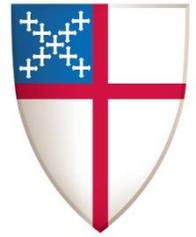




# St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

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



2021 – February Newsletter

## From the Rector's Desk,

February seems to be an in-between kind of place. We have made it through the very first cycle of celebration in our church year around the miraculous birth in Bethlehem. The nations have flocked to the light in the form of the wise men from the east and we are enjoying a small amount of ordinary time before we are caught up in the whirlwind of Lent which sits squarely on the horizon. We feel the transition happening in the natural cycle of things, too. It will be time to plant soon and then it will be time to fight the annual fight with whatever six-legged pests haunt our yards. Our days are beginning to get warmer, especially here in the southern part of New Mexico. These are all transitions that would be happening anyway, but there is another. We are beginning to see the hold of the coronavirus lessen as more and more folks are vaccinated.

These lesser, more normal transitions, have some things to teach us this year as we enter into what is (hopefully) the last phase of living in a world during the pandemic. There are two seasons of transition in the church calendar: Advent and Lent. These two seasons are characterized by both a simplifying and a reorganizing of our priorities and those same fundamental drives can inform our next phase of life together as we move out of COVID-tide.

The first is: what do we leave behind? As most of us have spent much more time at home than normal, it is almost certain that we have picked up some habits that will not be sustainable in the future or that at the very least will not help us to thrive in this next season of our lives together. Maybe it's the sheer volume of news or entertainment that we watched in the last year as we found ourselves with fewer entertainment choices. Lent and Advent are helpful times for us to consider what baggage we have picked up since the last time we found ourselves in this season of the church's life.

The second is: what do we keep? We have been able to find new ways to enjoy time with people who live far away. We have been able to explore new and different ways of praying together and engaging in acts of service together. It is time to begin thinking now about what of these practices will sustain us later on in our journey together and which will not.

So, as we are all finishing up or beginning our spring cleaning, let us also look with an eye to cleaning and strengthening our inner lives. This has been a trying time and it is not over, but I am hopeful about what 2021 will bring us as a community and I am excited to face it with you.

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:**

*Nancy Gregory*

**Junior Warden:**

*To be filled*

**Treasurer:**

*To be filled*

**Vestry:**

*Randy Burroughs, Roy Benavides*

*Kim Buie, John Shipe*

**Ministry Contacts**

**Altar Guild:**

*Nikki Van Vliet*

**Community Kitchen:**

*Bill Henchar*

**Eucharist Ministers:**

*The Rev. Michael Drinkwater*

**Lectors:**

*The Rev. Michael Drinkwater*

**Mission and Outreach:**

*Available*

From the Day School:

**FEBRUARY**

Bible Verse: I will give you a wise heart. 1 Kings 3:12

ANNIVERSARIES: Ms. Angie – 1 Year

Special Dates: We will be closed February 15<sup>th</sup> for President’s Day.

Special Events: None

News:

To celebrate Valentine’s Day, we will have a healthy heart snack party in each of the classrooms, instead of candy. The students do make valentine boxes and bags and hand out valentine cards to each other. All students make valentines for their families. The four-year-old classes (Ms. Randi’s/Ms. Kami’s) will walk to the post office to mail their valentines to their 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.

February 2	St. Joseph's Mission
February 9	St. John's
February 16	Christ Community Church
February 23	29 <sup>th</sup> ATKS Spouse Group

## Schedule of Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
7-Feb	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-12	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
14-Feb	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
21-Feb	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-9	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
28-Feb	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:22-30	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38

# 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 February

Birthdays for February 2021:

Sharon Kelman(2/26), George "Skip" Morrison(2/16), Alec Robinson (2/11).

Anniversaries for February 2021:

Lijia and John Shipe (2/14) and David Luke Henton and Tim Kruse (2/15).

## Caring card ministry

Our card ministry is still active during these challenging times. We (as a church family) are recognizing birthdays and anniversaries for all who signed up. I am signing the cards on behalf of our congregation, since I can't legally sign anyone's name. If you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving one of our cards, please let me know. I would be happy to extend our get well wishes, sympathy or congratulations on behalf of our church to them. This includes any pets/owners that are in need of prayers. Sharon's email:ke4zia@gmail.com; call/text: 757 718 9451. If you would like to join our birthday or anniversary lists, please contact me. I will be happy to include you in our list.

## **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.

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 Exodus. We began our journey with Abraham and are now reading through the story of Exodus. 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

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