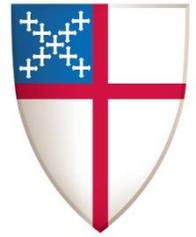




# St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

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



2021 – March Newsletter

## From the Rector's Desk,

Our experience in the last year has opened up a new way of looking at several things for me. Our first Eucharist, albeit a spiritual one, was on Easter Sunday of last year. Our first Eucharist in-person following the stay-at-home order was on October 4, St. Francis Day. It was outdoors, and I could think of no better way to pay a fitting tribute to Francis than by celebrating the Eucharist outdoors. The community that has sprung up in our church around the daily office has been a refuge for me in this challenging time, and has given me much opportunity to practice my preaching and deepen my own relationship with scripture.

Now that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel: positive test results are slowly and jerkily going down, many of our folks are being vaccinated, and we are learning how to live with the virus; I am beginning to see parallels between our common life today and two major events in our sacred memory: the arrival into the promised land and the return from exile. In both sacred moments God's people had to make difficult decisions about what to leave and what to take from where they had been; all while knowing very little about where they were going. They had to trust God and one another that they would know how to make the right decisions when the time was right.

We are entering into such a time right now. Then as now the people of God have to remember who they are and what is important to take and leave from where we've been. Then as now we know little about where the Spirit is calling us. Then as now the one who called us is faithful and part of that faithfulness is the gift that we have been given in one another. We have all that we need to face the future, as long as we do it faithfully and together.

The first step in charting a course is oftentimes knowing where you are. So, where are you? Are you chomping at the bit to jump back into a life that is something like we left it? Are you frightened about the future? Has everything that has happened in the last year taken a toll? One thing we learn from those sacred moments of arrival and return is that transitions are hard. It's difficult to go from desert nomads to city dwellers in one generation. It's difficult to go from several thousand people living in Persia, Alexandria, and everywhere else in the known world to one people worshipping in their ancestral homeland. It's difficult, but the people of God did it because they remained faithful to God and faithful to one another.

We can do it, too. Faithfully and Together.

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*

## **Senior Warden's Corner**

Dear friends of St. John's church,

I am happy to be writing to you as Senior Warden! It is a job I've done before in other Episcopal churches and I was very happy when Fr. Michael asked me to consider the job at St. John's. I have always found being Senior Warden very rewarding. I love being a part of the day-to-day happenings of our church, to have a chance to offer my opinion, to offer ideas for things we might try, and to work with our Rector and very dedicated Vestry to help strengthen us as we move ahead. Fr. Michael has let me try lots of fun things already! He is great to work with and a wonderful teacher!

The past 12 months have not been easy for any churches but at St. John's we have worked together to find ways of bringing worship opportunities to everyone. That meant I got to learn how to Zoom and stream Facebook live! New job skills! Yet, each and every one of us longs to worship again in person. That opportunity just seems like it can't come fast enough! But at the same time, we want to keep from inadvertently passing illness to our fellow members, their families and friends. Being faithful people, we pray, wait patiently, and pray some more.

Recently our diocese introduced their new web site. It has a particularly useful page called News-Channel. It contains the weekly 10-15 minute video messages from our Bishop. At Fr. Michael's request, I have started posting the videos on St. John's Facebook page. If you would like to watch some of the older videos, go to:

<https://dioceserg.org/news-channel>

Thank you all for your kind support and sharing of ideas! Your kindness makes this job even more fun!

Peace,

Nancy Gregory

## Seminarian's Notes

### How to Keep a Holy Lent, Even if you are Starting Late ... Like Me

David-Luke Henton, BSG, Your seminarian

If, like me, Ash Wednesday snuck up on you unexpectedly this year, please don't fret about it. The Christian journey is always one of new beginnings, thanks be to God, and it is never too late to begin to observe a Holy Lent! Here are some ideas for possible Lenten spiritual disciplines that do *not* entail giving up coffee or chocolate:

- Be gentle with yourself. "Give up" judging yourself for things beyond your control, or for unreasonably harsh self-criticism. Look in the mirror each morning (and again each night) and behold a Beloved Child of God, beautifully created in God's own sacred image.
- Join our Senior Warden Nancy Gregory: Pour your first cup of coffee, and say, "Good Morning God" with a grateful, joyful heart and a smile.
- If you struggle with prayer at home, create a home altar or sanctuary, inside or outside. Make it a pleasant and appealing place that you want to be, and include sacred objects, images and gifts. And then bless it with your prayers.
- If you struggle with noise, create an experience of silence for yourself and invite God into that silence. If you struggle with silence, practice being silent intentionally even for one minute.
- Volunteer to help with St. John's Community Kitchen and/or the Farms to Families food distribution program. Contact Community Kitchen Manager Bill Henchar at [bkhencharzoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bkhencharzoo@yahoo.com) to volunteer.
- If you are particularly burdened by specific sins and haven't been able to forgive yourself as God forgives you, consider setting up a time with Fr. Michael for the sacramental rite of Reconciliation (individual confession). (See pp. 446-452 of the Book of Common Prayer. The Book of Common Prayer is available free of charge online at [www.bcponline.org](http://www.bcponline.org). If you don't have internet access, let the church office know and we will get a Book of Common Prayer to you for your home use.)
- Consciously "give up" one deadly sin (Envy, Gluttony, Greed, Lust, Pride, Sloth or Wrath) and "take up" its one corresponding virtue (Kindness, Temperance, Charity, Chastity, Humility, Diligence, Patience).
- Pick a person that you just don't like. (It's okay: we all have them.) Set aside each day a few moments privately to try to understand that person with compassion and without judgment. (I like to try to understand what it is about myself that causes me to dislike a person, and I can usually let go of it when I understand it is about me.) If appropriate and possible, seek out opportunities for positive interaction with that person.
- Begin each day with one new thing for which you are grateful, and/or end each day the same way. Consider keeping a list, so that you "measure" your thanksgivings as we go through Lent.
- Look for and note small blessings each day as you go about your day's activities.
- Read *Forward Day By Day*, the Episcopal Church's Daily Meditation available free online at [www.prayer.forwardmovement.org](http://www.prayer.forwardmovement.org).
- Or subscribe to Episcopal Relief and Development's Lenten Meditations at [www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org). Become a Prayer Partner with ERD. Consider a one-time or recurring gift to the Episcopal Church's work in the U.S. and around the world in response to hunger, poverty, disaster and disease.
- Junior Warden John Shipe sends out a weekly message with beautiful, short daily meditations from the Early Church Fathers. If you want to be included in this weekly offering, contact him at [shipejohn@gmail.com](mailto:shipejohn@gmail.com) and ask to be included in his weekly e-mail.

- If you are not yet doing so, write down your intercessions and set aside a particular time each day to pray them.
- Check out the full array of online offerings at St. John's ([www.stjohnsalamo.com](http://www.stjohnsalamo.com)). Consider joining us for Formation Hour on Sunday between services and/or Coffee Hour at 11:15..
- Lent is also a great time to check out Thursday's 9:00am Bible Study at St. John's, sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.
- Pray Morning Prayer and/or Evening Prayer with others. Consider joining us at St. John's on zoom at 8:00am or 4:00pm Monday-Friday. Or check us out on Facebook.
- Pray the Daily Office on your own. My community, the Brotherhood of St. Gregory ([www.gregorians.org](http://www.gregorians.org)) offers a free Daily Office app. for download. Or just pray from the website link under "The Rule" and then "The Daily Office".
- If the Daily Offices for Morning Prayer (BCP pp. 37-60 or 75-102) and Evening Prayer (pp. 61-73 or 115-126) are too lengthy or ambitious, consider one of these short daily prayer disciplines: Noonday Prayer (p. 103), Order of Worship for Evening (p. 108), Compline (bedtime) (p. 127), or Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families (p. 137).
- Or just read the Daily Office Lectionary (Bible) readings, which you can find referenced on pp, 952, 954 & 956 of the BCP.
- Or pray the psalms on the 30-day cycle. In the BCP Psalter (pp. 585-808), the *small italic rubric* will guide you to the day's psalm on the 30-day cycle (eg. for the first day of the month on p. 585: "*First Day: Morning Prayer*" are psalms 1-5; on p. 589: "*First Day: Evening Prayer*" are psalms 6-8; etc.). The psalms teach us about God and they also teach us about ourselves, as they reflect every possible human emotion. Praying a chunk of them daily, as in the 30-day cycle is a great Lenten practice.

Whatever you decide to do, keep track of it daily. Consider practicing self-examination at the end of the day (or whatever time is best for you). Journal or keep notes if it is helpful. Pray and then let go and let God, as they say in 12-step recovery programs. And remember that every new day is a new beginning; Be gentle with yourself and have a Holy and Blessed Lent!

Soli Deo Gloria, with love and prayers,

David-Luke, BSG

From the Day School:

## MARCH

Bible Verse: Rejoice with me. I have found my lost sheep. Luke 15:6

ANNIVERSARIES: None

Special Dates:

March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> – Picture Days

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Spring Parade

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> – Spring Break

March 26<sup>th</sup> – Closed

March 29<sup>th</sup> – Registration Begins

News:

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! We will be celebrating the birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel (March 2, 1904 – September 24, 1991) throughout the month with a parade, fun activities, and of course, the Cat in the Hat will come to visit.

Registration for the upcoming summer and new school year begins March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Spring break is March 22<sup>nd</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>. through 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be open during this week, except for Friday.

### Community Kitchen Serving Schedule

March 2	St. Joseph's Mission
March 9	St. John's
March 16	Christ Community Church
March 23	First Presbyterian Church
March 30	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventist

### Schedule of Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
7-Mar	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
14-Mar	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
21-Mar	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalms 51:1-13	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
28-Mar	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **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 March 2021:

Louise Elliott (3/8) and Marijean Snowden (3/12)

## **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

Office Phone: 575.437.3891

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