perform for. These practices can sometimes be more entertaining than the actual performances! And, it's a good way to get in the holiday spirit.

Continuing our introduction to our outstanding teachers:

Mrs. Hortencia Suarez



In Ms. Hortencia's words:

"I am happy to say that I have been married for 38 years. My husband is retired Air Force and currently works as a counselor. We have 2 grown children and they are in their 4th year of college.

I have been working at St. John's for 19 years. I started with the after-school students, then moved up to the 4 year old's and finally, I am having fun with 3 year old's.

I am looking forward to another 10 years at St. John's Day School!"

Ms. Hortencia is an energetic supervising teacher that loves to get the kids up and singing and dancing. She is passionate about everything she does and that enthusiasm spreads throughout the school. Ms. Hortencia has high expectations of her students, and each year they meet her challenges. Ms. Hortencia also is very good at making the children and families feel like they belong in her classroom and that they are part of her family.



Mrs. Randi Stacho

Ms. Randi has been with St. John's Day School for 10 years. She is married and has two lovely daughters, one that has already graduated from high school.

Ms. Randi is our game playing teacher. She loves to teach the students through games. She will sit on the floor with her students each morning and teach them how to play a variety of games from Go Fish to Memory. She has found a great way to reach our students and teach them turn taking, patience, rule following. As her day goes on, Ms. Randi finds different sensory activities to keep her class motivated and learning. She is definitely hands on!

Community Kitchen Serving Schedule - December

December 3	49 th MDG
December 5	49 th EMS
December 10	LRS & FSS Senior NCO
December 12	St. Joseph's Mission
December 17	Christ Community Church
December 19	Retired Teachers
December 24	no meal served
December 26	St. John's Episcopal Church
December 31	no meal served

<p style="text-align: center;">December 1, 2019 Advent 1</p> <p>Old Testament Psalm Isaiah 2:1-5 122</p> <p>New Testament Gospel Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministers 8:00</p> <p>Lector Lloyd Fink Intercessor Sharon Kelman</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:15</p> <p>Greeters Dixie Bredy Boogee Woltz</p> <p>Lector Dixie Bredy Altar Guild Kathy Henchar Louise Elliott</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December 8, 2019 Advent 2</p> <p>Old Testament Psalm Isaiah 11:1-10 72:1-7</p> <p>New Testament Gospel Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministers 8:00</p> <p>Lector Randy Burroughs Intercessor Sharon Kelman Eucharistic Minister Nancy Gregory</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:15</p> <p>Greeters Dixie Bredy Boogee Woltz</p> <p>Lector Dixie Bredy Altar Guild Jane Bedwell</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">December 15, 2019 Advent 3</p> <p>Old Testament Psalm Isaiah 35:1-10 146:4-9</p> <p>New Testament Gospel James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministers 8:00</p> <p>Lector John Shipe Intercessor Jane Bedwell Eucharistic Minister Nancy Gregory</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:15</p> <p>Greeters Dixie Bredy Boogee Woltz</p> <p>Lector and Acolyte Yvonne Perkins Altar Guild Bill and Kathy Henchar</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December 22, 2019 Advent 4</p> <p>Old Testament Psalm Isaiah 7:10-16 80:1-7</p> <p>New Testament Gospel Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministers 8:00</p> <p>Lector Nancy Gregory Intercessor Jane Bedwell Eucharistic Minister Nancy Gregory</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:15</p> <p>Greeters Dixie Bredy Boogee Woltz</p> <p>Lector and Acolyte Steve Van Vliet Altar Guild Nikkie Van Vliet</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">December 29, 2019 Christmas 1</p> <p>Old Testament Psalm Isaiah 61:10-62:3 147</p> <p>New Testament Gospel Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ministers 8:00</p> <p>Lector Lloyd Fink Intercessor Jane Bedwell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:15</p> <p>Greeters Dixie Bredy Boogee Woltz</p> <p>Lector Yvonne Perkins Altar Guild Louise Elliott</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diocesan Newsletter

Click on the link below to read the current issue of *TOGETHER* online:

<https://www.dioceserg.org/NewsEventsMinistries/together-newspaper>

Diocesan Weekly E-newsletter

Click on the link below to read issues of *In the Loop* online:

<https://www.dioceserg.org/NewsEventsMinistries/in-the-loop>

Women of the DRG

For news about Women in the Diocese of the Rio Grande please visit:

<http://varietiesofgifts.blogspot.com/>

Bishop's Ridge: Stoney Camp & Recreation Center

For information about Camp Stoney and recreational or retreat

opportunities please visit: <http://www.bishopsridge.org/>

The Gospel of John

Continuing in December, please join us for a new formation offering between the first and second service. We will be covering the Gospel of John. Please come, whether you have some experience with Bible Study or none at all. This is one of Father Michael's favorite books of the Bible and it is the work of our patron, St. John. Bring your bible, the more translations we have the better.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Seminar

The Brotherhood is a group of men who engage in the study of scripture and service. We currently meet each Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. for a Bible seminar in the Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center cafeteria. All men and women from the community with an interest in the study of scripture are invited to attend.

Additionally, the men of the Brotherhood meet each first and third Saturday at 9:00 a.m. BEFORE the Bible seminar. For more information please contact Clark Magruder at two.blackstones2@gmail.com.

Latte with the Padre

Join the group for coffee and conversation, "Lattes with the Padre", Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Plateau Espresso in Lowe's Signature Grocery. We have an open discussion on topics of general interest, so please come and join us!

Birthdays and Anniversaries in December

December Birthdays:

Rev'd Laurie Benevides (12/5), Sarah Van Doren (12/6), John Shipe (12/10), Bill Henchar (12/15), Kevin Caldwell (12/18) and Grant Drinkwater (12/23)

Happy birthday to all!

December Anniversaries:

Sarah and Steve McFarland (12/12) and Deacon Laurie and Roy Benevides (12/18)

Happy Anniversary to all!

Caring card ministry

We send out cards for all occasions. If you or someone you know would like a card sent, please let me know. We send out get well, thinking of you, praying for you and sympathy cards. We would like to help you celebrate the joyous occasions as well; so, if you haven't signed up on our birthday (we just need month and day-NO YEARS) and anniversary lists, please do so. The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hall. If you prefer, you may contact me directly: Sharon Kelman email: ke4zia@gmail.com or 757-718 9451 call or text.

Pet Prayer Chain

Many people in our congregation have pets. We all love our pets. They are part of our family. When they are sick, elderly or lost, it is a comfort to know that our church family is praying for them as well as us. If you have or know of a pet that could benefit from our ministry, please let me know. Please consider joining our pet prayer chain volunteers. You may contact: Sharon Kelman email:ke4zia@gmail.com or 757 718-9451 call or text. Women's Prayer and Support Group

Space City Evening Sertoma

Sertoma meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. Please call 437.8046 for more information or feel free to attend a meeting!

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is offered every weekday in the Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m.

Playful Prayer Warriors

This group meets to experiment with different prayer practices and pray for each person and pet on the prayer list on Monday's at 1:00 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church

1114 Indiana Avenue, Alamogordo

Sunday Services: 8:00am Rite I; 10:15am Rite II

Office Phone: 575.437.3891

Email: stjohnsalamo@tularosa.net Website: <http://www.stjohnsalamo.co>