
St. Edmund the Martyr Episcopal Church

The Evangel

September 2020

Website: www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com

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Our Church Family Updates September, 2020

- The McConnell family will be camping in Dillard, Georgia from Sept.8 through the 14th. They are hoping for some cool mountain air and a trip to the Biltmore mansion in Ashville. Fly fishing is also part of their plan. Be sure to ask Father what he caught!
- George and Connie Dewitt are well but request prayers for their granddaughter, her husband, and their 1 and 1/2 year old twin great grandsons who have all tested positive for COVID 19. "It will be soul uplifting when we can get back to "normal" living. Never again will I take anything for granted."-Connie
- Linda and Barry Gromen managed to get away for a few days to a house in North Carolina near the Tennessee border. They met their son, his wife, and their son there. They (of course) practiced social distancing since they were outside most of the time tubing, white water rafting, and hiking. They managed to help rescue a cat from his perch in a tree, and their grandson caught a nice bass. They have enjoyed hearing from the Poosers every week in their faithful telephone call to us. It really makes them feel like we are still a part of St. Edmund's even though they are 1000 miles away, and they appreciate their time and concern. Both Linda and Barry can't wait to see us in November!
- James and Steve Bianco are doing well. Steven is loving working from home and James is loving the gas savings! James and his dad have taken up weekly fishing on the Peace River.



Upcoming Events

Limited return to services:
September 20th 10:00 A.M.

Current [Facebook Live](#) schedule:

- **Monday & Wednesday**
9:00 pm – Compline
- **Sunday** 10:00 am –
Morning Prayer

Check email communications regarding on-line worship and prayer opportunities

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Father Jim's Reflections

September 2020

Writing an article in the midst of our long absence from our worship community is a stretch in determining what to write about. So as Joe Friday of Dragnet fame used to say, "Just the facts".

Fact 1- We have had some changes in leadership. Bob Harrington, Senior Warden, resigned and our brave Joe Mancuso agreed to be appointed to the Bishop's Committee as the new Senior Warden. Thank you, Joe.

Roy Michaud was appointed to the Committee to replace Patty Dicioccio who has moved to Ohio to be with family following the death of her and our wonderful Larry. They both are missed. Roy is the new Junior Warden.

Our beloved Deacon Robert, after 18 years of service to St. Edmunds and 30 years of service as a Deacon has retired as of September 1. He, too, will be missed.

Irene Pooser has withdrawn from the roles of Committee clerk, flower and candle ministry. She too will be missed. Carolyn McConnell is serving as acting clerk.

Pat Novean, besides administering stewardship is also going to handle the candle and flower ministry.

Vivian Stewart has resigned from the committee and leaves an unfilled seat.

James Bianco will be taking over the publishing of the newsletter. He is in need of your family news and articles. Send them to

jamesbiancoesq1981@gmail.com James and Steven are examples of those who love our church family and want to contribute to its success.

Fact 2 - We are in need of several ministries to be filled. We are in need of a clerk of the Bishop's Committee. Carolyn has expressed a desire to be temporary only.

We are in need of an Outreach chair.

We could use several more lectors and servers once church starts again. We need someone to make up the lector and server list.

Our church is only as strong as we are. These ministries are important and it is up to us to fill them.

Fact3 - Church services are available. On Sunday morning we celebrate Morning Prayer at 10:00 A.M. On Monday and Wednesday nights we do an expanded Compline at 9:00 P.M. All can be viewed on St. Edmund's Facebook live page:

[Click Here to Visit](#)

Fact 4 - We will begin regular Sunday worship on September 20 at 10:00 A.M. It will be a limited service in that we will not be singing. Masks will be required and social distancing will be maintained. We will be using individual cups for communion. Each communicant will take their own host, after sterilizing their hands. If this is successful, we may expand to an 8:00 A.M. service.

REMEMBER: regarding coming to worship – it is a matter of personal choice to come to church or not based on your comfort level. We will be safer in church than in the grocery stores.

Fact 5 - Even though Covid-19 has exploded in our world and has destroyed much of what we knew to be normal and enjoyable, God is still walking with us. To my knowledge, no one in our parish has become ill from the virus. Thanks be to God!

According to our faithful Treasurer, our stewardship is holding up, but it must be mentioned that we need to redouble our efforts to be good stewards of what God has given us. Remember and even increase your pledge to St. Edmund's.

God bless you all and keep you well.

Fr. Jim McConnell



Bishop's Committee

- Senior Warden Joe Mancuso
- Junior Warden Roy Michaud
- Kent DeBruler
- Pat Novean
- Michael Pooser
- Sandy Stantz
- Carolyn McConnell, Acting Clerk
- Pat Moore, Treasurer

- Roy Michaud & Bill Stephenson
- Property Managers

Editor's Corner

One of the things I miss most about not being able to gather in person is our weekly coffee gathering. At every church I have been to I have found that a great deal of our bonding happens over warm coffee, and of course, delicious treats. While we can't all gather around the table and break bread together just yet, we can share in each other's traditions and enjoy some of the treats with our church family in mind. To that end, I wanted to share with you my famous Sausage Ball recipe. It has been a staple at every holiday gathering in my family for generations. It was taught to me by my mother, who learned it from my grandmother, and so on. It is elegantly simple, but never fails to please. So in honor of our retiring Deacon (who commented how much he loves these) and to commemorate the sorely missed coffee hour, I present the Wright Family Sausage Balls recipe:

Ingredients:

1 lb. Jimmy Dean Sausage, Mild

3 c Bisquick™

1 lb. Extra Sharp Cheddar, Shredded

¼ c Buttermilk

Directions (this is the fun part):

- 1) Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- 2) Grease and lightly flour a large cookie sheet

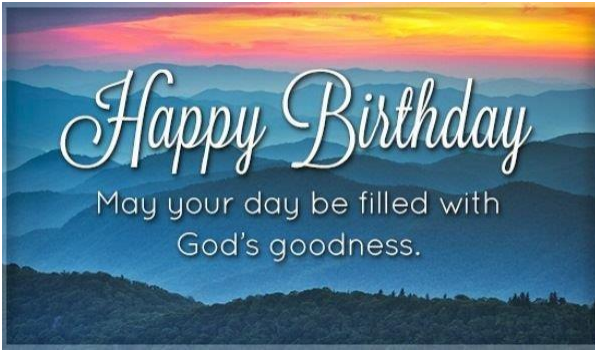
- 3) In a big bowl, mix all ingredients together by hand until a dough is formed.
- 4) Shape into walnut-sized balls by rolling in palm
- 5) Bake for 15 minutes
- 6) Enjoy!

These irresistible treats are best served warm BUT once cooled, a simple nuke in the microwave for 30 seconds will return them to their original state! BE WARNED: Like potato chips, you can't just eat one.

---James R. Bianco

Editor

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

September 3rd Brenda Brazil

September 7th Robert Stantz

September 8th Barry Gromen

September 11th Kent DeBruler

September 14th Mary Ann Starrett

Anniversaries

September 4th Fr. Jim & Carolyn McConnell

September 9th Joe & Phyllis Mancuso
Lonnie & Sara Kuhn

September 17th Linda & Barry Gromen

September 23rd Connie & George Dewitt

September 25th Bob & Donna Euerle

Reminders & An After-Thought

One of my favorite verses of the Bible:

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Please email all updates to jamesbiancoesq1981@gmail.com

Or call them into James Bianco (239)671-5101

Or Mail them to:

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Want a Paper copy? Just send your address to one of the means above and I will be happy to mail you a copy!

From the Diocese:



From the Canon to the Ordinary

Thursday, Aug 13, 2020

Dear Friends,

On Monday 10th August I participated in my usual bi-weekly Canons and Bishops Coordination Call Zoom meeting which is organized by the Presiding Bishop's office. Our speaker on Monday was Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) since 1984.

Mind you, I did not get to speak with Dr. Fauci personally— there were over 150 of us on the Zoom — but it did feel as if he was speaking to me personally. He spoke sincerely and calmly for thirty minutes, offering an expansive opening statement and then answered questions with clarity and hopefulness.

Dr. Fauci's presence on Monday was timely and helpful, particularly as we move into our fifth month of altered worship life.

Some highlights from Dr. Fauci's Q&A on Monday:

- There is a misperception in the public sphere of “all or nothing,” of total shutdown or total ignoring of precautions. But this is not an accurate perception of what is possible. There is still a lot that can be done in a safe manner. Public health recommendations (and the science behind them) should be seen as a gateway for accomplishing a task and not as an obstacle that locks us in.
- Three things continue to be very effective: universal wearing of masks, physical distancing, and outdoor gathering is safer than indoor gathering.
- When experts refer to “crowds,” it means congregating close together. Large groups outdoors and spaced out properly are safer than small groups in close quarters.
- Singing is worse than speaking. Singing sends out particles—science has proven this. If you can, try not to sing.

- Face shields are not as effective as masks—aerosolized particles can drop below the mask and circulate. Wearing a mask is preferable.
- Wearing a mask is not fun and it inhibits our ability to communicate in ways that we are accustomed. We like to see one another’s face. Clergy may not want to wear a mask during worship so that people can really “see” them and thus “connect” with them—as much as possible, clergy should try to resist that urge to not wear a mask.
- Winter (in those places with real seasonal changes) will be problematic. If you must gather indoors, do so with windows open, temperatures and humidity levels turned up higher. We know that heat and humidity cause particles in the air to fall to the ground faster.
- This will end. We will not be living like this forever; the vaccine will help. Do not lose hope.
- Finally, Dr. Fauci expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the prayers that have surrounded him and the others working on solutions to this pandemic.

Dr. Fauci’s comments may prove useful to you and your leadership teams as you continue to make decisions regarding worship and gatherings in your congregations. Bishop Smith’s guidance set forth in his Ascension Day [*Letter on In Person Worship \(21st May\)*](#) continues to apply— that letter may be found [here](#).

With continued thanks for your partnership in the Gospel,



*The Rev. Canon Richard H. Norman
Canon to the Ordinary*