



St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School



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

Newsletter, February 2024

Greetings in this season of Light and Life!

Epiphany is here. We have journeyed with the magi to see the child wrapped in swaddling bands and laid in a manger. We have heard the songs of shepherds and angels echoing through the holy night. We have also lived through all of the good byes and sacred leavings. Our families have returned home and we have had to get back to life as we know it in this new year. The season of Epiphany is a strange co-mingling of normal and abnormal, extraordinary and ordinary.

Soon, we will come to the beginning of Lent, our holy time of preparation and fasting in the six weeks prior to Easter. This year, on top of all of the strangeness of beginning a Lent that will be over before April, Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall on the same day this year. There is something about the juxtaposition of couples going out to celebrate their love eating alongside Christians with intentionally dusty foreheads that really makes the Ashes stand out even farther than they would otherwise.

In moments like that, I find it helpful to remember why we mark Ash Wednesday in this way.

Our reading for the Eucharist that day is always the same. Jesus teaches us not to disfigure ourselves when we fast.... Then we promptly smear ugly ashes on our foreheads to mark a fast.

That is not an accident. We take on the foolishness of that hypocrisy on purpose on Ash Wednesday as if to recognize all of those moments when we fall into behavior like that on accident during the rest of year.

As we near Ash Wednesday, with its penitence and self-reflection, let us own those moments when we have caused harm (even by accident) so that we can continue to grow toward the full stature of Christ, together.

Blessings from your brother in Christ,
The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

...to make a right beginning of repentance....
by Nancy Gregory, Senior Warden

Sound familiar? It's from our liturgy for Ash Wednesday. It feels like Lent is coming to us mighty soon this year. Barely time to ponder, how will we approach this important season of our church year.

I remember as a child, my parents taught us kids, Lent was a time to give up something we particularly enjoyed and maybe felt we couldn't do without as a way of self-reflection on the meaning of Lent.

Gradually our parents got a little more lenient. Technically, they said, Sundays weren't in the season of Lent, and since they didn't count, they gave us kids permission to break our Lenten sacrifices.

As an adult I decided to experiment with a different approach. I noticed that there seemed to be an increase in resources from the Episcopal Church around Lent that encouraged special times of study and prayer, either in a group or alone. So, I began adding some sort of prayerful time of meditation and study every Lent, either in a group if it was offered or by myself. There was a joy of discovery that happened unexpectedly, so I tried to keep up with the added devotion time beyond Lent. That has been incredibly fruitful for me, and I think has helped me hear God's call to serve our community.

Speaking of call, the year-long participation that Hannah and I have enjoyed in the Vocations Class, is about to take us to Discernment Weekend on Feb 1 through 4 at the Cathedral in Albuquerque. Please pray for us as we meet with leaders of the DRG and discuss the meaning of our calls. It is a time of excitement, anxiety and joy all mixed up together!

With gratitude,
Nancy

An update from your Recycling Management Team:

In the near future, the can recycling bins will be moved to the Parish Hall from their current location outside to better help our RMT volunteers.

Contact the church for more details!

Schedule of Sunday Readings, February 2024

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Feb-04	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-12, 21c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
Feb-11	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
Feb-18	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-9	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
Feb-25	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:22-30	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38

Altar Guild Rotation for February 2024

Date	Sunday	Dressing	Altar Guild Member-in-Charge
Feb-04	Epiphany 5	Green	Michael
Feb-11	Last Epiphany	Green	Kathy Ann & Bill All assist to change to purple and prepare for Ash Wednesday on 14th.
Feb-14	Ash Wednesday	Purple	
Feb-18	Lent 1	Purple	Louise
Feb-25	Lent 2	Purple	Nikki and Steve

Rota for February 2024

Date	Sunday	Reader 8am	EM 10:15am	Reader 10:15am
Feb-04	Epiphany 5	Geoff	Nancy	Hannah
Feb-11	Last Epiphany	Randy	Nancy	Tony
Feb-18	Lent 1	Joyce	Nancy	Hannah
Feb-25	Lent 2	Geoff	Steve	Nancy

Community Kitchen Schedule, February 2024

Date	Team
Feb-06	TBA
Feb-09	Sam + Crew
Feb-13	Fat Tuesday -- PPW and anyone else that wants to serve
Feb-15	Sam + Crew
Feb-20	PPW
Feb-22	Sam + Crew
Feb-22	Christ Community Church
Feb-27	TBA
Feb-29	Retired Folks

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ash Wednesday Services will be held on February 14, 2024:

Rite I with Imposition: 12:00 p.m.

Rite II with Imposition: 6:00 p.m.

Interested in Confirmation or just deepening your understanding of The Episcopal Church? Join us at St. John's on Saturday, February 10th at 9:00 a.m. for the first of our Inquirer's Classes. Contact Fr Michael or Hannah for more details!

Beginning in March, SJEC will offer a **Gospel of Thomas Bible Study Course** on Wednesdays from March 27 through May 15 from 6:00 p.m., followed by a shared meal after the study, and ending with a service of sung and spoken Compline to end our time together. If you're interested, please let Fr Michael or Hannah know!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Alec R. (2/11); Skip M. (2/16); Sharon K. (2/26)

Anniversaries:

David-Luke H. & Tim K. (2/15)

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 Joyce or Nancy know!

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: stjohnsalamo.com

Formation Hour

Join us on Sundays at 9 for our Bible Study. Been to a lot of bible studies? None? All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you knit or crochet? Are you interested in doing it as part of an ongoing spiritual practice that gives back to the community? If you are and would like more information, like patterns or prayers, please contact Joyce at joycesummers@mac.com

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