



# 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, March 2024

Greetings in this season of repentance and forgiveness,

Here we find ourselves in the heart of Lent... and this Lent feels heavy. We have been dealing with challenging news regarding our budget this year and even though we find ourselves more prepared for the days to come than some of our brothers and sisters across the diocese, the future is far from certain and our current way of doing business is not sustainable.

During the month of March the vestry is planning to host a conversation with the congregation on March 17 following the 1015 service to address your concerns and questions and begin to make plans for the future.. Please pray for us as we prepare for that conversation and check in with us about how you are doing.

We are not all reacting the same way; which is a healthy and beautiful reality when we are in community together; but even though we may not react the same way we can still hold space for each other and doing so is the foundation of a community built on the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

So, as we walk through this Lent with self-examination and repentance let us pick up our cross and follow Jesus together into the future, where we know that resurrection joy and the gift of the Holy Spirit are waiting for us. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Rector.

Your Brother in Christ,  
The Reverend Michael Peter Drinkwater

How do we figure this out?  
by Nancy Gregory, Senior Warden

In the weeks since our parish annual meeting, the importance of the budget information we received that day is sinking in. We thank our treasurer Tony for his courage and abilities to present it to us. We needed to hear it even though it was not welcome news. It was a shock, and now we are asking, how do we figure out what to do?

Canon Lee Curtis recently met with the Vestry to share his guidance and wisdom on this topic. We are not alone. Other churches in our diocese are similarly impacted. Many churches, including our very own Episcopal Church, have a tried-and-true method for working together in a group to find answers to big questions. It's called Discernment. Some call Discernment a meeting place of Prayer and Action. "It is learned by doing it, not just by reading about it." (Weeds Among the Wheat by T.H. Green, S.J., pg 13)

You've heard it said about Hannah and me. We have been in a Vocational Discernment Class since the season of Lent 2023. We were looking for an answer to the question, what is God's call for us? The same principles of that sort of discernment can be used for the budget question we now face as a congregation and even for other decisions you might be facing individually or as a family. Some of you may have heard me say that I was a Lay Spiritual Director for the calling process for a priest in a different diocese. Here are a few highlights of the process we used.

The first important thing was for us to remember God was with us, each one of us, always, reaching out to us in an invitation to join Jesus in His words, "Do not fear." Next, was prayer, needed throughout the process by each one of us individually, in groups and as a parish. In our prayers, we sometimes chose to read scripture, "not primarily for wise ethical instruction...but to encounter God in the person of Jesus Christ." (Weeds Among the Wheat by T.H. Green, S.J., pg 49)

We continued praying throughout as we continued to discern. Then we worked on gathering information, a period of reflection, weighing our choices, and finally confirmation. We did not rush. We took the time to hear God's guidance.

We at St. John's may not follow these steps in this way. We may call them something else. But the principles are the same. The Diocese will help us and guide us. Any decision we make, we will make together, as a loving congregation, with God's help, with lots of prayer, listening to each other's thoughts, grieving the fact that we must face this challenge, but also looking forward to the ministry opportunities that this decision will inevitably lead us. We have faith in God as He has faith in us. Amen

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!

Rota for March 2024				
Mar 3	Third Sunday in Lent	Joyce	Nancy	Tony
Mar 10	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Geoff	Nancy	Hannah
Daylight Savings time begins				
Mar 17	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Randy	Nancy	Jared & Chris
Mar 24	Palm Sunday	Joyce	Steve	Nancy
Mar 28	Maundy Thursday	TBA	TBA	TBA
Mar 29	Good Friday	TBA	TBA	TBA
Mar 30	Easter Vigil	TBA	TBA	TBA
Mar 31	Easter	Geoff	Nancy	Tony

Schedule of Sunday Readings, March 2024				
	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Mar 3	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
Mar 10	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
Mar 17	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 119:9-16	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
Mar 24	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	TBA
Mar 31	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18

Altar Guild Rotation, March 2024			
Date	Sunday	Dressing	Altar Guild Member-in-Charge
Mar 3	3 Lent	Purple	Michael
Mar 10	4 Lent	Purple	Kathy Ann + Bill
Mar 17	5 Lent	Purple	Louise
Mar 24	Palm Sunday	Red	Nikki + Steve
Mar 31	Easter	White	Michael

Community Kitchen Schedule, March 2024	
Mar 5	CK Pickup Crew
Mar 7	Sam + Crew
Mar 12	PPW
Mar 15	Sam + Crew
Mar 19	TBA
Mar 21	Sam + Crew
Mar 26	Christ Community
Mar 28	Sam + Crew

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Schedule of Holy Week Services for 2024:

<b>Maundy Thursday:</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist</b>
<b>Good Friday:</b>	<b>12:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross with Musical Presentation</b> <b>6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist</b>
<b>Saturday, Easter Vigil:</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. Eucharist</b>
<b>Easter:</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I</b> <b>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II</b>

**COMING SOON:** There will be several special musical presentations throughout Holy Week and Eastertide. See above; and stay tuned for details!

**INQUIRER'S CLASSES:** Our next Inquirer's Class will be on **Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 a.m. Contact Fr Michael or Hannah for more details!

**THIS MONTH:** 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:**

Louise E. (3/8); Maryjean S. (3/12)

### **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](http://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](mailto:joycesummers@mac.com)

## 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.com>