ST. EDMUND THE MARTYR EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CONGREGATION NEWS & NOTICES

OCTOBER 2025

WEBSITE: www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.org

FACEBOOK: @StEdmundArcadia

EMAIL: stedmundsarcadia@gmail.com

SCHEDULE: Sunday Eucharist 9:00 am (followed by fellowship time)

Wednesday, October 8, 4:30 pm – Blessing of the Animals & Dinner

Wednesday, October 29, 5:00 pm – Carry In Dinner & Games

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. We ask you to bless our pets. By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen

O God, we thank you for all the creatures you have made, so perfect in their kind-- great animals like the elephant and the rhinoceros, humorous animals like the camel and the monkey, friendly ones like the dog and the cat, working ones like the horse and the ox, timid ones like the squirrel and the rabbit, majestic ones like the lion and the tiger, for birds with their songs. O Lord give us such love for your creation, that love may cast out fear, and all your creatures see in humanity their friend and protector, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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Senior Warden: Bob Baumann

Junior Warden

Treasurer: Robert Vaughn

Vestry: Michael Pooser, Dolly Faul. Don Reichert, Sandy Stanz

Vestry Clerk: Shelly Baumann

Altar Guild: Wendy Carter

Daughters of the King: Ruth Adams

Episcopal Church Women

Carolyn Robins

Music Coordinator: Pearl Kiellman

Happy Fall, Y'all.

While it hasn't quite felt like it yet, we can hope the coming weeks start cooling off and we can enjoy our few months of comfortable weather and maybe even use our new back deck some. We are seeing our wonderful seasonal members start to return and it won't be long until our pews start filling up again as well as our coming events. We have much to be thankful for and planning for our future includes YOU! Let us know what we can do, what you like and don't like and how St. Edmund the Martyr is an important part of your life and why. You can speak to Fr. Jim, Deacon Robert, myself or any Vestry member or even send an email to the church at stedmundsarcadia@gmail.com to share your thoughts and ideas. After more than 130 years we aren't going anywhere but we need your continued support to do so. Our annual pledge drive will be coming up and a chairperson is needed, if you would like to take on this important task or perhaps serve on the Vestry please let Fr. Jim or Deacon Robert know.

This year's Diocesan convention is next week in Punta Gorda and we will have much to report on in the coming weeks from what we come away with from both the workshops and annual meeting.

As the weather cools down it's also time to look at having a grounds maintenance work day, many hands make light work, and I will announce the date for this annual task in the coming weeks. We have our storm renovations complete and it won't take much to beautify our grounds for the coming season. I hope you will join in if you can, or perhaps bring snacks and drinks for those who can do the work if you can't. And there will be no chainsaws or ladders this year! We are leaving that to the professionals.

See you in church or online,

Bob Baumann

Senior Warden

ECW

Episcopal Church Women:

United in Fellowship and Service

The first meeting of ECW after the summer break was on Sunday, September 24th, following the Eucharist with 14 ladies present. Discussion centered on plans for the coming months that include the annual Christmas gifts for foster children, ways to raise funds for outreach, and plans to celebrate Father Jim's 40th anniversary of ordination and Deacon Robert's 25th anniversary as deacon at St. Edmund Church in March. It was decided that attendance is best when the meeting is held on Sunday after the Eucharist. The next meeting is scheduled for October 19th. All women at St. Edmund Church are members of ECW and all are encouraged to participate in meetings and activities.

Deacons Called To Serve

Our ministry to the local community continues with a continuity over a decade with our special relationship with DeSoto Cares Homeless Services. This community-based organization with the specific mission to homeless people in DeSoto County began with community meetings at St. Edmund Church. We continue our commitment with volunteers (Nancy Jo is a volunteer and serves on the Board of Directors) and donations. **If you have not done so yet and want to be supportive, tickets ($50) are still available for DeSoto Cares HARVEST OF HOPE banquet on October 16th.** Just a reminder: confusion still seems to exist with knowing that the ARCADIA CENTER FOR THE NEEDY is not DESOTO CARES HOMELESS SERVICES. We have again submitted a grant request to Episcopal Charities (Diocese of Southwest Florida) for funding we can use to assist DeSoto Cares with purchasing basic care & comfort items for on-the-street homeless people. We will get the response to the grant request next week at the diocesan convention. Most of you are aware of DeSoto Cares TINY TOWN project to establish basic housing for the homeless. As a church we have supported this effort with financial and other donations. I am currently involved with Desoto County government and the DeSoto Cares Board effort to build eight additional units. These additional living units will be constructed at the start of 2026.

Since Hurricane Ian, St. Edmund Church has had a significant role in recovery in our community. Initially, we hosted distribution of supplies and meals. Over the three years since the hurricane, we have provided direct financial aid of $185,000 to local families for their recovery efforts. These funds have come from our partnership with the diocese in attaining Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) grants from the national Episcopal Church. Recipient families have been identified primarily in collaboration with local churches and agencies. Yes, three years after the storm there are still local families struggling to recover. We have been informed to expect an additional ERD grant of funds for this recovery in DeSoto County soon.

As a small congregation we have much to be proud of and thankful for regarding our impact with our neighbors. Spread the word!

Deacon Robert Vaughn