



THE EVANGEL

April 2020

WEBSITE: www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING March 18, 2020

- Certificates of Deposit were renewed at 2.23%
- February was financially strong month. It was noted that the congregation does well with pledge payments and contributions.
- Father Jim and Father Mario have reviewed Latino ministry funds. Expenditures are to be approved by the Bishop's Committee.
- Shrove Tuesday pancake supper generated \$582.00 that will be put into the account designated for the kitchen fire suppression system.
- Senior Warden is working on a disaster plan to be used in the event of hurricane or other catastrophe. He suggested the diligence be kept contacting congregation members especially if they live alone.
- Junior Warden reported that new sacristy lock, parish hall doorbell, and safer door mats have been accomplished. Repair to the parish hall floor is under consideration
- Discussion was held regarding response to COVID-19 pandemic.



A kindly reminder that St. Edmund Church expenses remain even during unusual times as these. Pledge payments and contributions may be mailed to the church.

Upcoming Events

April 5
Palm/Passion Sunday

April 9
Maundy Thursday

April 10
Good Friday

April 12
Easter Sunday

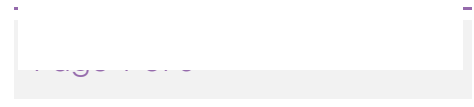
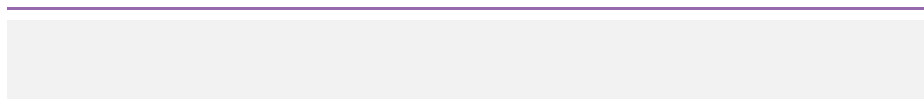
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all St. Edmund Church services and meetings are cancelled during April. Check email communications regarding on-line worship and prayer opportunities

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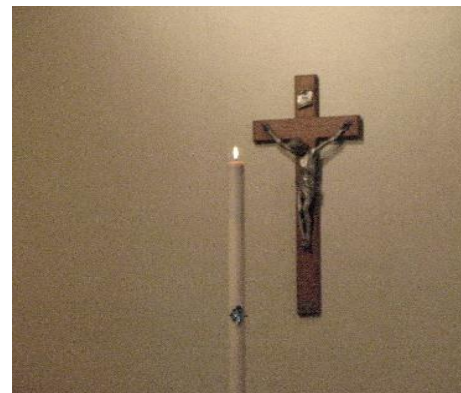
PRIEST – IN - CHARGE

It seems so strange and helpless to be in a situation where the unknown governs our movement, our thought and even our lives. Normalcy seems to be but a dream. I did not get up on this 5th Sunday in Lent and prepare to celebrate Mass with my church family. Instead, I watched a Mass from the National Cathedral. It was good, but I found myself trying to interact with a television set and it was dry. The Hebrew Scripture, Ezekiel 37:1-14 is a meaningful one for where we are in our seemingly endless drumbeat of bad news regarding Covid 19. It is the story of the dry bones and can they live. In many ways it reminds me of the present situation in our church. In many ways we seem disconnected. The strength of the story is that God breathes new life into those bones. Death is overcome. The Gospel lesson reflects that same thought as Jesus raises Lazarus from the grave (John 11:1-45). As the church we are alive; the building is not the church, but a place where church happens. We are the church whether we are in a building or on the street.

In order to maintain our church connection, each member of the Bishops Committee (vestry) will be calling our members. Please feel free to call on each other also. Meanwhile the world of communication is opening up for me and others. Zoom is a way we can communicate in a forum. In the meanwhile I invite you to explore Zoom on your computers and phones. Sign up on Zoom.us with your email and it is free.

There are other ways to worship at home. The nationalcathedral.org offers daily Morning and Evening Prayer as well as Sunday Mass. Please join me on Facebook live as I am offering Morning Prayer and Compline. The main objective at this point is for all to stay healthy. All of you are in my prayers. May God bless us and protect us and also our nurses, doctors and emergency responders.

Fr. Jim+



Bishop's Committee

Senior Warden Bob Harrington
Junior Warden Patricia DiCioccio
Kent DeBruler
Pat Novean
Michael Pooser
Sandy Stantz
Vivian Stewart

Irene Pooser, Clerk
Pat Moore, Treasurer

Roy Michaud & Bill Stephenson
Property Managers

DEACON

In a few days start the most sacred week in our spiritual tradition: Holy Week. It begins with Palm/Passion Sunday, leads into Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and culminates with Easter Sunday. Only a short while ago we anticipated observing these holy days in a much different manner than what we are encountering now. Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions we will miss those special liturgies and rituals that are such an integral part of our religious life.

But as in the case of all loses, we will also experience gains. With just a little reflection we can recognize new dimensions to Holy Week in our lives. These will extend from appreciation for Holy Week services –to- regret for previously not taking full advantage of what has been offered in church during these days –to- new insight into the deeper spiritual significance of Holy Week in our life of faithfulness to the mission and ministry of Jesus.

Our current adherence to social distancing and isolation provides opportunity to experience the events observed in Holy Week differently. We may have a new insight into the experience of the crowds welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem with palm branches and hosannas. Like them, we were earlier planning for palms and joyful observance; and like them we now know the disappointment and even concern over the unknown as circumstance quickly take a deadly turn.

Maundy Thursday themes become vividly real for us. We struggle with understanding the meaning of having the Eucharist in our lives and know the reality of the symbol of serving others as indicated in Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Like Jesus and the disciples at Gethsemane we can appreciate the tension between fearing and denying what may come.

Suffering associated with Good Friday has a new feel. Like the women of Jerusalem and Mary, the Lord's mother, who encounter him carrying the cross, we share anguish for ourselves and others as well as empathy for all who are health, financially, and emotionally impacted by the pandemic. Jesus while dying on the cross had friends and his mother with him. So many now die from this virus without loved ones allowed to comfort and support.

Holy Saturday is most often a forgotten day. It is a time of waiting. Richard Lischer wrote in a recent issue of The Christian Century: *After the horrors of Good Friday, Saturday is a day of decompression and meditation. In a time of pandemic, our new season of Holy Saturday invites us to reexamine our spiritual bearing when, as Psalm 46 says, the kingdoms are tottering, the earth is melting, and desolations threaten the earth. "Be still and know that I am God." The command sounds harsh, but it isn't a rebuke, as in "Be quiet." It's an invitation to enter the supernatural stillness of God. It means "Don't be afraid of what comes next."*

At the Easter Vigil, the single light of the Paschal Candle dispels the darkness as the deacon chants "The light of Christ." Easter morning, of course, is joyful and bright as the darkness of previous days' struggles disappear with the hope and trust provided by the Resurrection of Jesus. Although celebrated differently this year, Easter will have special meaning for us during these trying times as we hold the hope and trust shared by Christians throughout the world. *Alleluia, Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!*

---Deacon Robert Vaughn

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- ❖ A big thank you to all who shared their news with our church family. We need to remain close in spirit during these days!
- ❖ Margaret Shillinglaw is still working on therapy for her shoulder and hopes to be able to do more things soon. Margaret asks that God bless our first responders, doctors, nurses, government and all who are keeping us safe. She sends a big thank you to Deacon Robert for sharing all the links for church.
- ❖ I had a wonderful phone visit with Carolyn and Ron Robins. They are doing well but ask that you continue to uplift their son Scott in your prayers. He has a very rare form of cancer; the doctors felt his life expectancy was very short but he has lived almost a year. Carolyn said she knows in her heart that the prayers of our church and the Daughters of the King are truly helping.
- ❖ Wendy Carter wants to wish our St.Ed's family a Happy Easter. She and her mother are planning on postponing their trip back to Maine for a while and will remain here in Arcadia longer this spring. She sends blessings to all.
- ❖ Please continue your prayers for that wonderful Bob Stantz as he meets health challenges. Bob and Sandy's daughter, Shelley, is coming down to spend some time with her parents. They are really looking forward to seeing her. They aren't sure how long she can stay but they hope to be able to introduce her to some of their church family. Part of the excitement is she is bringing her little dog with her. Woody is so excited to have friends over to play again. Sandy thinks he is getting bored with just Bob and Sandy!
- ❖ Connie and George DeWitt's son and daughter-in-law showed up at their door recently. They were camping in one of the National Parks and were told they had to vacate because they were shutting down. Truly was a blessing. They did all of Connie and George's shopping before they left so as to spare the "old folks" from being exposed. Connie's prayer every day is that the Lord gives the scientists the wisdom to find a way to stop the spread of the virus.
- ❖ Larry and Patty DiCioccio have been staying quarantined and are still feeling good. Their prayers are going our for all.
- ❖ I had a wonderful visit with John Virgilio. I heard later that Annie had suffered a terrible fall but is recovering. They are such wonderful, kind people.
- ❖ The McConnells are having an adventure in prospecting. No, they are not mining for gold or precious metals; they are searching for the best places to obtain the necessities of life. Joking aside, they are hanging close to home, trying to stay well and praying that each of us do the safe. They find that the National Cathedral provides a sense of comfort in their daily worship events.
- ❖ James Bianco is recovering from a successful hernia operation and is looking forward to getting up and around again. Steve is currently working from home due to the FSW college shutdown but they thankfully have not lost income. Their family has been blessed to not have anyone sick. They miss their church family very much!

APRIL BIRTHDAY

6th – Dilys McIntyre
8th – Pamela Apps
9th – Pat Stip
14th – Mary Tucker
14th – Babara Gaulin
22th – Margaret Lewis
23rd – Bob Euerle

APRIL ANNIVERSARY

9th – Anne & John Virigilio
11th – Dilys & Harry McIntyre
24th – Nancy Jo & Robert Vaughn

- ❖ Dante Lanzetta shared good news and bad. The good-after a delay of six weeks, Ray the builder finally started on the addition to their Florida “tin house”. As long as building remains an “essential industry” he will continue. Staying here until the end of May will be better than staying in motels for two nights on the way home. The bad-Dante knows that his wife Jane’s lungs must be protected. That is why she never goes out of the house. Dante says he cannot believe how many people going to stores show NO sign that they understand “six feet.” Dante’s fear is that if someone were to infect Dante and he, God forbid, were to pass it to her. Dante says he hopes everyone can resist the urge to gather; it may create an illusion of normalcy, but the illusion can cost lives. Staying “together” apart now may be the only way to ensure we come together again later.
- ❖ Bill Bless was forced to depart Florida a week early due to the Corona virus. His three months in Arcadia seemed to “fly by”. It gave him great pleasure assisting Father Jim and Deacon Robert at the 8 AM service. He appreciated Father Jim’s phone call to insure that he was well and safe. Unfortunately he returned to Delaware under “stay at home” orders. He was able to obtain groceries and some much needed paper goods. His children and grandchildren in Rhode Island are well and adapting to home schooling via the internet. All are in good health. Meanwhile there in Delaware he finds it very strange and eerie not to see people out and about and very little to no traffic on the roads. He is already looking forward to returning to Arcadia and St. Ed’s next winter. We will miss him until then.
- ❖ Robert & Nancy Jo Vaughn are adhering to “stay-at-home” especially since they both have history of respiratory issues (not to mention age!) Robert continues his semi-retired part-time employment; since it is a dialysis clinic, it will not be shutting down but always has taken infection control seriously.
- ❖ Mike and Irene Pooser were blessed with a few days of babysitting Elizabeth Grace in Gainesville thanks to a break in the daycare schedule. It is amazing how fast she is growing; she remains loving, happy and constantly learning.
- ❖ Life has really changed for our world, our country, our state, our church and our families. I pray that life will someday return to normal. Please remember in your prayers those who have suffered losses or are ill.
Irene

UNITED THANK OFFERING



The United Thank Offering (UTO) in-gathering was scheduled for Sunday, March 29th. Due to the cancellation of church services the in-gathering is postponed. We will schedule it once a normal St. Edmund Church schedule resumes.

In this time of anxiety please continue to consider those small blessings we each have and use the UTO boxes for a token of gratitude.

Nancy Jo Vaughn, UTO Coordinator, St. Edmund ECW