

# The Evangelist



May 2021  
A Newsletter for  
our Parish and  
Church Family

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## **Eastertide Greetings!**

I do not think it's an overstatement to say that The Great Fifty Days of Easter in 2021 are filled with the promise of new life. Here at Saint John's, every day contains more evidence that God is with us, helping us to bring the breath of life into aspects of our parish work that have laid fallow during the pandemic; helping us by energizing the faithful for worship, discipleship, and service. I've shared with you my excitement about the emerging beauty of our springtime flora, and now I rejoice in the opportunity to report the springtime of our ministry!

As people receive doses of vaccine and become more comfortable venturing back into parish life, I am happy to say that there are yet more reopening opportunities to come. Bishop Reed recently announced that many of the diocesan COVID safety protocols will lift at Pentecost. Some updates to our protocols here at the parish are forthcoming as I write this and many of the specifics may already be present to you by the time you receive this newsletter!

Which is to say, I am absolutely thrilled to begin dreaming about what God means to do in and through our life together here. Our liturgical calendar certainly bears this out. On the feast of the Ascension, Thursday May 13, Bishop Reed will be present among us to formally "install" me as your rector at the Celebration of a New Ministry. The Sunday following, he will again join us for confirmations, receptions, and rededications of faith. I am very much looking forward to welcoming our Bishop and hearing his voice as our diocesan shepherd. Once again, his ministry with us is a sign of life and faithfulness to the Gospel in an age where Christ's ministry of love and reconciliation are in profound need.

As May concludes with Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we look forward to the baptisms of several of the parish's young children. What a joy it is to cap off the season of the Resurrection with the sacrament of New Life! The parents of our baptismal candidates have already approached the glorious day of their children's baptisms with remarkable zeal!

I pray that their excitement would become part of our own, beloved. In the months to come, I believe that Saint John's ministry will be marked by renewal and refreshment. Just as the rush of the Holy Spirit's move inaugurated the mission of the Earliest Church at the first Pentecost, let us await the same Spirit to revive what has laid dormant, draw together relationships that have been distant, and empower us as Christ's people to extend his Kingdom!

Your friend,

*(At right: The Rev. David Bumsted, Rector)*



## An Update from the Junior Warden - *Doug Crews*

We would like to thank the parishioners and scouts who participated in the spring clean-up of the church grounds on Saturday, April 10. We were able to get many of the beds weeded, mulched, and new flowers planted. We still need to finish refurbishing the planters by St. John's House and the spreading of pea gravel under the swing set on the play ground. But overall it was a great morning and our hard work really is showing well.

As Saint John's starts to slowly open back up to in-person worship and small group meetings, it is important to remember that we should not let our guard down. Although many have received their vaccinations, the virus is still out there. We will still be wearing our masks, washing hands and using hand sanitizer, and we will continue to social distance while in the pews. And please, if you are not feeling well or have been around someone who has the virus, stay at home and watch the services on-line. We want to be safe for all.

Now that we are starting to come together, I would like to propose that it is time to start thinking about the Church's 75th anniversary that will be coming up before we know it. Feel free to let us know what you might like to see changed around the campus and maybe we can start saving to get some of those ideas accomplished before our big diamond jubilee in 2025.



## Semper Fi - *Betsy Hocker*

Tom Frisch is a devoted member of Saint John's Episcopal Church and he has the unique distinction of being able to fit into his United State Marine Corps uniform almost sixty years after his service. Practically every Sunday, I can count on seeing Tom walking with erect posture as he fulfills his duties as an usher, but on Veteran's Day he is resplendent in his dress blues. He wears his uniform to remind us of those who have sacrificed everything for this country. It is humbling to witness his commitment to the men and women who have gone before and those who serve today.

Tom embodies the USMC logo – Semper Fidelis – always faithful. He has been steadfast in his attendance at Saint John's since the late 1960s. Originally from Belleview, Ohio, he moved to Tulsa after completing his military commitment. He was interested in attending Spartan Aeronautics and becoming a pilot. A part-time job led to a full-time career once he married the boss' daughter!

Tom and Brenda were wed at Saint John's in May 1971. He will half-jokingly tell you the wondered if they were meant to be together. A run of bad luck, including the death of one priest and the collapse of another, plus the church being locked on his wedding day, made him wonder if the good Lord was sending him a message.

Tom embodies all that is faithful, true and honorable. He is a loving husband, a doting grandfather, a proud veteran and a reminder to all of what makes Saint John's so special.

He is a loyal servant and a true follower of Christ as he greets all who attend the early service. He told me he still gets chills as he walks into this hallowed and special place he calls home.





# Q&A with our Vestry:

## Marc McCaw

Recently we caught up with new Vestry member Marc McCaw to find out just a little more about his roots, running and his really darling family...

Q: Marc, you shared that Serenity is not from Tulsa, but you are. What was the first Tulsa iconic location you wanted to take her to see? A: I wanted to show her the best view of downtown Tulsa there is, which in my opinion is from the patio of McFarlin Library on the University of Tulsa campus (and my alma mater!).

Q: Outside of volunteering for Saint John's, what other "after work" activities do you really like? A: I enjoy running: half marathons, 5k and 10k races. You can usually spot me on the Midland Valley or River Parks trails, enjoying the scenery.

Q: What is something that might surprise Saint John's parishioners to learn about you? A: I'm an avid Star Wars fan and can quickly "nerd out" over some of the finer details of all of the movies and series.

Q: You told us a Senior Program Manager role at NORDAM brought you back to Tulsa a couple of years ago. Tell us a little about what you do at the company. A: My current position at NORDAM has me overseeing teams of people designing and manufacturing various aircraft components at NORDAM, from windows to wings and everything in between.

Q: Tell us about your wife's career. A: Serenity has worked from home for a hi-tech business for over ten years. Currently, she is the Director of Global Sales Operations for a Portland-based start-up company called SheerID.

Q: Do you two have any "go to" family meals you cook together on the weekends? A: One of our favorite dishes to make (and eat!) is our homemade chicken enchiladas. We both like our food on the spicier side, so finding the right combination of chilis and peppers that hits that perfect balance is always fun.

Q: Tell us something fun about your daughter. A: Elliot loves to do laundry with us. She really likes loading the washer and dryer with clothes and then hitting the buttons to start up the machines. Then, she will carry the empty laundry basket to the living room and climb in and sit down and proceed to ask for Daddy to swing her in the basket. She laughs and giggles as I swing her in the basket up and down and then around in a circle. This is also a good shoulder workout for me!

Q: You and Serenity were active in Episcopal churches in Texas before moving north. Are there any tips you learned there that might be applicable at Saint John's? A: Don't be afraid to ask for help! When our church was forming an "older adult group," a few of us "younger" couples were recruited to drive those members to and from their Saturday evening events. This turned into a wonderful game night for the younger couples.



## Pet Blessing was Doggone (& Cat) Fun!

In April, Saint John's hosted a pet blessing, attracting parishioners and visitors in equal measure. We counted among the merry band of wagging and walking participants: 55 adults with pets (not counting staff working at the event), 4 children, 34 dogs, 2 cats, and 5 members of the media! We appreciate all who donated to the collection of \$285 given to the OK Alliance for Animals. And, thanks to Betsy Hocker for the hand-made and decorated cookies (for the humans) and Father David for the really sweet service (and bulletin).





## Family & Youth News

It has been quite a year since we all last saw each other (in-person, that is), but as we are expanding in-person worship I very much enjoy seeing more and more of our families.

Positive updates and changes are now possible as we move our youth and family ministries forward. I will resume overseeing the Nursery, continue Family Fridays, plan Summer Kids Formation and plan Adult Education.

Last month we offered a Zoom conversation with Father David and myself to discuss the go-forward vision of family ministry at Saint John's. Thanks to those who attended. Some of the topics we discussed in the virtual meeting, or decisions we concluded after, are as follows:

### Families and Little Ones

- Most traditional programs will still be on hold until the fall.
- We plan to re-start our nursery no later than June.
- We will still continue Family Friday videos, but instead of exploring the building we will switch to small, bite-sized topics about Christianity. Some of these videos will have activities, while others will consist of vlogs.

If you know anyone who loves to be around kids ages four and under and who is willing to work on Sundays, we would love to meet them! Let them know to contact me and we will see if they will be a fit for our nursery!

### Summer Kids Formation

- Summer Kids Formation is just our fancy title for outdoors Children's Chapel.
- With several restrictions lifting, we are more able to adjust to a slightly more normal children's program.
- This means we will ask that kids attending during Sunday service leave with me or our volunteer teacher during the sequence hymn. We'll go to the labyrinth to talk about the Gospel and play a game. Concluding, we will follow an acolyte back inside the church for the Peace.
- Of course, masks are currently still necessary for those over six years old.

We are asking for volunteers to work with myself and the kids so that we can make Children's Chapel the most exciting it has ever been! Give me a shout if you are interested!

### Adult Formation

We will finish the adult education course, Exploring the Bible, on Mother's Day, May 9. After this, we will go on a two-week hiatus from all adult education. Beginning June 6, Father David will lead a class on Early Church History. We will continue to use the same Zoom link that we used for our Exploring the Bible series, and we will make sure class details go out in the e-news editions when we are having a class.

We are so excited to finally start moving toward renewed kids and family ministry and programming. I trust you are all as excited as we are! Until we see you, have a wonderful May and don't hesitate if you have any questions (or want to volunteer).

*- Josh Corsaro*

## Music News - Joseph Arndt

**Evensong Update** - This choral 5:30 p.m. Sunday service is now in person (with reservations) as well as online!

**The Day of Pentecost** - Sunday, May 23  
Organ Recital by Adam Pajan at 5 p.m.  
Choral Evensong at 5:30 p.m.

We will observe Pentecost with a Festive Choral Evensong, which will be preceded by an Organ Recital. For the recital, Adam Pajan will perform the variations on the Gregorian hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* (Come, Creator Spirit) by Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703). Before each of the four variations, the men of the choir will sing four of the original Gregorian Chant verses.

The words of the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* are usually attributed to Rabanus Maurus (c. 780-856), a monk and theologian who became an Archbishop in the Roman Church. *Veni Creator Spiritus* is traditionally sung on Pentecost as well as at ordinations and other major Episcopal liturgies.



## Volunteers: Looking for LEMs

Spring has sprung, and we at Saint John's are ready for the change of seasons. As we are able to grow our in-person services and to continue our online ministry, we need more volunteer Eucharistic ministers and lay readers to fill the expanding opportunities.

Please consider being a part of our beautiful church services in one of these special roles. Most needed at this time are readers (the times and days are very flexible) and chalice bearers (on Sundays, but more days later on). Let Diane Morrow, Diana Carter or myself know if you are interested. Thank you and God Bless!

Email us:  
Diane at dmorevoce@att.net  
Lynn at lynnkimmel71@gmail.com  
Diana at dcarter@sjtulsa.org.

*- Lynn Kimmel*



# Most Holy of Mothers

## Remembering Mary Through Symbolism

Lilies, a crown, hearts, the pear and mystic roses...these are all symbols found in Marian art and architecture. Honoring Mary, the mother of Jesus, through symbolism in buildings, furnishings, windows and weaving has been noted throughout the history of the Christian church.

In medieval devotional verse, the Virgin Mary was sometimes referred to as a "rose without thorns." The five petals of the wild rose have been equated with the five "joys" of Mary. The five key Scriptural moments that gave Mary joy include: the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Resurrection, the Ascension and the Assumption. And, the significance of the number five has also been noted by writers due to the letter-count of letters in her full name, Maria (or in Greek, Mapia).

From the 12th century, rose imagery grew across Europe with the spread of religious devotion to Mary. Laden with the symbolism of love and sacrifice, the medieval rose became such a strong idea in architecture that it appears in the building of original Gothic and contemporary Christian churches in the form the of "rose windows."

Roses and lilies are not the only botanicals with ties to Marian patronage. The pansy is called the Trinity Flower, because of its three-petaled shape. And likewise, the Irish shamrock (can you find this in our narthex?) represents the Trinity, noted to have been first revealed to Mary. Ivy and periwinkle (sometimes called the Virgin flower) are also attributed to Our Lady, as are the almond and the pear (possibly referencing her womb).

Shapes associated with the Holy Mother are the crown (for Heaven's Queen), heart, star (Mary is sometimes called the Star of the Sea), and the fleur-de-lis. The latter is said to represent her because it resembles both the iris and the Madonna or Sword Lily (again, the triplet shape).

Blue is the color most closely associated with Mary (though pink and white are also notable). Traditionally she is depicted in the royal to cerulean shades of the hue in art and interior design elements.

Here at Saint John's Church, many of these iconic references to Mary can be found, from the finials on the memorial garden's iron spires and the tops of the Bishop's seat (called the cathedra) to the roses carved into our baldacchino (which hangs over the altar). Tiny touches associated with Jesus's mother can be seen in our paschal candle, in shapes and flora designed into our needlepoint kneelers and windows, and abundantly in our altar frontal or pulpit antependium.

Perhaps the most obvious homage to Mary, in addition to her many personage depictions in our magnificent stained glass windows, is the use of Marian blue throughout our church. Our ceiling panels, the pipes of the Schoenstein organ, our windows, as well as our sanctuary and chancel rugs and runners reflect the heavens, the seas, and Mary, the Mother of God.

***Hail Mary, full of grace, the LORD is with thee;  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy, Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.***





# NEW HOPE SUNDAY

Supporting New Hope's Camps for Children of Prisoners

**Happy Mother's Day!** As you honor the mothers in your life, please join us in remembering and praying for children with a mother behind bars. With more moms incarcerated in Oklahoma than anywhere in the nation, parental incarceration is truly an Oklahoma issue - one we can work together to mitigate and change!

## NEW HOPE'S HISTORY

New Hope Oklahoma was founded in 1992 when Episcopalians visiting Oklahoma prisons realized the number one concern of the incarcerated was the children they left behind. A small group of volunteers then held a single summer camp serving six children with an incarcerated parent, and the number of camps and children served grew each following summer. In 2003, New Hope expanded to after-school programming in order to serve more children and maintain positive relationships throughout the school year. In 2007, New Hope became an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Over the past 28 years, New Hope has grown to serve over 600 children annually through after-school programs, case management, summer camps, and family events!

## SUMMER 2021

Throughout the year New Hope provides participants access to safe, nurturing, and consistent out of school programs (tutoring, social and emotional learning activities, sports, arts, archery, fishing, and more!) that build self-efficacy, reduce risky behaviors, and increase physical, social, and emotional health. This June to safeguard against Covid-19, New Hope will host a series of full-day day camps in the Tulsa area. New Hope will then work alongside Tulsa Public School's summer programming in July.

## MISSION

To provide academic, social, and emotional support to youth impacted by parental incarceration through out of school time programs.

## VISION

To interrupt the cycle of generational incarceration, one child at a time.



## HOW TO HELP

This year you can help campers in a variety of ways:

- **Pray** for each camp session.
- **Sponsor a child.** It costs \$150 to send a camper through our full-day, week long day camps. You may donate via pew cards or online at <http://bit.ly/NewHopeOK2021>.
- **Volunteer.** Please email [volunteer@newhopeoklahoma.org](mailto:volunteer@newhopeoklahoma.org) for more information.
- **Donate camp supplies.** Items such as markers, crayons, and sunscreen can be found on an Amazon Wish List at <https://a.co/48oSygS>.



P.O. Box 3243 Tulsa, OK 74101 | 918.359.9024 | [www.newhopeoklahoma.org](http://www.newhopeoklahoma.org)



## Getting to Know Lay Reader Sharon Bell

Recently, Sharon Bell was gracious enough to correspond via email with us from her "get-away" spot in Florida. We hope you enjoy learning a bit more about Sharon as much as our staff did in this Q&A!

Q: When did Saint John's become a regular part of your adult life? A: I started attending when I moved to Tulsa to enter TU Law School in 1982. Greg started in 1984 and we were married here in 1985.

Q: We heard you are back in school. What are you studying? A: I started at Phillips Theological Seminary last year working on a Master's in Theological Studies. I had a lot of questions left over after an Education for Ministry course a few years ago.

Q: Are you still working also? A: I am a semi-retired attorney and had a practice focused on estate planning and probate. For thirty years, I was the Individual Trustee of the Chapman-Walter-Cowles Trusts. I also worked with eighteen charitable beneficiaries in a three-state region.

Q: Who do you most admire? A: My heroes are my late father, William H. Bell, and my mom, Rita Bell (who will be 91 in May and can still take names!); the late Henry Zarrow, who with my father taught me so much about philanthropy; the late Justice Ruth Ginsburg (I had the privilege of hearing her speak once); and the late Malcolm Deisenroth, who was a living example of service to the church. Also my husband, Greg Gray, who sometimes talks me off cliffs and sometimes talks sense into my thick head.

Q: What are you currently reading? A: In addition to books for school, I am reading "Clanlands: Whiskey, Warfare and a Scottish Adventure like no Other" by Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish. (Sam plays Jaime Frasier in TV's "Outlander" and Graham plays the war leader for Clan McDonald.) They now tour the Scottish Highlands in a sleeper van for a show called Men in Kilts.

Q: Sounds like you rode out part of quarantine time near the sea. How so? A: We have a beach house in Mexico Beach, Florida, on the Forgotten Coast of the Panhandle. Mexico Beach was flattened two and a half years ago by Hurricane Michael. Fortunately we are about three-quarters of a mile from Highway 98, because everything between the beach and that highway was washed out to sea. We had some water in the house but had everything put back together just in time for COVID.

Q: You are quite the canner. Do you grow your own veggies? A: Last year we had two raised garden spots and this year we have four. Greg has always planted peppers (mostly chilies) in pots. Now I have a sunny spot for tomatoes, cukes and anything else he is inspired to plant. I make pickles, jams, pepper jelly and salsas, chutneys, and canned tomatoes.

Q: Do you have any advice for others during these challenging times? A: My mom has a saying: "All you can do is all you can do, and all you can do is enough."



## New: Walking Group!



Looking for a group to get you outside and walking more often? Maybe you already stroll or hike near your home or on the trails, but would like a new route or buddies to connect with. If so, beginning May 11, Tuesday Trekkers might be a good fit for your lifestyle.

We'll be a "no reservation needed, come as you are, low commitment, bring a friend, family member (or your dog), no cost, leave the politics and gossip behind" sort of gang you can count on.

This merry band of trekkers will take off each Tuesday evening at 5:35 sharp from the Saint John's labyrinth for a "figure eight" walk through our wonderful nearby neighborhoods. Think you only have time or energy for a shorter jaunt? Cool. Trek with us for the first or last 30-minute loop. Love to walk and talk longer? Great, lace up and stay with us for the full double loop (two distinct half-hour routes). We'll conclude at the church about 6:40 p.m.

Dress for the weather, bring a water bottle, be ready to start at 5:35 p.m. (so please arrive 5-10 minutes earlier), and enjoy midtown with new and old friends. There are no age limits, but you need to have good mobility and energy to get the most out of the trek and stay with the group. We request that if kids come along, they can walk the distance or you bring a stroller. No kids on bikes or difficult doggies, please.

Watch our church Facebook group/community page for any weekly updates or day-of weather cancellations. Questions? Call Mary Waller at (918) 521-7564 or email [mwallers@sjtulsa.org](mailto:mwallers@sjtulsa.org). Walk with us as we go outside with God.



## Communication Corner

### Tuning into Attendance

As of May 26, Sunday worship service attendance for the past month was as follows: Mar. 28 was 32 at 8 a.m./67 for 10 a.m./277 for online at 10 a.m./378 for 5:30 p.m.; Easter Day on Apr. 4 was 38 at 7:30 a.m./63 at 9 a.m./69 at 11:15 a.m./265 for 9 a.m. online/218 for 11:15 a.m. online/366 for 5:30 p.m.; Apr. 11 was 36 at 8 a.m./ 59 at 10 a.m./195 for 10 a.m. online/163 for 5:30 p.m. online; Apr. 18 was 31 for 8 a.m./54 for 10 a.m./205 for 10 a.m. online/291 for 5:30 p.m. online; and Apr. 25 was 22 for 8 a.m./50 at 10 a.m./120 for 10 a.m. online/392 for 5:30 p.m. online.

### Super Social Saints

Most months we offer a highlight of popular posts on Facebook and/or Instagram. In April, Music at Midday on Wednesday, March 10, featuring pianist Paul Sweet attracted 431 online guests and a full house in the nave. Also, on April 16, Father David and Josh's Family Friday video about how and why we light the Easter flame was viewed 101 times.

### E-News Editions Reduce by One per Week

Starting in May, the routine emailed news going out to those signed up to receive Constant Contact communications will reduce by one edition per week. The office is discontinuing the Tuesday e-news for the summer. You will continue to see the Monday email with links for Sunday service reservations, the end-of-workweek email with all the general parish news and updates, and an early Sunday email with links to the worship service bulletins for 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

### Office Closed for the Day of May 31

The church will be closed on Monday, May 31 to observe the Memorial Day holiday. As always, the answering service can catch and route any urgent calls to the church office.



## Calling All Golfers

The Bishop's Cup annual golf scramble raises funds to assist St. Crispin's Conference Center and Camp. At this inclusive camp, leaders strive to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of youth. Campers leave St. Crispin's forever changed by the beauty, joy and friendships found there. On May 15, the Bishop's Cup will be held at Buffalo Rock in Cushing. Whether you're a pro or a novice, you are welcome to join in this friendly tournament. Find details or sign up at [epiok.org/eventcalendardetails](http://epiok.org/eventcalendardetails).

## The Scouts at Saint John's

*"Some people look for a beautiful place.  
Others make a place beautiful."*

- Hazrat Inayat Khan

Happy May, everyone! The flowers are blooming, school will be out shortly, vacations are being planned, and Troop 153 and Venture Crew 153 are planning on a HOT Summer full of activities.

Troop 153 begins the month with an Eagle project and a Court of Honor. Mid-month, the monthly campout will occur with all patrols present at Camp Fred Darby at the Cherokee Nation Scout Ranch.

Camp Darby is located on 240 acres southeast of Tahlequah, Oklahoma in a hilly area on Barren Fork Creek, a tributary of the Illinois River. Troops enjoy the natural beauty and historic feel of Camp Darby year-round for weekend camping and canoeing trips down the Illinois River. Many District Camporees and training events are hosted at Camp Darby, as well as the Dad-and-Lad and Mom-and-Me programs.

The end of the month has our scouts attending and/or staffing Pine Tree, the first level in Leadership training.

Venture Crew 153 is still in the process of planning our calendar for the rest of the year and hopefully we will have exciting plans lined out next month.

*- Trina Moore*







## Birthdays

- 1 Russell Ramzel, Vail Wilcox
- 2 Paige Shelton Christian, Riley Shores
- 3 Clara Sabo
- 4 Candace Graham
- 5 Luke Baum, Marilyn Palik, Drake Pavlik
- 6 Tennyson Brown
- 7 Christopher Caldwell, Mary Waller, Peggy Woods
- 8 Doug Farquharson, Chris Gates, Kelly Jezek, Molly Lyons, Briana Rizley
- 9 Craig Jenkins
- 11 Betty Mertens
- 13 Michael Bedford, Cathy Dunkin
- 16 Betty McGranahan
- 17 Chase Boston, Sydney Harmon, Nanci Williams
- 18 Jim Palik, Tanner Randall
- 19 Mark Husband, Moira Pavlik
- 20 Phil Allen
- 21 Anna Byrd
- 22 Lakely Norwood
- 23 John Godwin, Kay Miller, Charles Robohm, Sue Young
- 24 Ellie Ed, Galt Tacker
- 25 Mike Cavert, Olivia Cline
- 27 Fran Little-Collins, Emily Ferguson, Emily Tidwell, Charlotte Vanderyt
- 28 Rita Bell
- 29 Kathleen Moss
- 30 Jerry Hoopert, Vivian Mitchell
- 31 Susan Erwin

## A Prayer for Birthdays

*Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*  
**From the Book of Common Prayer**

## Outreach: Edison Middle and High School

This spring, Father David has connected with the faculty liaison for the student leadership cohort at Edison Preparatory School, a community of approximately 1,600 students, 120 teachers and 20 staff members. In a recent meeting with faculty member Susan Griffin, our Rector learned some of the ways the Saint John's parish and people can re-connect with the school.

One of the outreach opportunities right away for parishioners is to sponsor a ticket for a senior to attend the Class of 2021 Senior Breakfast to be held later this month. Due to the pandemic, the senior class has been unable to host the numerous fundraisers they would traditionally hold. Because of that, they are working in other ways to provide wonderful graduation activities for all the seniors, with very limited funding. Senior Breakfast tickets are \$15 per student. If you would like to contribute to one or several tickets to help make the event accessible to all members of the Class of 2021, regardless of their ability to pay, simply email Mary Waller and she will send you back a copy of the donation letter with instructions on how to easily help. Father David has already underwritten five tickets!

We also facilitated other small but meaningful demonstrations of support. Recently, our church provided a few much-needed simple supplies to the school nurse's office. And, in April, Father David delivered donuts to the teachers on two "in service" work days, with notes to express appreciation for all they do. Josh Corsaro will be sharing teacher treats two more dates before the end of the semester. We give thanks to Krispy Kreme Donuts and Reasor's Grocery for their generosity in supporting this gesture of neighborly love.

And, in early May Father David and Josh will attend an Edison student leadership meeting for a lunch and listening session. Our Youth Ministry leaders are very excited to meet these young leaders and learn more about their perspectives on our community's needs and potential collaborations. Eagles helping eagles...that's something exciting to think about!

## Acolyte Programming Resumes

With in-person services expanding, the church is resuming the opportunities for youth to again serve Saint John's in the important role of acolyte.

Father David and Josh are looking for young people in the church who want to return to this interesting and important duty. They welcome new individuals who want to learn, join a team, and serve God and the parish in this way.

Saint John's also needs to hear from adults who might like to volunteer as team coordinators. One of those roles is as an Acolyte Warden. This warden is a member of the parish who is responsible for the recruitment, training, development, scheduling and supervision of the members of the Acolytes Guild. Call or email Josh or Father David if you are interested or have questions!



## Church Reopening Moves into Phase II

Father David and the Vestry are pleased to share that Saint John's moved into Phase II of our reopening plan the week of April 26. The biggest changes that this new phase permits include allowing service reservations to be expanded to 75 attendees, Wednesday night mass and Evensong can now be in person, and our guilds and groups may resume meeting in the building (though need to limit their total attendance and may not serve food).

If you are a group leader, be sure to contact Diana in the church office to confirm that your meeting time/day/location is available. If you are a Saint John's ministry group member, be sure to check with your team leader about the details.

To read all the policies for Phase II, visit the church's website COVID-19 operations planning page at [sjtulsa.org/reopening-plan](http://sjtulsa.org/reopening-plan). Our expansion of activities follows the reopening plan adopted by the Vestry last fall. We also remain in alignment with the protocols set by the Oklahoma Diocesan Office.

This Month at Saint John's Church  
May 2021 Newsletter  
Saint John's Episcopal Church  
4200 South Atlanta Place  
Tulsa OK 74105-4331

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Permit No. 54

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*Happy  
Mother's  
Day*

A Prayer for the "moms" in our lives...

We give you thanks for the mothers among us, and ask that you strengthen them in their daily tasks. Grant them wisdom in the lessons they teach, patience in the discipline they foster, and persistence in their promotion of decency and compassion, both by word and example.

We thank you for all motherly figures: grandmothers, aunts, sisters, wives, step-mothers, foster mothers, guardians, babysitters, teachers, health care providers, neighbors, friends, loved ones, and many others, who practice self-sacrifice and embody compassion to all who are privileged to be in their influence.

Remind us, Lord, to live with a child-like faith, curious to every wondrous mystery, attentive to your every instruction, obedient to your every command, and willing to share with every one of your children. We give you thanks, O God, who is a loving Mother and Father to us all, and in whose name we pray,

Amen.



*A Celebration of A New Ministry for  
The Rev. David Bumsted  
Thursday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m.*

*Save the dates,  
Bishop Poulson Reed  
here for two celebration days!*

*The Sacrament of Confirmation  
Sunday, May 16 at 10 a.m.*

Livestreamed, limited seating. Look for details to come from the office about availability or for an RSVP link.