

March 2020: This Month at Saint John's  
 A publication of  
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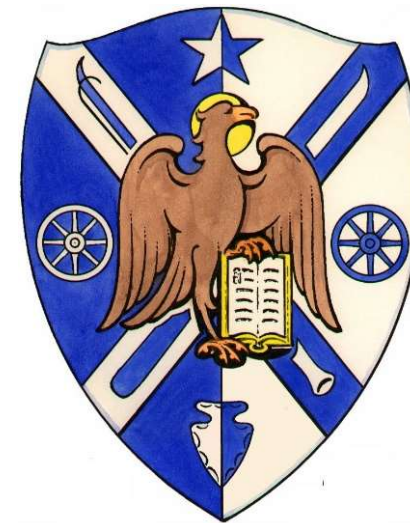
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# The Evangelist

News about Saint John's Episcopal Church

March 2020



## A Lenten Reflection from Fr. Sam+... a fellow traveler

I've struggled with my article about Lent this year, even as I've struggled with what I might give up as a Lenten sacrifice. I guess if the truth be told I'm not feeling very Lent like... I am too excited about all of the wonderful things going on about us in our parish and diocese. We have a parish that continues to find new purpose and is growing. We are coalescing as a community of faith and we are finding new ways to be together. New ministries are developing and there is joy in this place. Even our diocese is preparing itself for a new bishop. Hope abounds!

Still it is Lent... a reflective time when, with purpose, we take stock of our lives and work with intention on areas where we fall short of the mark. Lent also is a time of self-sacrifice when we are called upon by the church to forgo some part of our life as symbolic gesture of sacrifice that reminds us of all that Christ forfeited for our sake.

This year instead of making a symbolic gesture of sacrifice (though it can't hurt to eat less chocolate, meat or junk food or forgo alcohol) let me challenge

you to give up some things that will make a real difference in your life and will vastly improve your relationship with God, neighbor and yourself. Below I've listed a few behaviors that are sinful. Some may apply in your life and some may not. Read the list slowly...ponder each item for a good long time. Be honest, do any of these behaviors apply to you? If you've answered yes to any, then jettison them. Get rid of the ones that do. Getting rid of these things will be good for your soul!

### What to give up...

- Give up complaining**  
focus on gratitude.
- Give up pessimism**  
become an optimist.
- Give up harsh judgments**  
think kindly thoughts.
- Give up pride**  
work toward humility.
- Give up worry**  
trust Divine Providence.
- Give up discouragement**  
be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness**  
turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred**  
return goodness for evil.
- Give up negativism**  
be positive.
- Give up anger**  
be more patient.
- Give up pettiness**  
become mature.



## Lent Madness is coming to Saint John's Church!

Lent Madness started on February 27! Want to be inspired by some saintly souls this Lent and have fun along the way? Join with thousands of Christians across denominations who have discovered the joyful online learning community that is Lent Madness.

With its unique blend of competition, education, and humor, Lent Madness allows participants to be inspired by the ways in which God has worked through the lives of saints over the generations. Based loosely on the NCAA basketball tournament of a similar name, this online devotion pits 32 saints against one another in a single-elimination bracket as voters choose their favorites throughout Lent.

Here's how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org) about two different saints. We'll be posting on Facebook too so be sure to follow Saint John's Church! Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elite Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo.

Lent needn't be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to get closer to Jesus Christ?

### In this Issue

Lenten Reflection .....	1
Lent at St. John's .....	2
Music News .....	3
News from Ministry Groups .....	4
Milestones .....	5
Outreach/Profile notes.....	6
Altar Guild .....	7
Lent Madness.....	<i>back</i>

**Give up gloom  
enjoy the beauty that is  
all around you.**

**Give up jealousy  
celebrate the gifts and  
successes of others.**

**Give up gossiping  
control your tongue.**

**Give up sin  
turn to virtue.**

**Give up giving up  
hang in there, in God all  
things are possible.**

A final thought and challenge...

It is true that Lent is time to intentionally reflect on life and on ways we can let go of destructive and sinful habits of being. Notwithstanding, Lent can also be time to reflect with intention and joy on ways in which God has blessed us...each one of us...uniquely, personally, and mercifully. One of the simplest ways I know to acknowledge God's mercy and grace in my life is to pass it on. So this Lent, join me, and make a commitment to perform one random act of kindness for someone you love, for one with whom you are in conflict or even for a total stranger. Hope abounds!

Merciful Blessings,  
Sam+

### **Sunday Mornings in Lent:**

**March 1**  
Rector's Forum

**March 8**  
*Women in Church Music*  
Joseph Arndt will share information on women in church music – women composers represented in our hymnal, as well

as women composers active in the church today. March 8 is International Women's Day and the Saint John's Choir will sing music by women composers at the 11:15 a.m. service that day.

**March 15**  
*Bach's St. John Passion*  
Learn about this masterpiece to be performed on March 22. Joseph will reflect on the text of the Luther Bible (John 18 and 19) used in the work, as well as Bach's composition and the history behind it.

**March 22**  
To be announced

**March 29**  
Please join us for an information session to present *Sacred Ground*, a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in thread of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

*Sacred Ground* is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

We encourage you to look online at this amazing resource (<https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground>) and then come to learn more about how we can participate at St. John's. Will you become part of a circle? Be a facilitator? Be a resource to a circle by "diving deeper" into additional materials?

Come and see!

### **Wednesday Evenings in Lent**



If you would like to deepen your faith, increase your understanding or raise good questions, please join us for a series of classes meeting through April 29. Classes focus on reading scripture using *lectio divina* (holy reading) and on investigating *The Book of Common Prayer* as a resource for individual and community spiritual practices. *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices* can be purchased from Amazon.

The class is held on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. If you need transportation, please call the office at 918-742-7381. The class will be taught by Sam+ and Susanne+.

#### **Here's the weekly schedule for our Wednesday evening Lenten program:**

- 5:15 p.m., Holy Communion, *in the church*
- 6 p.m., simple Lenten supper prepared by various parish groups, *in the Common Room*
- 6:30 p.m., Lenten Class, *Powell Hall*

## **AN INVITATION FROM THE ALTAR GUILD**

Please consider honoring a loved one, celebrate a birthday, anniversary, birth or adoption of a baby, or any special occasion by making a donation to the Altar Guild. From week to week, flowers for the altar cost \$100 -\$150. Funds for the Altar Guild also provide the wine, linens and candles used every week during services including weddings and funerals. Envelopes for donations are available in the pews each week. Please make checks payable to Saint John's Episcopal Church and note Altar Flowers in the memo line.

### **THE ALTAR FUND**

The Altar Fund provides a way for the members and friends of Saint John's Church to remember special people in their lives, to commemorate special occasions in their lives and to give thanks for the many blessings given to them by God.

This fund provides flowers on the altar, in the columbarium and for the hospitalized, shut-ins and residents of nursing homes. The special needs of the church having to do with our worship are made possible by the generosity and gratitude of those who contribute to this fund.

To contribute, please complete the form below and place in the alms basin or mail it to the church office. **Checks should be made to Saint John's Episcopal Church, marked for Easter Flowers.**

#### **All contributions are due by Monday, April 6.**

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DONOR: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE and/or EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

IN THANKSGIVING FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Saint John's Feeds the Homeless



Every third Sunday night Saint John's parishioners prepare and serve the evening meal for the clients at the Day Center for the Homeless. If you want to help or have questions please contact Amanda Davies, 918-742-7381 or [adavies@sjtulsa.org](mailto:adavies@sjtulsa.org).

## Great Decisions



Topic 4: "**Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**"  
by Ronald Weitzer

Topic 5: "**U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle**"  
by Michael Shifter and Bruno Binetti

Topic 6: "**China's Road into Latin America**"  
by Margaret Myers

Topic 7: "**The Philippines and the U.S.**"  
by Julio Amador and Deryk Matthew N. Baladjay

Topic 8: "**Artificial Intelligence and Data**"  
by Susan Ariel Aaronson

**We meet once every other week at noon for one hour. The next meeting will be on March 5.**

## Profile Committee "Small Group Gatherings" Completed, Data Analysis Underway

A big THANK YOU to all Saint John's parishioners for your great contributions to the success of our Small Group Gatherings! The last gathering concluded on February 9. The turnout was good, the discussions meaningful and positive, and people got their creative juices flowing -- thinking about the focus topics for Saint John's going forward.

We in the Profile Committee are collating your anonymous responses into a combined document that groups the comments and opinions according to which question or section it pertains to. Once that's done, we'll go over it, see if we all agree that it reflects what everyone heard, and submit to the vestry. This document, combined with the demographic data we examined in a 3-mile radius around Saint John's Church, will allow us to create the Saint John's Profile.

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus famously said: "No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man." This should speak to us here at Saint John's Church, as our awareness of our parish needs changes over time and inform our decision about who we are now and the face we put forth, in the hopes that God moves someone to take on the challenge here in Tulsa.

Thank you again!

The Saint John's Profile Committee

Peggy Woods, Barrett Waller, Bob Baker, Debbie S. Hensley, Lynn Kimmel, and Gary Szabo

## Ministry to the Homebound

If you are interested in visiting homebound parishioners or would like to take communion to them, please contact Susanne+. She will be organizing training classes. Thanks!

*Susanne+*

The Rev. Susanne Methven  
Interim Associate Rector  
Saint John's Episcopal Church  
918-742-7381 x224  
918-574-4932 (cell)

## MUSIC NEWS

### Music at Midday

Music at Midday returns March 11 and continues on Wednesdays through April 15. Free recitals at noon are followed by homemade lunch for \$8 at 12:30 p.m.

#### March 11

Students from the Barthelmes Conservatory

#### March 18

Michael Bedford, organ

#### March 25

Mary Ann Stewart, soprano  
Paul Sweet, piano

#### April 1

Adam Pajan, organ

#### April 8

Elizabeth Robinson, flute  
Paul Sweet, piano

#### April 15

Joseph Arndt, organ

**On Sunday, March 29, at 5:30 p.m., the Saint John's Choir will present Lenten Choral Evensong.**

### Bach's St. John Passion Sunday, March 22, 2020 at 3 p.m.

Members of the Oklahoma Bach Choir and the American Baroque Opera Co. will offer Bach's St. John Passion in four performances. The first three are in the Dallas area, the fourth and final performance taking place here at Saint John's Church. Bach led the first performance of his St. John Passion on Good Friday in 1724. It is a dramatic setting of Christ's passion as told in the Gospel of John. This performance, made possible by Arlo and Barbara DeKraai, will be the first in Oklahoma using period instruments.

First performed on Good Friday 1724, Bach's St. John Passion incorporates John 18 and 19 from the Luther Bible as well as devotional Lutheran hymns. A highly dramatic work, this is the closest Bach came to composing opera. This performance is the last on a tour that will begin at Perkins Chapel at Southern Methodist University.

Musicians will include Joseph Arndt (organ), Meray Boustani (soprano), and others from the Dallas area.

Tickets are \$25. See Peggy Woods at Sunday Coffee Hour.



OKLAHOMA  
**BACH CHOIR**

**Bach Cantatas Series:  
Concert III**  
Sunday, May 3, 2020  
at 3 p.m.

The Bach Choir's third concert will feature one of Bach's earliest cantatas, composed for the Easter season.

BWV 4 – Christ lag in Todes Banden (cornetto, sackbuts, strings, organ)

Tickets \$20, available on Sunday mornings in early 2020



## NEWS FROM MINISTRY GROUPS IN THE CONGREGATION

### Scout Troop 153



Troop 153 would like to sincerely thank all parishioners who attended our Chili Cookoff in February. Monies raised will truly help fund various activities for our scouts this year. It was a fun evening and we hope to see you next year for this annual event.

We begin March with a campout. The weekend of February 29, our scouts will be visiting one of the top air and space museums in the country, the Cosmosphere in Hutchison, Kansas. While there, we will be touring the museum and working on the Engineering and Robotics merit badges.

Other campouts in March will be varied as the individual patrols will camp on their own. Usually, these trips are located close and involve only one night. These smaller campouts provide an opportunity for the members of the patrol to accomplish all the necessary tasks usually performed by the whole troop. It strengthens each scout's abilities and builds closeness within the patrol.

March is spring break month, and our scouts have a couple of opportunities for earning merit badges and completing service hours. A Snow Sports Merit badge is available for those who might be heading to the mountains. Remember the devastating Ute fires in New Mexico in 2018? Philmont Scout Ranch is opening its spring break treks to all scouts over the age of 16 for a one-week service project in the back-country thinning timber to hopefully prevent/reduce impact from any future fires.

As always, thank you very much for your support of Troop 153. We would not exist without your and Saint John's assistance. If you would like to do more for our troop, please consider a donation to

our annual Friends of Scouting campaign. Please see an adult leader for more information.

### Young Adults



## Pub Theology

**Pub Theology** resumes at Kilkenny's Irish Pub March 7. Last time we discussed confession of sin, so we will continue this line of thought by discussing biblical prophecy. In a way, biblical prophecy and confession of sin tie hand-in-hand with one another, so it is a natural development to talk about how the two work together.

Come and join for fellowship and discussing some of the weightier topics of our faith. Any viewpoint is welcome on the table, so just because you do not agree with someone does not mean you are wrong. It just means we can enjoy each other's company amidst argument. Ultimately, all views are acceptable as we dive into this topic and build fellowship with one another.



### Young Adults' First Sunday Brunch

Our young adults' brunch is for those who want time to fellowship and relax. Nothing more than groups coming together to catch up on life.

There are times to deconstruct theology and there are times to talk about life and what is going on outside church. This is the space to do that, whether you are an adult just out of college or already having kids.

March 1 at 12:30 p.m. Location is The Palace Café.

Please RSVP for either or both events to Josh, [jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org](mailto:jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org)

## BOOKSTORE NEWS



You must come in and see our new jewelry selection for spring! We have new colorful earrings for all occasions and fun bead necklaces for those spring outfits! Many new items are arriving, so stop in soon and don't forget those Easter baskets! Come shop with us!

### Annual Bishop's Visit

On Sunday, March 15, Bishop Ed will make his yearly visit to St. John's Church.

He will be preaching at the 9 a.m. family service and preaching and confirming those who have completed the Inquirers classes at the 11:15 a.m. service. A festive reception will follow the 11:15 a.m. service.

### Hospital Information

Parishioners who are in the hospital are visited regularly by clergy. With the privacy issues today, we are now unable to obtain hospital information. If you are going into the hospital and would like to be visited by one of the clergy, please indicate "Saint John's Episcopal Church" as your religious affiliation. Also, call the church office and tell us that you or a family member is or will be in the hospital

### Change of Address

Christine Payne 4906 East 76th Street, Unit 509 (36)

Debbie Parmele 8331 S Lakewood Pl., #2 (37)

Nancy Woodard 11619 S Hudson Pl. (37)

Miriam Young and Tom Vinson 4599 N Washington St., Apt 28 I, Stillwater, OK 74075

## MILESTONES

### March Birthdays

- 1 Robert Baker, IV, Arlo DeKraai, Scampy Rainey, Jean Tate
- 2 Kalleb Boston, Jack Kelly, Jim Singleton, Randy Spencer
- 4 John Abney
- 5 Adam Adwon, Lorraine Kaefer, Susanne Methven
- 6 Dora Barber, Jaclyn Slattery
- 7 Cristina Abbott, Mark Payton, Barbara Putnam, Cartena Robohm,
- 8 Joseph Arndt, Catherine Hoopert
- 9 Jody McIntyre, Kristin Randall
- 10 Ira Phillips
- 11 Barbara Lawson, Jake Rawlings
- 12 Karen Dodson
- 13 Sheri Colpitt
- 14 Janice Cline, Kirsten Hoopert
- 15 Susie Fisher
- 17 Toni Walters
- 18 Amy Schaffer, Philip Schroedter
- 19 Katherine Johnson
- 20 Carolyn Ferguson, Floyd Hudson, Jackie Johnson, Jillian Moore
- 21 Amelia Cox, Jane Roegels, Barrett Waller
- 23 Breen Emery, Finley Randall
- 24 Diane Morrow, Ben Russell, Les Veltman,
- 25 Michaela Blanton, John Staedke
- 26 Katherine Barlow, Sidney Lawler
- 27 Nancy Morrison, Meg Perdue
- 28 Roberta Carter, Katharine Dwyer
- 29 Stacey Clark, Nancy Hicks, Betsy Mayes, Tom Viuf, Lynne Waters
- 31 Laura Gubser

### Deaths

2/8 Eddie Addington

2/10 Dolores Messick