

# The Evangelist



December 2021  
a Newsletter  
for our  
Parish and  
Church Family

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## Advent Greetings!

**Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!"**

I mentioned this from the pulpit very recently: Advent is my absolute favorite season of the Church Year. From the way the parish is decorated, to the music, right down to the very mood of the season, just about everything about this time of year is such a gift. A pre-Christmas gift perhaps. For me, the offering of this gift is the offering of yet another holy invitation. It's an invitation to listen to and contemplate once again the story of Israel's expectation of a redeeming Messiah. It's an invitation to follow in the footsteps of those that prepared themselves for the coming of the Messiah by repentance and self-examination. It's an invitation to follow that Messiah for the year to come.

As your pastor, priest, and brother in Christ, I hope you'll respond to that invitation this season! So much has happened in our world, in our community, and in our church, that I suspect that even the briefest moment of reflection, even the smallest turn towards God, will bear much fruit in our lives. After all, this season is meant to help us reflect on the peace of Jesus (among other things), but so often it becomes a mad dash, a grind perhaps, to get all the things in place for the holidays. Now more than ever, we need Christ's peace to enter into that dash, that grind, so that we can more fully enjoy ourselves and one another.

"See, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiv'n."

Of course, the end of this month brings the tidings of the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ! I am so looking forward to being with you for my first Christmas as rector of this great parish. We have several options for worship on Christmas Eve as we have services scheduled at 4:30 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11:15 p.m. The children and families of Saint John's are already working to make a memorable service for those that come for the 4:30 p.m. offering. Of course, the late evening services will honor God in the beauty of our tradition as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus. And, it will be my distinct honor and blessing to celebrate the Holy Eucharist with you on Christmas Day on Saturday at 10 a.m.

This is but a very small glimpse into how you can enjoy both Advent and Christmas here at Saint John's. I'm sure you'll find much more within the pages of this newsletter and across our various means of communication. Thus, a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to you, beloved! May Christ's glory fill your hearts with joy this December!

Yours,



The Rev. David Bumsted, Rector



## A Message from Our Senior Warden...



You are cordially invited to the 2021 all-parish holiday party on Thursday, December 9 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the church!

The Vestry is excited to be able to again host our Saint John's holiday gathering with all the food, fun, music, and beverages that make a mixer merry and bright. All are welcome and no reservations are needed. Come as you are and bring an appetite because The Palate is catering a delicious buffet of delightful dinner options. Wine and beer donated by the Vestry will be served along with non-alcoholic sparkling options. A small ensemble of bass, guitar and drum players will provide a jazzy soundtrack for our little winter wonderland in the Common Room. A nursery will be available.

- Susan Walker

## December Outreach: Refugee Resettlement Needs

In December, Saint John's Church is hosting an assistance drive to help Afghan families as they work toward resettling into our Tulsa community. We invite all parish members to participate. Simply purchase any of the items below and bring them to the church Common Room by 5 p.m. on Monday, December 20. There will be a table for these contributions in the room with more information about the project. This outreach is in partnership with The Afghan Community Care Team of Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma.

A list of the items the care workers have identified that are most in need are: ink pens, pencils, composition notebooks, backpacks, alarm clocks, clothes hanger sets, queen blankets and/or bedspreads, twin blankets and/or bedspreads, coffee makers, clothes irons, kitchen utensil sets, mixing bowl sets, kitchen towels, dish drying racks, and cutting boards.

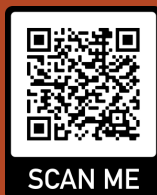
Catholic Charities has received confirmation of 800-850 Afghan refugees that have or will soon arrive in Tulsa and 1,000 in the Oklahoma City area. If you want to learn more about this resettlement program, please visit the website noted below. If you have a question about Saint John's December outreach initiative to help make this difficult transition just a little brighter for Afghan families, please contact Debbie Ainley in the office. Catholic Charities is the sole Afghan refugee resettlement agency in Oklahoma. This fall's 1,800 Afghans resettling in our state is the third largest community in the country, after only California (5,255) and Texas (4,481). Tulsa alone is set to welcome more than most states.

Photo credit: <https://cceok.org/refugees>



## Simple Giving by Smartphone

It's easier than ever to make a donation to Saint John's, especially on those days when you don't have cash in your wallet, forgot to write a check, or simply want to give fast but also get a receipt. To donate by scan, hover your smart phone over the QR code to the right and follow the steps.





# Music News - Joseph Arndt

December is full of wonderful musical offerings here at the church. Be sure to mark your calendar to join us for the events below in person as you are able. If you missed one of the concerts or services with music last month, be sure to watch and listen to them online as most were streamed on Facebook and available to enjoy at any time.

## Bach Choir Performance

The Oklahoma Bach Choir, an ensemble in residence at Saint John's Church, have prepared a stellar winter program for December 3. If you miss it, watch and listen to the recording on our Facebook page!



That Friday evening at 7 p.m., the choir presents Cantatas for the Advent Season. The choir and orchestra will perform BWV 35, 62 and 140.

This choir is dedicated to performing the sacred vocal music of Johann Sebastian Bach with period instruments.

## Classical Tulsa Spotlight

Joseph Arndt is the special guest of host Jason Heilman on Classical Tulsa Public Radio, 88.7 FM, Friday, December 3, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. In this show, Joseph shares a listening preview of the Bach concert the evening of December 3. Joseph also shares some of his favorite Advent instrumental and vocal music.



## Music for Advent

Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday December 5 at 5:30 p.m.  
Christmas Lessons and Carols on Sunday December 26 at 5:30 p.m.

# Thankful Tidings

It was exciting to have Father David and Beka with us for our annual Thanksgiving worship service. Following the mass, a delightfully delicious and festive Thanksgiving lunch was coordinated by Vestry member Nick Bradford and attended by dozens of parishioners. We give thanks to all who donated funds for décor, contributed wine and beer, gave to the turkey fund, baked and brought side dishes and desserts, and helped decorate the Common Room for this wonderful day.



# Treasurer Update



Hello and Happy Holidays!  
This month's update is an overview of our Saint John's Church operating revenue and expenses (combined) for 2021 through October:

**Income** - total income of \$976,920 is \$101,418 over budget for the year-to-date as of our third quarter. Total pledges were over budget for the year by \$3,800. Contributions and plate giving of \$77,171 were \$21,162 under budget for the year to date. Miscellaneous income (which includes transfers from our endowment) and bequests of \$227,151 are \$118,780 over budget.

**Expenses** - expenses of \$1,038,270 were \$62,459 under budget for the year to date.

Thus, as of October's end, the church budget reflected a net loss is \$61,349 vs. our budgeted (projected) deficit of \$225,228.

The Saint John's operating fund cash balance had a balance of \$60,192 as of October 31, 2021.

Christmas plate, end-of-year and any other gifts of thanks you would like to make to the church are deeply appreciated. Also, if you are able please consider catching up any pledges you have that may be outstanding for 2021.

- Bill Chevallier

## Family & Youth - *Josh Corsaro*

Advent is here so we will continue using our Storymakers Advent curriculum. Storymakers is an interactive curriculum designed to allow kids to play with the Biblical story and ultimately draw themselves into God's story. We will be doing these sessions in Powell Hall after the 10 a.m. services.

Acolytes: our acolyte program continues to grow, however we are looking for new members to join. This program is something for adults, children, and teens. If you are interested in helping out during the service as an acolyte, please contact me at [jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org](mailto:jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org).

Christmas Tableau: hey families, for those of you who do not know, Saint John's does a tableau of the Gospel reading during the Christmas Eve service. This year we will be using the Storymakers playbook. All kids, and even adults, are welcome to join in on this. All we ask is you reach out to me, Josh, so I can see who wants to be involved. Participants can be shepherds, angels, and potentially animals. We look forward to having this in person again!

Christmas Breaks: with the Christmas season coming, our Children's Chapel and Sunday school will have a break from December 26 through January 2.



Saint John's and the Episcopal Diocese encourage you to "give the gift of camp" for the summer of 2022 to a favorite camper as a holiday gift. You can also give a donation to the general scholarship fund to help make camp accessible, regardless of ability to pay. The Gift of Camp drive ends Dec. 15. Details at [www.epiok.org/gift-of-camp](http://www.epiok.org/gift-of-camp).

## For the Adults! - *Josh Corsaro*

New Adult Formation: Fr. Bumsted concluded his class on Turning Points, so we are welcoming Dr. William Lyons who will be teaching a survey of the Old Testament after the New Year. Dr. Lyons is a Professor of Old Testament Studies at Oral Roberts University. This class will cover the books of the Old Testament starting with Genesis and going through Malachi.

Young Adult's Brunch: We will not be able to do a Young Adult's Brunch this month because of the Advent and Christmas season. We will be looking to bring this back in January!

(cont. in next column...)

Iron Gate: the Iron Gate outreach crew meets the first Saturday of the month. We meet at the church and either use the van or carpool over to the location. Volunteers should meet at the church at 7:45 a.m. and then drive over to Iron Gate to work from 8-9:30 a.m. After that, we will find a place to get coffee. If you want to be a part of this, and are at least 13 years or older, please email me at [jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org](mailto:jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org). Volunteers need to register on the Iron Gate webpage ahead of each work shift.



## Scouting News - *Carolyn Davis*

Troop 153 scouts just returned from a great campout at beautiful Devil's Den State Park near Winslow, Arkansas, where they hiked, biked, entertained visiting Webelos, and enjoyed the crisp fall air. The next few campouts will be "camp ins" with fun indoor activities where our scouts will continue to work on scouting skills, build community, and make lasting memories during the unpredictable winter months.

You are invited to join us at Saint John's on Sunday, December 12 at 1:30 p.m. as we celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of Troop 153! We are proud to have Dan Ownby, National Chair of the BSA, and Eagle Scout of Troop 153, as our special guest speaker. Additionally, we will be celebrating excellence with an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Josh Philp on this special occasion. We hope to see you there. Speaking of Eagle Scouts, congratulations to Barrett Prather! Barrett is our newest Troop 153 Eagle Scout!

## Save the Date: December 12

### Waffle Brunch Part II

Bill Chevaillier and Tom Schroedter had so much fun making waffles for the coffee hour last month! And, they are returning for another round of whipping up waffles for all who come to the Common Room after the 10 a.m. worship service on December 12. Bring a friend to church and bring your appetite to the fellowship space after service. Just follow the path of yummy smells! We give many thanks to Bill and Tom for spearheading this terrific treat. Kudos!





## Getting to Know... the Vestry

This month we caught up with Vestry member Tom Schroedter to learn just a bit more about his life, loves, and servant leadership. Be sure to ask him about Greece or his grandkids next time you see him!



Q: Where were you born? A: I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, located on beautiful Lake Michigan (but too cold for me!).

Q: Did you grow up in the Episcopal tradition? A: I was raised in the Greek Orthodox Church. When my wife, Peggy, and I were married in 1983 (she was raised Methodist) we joined Saint John's Episcopal.

Q: Tell us about your family. A: Peggy and I have two sons, Paul and Philip. Philip lives in Austin, Texas. Paul lives in Tulsa with his wife, Haley. They have two children, Luke (6) and Libby (3).

Q: Where did you go to college and what did you study? A: I attended Duke University, where I received a Bachelor of Arts as a Political Science major, and I attended The University of Tulsa, where I obtained my Juris Doctorate.

Q: What are your hobbies and favorite pastimes? A: I enjoy playing tennis and golf. I love to eat Greek food and anything my wife cooks! And I like to read non-fiction. I am currently reading "The Splendid and the Vile" by Erik Larson, which is about Winston Churchill and the bombing of London during World War II.

Q: Where have you traveled and where would you still like to visit? A: So far, Greece, the Amalfi Coast, Spain and Portugal...along with any Caribbean island. My Bucket List includes traveling to Paris to attend the French Open tennis tournament.

Q: What are some other ways you serve at Saint John's? A: In addition to my vestry duties, I am a member of an usher team and on the church's Finance Committee. And very recently I have also served as Bill Chevallier's assistant in cooking/serving Sunday morning brunch at the church!

Q: What three words would you use to describe our church community to others? A: Those would be: 1. Caring, 2. Inviting, 3. Faithful (and fun!).



## Getting to Know...the Altar Guild

In this month's Q&A with the Altar Guild, Peggy Woods shared a bit about her family and one of her passions – helping couples plan their wedding at Saint John's Church.

Q: Tell us about your family. A: I was married to Robert "Woody" Woods after I graduated from OU and he graduated from Stanford. My dear husband passed away in 2018. We have a daughter, Abby (Woods) Black who lives in Boise, Idaho, and works as a business branding officer. Her husband, Will, is an optometrist and they have two amazing children, Juliett and Annalea.

Q: How far back do your roots here go? A: Truly, since the beginning of the parish. Dr. Eckel of Trinity (the Rev. E. H. Eckel, Jr., Rector) sent my folks to help start the fledgling parish on 41st Street. And, my future father-in-law was instrumental in the building of the church. Almost all of my family has been married and buried at Saint John's and Abby was baptized here. Along with Woody and I being "cradle" Episcopalians thanks to our parents, our grandparents on both sides and my great-grandparents were also Episcopal.

Q: In addition to being a member of the Altar Guild, you are also the wedding coordinator at our church. What does that involve? A: After a bride and groom have met with our rector and get the "green light" for their marriage, I help guide them through all the details that pertain to the church other than the sacrament. I meet with the couple to listen to their vision for the service and corresponding logistics. This may include the music, flowers, reception plans, and generally calming nerves. I serve as liaison to the broader Altar Guild, coordinate with the photographer or videographer on the day of the wedding, go to the rehearsal, and of course be present on the "big day" to ensure all the little details are in place. I followed Betty Swindle in this position about 25 years ago and simply love it. It has become my passion and mission!

Q: What are a few of your hobbies? A: I am an avid needle-pointer and have made several of the church kneelers. I have also stitched projects for Holy Family Cathedral, Boston Avenue Church, and a church in Norman. One of my favorite pastimes has been needle-pointing a series of stand-up Santa Clauses. I've made about sixty of them. I also love to read historical fiction.



## New Saint John's Banner to be Dedicated on December 12

Father David will reveal and bless the new Saint John's banner on Sunday, Dec. 12 during the 10 a.m. service. Our talented stitchers at Saint John's collaborated to provide a needlepoint banner to reflect the symbolism of our parish and celebrate the beauty of church. The artist was able to capture the important aspects and details of our sanctuary in her interpretation on canvas. Stitchers on the project were Peggy Woods and Dianne Schooley. We wish to extend a huge thank you to Dona Morris for her generosity to make this project possible. Look for more information about the banner's creation and symbolism in our January Evangelist.



## Getting to Know Our Singers

Meet choir member Caleb Ricketts, the new tenor section leader during Sunday morning services and a Chamber Choir member. We hope you enjoy getting to know just a little more about him in this interview!

Q: Where were you born? A: I was born in Danville, Virginia, but my family moved to Broken Arrow when I was four years old and that's where I have grown up.

Q: Were you raised Episcopalian? A: No. My parents met at Rhema Bible Training Center in Broken Arrow and that church was what led them to move back here when I was young. Like many Oklahomans, the Evangelical world was my upbringing. At the end of my freshman year (April of 2018) at the University of Tulsa I was contacted by Trinity Episcopal to join their choir. My first service there was the first liturgical service that I had ever attended. While initially quite the culture shock to my "charismatic" upbringing, the rich music of the service was quick to draw me in. In my past three years as an Episcopalian, I have grown further invested in the enriching musical standards and deep traditions of the faith.

Q: How did you find Saint John's? A: I am happy to say that Saint John has been an exciting new addition to my life in the past year! The pandemic unfortunately robbed me of nearly three semesters of my college choir, but thankfully I met Joseph Arndt and had the chance to join Chamber Choir here. Here I've been blessed with the opportunity to sing for many stunning Evensongs with an equally stunning ensemble. The monstrous works that we have tackled in the past year such as Howells's Dallas Canticles or Finzi's "Lo, the Full Final Sacrifice" have been truly exalted experiences.



Q: What is your favorite style of music? A: My music tastes are an ever-changing tree, often molding with whatever I am currently working on or feel passionate about. Currently I am quite fond of vocal jazz groups of the 1970s and 1980s, such as The Singers Unlimited, The Real Group, and of course, The Manhattan Transfer.

Q: Tell us about your family. A: I have been married almost two months to the lovely Sarah Ricketts. Our furry family consists of our cats, Huxley and Cassandra. They are the light of my wife and I's life and made the often-sad pandemic times a little brighter for us.

Q: What other professional roles do you enjoy? A: I am a manager at Lone Wolf Banh Mi downtown. If you need kimchi fry recommendations - I'm your guy! I am also a private voice teacher, and after working on my own for a few months I have officially joined on as faculty at the Jennings Music Academy in Tulsa. In my performance career I manage, write, and am the frontman for my indie rock band, The Blue Hues. Our music is streaming on all platforms. We have two new songs coming out soon, including one that I wrote for my wife!

Q: What is an unusual interest that your Saint John's friends might find surprising to learn about you? A: I have a deep passion for incredibly spicy foods. The kitchen at Lone Wolf knows this and occasionally makes me hot sauce with ten times the amount of extract that the recipe calls for. I am not one who tries to convince you that I don't feel anything - I do - I just love the rush that comes from it. Bring on the heat!

## Recap of Our Ingathering Sunday

Father David, the church staff, and the Saint John's Vestry extend a big thank you to all the parishioners who attended our annual pledge drive's culminating weekend and turned in their commitment cards on November 21. If you were not able to attend that Sunday, it is never too late to call in, mail in, or go online and make a pledge to support this parish for the fiscal year 2022. Spare pledge cards are in the pews.

*Got Greens? Donate Them!*

If you have magnolia branches, evergreen boughs, or holly to spare in your yard, the Altar Guild would love to receive them. Simply drop green donations by the Saint John's east door the week of December 20-23. They will be incorporated in the "greening" of the church for Christmas! Need a greens pick-up? Call Daphne Wise at (918) 605-9781 and she'll arrange to gather your gift!

## DDK Bible Study, Discernment in 2022

Looking ahead to the New Year, please note that the Daughters of the King will be hosting a new study of women of the Bible, beginning January 6, 2022. Father David will lead the discussions and the first female figure will be Sarah. Please join the Daughters from 11 a.m. to noon in the church library for this class. Everyone is welcome!

Also, the Saint John's chapter of the Daughters of the King will start an exploratory group for those women who are interested in learning more about the ministry's mission and possibly joining. The discernment period for prospective members is three months, beginning in January 2022. The days and times for meeting will be determined based upon the schedules of the participants. If you are interested, please join the Daughters on January 6 at 10 a.m. in the church library. If you are unable to attend the January meeting, please email [janiceingle@me.com](mailto:janiceingle@me.com).



## Recap of November Outreach

A supply drive delivery to Emergency Infant Services took place this week! Thank you to all parishioners who shopped for and brought much-needed items for EIS client families to the church. We filled the entire back of Father David's truck!

We are thankful for all the work of the EIS staff, including our own Michael Turner. They report the highest visitor use to date so far this fall. Our November outreach is a big help to meet the emergency needs for Tulsa families in critical situations.





# Call for Christmas Flowers

Every year the Altar Guild and Flower Committee work hard to decorate the church for Christmas. The transformation is always breathtaking! We rely on contributions from individuals to purchase the greens, poinsettias, and other supplies that help make our already-beautiful church even more festive.

Please consider a contribution to the Altar Fund. Simply use one of the envelopes found in the pews to make your contribution. Or, cut out the form below and return it to the church. Alternatively, you can give through this newsletter's "scan me" QR code (on page 2), or via the church website "giving" page, and indicate Christmas Flowers in the notes line. Donors will be recognized in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. Your faithful flower fund support helps keep the church looking beautiful all year long. Thank you!



# Birthdays

Meredith A, Gentry B, Lynne B., Betsy B., Meray B., Martha B., Bob B., Judy C., Bill C., Hillary C., Edith C., Steve C., Kari C., Jimmy C., Tommi C., Nancy D., Julio D., Teresa D., Wythe D., George D., Lannnnne D., Terri D., Sherri D., Bodie D., Leah E., Adrinne E., Dwayne E., Pat E., Charlene F., Linda F., Kathy F., Ellie F., Christine F., Eliza Jane F., Natnalie G., Mark G., Judy H., Marvin H., Penny J., Dorian K., Steve L., Lindsey L., Bud M., Ann M., Gene M., Martha M., Judy M., Marilyn M., Jack P., Julia P., Ellen P., Toni R., Eva S., Dianne S., Rowan S., David S., Carolyn S., Jeff S., Jason S., Jennifer S., Fred S., Piper S., Kristine T., Michael V., Cheryl W., Brad W., Mickey W., Daphne W.

## Christmas Flowers Donation Form

To contribute for Christmas flowers, please use one of the envelopes in the pews or 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 Altar Guild, marked for Christmas. All contributions are due by Friday, December 17.

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Passings

Lindsey Sherrod  
David Carder  
Joseph W. Morris

## Pledge Envelopes


Do you need weekly pledge/giving envelopes for your contributions to the church? If so, please contact Debbie Ainley in the church office at [dainley@sjtulsa.org](mailto:dainley@sjtulsa.org).

# Help Scout Troop 153 Celebrate Sixty Years!

Since 1961, Troop 153 has helped more than 800 young men develop outdoor, leadership, and citizenship skills. The Eagle rank has been earned by 139 scouts in the troop's history. The Troop's sixtieth anniversary celebration begins with a ceremony in Saint John's sanctuary on December 12 at 1:30 p.m., featuring Josh Philp's Eagle Court of Honor and comments by Troop 153 Eagle Scout and current National Board Chair of Boy Scouts of America, Dan Ownby. A reception will follow in Powell Hall. For further information, please contact Deanne Hughes, event chair, at (405) 202-9605.







This Month at Saint John's Church  
December 2021 Newsletter  
Saint John's Episcopal Church  
4200 South Atlanta Place  
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*Advent  
Lessons & Carols*

Sunday, December 5  
at 5:30 p.m.



*Christmas  
Lessons & Carols*

Sunday  
December 26  
at 5:30 p.m.

