



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, December 2023

Greetings in this season of preparation and expectation,

It seems like I've missed Advent; which I'm beginning to understand in a way very different from Lent (which is usually explained as the preparation for Easter).

Yes, Advent does come directly before Christmas and historically Advent has been a time of preparation for the Joyous mystery of the Incarnation, which we celebrate at Christmas time; but as Christmas has become "bigger" in the process of marketing campaigns, Advent seems to have become something new: a refuge from the busyness of the Holiday Season and a time to nourish our souls as we remember the visions of the many prophets in our tradition that were haunted by dreams of the Reign of God.

It gives us time to mourn the world that is, as we remember the generations-long hope we participate in, present in the prophets, that keeps us pointed at the world that has already begun to break through but has not been fully realized: a world without sickness, famine, or war... A world, as I've said before, that looks more like God's dream and less like our nightmare.

As the culture around us begins early preparations around the celebration of the Christchild; may we be focused on the hope that Child represents for our world and the ways in which we can participate in that hope in our own time and place.

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

Loved the Fellowship!
by Nancy Gregory, Senior Warden

You have probably heard me say, many times, doing ministry together is fun! Why is that?

For me it is not only a chance to follow Jesus' Way of Love, providing food to those who would enjoy a nutritious meal, but it is also a way to be in the company of kind, generous, and loving people who also happen to have an enormous wellspring of energy for ministry!

On a recent Community Kitchen night, as I opened the church doors to our first guests for the evening, I made a pitch to them for coming into our parish hall to relax as they waited for us to begin serving at 5pm. A few minutes later as the parish hall started filling up with guests, I started to hear many voices talking and laughing.

It was a clear sign of people relaxing and feeling welcome. One frequent visitor told me about her success at the Day of Hope last Saturday that we advertised on our church Facebook page. She had received much needed veterinary care for a beloved pet and some free legal help. I saw one of our frequent guests going around with her very own "homemade cookie---friendship" ministry.

The Holy Spirit seemed to be saying, yes, this is what St John's is meant to be!

TBTG!

Let us work together to keep this ministry going!

Hey! Consider helping out with our recycling ministry! From your RMT:

We are looking for someone who might like to help out with our Recycle Cans For Cash program. Our very dedicated volunteer, Fred Elliot, will be unable to do the job for a while.

The key points are, keep cat food cans separate from other cans. Take the cans to ACT Recycling, located at 7134 US-54. And tell them that it is for St. John's Episcopal Church.

Contact the church for more details!

Schedule of Sunday Readings, December 2023				
Date	Old Testament	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
Dec 3	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Dec 10	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Dec 17	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalms 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8,19-28
Dec 24 – 9:30am	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Canticle 15	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Dec 24 – 6:00 pm	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalms 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14(15-20)
Dec 24 – 11:00 pm	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalms 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:(1-7)8-20
Dec 25 – 11:00am	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalms 98	Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)	John 1:1-14
Dec 31	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalms 147:13-21	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18

Rota for December 2023				
Date	Sunday	Reader 8am	EM 10:15am	Reader 10:15am
Dec 3	Advent I	Randy	Nancy	Tony
Dec 10	Advent II	Joyce	Nancy	Hannah
Dec 17	Advent III	Geoff	Nancy	Jared & Chris
Dec 24 – 9:30am	Advent IV	Randy	Steve	Nancy
Dec 24 – 6:00 pm	Christmas Eve	TBA	TBA	TBA
Dec 24 – 11:00 pm	Midnight Service	TBA	TBA	TBA
Dec 25 – 11:00am	Christmas Day	Joyce	Nancy	Tony
Dec 31	Christmas I	Joyce	Nancy	Hannah

Community Kitchen Calendar, December 2023	
Date	Team
Dec 5	Retired Folks
Dec 7	Sam + Crew
Dec 12	PPW
Dec 14	Sam + Crew
Dec 19	Christ Community Church
Dec 21	Sam + Crew
Dec 26	Retired Folks
Dec 28	Sam + Crew

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Laurie B. (12/5); Sarah van D. (12/6); Tom L. (12/10); Betty J. (12/12); Bill H. (12/15); Faye S. (12/15); Kevin C. (12/18); Grant D. (12/23), John S. (12/23)

Anniversaries:

Sarah & Steve M. (12/12); Roy and Laura B. (12/18)

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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