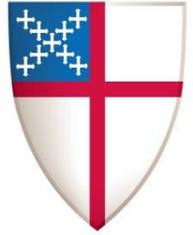


St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

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



2020 - December Newsletter

From the Rector's Desk,

This is a challenging Newsletter for which to write an introduction. On the one hand, is this the December or January Newsletter? What day is it? How long have we been living in the shadow of COVID-19? Should I start by apologizing for the missing Newsletters, or with something more upbeat? Then it hit me. What could be more Advent?

Here we are caught between the sadness of 2020 and the hope inherent in the beginning of a New Year, between the already and the not yet. On the one hand, there are many exciting things to share with you: new opportunities for worship, service, and generosity that might not have been possible before. On the other, the days and time seem to go unmarked as one day blends into another.

Wherever you are, know that God is with you. That is really the point of this season. Emmanuel. God is dwelling with us. Even though this year many aspects of our celebration of Christmastide will look different than they did before, God's dwelling place remains with God's people... with you!

Our calling also remains. It is not enough to dwell with God. We must be watchful for opportunities to make Christ known. Even now the world waits for the coming of Christ. Especially now.....

Your Brother in Christ,

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

Violinist:

Tom Lubenau

Our Vestry

Senior Warden:

Randy Burroughs

Junior Warden:

Ann Bagby

Treasurer:

Available

Vestry:

*Roy Benavides, Kim Buie,
Nancy Gregory, Susan Schultz*

Ministry Contacts

Altar Guild:

Jane Bedwell and Nikki Van Vliet

Community Kitchen:

Bill Henchar

Eucharist Ministers:

The Rev. Michael Drinkwater

Lectors:

The Rev. Michael Drinkwater

Mission and Outreach:

Available

Women's Prayer Group to go on Zoom.

For some time our Women's Prayer Group has not been able to meet.. Meanwhile, the group I led in Florida,, the Priscilla Prayer Group for the Family, has been struggling to meet. This latter group recently has been conversing by phone and I have joined them. We have decided to bring both small groups together. Meeting by phone has limitations and so soon we will go on Zoom. There are some great opportunities by taking this step. Last month, persons in three different states prayed together. Since the Priscilla Group also contributes financial aid four times a year, we approved a grant of \$600 for two shelters for women. In January my hope is that our prayer group in New Mexico will be able to make a contribution of food to those who need it locally. Fr. Michael has generously given me permission to request funds from any who would like to participate. Please pray about this option. There are many hungry people right now. Also, this gives us an opportunity to use Zoom to connect with people in several different states. During this time of challenge, we could communicate, pray, and share resources with people locally and in other parts of the country.

God is opening many doors in spite of the challenges we see all around us. Blessings to each h one of you.

Your Deacon, Aileen Walther

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 21st thru 25th for Christmas.

We will be closed December 31st & January 1st for the New Year holiday.

Special Events: School Christmas Programs

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

We have begun practicing for our Christmas program. This year the program will be recorded and distributed to families.

Community Kitchen Serving Schedule

As a show of appreciation, Michael Drinkwater, David-Luke Henton, and Sarah Drinkwater will be preparing the meals for the groups to serve in December.

December 1	St. Joseph's Mission
December 8	49 th Medical Group
December 15	Christ Community Church
December 22	29 th ATKS Spouse Group
December 29	7 th Day Adventist

Schedule of Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
6-Dec	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
13-Dec	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalms 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
20-Dec	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Canticle 15	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
27-Dec	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalms 147	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18

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/>

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 Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. for a Bible seminar. All men and women from the community with an interest in the study of scripture are invited to attend.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in December

Birthdays for December 2020:

Laurie Benevides (12/50), Sarah Van Doren (12/6), Tom Lubenau (12/10), Faye Sinclair (12/15), Kevin Caldwell (12/18), Grant Drinkwater (12/23) and John Shipe (12/23).

Anniversaries for December 2020:

Sarah and Stephen McFarland (12/12) and Laurie and Roy Benavides (12/18)

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.

Daily Office

Morning Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. Evening Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 4:00 p.m. Fr. Michael offers a reflection Monday through Thursday unless otherwise noted at the beginning of the service.

Links to these services can be found on the website. The service is also streamed to our Facebook page when technology allows.

Advent Evensong

Special services of sung Evening Prayer are taking place on Each Wednesday in Advent at 4. This is a wonderful opportunity for reflection and prayer. Our own Nancy Gregory has curated several slideshows of her photography to assist in meditation. Sing along or let the singing carry you during the service.

Formation Hour

Join us on Sundays at 9 for our Bible Study on the Patriarchs. We began our journey with Abraham and are now reading through the story of Jacob. Links to the bible study can be found on our website.

Digital Coffee Hour

Join us on Sundays at 1115 for coffee hour. This is our time to catch up, share prayer intentions, and enjoy each other's company in an unstructured time. Links to our Digital Coffee hour can be found on our website.

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>