

THE EVANGEL

Summer (June-July-August) 2020

WEBSITE: www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING May 20, 2020

- Congregation members are being faithful in their pledges and contributions
- Church mail is being held at the post office for pick up
- Father Mario is expending Latino ministry funds for “gift cards” to assist the Latino congregation members
- Pat Novean is the Stewardship Coordinator for 2020
- Junior Warden reports that renovation of church hall floors is suspended (75 % completed) until termite issue is resolved; power washing of the curbing and sidewalks has been completed; first aid kits have been purchased for the church building and church hall; sidewalk solar lights will be installed, and the Marian statue shrine has been updated
- The Marian statue shrine will be dedicated to the memory of Larry DiCioccio
- Termite treatments have recently been completed. If needed, tenting treatment will also be done
- Father Jim has been using Facebook Live for Compline and the Sunday Eucharist. He will continue with guideline of maximum of ten or less people present for the Sunday Eucharist; Communion wine will continue to be served in miniature individual cups
- E-votes done for two scholarship grants (high school graduates) were approved
- Church check signers (Joe Mancuso, Pat Moore, Michael Pooser) will remain same for 2020
- Next scheduled Bishop's Committee meeting is scheduled for September 16



Upcoming Events

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Edmund Church services are subject to change.

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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The Rev. Mario Castro, Latino Missioner
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PRIEST – IN - CHARGE

This coming Sunday we celebrate the feast of Pentecost. Pentecost means fifty, fifty days after Easter in the Christian calendar or 0 day after the giving of the law in the Hebrew tradition. We celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the church. The apostles and disciples were all gathered together in an upper room, huddled in fear, when the promise that Jesus made came to be. There was a rushing of wind, fire and a speaking in an unknown tongue, that all understood. This moment ignited the transformation of a disparate group of people into a willingness to form something we began to recognize as the church. The first and second chapters of Acts give us a clear picture of the power of the Holy Spirit at work. That same spirit and power are here for us. We are called to embrace one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. We are to support one another in good times and times of sadness.

There is always much, which I wish to accomplish, however between Covid-19 and a new physical dilemma I feel held back. As a child I was never grounded, my folks couldn't wait to get me out of the house. However, I am presently grounded by my doctor. I have developed an abdominal hernia and will have surgery on June 12th. I have been told not go out any place where there will be people. Thus, I will be doing Compline on Facebook live at 9:00 PM on Monday and Wednesday and Morning Prayer on Sunday at 10:00 AM. Keep Carolyn and me in your prayers.

Last month was a sad time for our parish. We lost a beautiful man with a beautiful soul. Patty and Larry came to us several years ago and have contributed so much to the life of our parish. His voice was a thing of beauty choir and his knowledge of electronic things was a gift to us. Patty has stepped up and has done some tremendous work, for example the Mary Shrine and our parish and will join Patty in celebration of Larry's life in July. Time and date to be determined. We are also celebrating the anniversary of the hospitalization of our dear Nancy Plymale. We do not have any information yet. We know she is in Sarasota Memorial Hospital. May God keep her in safety.

Because we are separated by disease and caution, I would urge our people to use the phone and internet. May God bless us and protect us. Stay safe and well. --

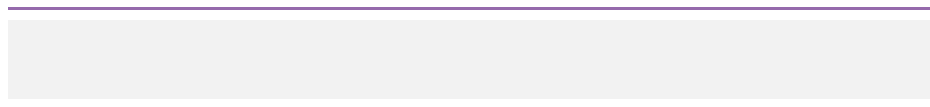


Bishop's Committee

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

Irene Pooser, Clerk
Pat Moore, Treasurer

Roy Michaud & Bill Stephenson
Property Managers



DEACON

Like many of you, I'm struggling with deciding when it is OK to return to more normal activity such as going to a restaurant or attending church services. These opportunities are becoming available under definite guidelines that are meant to decrease risk of infection by the COVID-19 virus. Our bishop has issued guidelines for increased church attendance starting on May 31 (Pentecost Sunday). He offers sensible guidance: maintain distancing in the church building, encourage face masks, hand sanitizing, very limited singing, receive only the consecrated bread for Holy Communion, and proper physical cleaning of the building. Bishop Smith's guidelines are printed elsewhere in this newsletter (PAGE 8).

The key to successful guidelines for resumption of increased participation (church, restaurants, businesses, etc.) is good judgment and adherence to infection control procedures. Unfortunately, lack of judgment and adherence is well documented in recent weeks. Another complication is even with proper judgment and adherence to standards, infection risk remains. The decision for involvement in an activity ultimately comes to the criteria of (1) risk assessment in each situation, (2) particular personal vulnerabilities, and (3) each individual determining his or her level of risk tolerance.

Unfortunately it is difficult to get accurate scientific information and infection data. Too many folks appear to attain their information from the worst possible sources, such Facebook, politically influenced (of all types) broadcasts, and social media. I feel fortunate to still work part-time in the medical field and trust what I learn there more than other sources about COVID-19 and infection control. I also know that Florida Department of Health data documents no decrease in the virus infection rate in DeSoto County. In March the weekly average number of reported new cases was less than 1, in April the weekly average number of reported new cases was 6, and in May (thus far) the weekly average of reported new cases is 26. At this time we do not know what impact less isolation and more person-to-person interaction will have on the virus spreading.

Many in the congregation know my medical vulnerability due to being diagnosed in 2012 with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. My immune system is compromised and I can easily develop serious respiratory complication from infections. I have tried to be conscientious, without paranoia, about protecting myself during this pandemic.

Considering the above and using the criteria mentioned, I have decided I will not be returning at this time to participate in Sunday Eucharist at least for awhile. As the local situation changes or becomes more clear, I will reassess returning to liturgical participation as it is available. Hopefully each of you will do your own assessment and make the wisest decision for yourself.

The pandemic experience for the Church has been disruptive to some degree but also has generated theological discussion and review regarding sacramental life, community, and ministry that, I think, will

BIRTHDAY LIST ON PAGE 6

ANNIVERSARY

06/08 – Bob & Deborah Long
06/13 – Ruth & John Adams
06/28 – Bev & Bill Stephenson
07/03 – Pat & Jerry Stip
07/15 – Carol & Ken Vickery
07/26 – Steven & James Bianco
07/28 – Jeannette & Bob Fowler
08/10 – Irene & Michael Pouser
08/30 – Charlene & Roy Michaud

continue beyond the current crisis. God's Spirit does move in mysterious ways! It is a good source for reflection as we enter into the Pentecost Season.

The Church has not closed these past few months. It has explored alternative means and meaning to be the Church. Here at St. Edmund Church the community continues, prayer life remains, and our outreach ministry still touches our community. See the outreach reports elsewhere in the newsletter regarding recent efforts with local students, homeless people, and children in shelter and foster care.

---Deacon Robert Vaughn

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- ❖ Margaret Shillinglaw wants to thank everyone who is doing all they can in sending us the church service and prayers. God Bless You. Her daughter and son-in-law went back north May 1st. Margaret is still in therapy for her shoulder and she guesses it will take a little longer because of the type of surgery. Everyday there is a little improvement. I admire Margaret for her optimism and her never-give-upness! She is such a wonderful example for me.
- ❖ Sandy Easterwood claims she doesn't have much to share as they are self-quarantined (I think we are all in that boat!). Good thing about it is they have gotten projects completed that have been on their to-do list. Their going out entails going to the grocery store and catching up on doctor appointments. Their middle daughter (from Northern Virginia) was with them for a special three day visit. On May 22 North Carolina entered Phase 2 so some things will be opening up soon. Their church began holding services in the church parking lot. Joe and Sandy were both excited that they were finally able to get haircuts!
- ❖ Bob and Sandy Stantz have been enjoying visits from their daughter Shelley and granddaughter Brie. I was lucky to get to meet both of them at Publix and was sorry they had to return to their homes in Ohio. I also had a wonderful phone conversation with Bob and he sounded great!
- ❖ Bill Bless reports that things are slowly reopening in Delaware and various surrounding states. Church services are now allowed by the governor with restrictions: face masks, social distancing, only 30% building capacity allowed and stay home suggestions for those seniors and others with health issues. They are awaiting word from the Bishop regarding services. Bill is able to get out and about; stores are slowly restocking. A quarantine of fourteen days remains in effect for those entering Delaware from other states and Bill hopes Rhode Island eases this requirement by August thereby enabling him to visit his grandchildren. The weather is not cooperating: chilly, windy and damp-not at all typical for May. He is hoping the weather, moods, attitudes and virus restrictions will change for the better soon. Bill urges us to all take care and sends his regards to all at St.Ed's.
- ❖ Dante Lanzetta points out that, "Time marches on, but not much occurs." He and Jane at least get to worry about how to get home (Illinois, I think) and about. Jane has the idea that they can avoid the

potential hazards posed by staying in motels for two nights on the way by letting the grandkids come down and drive them home without stopping. Dante says that, aside from having aged out of that scene some time ago, he only did the “drive straight through” once, 55 years ago, and it was quite miserable! Work on their addition progresses nicely although he still can not predict an end date. Their days seem particularly unspacial and trivial, especially so when so many people on our planet are clinging onto their very existence. Time to count blessings.

- ❖ Steve and James Bianco are doing well. James has mostly recovered from his hernia operation and is back to working in the yard and fishing. Steve continues to enjoy working from home and, with the changes being made to education, looks forward to continuing it for a while. They both enjoy watching the service online and can't wait to see everyone again. And both kitties are doing really well!
- ❖ The McConnells stay in a constant state of mirth over the antics of Skye, their new puppy. He certainly takes the edge off of staying in. They are not making any travel plans at this time. (I doubt anyone is!) Carolyn is busy making masks for the homeless.
Thank you to all our wonderful, able workers and contributors who are helping with this so worthy project!
- ❖ Dawn Crippen shared that life is rough in Michigan now with three dams breached. Some homes are facing nine or more feet of water. She is blessed that her home is located at the top of a hill.
- ❖ Pat Novean is just starting to get out of the house more-mostly going to doctor appointments or grocery shopping! But best of all, a haircut! She is looking forward to the days when they can enjoy a nice dinner out. She has still not figured out how to eat with a mask on! Thankfully everyone in her family and Bob's family is staying healthy,
- ❖ Linda Gromen thinks that she and Barry have spent more time together these last few months than in their first 53 years of marriage. She has decided she kind of likes the guy.
- ❖ Robert and Nancy Jo Vaughn continue to observe COVID-19 guidelines for containing the virus. Nancy Jo is looking forward to being able to get to her hair salon in June. Although the annual membership banquet and presentations were canceled due to pandemic restrictions, Robert is honored to have received the “Officer of the Year” award from the Arcadia Elks Lodge for his involvement in Elks charities fund raising and coordinating the local lodge website and newsletter. He is so deserving of that recognition!
- ❖ The most exciting new activity at the Pooser home is the weekly menu planning session. I am smiling and writing away and Michael is grunting and saying, “Whatever.”
Stay safe and God bless!

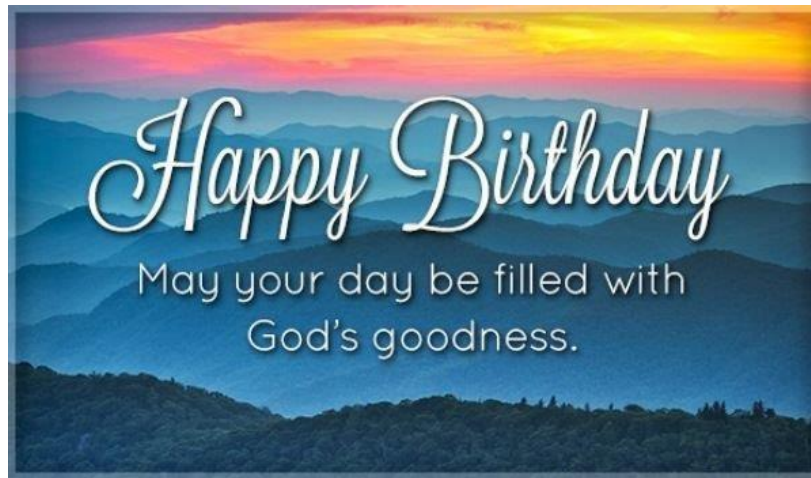
Irene

Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles

The people of St. Edmund Church have always been so generous and helpful to me with my Altar Flower and Candle Ministry. Thank you. With the arrival of COVID-19 much of our wonderful church life has been put on hold. I truly hope and believe that "normal" will return someday.

The decision has been made, after consultation with Father McConnell, to wait until the church building is completely and fully open to resume the Altar Flower and Sanctuary Candle Ministry. If you "lost" your preferred Sundays due to COVID-19, I will diligently work with you to create an acceptable new schedule at that time. I am thanking you in advance for your patience with me.

Irene



June

01-Connie DeWitt
02-George Maver
04-Bob Harrington
11-Joyce Hendricks
12-Diane Blank
15-Joan Maver
15-Yvette Dalpe
18-Beverly Stephenson
25-Bob Fowler
30-Patricia DiCioccio

July

01-Carolyn Robins
06-Ruth Adams
17-Steven Bianco
17-Vivian Stewart
18-Becky Grant
20-Sue Chad
21-Margaret Shillinglaw
26-Wendy Carter

August

03-Pearl Kiellman
05-Carol Wanless
06-Michael Pooser
11-Phylis Mancuso
15-Marlene DeSmit
16-Joanna Linders
17-Linda Gromen
18-John Virgilio
22-David Hendricks
22-Joe Mancuso
27-Bob Baumann
27-Carolyn McConnell
30-Bill Stephenson

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The upcoming year for the ECW will be challenging. Because of the corona 19 virus and the flu season starting in the fall, we will not know where or when in person meetings can be held.. With the help of all the women from St. Edmund Church, the ECW will continue to do the outreach in our community we are noted for. Any ideas or suggestions you ladies have for projects to help the seniors in our community, the school children or the homeless, please let one of the officers know. We will still collect toys at Christmas for the safe children coalition, and undies for the elementary school children. The new officers for the 2020 through 2021 year are President- Carolyn Robins, Secretary-Linda Gromen, Treasurer-Irene Pooser, Devotional-Pat Moore, U.T.O - Nancy Jo Vaughn. We would like to thank Charlene Michaud for serving as President last year. She did a wonderful job. With the help of all the women in the Church and with the guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ the ECW will continue to do His will.

Carolyn Robins
ECW President

SENIOR WARDEN

This is really an interesting year. The hits just seem to keep on coming. I just spoke with Fr Jim and suggested he re-read the Book Of Job. We can only remember that we are the church, and keep with our prayers and looking after each other. Fr Jim had indicated that he will be doing Morning Prayer on Sunday morning from home as he is able. Pat Novean has graciously volunteered to chair the stewardship program this year. I will assist as needed. We will sit down and plan what program to use this year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns as we work our way through the remainder of this pandemic. I can only classify it as an experience, one I am not anxious to repeat. I shudder to think what the new normal will be when it is over. Keep the faith, keep praying, and don't give up. We will be defined by our actions. God is GREAT and He will see us through this. The church is a building, but we are His living church. God bless all of us, and keep praying.

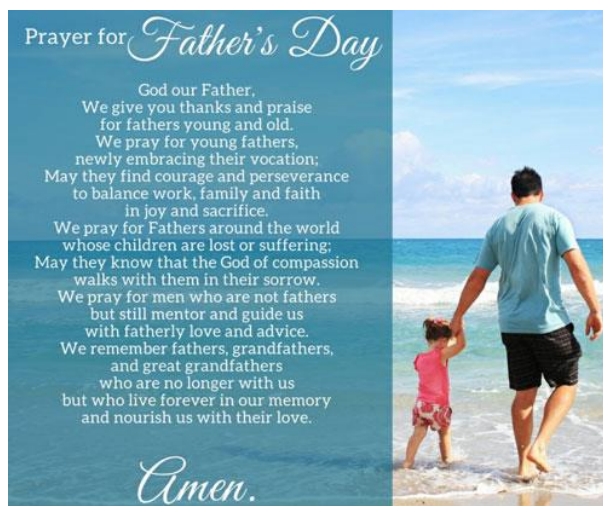
Bob Harrington
Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN

Thank you to the people of St. Edmund Church for your support, goodness and kind thoughts following the loss of Larry. He loved St. Edmund Church, appreciated the strong feeling of family in our church and loved the fellowship and joy of being a part of the choir. He helped me in repainting the statue of Saint Mary and recreating the Mary Shrine located on the side of the church. At my request, the Bishop's Committee voted to dedicate it in memory of Larry.

If you need to contact me through email, please use my personal email account: pdc630@yahoo.com
God bless.

Patty DiCioccio
Junior Warden





GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH SERVICES

FROM THE RT. REV. DABNEY SMITH, BISHOP OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

MAY 21, 2020

1. May 31 – In person worship may be expanded to 25% of the Fire Department’s safe number certificate for the Sanctuary. This is not a requirement. You may continue your current cautionary practices. The 25% continues the maintenance of 6 feet of physical distancing.
2. Make very clear plans for facility cleaning and disinfecting before and after any and every function. Remove and store all hymnals, *Books of Common Prayer*, and other worship books and printed materials.
3. Create carefully designed worship traffic patterns for gathering through the dismissal to help people avoid personal contact
4. Masks are highly recommended.
5. No hand shaking or hugs. Monastic reverent bows to one another are elegant gestures.
6. Do not pass the collection plates. Provide specific places where offerings may be made without touching anything. Encourage online giving.
7. Morning Prayer is still a recommended “no touch” service. Offer it with beauty. If offering Holy Communion, only the presiding priest should receive from the cup. Communicants will receive the blessed bread while standing. Hands must be washed and sanitized before the administration of communion.
8. Be very careful about congregational singing. Use an extremely limited choral presentation from a very safe distance. No singing close to anyone else. You might choose to offer one verse of a hymn and invite humming or just listening.
9. Pay attention to your buildings. The 25% guideline will not work if safe physical distancing will not work.
10. You may always add more worship opportunities or provide out-of-doors opportunities.

Finally, be careful for the vulnerable. Some should be encouraged to remain at home. This may include some of the ordained. Look out and take care of each other.



**St. Edmund the Martyr
Episcopal Church**

Scholarships

For many years St. Edmund Church has encouraged educational advancement through scholarships for local students as they seek a college degree. The scholarships are provided from a designated account funded by donations made by members of our congregation. This year's St. Edmund Scholarship Committee, consisting of Vivian Stewart, Joe Mancuso and Irene Pooser, received sixteen applications from DeSoto County High School students requesting consideration. It was a difficult task as all of the applicants were deserving. The committee recommended that two students each be awarded \$1000 scholarships: Holly Pence and Kevin Herrera.

Holly is ranked 29th of 313 students with a Cumulative GPA of 4.0430 and is in the top 10% of her class. She scored well on the SAT, ACT and PERT and has been accepted at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville. There she plans to major in nursing. The goal of becoming a registered nurse has been a part of her life since 8th grade. When at DHS she began work on her Certified Nursing Assistant License which she earned in March, 2020. During her completed year at South Florida State College as a Dual Enrolled Student, she completed most of her prerequisites toward a nursing degree. After earning that degree, she hopes to work as a traveling nurse and, perhaps, eventually become a Nurse Practitioner. Holly is the youngest of 11 children. She began working at Joshua Citrus in 9th grade and started a second job at Beef O'Brady's in the 11th grade. The money earned has been saved and will go toward her college education.

Kevin is ranked 66th out of 313 students with a GPA of 3.36 and scored well on the SAT and ACT. He has been accepted at Nova Southeastern University, Stetson University, University of Tampa and University of Alabama at Birmingham. He will be majoring in Biology to become a Physician's Assistant followed, eventually, with a Master's Degree in the same field and hopes to return to work in our community. He has applied for Bright Futures and Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). At DCHS he worked two years as a member of the newspaper and magazine staff, took Advanced Placement classes, was chosen Student of the Month twice and was awarded an Academic Letter. He works at Sandhill Native Growers Inc. earning money to help his mother pay bills and to save for college. Kevin is a member of St. Paul Catholic Church where he has been an altar server for five years under four priests.

The Bishop's Committee approved both Holly and Kevin as scholarship recipients for 2020. Following the presentation of these two scholarship checks, the balance in the Scholarship Designated Fund will be \$3,878.48. Donations of any amount to this fund would be appreciated and used wisely.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

St. Edmund Church community outreach ministries have continued our work in our local community by supporting community endeavors and efforts with assistance and financial grants.

This is the fourth year that we have participated with the DeSoto County High School JROTC in their awards ceremony. Each year we have given a certificate for “service to the community” and a \$100 check to a cadet who has been identified as exemplary in community service. This year the award went to Dylan Perez. Normally a St. Edmund Church representative attends the awards banquet and presents the award. This year it was done as a Zoom virtual presentation.

DeSoto Cares Homeless Services provides a day program for homeless people that has showers, laundry, mail pick up, and case management services. During this pandemic services have been extremely limited but the program is looking toward opening more when guidelines permit and infection control procedures are in place. Members of the congregation have either made or provided 200 face masks to be used as part of the effort to re-open services. Thanks to Shelly Baumann, Wendy Carter, Charlene Michaud, & Sandy Stantz for making masks, Pat Moore for providing items, and Irene & Michael Pooser, Margaret Shillinglaw, & Nancy Jo Vaughn for providing masks.

The Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) program serves the needs of children placed out-of-home in shelter or foster care due to neglect or abuse. The GAL volunteer is mandated by the circuit court to present to the court what is “in the best interest of the child.” The GAL program is focused is meeting the needs of the child. For the third year we have given \$1000 (in \$50 Walmart cards) to the GAL program to be used for back-to-school or emergency clothing for DeSoto County children in shelter or foster care.

The St. Edmund Church community outreach ministries is an example of how even these difficult times the Church is ministering and focused on the mission of the Gospel of Jesus. Thank you for your various personal and financial involvements in making it happen. ---Deacon Robert Vaughn

