

# THE EVANGEL

January 2020

WEBSITE: [www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com](http://www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com)

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## THE NEW YEAR

As the new year begins,  
let us give thanks for what we hold dear:  
our health, our family, and our friends.

Let us let go of grudges, anger, and pains;  
these are nothing but binding chains.  
Let us live in the most loving ways each day,  
the God-conscious way.  
Let us be open and serve all who are in need,  
regardless of race, color, or creed.

Let us keep Jesus in our hearts and do as he would do.  
Let us lead from darkness to light,  
from falsehood to truth, and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one,  
accepting all, rejecting none.

May our year be filled with peace, prosperity, and love.  
May God's blessing shower upon us,  
bestowing upon each of us a bright, healthy,  
and peaceful new year.



## Upcoming Events

**January 2**  
**10:00 am Daughters of the King**

**January 15**  
**5:30 pm ECW**  
**6:00 pm Men's Group**  
**7:30 pm Bishop's Committee**

**January 21**  
**4:00 pm "Exploring Our Faith"**

**January 28**  
**4:00 pm "Exploring Our Faith"**

**327 West Hickory Street**  
**Arcadia, FL 34266**  
**(863) 494-0485**

The Rev. James McConnell  
Priest-In-Charge  
(863) 368-1465  
sailor2926@gmail.com

The Rev. Robert Vaughn, Deacon  
(863) 244-1369  
vaughn\_rj@yahoo.com

The Rev. Mario Castro, Latino Missioner  
(813) 562-2467  
mcastro@redeemersarasota.org

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## PRIEST – IN - CHARGE

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At this writing the door is about to slam closed on 2019. The year 2019 reads like a “Tale of Two Cities”. We have celebrated the joy of new people joining in with us as well as my personal trials with a life threatening incident. I am grateful to a church that has supported me and my family with prayer and presence. I have now leapt over all of the hurdles and will be back to work on January 15 at Vestry and on the 19th at 8:00 and 10:00. Happy New Year!

Our Christmas mass was very special; the Church was beautifully decorated. I was proud of our choir and program and, of course, I am thankful for Father Williamson’s celebration and words. I am especially thankful to the parish and ECW for the cash gift and the great time of fellowship following a beautiful service. I am also grateful to our faithful Deacon Robert who keeps our ship of faith on course.

While Christmas is viewed by modern secular society as the end point of celebration, we must remember that following Christmas day there are still twelve days left and then Epiphany on January 6. In fact Epiphany in the Orthodox world is known as “little Christmas”.

We begin a packed church year of Christmas followed by Epiphany melting into Lent and then into Easter. It is time to claim our relationship with church orthodoxy as we explore each of these seasons and the power of its message. See you in church.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Fr. Jim McConnell+



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### SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

#### October Average Attendance

8:00 - 9  
10:00 - 33  
7:00 - 15

#### November Average Attendance

8:00 - 11  
10:00 - 34  
7:00 - 10

#### December Average Attendance

8:00 - 11  
10:00 - 35  
7:00 - 17

**Christmas Eve:** 59

#### Bishop's Committee

Senior Warden Joe Mancuso  
Junior Warden Charlene Michaud  
Patricia DiCioccio  
Bob Harrington  
Pat Novean  
Michael Pooser  
Vivian Stewart

Irene Pooser, Clerk  
Pat Moore, Treasurer

Roy Michaud & Bill Stephenson  
Property Managers

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## DEACON

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I want to thank the congregation for your generous gift at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. I enjoyed doing the Advent program and supper. Thanks to all who participated; special thanks to Yvette Dalpe for providing music, Pearl Kiellman for making sure we had a dessert, and all who assisted with the meal clean-up.

I'm thinking about the annual transition from one year to another. The new year gives us the opportunity to review the previous year and generates reflection on future hopes and goals.

Additionally, we are also leaving one decade heading into another. I have now completed seven decades of life. Looking back on all of them, I recognize that the just completed decade (2010-2019) is the most politically turbulent in my lifetime. Certainly the 1960s compete for that designation, but for me, that decade (due to my age and opportunity for positive exposure to a wider world beyond my childhood) was experienced as exciting and inspirational.

The past decade for St. Edmund Church has, for the most part, been positive for our faith community. We lost some of our faithful members, such as Brooke Diamond and Adrienne Daly, but gained a number of new congregational members. During that time we experienced the pastoral ministry of three priests as vicar/priest-in-charge. Overall, the decade was a time of the most outreach ministry in the history of St. Edmund Church with the food pantry, the work of the ECW, scholarships for local graduating high school seniors, the effort that resulted in the establishment of DeSoto Cares Homeless Services, the "St. Edmund Has Heart" dinner for outreach funding, benevolence and community outreach assistance, and the inclusion of some outreach funding in the annual budget. In addition to our outreach ministry, I am proud of our excellent 2018 observance of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Edmund Church. During this past decade we have also witnessed the development of a specialized ministry with the local Latino population. During this decade three people who had been part of our congregation were ordained: two priests and one deacon.

This past year has been a mixed experience. We continue to maintain membership levels and through the generosity of congregation members keep adequate annual funding. Outreach ministry has slowed but we are able to continue to offer assistance to those in need. In 2019 we did not have the "St. Edmund Has Heart" dinner and have used the budget amount and outreach designated funds to meet needs. We have, of course, been concerned for Father Jim McConnell as he dealt with medical issues the later half of 2019; we are grateful for the availability and ministry of Father Jim Williamson during this time.

I am now completing 19 years as deacon at St. Edmund Church. I find it gratifying to know I can always depend on the congregation to respond to whatever need or concern that is presented. We have a good spirit, welcoming attitude, and positive sense of community as a congregation. I hope that 2020 can be a year to build upon these attributes for even stronger mission and ministry. Looking forward into the new decade, I think we have some challenges ahead. St. Edmund Church, as well as the Episcopal Church, will be much different at the end of the decade. With a good sense of mission, prayerful focus, and dedicated leadership we will meet the challenges ahead.

Happy New Year!

--Deacon Robert Vaughn

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## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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- ❖ We were blessed at St. Edmund's with another beautiful Christmas Midnight Mass followed by a festive reception. The Christmas Music Program before the Mass was really special this year! Hope you were there to share it with us. While we continue to pray for a return to good health for Father McConnell, we are so thankful for the presence and loyal service of Father Jim Williamson. And, of course, we are so blessed at St. Edmund's by the constant devotion, caring and organizational skill of Deacon Robert Vaughn.
- ❖ So many people did so much to make that evening so wonderful. Thank you all. I would like to thank some members who were so instrumental in helping "behind the scenes": for Christmas Eve: Rosanne Collins did a wonderful job arranging those beautiful poinsettias, Ruth Adams polished all the silver and prepared the altar and Linda Gromen set up the Parish Hall for the reception. And a big thank you goes to Pearl Kiellman, Connie DeWitt and Rosanne Collins who helped Mike and me "dismantle" the Parish Hall after the reception.
- ❖ Father McConnell reported that on Christmas morning he and Carolyn were still awash in the glow and warmth of the Christmas Eve worship service and the following reception. In his words "Beautiful!" They are now excitedly awaiting the January 3rd arrival of daughter Shelley, granddaughter Gracie and great-grand Lucas. They will be here from Wyoming until the 7th.
- ❖ Please remember Rosanne Collins in your prayers as she flies to Massachusetts to be with her sister Joyce who is not well. Rosanne is the oldest sibling and her family has had a rough three years. I know how much her presence must mean to her "faraway" family.
- ❖ Connie and George DeWitt's three children and their spouses were here at Thanksgiving time. Their granddaughter was here also with her nine month old twin boys. Their son also thought it was a good idea to bring his two dogs. The DeWitts enjoyed all of them and the mad house confusion and would not change a thing about the visits. They were blessed that they could all be together.
- ❖ Bob Harrington reports a very busy December. He welcomed daughters Denise and Karen for the weekend of December 6th. Then both he and Pat flew to Washington, DC, to enjoy watching Pat's granddaughter Katy dance in her recital. She is a very good ballerina and they enjoyed an early Christmas with daughter Joey and her husband Nick. After a quiet Christmas Day, Bob traveled to Clearwater Beach to enjoy a visit with Carmel's sister Bernadette who traveled from Ireland with her entire family.

### JANUARY BIRTHDAY

1<sup>st</sup>-Nancy Plymale

2<sup>nd</sup>-Charlene Michaud

5<sup>th</sup>-Rosanne Collins

6<sup>th</sup>-Bob Anson

7<sup>th</sup>-Sara Kuhn

12<sup>th</sup>-Nancy Jo Vaughn

12<sup>th</sup>-Robert Vaughn

23<sup>rd</sup>-Bob Euerle

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

12<sup>th</sup>-Carolyn & Ron Robins

- ❖ Ruth Adams' family had a special Christmas with Stephanie's dad Wayne, her sister Kristine and her husband Paul visiting. They had lots of food and enjoyed each other's company.
- ❖ Joe and Phylis Mancuso are looking forward to a visit from their grandson Danny and his girlfriend Shannon. They will be arriving on January 3rd and staying until the 12th. Joe and Phylis cannot wait and are just hoping the weather is nice, as they enjoy doing outdoor activities. Danny has been here several times, but Shannon has only been to Disney, so they are going to show her some of the "real" Florida. Another bit of news from the Mancuso family: Joe and Phylis are going to be grandparents again come July! Their son Joe and daughter-in-law Nicole are expecting. These grandparents are kind of hoping for a girl this time, but no matter as long as it is a healthy child!  
By the way, we have been truly blessed at St. Edmund's by the difficult, constant work and effort made on our behalf by our wonderful Senior Warden, Joe Mancuso. Thank you, Joe!
- ❖ Nancy Jo and Robert Vaughn enjoying sharing their home with the congregation for the St. Edmund Christmas party. I know that everyone attending had a fantastic time and we appreciate so much their hard work. The Vaughns are now looking forward to their January "birthday weekend" plans of attending the Cape Coral Arts Festival and a couple of days at a waterside cottage at Matlacha, FL.
- ❖ The Stewart family (actually Vivian) found it very difficult to adjust to this year's calendar of having a compressed timeframe between Thanksgiving and Christmas! Of course she says it would have worked out better if she had planned her Thanksgiving prep and Christmas gift purchasing and wrapping a bit better. She found herself wrapping, packing and shipping immediately after their Thanksgiving guests left! Here in Arcadia their family consists of only herself and her husband Terry and their wonderful church family at St. Edmund's. Terry has an upcoming surgery in January so their calendar is full of appointments. They have a son in Georgia who is married to a lovely gal and four grandkids ranging from 14 to 24 plus two dogs who were all able to come for Thanksgiving! They had a blessed, delicious, fun and memorable holiday. She knew it was a success when her 14 year old granddaughter wanted the recipe for her Mincemeat Cranberry Pie and the 24 year old granddaughter wanted her Stuffing Recipe. Of course, she shared! When they all left on Saturday, Vivian found herself having to shop, wrap and then ship all the Christmas gifts. If only she had them all ready prior to Thanksgiving, they could have taken everything with them! Reminder to "self": don't do that again! The Stewarts want to send New Year Blessings to all their St. Edmund family, may everyone be happy and healthy. May God Bless You All.
- ❖ Haila Lewis and Larry and Patty DiCioccio also sent Happy New Year wishes to all!
- ❖ Mike and Irene Pooser enjoyed a wonderful Bourne Christmas in Nokomis at Irene's brother's and sister-in-law's home and are looking forward to Elizabeth's third birthday in February in Gainesville. Things are busy up there as their new home continues to progress toward completion.
- ❖ A big thank you goes to Roy Michaud and Bill Stephenson as they continue their never-ending work as our Building and Grounds Co-Managers. Those guys are the best!
- ❖ The 2020 Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles calendar is filling. I call this my "flower ministry." Please see Irene if you have special dates for Memorials or Thanksgiving.

See you in church!

Irene



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## ST. EDMUND CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY 12/22/2019

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## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

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The Daughters of the King (DOK) is a lay order of the Episcopal Church dedicated to prayer and service. The St. Edmund chapter was formed in 2006. The weekly prayer list is maintained by this group and used as focus for their prayer. The St. Edmund chapter meeting is the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 am. See chapter president Ruth Adams about becoming a member of DOK. This month's meeting is on Thursday, January 2nd, at 10:00 am.

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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

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The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) had a busy December, 2019!

We meet once a month (not in summer) on the third Wednesday at 5:30 at Beef O'Brady's. We welcome all women to join us, share a meal, listen to a thoughtful devotion, endure a (usually short) business meeting and enjoy fellowship. Hope to see you there!

We once again organized a Christmas Toy Drive to benefit children of all ages who are receiving services from the Safe Children's Coalition, an organization that helps families experiencing crisis situations. The people of St. Edmund's were so kind and generous as always. Once again, there were enough toys donated to fill the back of our truck. The staff was so thankful for our support. A big thank you goes to everyone who helped with the collection!

The ECW, the Men's Group and their guests enjoyed a delightful Christmas Dinner Party at Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuit. Delicious food and wonderful fellowship was shared. We appreciated so much the caroling led by Deacon Robert Vaughn!

The ECW has provided Ordo Calendars for the people of St. Edmund's. They provide contact information for our clergy and church, our service times, the events and days of the Church year and the liturgical colors. Please pick one up at the church with our wishes for a wonderful 2020!

*Charlene Michaud, President*

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## ECW & MEN'S GROUP CHRISTMAS DINNER 12/11/2019

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## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

	JANUARY 5	JANUARY 12	JANUARY 19	JANUARY 25
ALTAR GUILD	Irene Pooser	Linda Gromen	Carolyn McConnell	Sandy Stantz Patricia DiCioccio
LEM	Joe Mancuso	Pat Moore	Linda Gromen	Pat Novean
ACOLYTE	Irene Pooser	Joe Mancuso	Pat Moore	Bob Harrington
PRAYERS	Pat Moore	Irene Pooser	Nancy Jo Vaughn	Bob Harrington
LECTOR 8:00	Bob Euerle	Wendy Carter	Haila Lewis	Bob Euerle
LECTOR 10:00	Kent DeBrueler	James Bianco	Pearl Kiellman	Irene Pooser
GREETERS	Bob Harrington Pat Novean	Irene & Michael Pooser	Phylis & Joe Mancuso	Steve & James Bianco

# JANUARY 2020

NA=Narcotic Anonymous DOK=Daughters of the King

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10:00 DOK  7:00 pm NA	3	4   6:00 pm NA
5 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	6	7   7:00 pm NA	8	9   5:30 pm DeSoto Cares 7:00 pm NA	10	11   6:00 pm NA
12 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	13	14   7:00 pm NA	15   5:30 pm ECW 6:00 pm Men's Group 7:30 pm Bishop's Committee	16   7:00 pm NA	17	18   6:00 pm NA
19 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	20	21   4:00 pm "Exploring Our Faith" 7:00 pm NA	22	23   7:00 pm NA	24	25   6:00 pm NA
26 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	27	28   4:00 pm "Exploring Our Faith" 7:00 pm NA	29	30   7:00 pm NA	31	6:00 pm NA