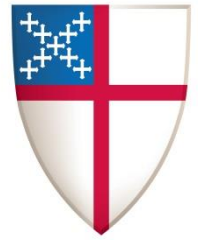




# St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

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



2020 - September Newsletter

## From the Rector's Desk,

So much has happened since the last Newsletter that is difficult to know where to begin. I have been your Rector for over a year. We celebrated our first Lent and Easter together. Sarah has given birth to our second child, Lilah Ruth. We have lived through five months (soon to be six) of pandemic "together" while keeping apart in order to keep everyone safe. We have a new Facebook page. We have entered into a new election cycle. The list goes on and on.

Around this time last year I wrote to you about the concept of ordinary time, and though we find ourselves within the same season of the church's life cycle, this hardly feels like ordinary time. These feel like extraordinary times. Even those members of our congregation whose financial situation has not changed a great deal have been forced to let go of things which they held dear. We have missed graduations, birthdays, anniversary dinners in usual settings and the comfort of family in different parts of the country.

While we are certainly not in ordinary times, the message of ordinary time is just as relevant for us now as it was before the pandemic, perhaps even moreso. We experience time through landmarks, whether they be positive or negative, sacred or secular. God experiences time differently, and is just as present on those uneventful days as on days when God's presence is felt or missed. Ordinary Time as a concept helps us to remember that God is always at work, even when no thought is given to what God is doing. Ordinary time helps us to look for God in the mundane and the profane as well as the sacred, because the truth is that there is no where and no when in which God cannot be found.

As the church, ordinary time also reminds us that we do not get time off from our baptismal covenant, even when we take off from work or school to indulge in much needed rest and refreshment. There is too much fear, too much undirected anxiety, too much anger for us to do anything else. The world needs our ministry as the church now more than ever. People need the hope and healing that we find in God's presence. The world needs people now who can respond to pain and suffering with patience and love... People who can see the anxiety and helplessness which hide behind the angry facebook posts... People who relentlessly seek the truth behind overly politicized statements from both sides of the aisle.

**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*

**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*

God promises to make us such a people if we allow God’s love to soften our hearts. May our common life together, even while we observe it apart, provide us with the food we need for such a time as this. God bless you all. Be safe. Be church. Blessings from...

Your Brother in Christ,

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

Have you looked at our church website recently? Be sure to take a look at the “IDLE HANDS” page. It’s becoming our fun way to share our individual COVID Projects. We are sure making great use of our time, taking care of the church, taking care of our pets, taking care of us!

Many of you have submitted photos of your projects. Ann Bagby, our premier Candid Camera person, has been adding to the group of photos too. I take the liberty of writing a little story based on the “facts” you provide!

Take a look! Have a good laugh, and if you haven’t sent me some photos, I hope you will soon!

Here’s the website address:

<https://www.stjohnsalamo.com/idle-hands.html>

Michael has plenty of COVID projects too! Just look at his sweet new Church cat!  
And those beautiful and bountiful harvests from his rich backyard....acorn squash,  
peppers, tomatoes, garden greens! Yumm! When's dinner?!



From the Day School: **SEPTEMBER**

*Bible Verse:* Let us learn together what is good. Job 34:4

*Anniversaries:* None

*Special Dates:* We will be closed September 2<sup>nd</sup> for Labor Day.

Creation

Dog Safety

Picture Days

All About Me!

*Special Events:* Police will be visiting the school this month for Stranger Danger.

*News:*

*Back to School!! It's a little different, but we are still having fun!*



*Ms. Roxanne's three year old class Hadley*







Ms. Hortencia's three year old class Joshua

*Creation:*

We start the school year off learning about Creation. We read stories, create artwork, and listen to bible stories about Creation.

*Dog Safety:*

Because we have Ms. Daisy May at the school, we feel it is important and our responsibility to ensure that our students are safe around Daisy, but also dogs at home and even dogs they don't know.

This month is our first of three Dog Safety Classes Ms. Christine will give throughout the school year. These classes include teaching basic safety precautions for students and parents to use to keep everyone safe. The most important rule for dog safety:

***Dogs don't like hugs and kisses!***

*Stranger Danger:*

The police will speak to the students about Stranger Danger. These visits by people in the community help our students become accustomed to those people they may see around town or that may be trying to help us in an emergency.

*Picture Days:*

Picture days take place in the parish hall. Our picture days this year are Tuesday and Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to have your picture taken, or know someone who would, you are certainly welcome to come. The photographer is accustomed to coming to our school and taking pictures of: families, adults, children, and dogs! Give the school office a call or send us an email and we will set an appointment for you so you won't have to wait, and to ensure safe distancing.

## Community Kitchen Serving Schedule

September 1	No group – St. John’s
September 3	49 <sup>th</sup> EMS
September 8	LRS & FSS Senior NCO
September 10	St. Joseph’s Mission
September 15	Christ Community Church
September 17	49 <sup>th</sup> ATKS Spouse Group
September 22	St. John’s
September 24	First Presbyterian Church
September 29	No group – St. John’s

## Schedule of Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
6-Sep	Ezekiel 33:7-11	Psalm 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
13-Sep	Genesis 50:15-21	Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
20-Sep	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Psalm 145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
27-Sep	Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32	Psalm 25:1-8	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32

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## 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.bishopridge.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 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](mailto:two.blackstones2@gmail.com).

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries in September**

Birthdays:

Randy 9/3, Dottie Moon 9/7, Norm Mauger 9/9, Gabe Mauger 9/14 and Ann Bagby 9/20

Anniversary:

Harriet and Tom Lubenau 9/6

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:ke4zia@gmail.com) or 757 718-9451 call or text. Women's Prayer and Support Group

## **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.

## **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](mailto:stjohnsalamo@tularosa.net) Website: <http://www.stjohnsalamo.co>