

THE EVANGEL

February 2020

WEBSITE: www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING January 15, 2020

- Father Jim and Pat Moore, treasurer, are completing the annual Parochial Report.
- The 2020 budget was presented and accepted.
- \$2500 from the diocese of Latino ministry will be deposited in the Latino congregation's account. Discussion about use of the account will be shared with Father Mario.
- Bishop's Committee candidates are Kent DeBruler, Roy Michaud, and Pat Novean.
- Appreciated expressed to Joe Mancuso for his serving as Senior Warden in 2019.
- Father Jim announced the appointment of Bob Harrington as 2020 Senior Warden.
- Father Jim expressed his gratitude for the congregation's support during his medical leave.
- "E-votes" since the last meeting were approved: purchase of Christmas tree, Christmas bonus for the sexton, and a Christmas gift for Father Jim Williamson.
- Annual Meeting scheduled for February 2, 2020.
- Restart of Father Jim's stipend is effective January 1, 2020.



Upcoming Events

February 2
Annual Meeting & BBQ Luncheon

February 6
10:00 am Daughters of the King

February 19
5:30 pm ECW (Beef O'Brady's)
6:00 pm Men's Group (Magnolia)
7:30 pm Bishop's Committee

February 25
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 26
Ash Wednesday

February 4, 11, & 25
4:00 pm "Exploring Our Faith"

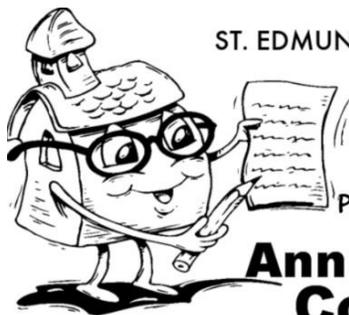
February 29
ECW Rummage Sale

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



ST. EDMUND EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday, February 2, 2020
following 10:00 Eucharist

Please bring side dishes for the BBQ Luncheon

Annual Congregational Meeting

PRIEST – IN - CHARGE

It is so odd to type or write 2020 on correspondence, but the end of the first 20 years of the 21st century is here. January is rushing on. It seems that we just put away our tree and our Christmas visitors are home in the land of snow and ice. The year is rushing on. Ash Wednesday will be here on February 26 heralding the beginning of Lent.

It has been a joy to return to my church family in the past few weeks. I am thankful for all of your support and prayers. It is those prayers and God's grace that has brought me to where I am today. I still have some recovery to do and I am aware that my resistance to infection is still low. I went to the hospital three times last week to visit our beloved parishioners, Ginny Fusco and Beverly Boussem and now have a cold. Oh well!

During Epiphany our lessons and sermons focus on the light of God through Christ coming into the world. This is a real experience that can touch our lives in fundamental ways as we pray and study what God has done for us. My experience has taught me that God saved me and has a purpose for me. My experience is not unique. We all have epiphanies in our lives. We can see and feel them if we but take time to explore our life journey.

The season of Lent encourages us to explore our journey. While Wal-Mart is already putting out the Easter candy, it is for us to explore the sweetness of God's story of our salvation as we reflect and pray. During this season of Lent we will be walking the way of the cross following Tuesday evening study. The Way of the Cross is a significant way of reflection and remembrance of what God did for us through His Son, Jesus. In order to celebrate Easter we must walk with Jesus to Golgotha.

This Sunday, Feb. 2 we will be holding our Annual meeting. In that meeting we will hear reports from the ministers of St. Edmund's (we are all ministers) regarding their ministries. These ministries are important to the life and place of St. Edmund's in the community. We will be electing of three new vestry members. Our faithful and supportive Senior Warden, Joe Mancuso, is laying aside his crown. Bob Harrington will become the new Senior Warden. The Junior Warden will be selected by the vestry and congregation. Our three candidates are Pat Novean, Kent DeBruler and Sandy Stantz. Roy Michaud and Bill Stevenson will remain as our property managers (non elected). Joe Mancuso has seen our church through thick and thin; we owe him much thanks. We have and will have a great and talented Bishop's Committee (vestry) in the future.

Faithfully, Father Jim McConnell+



SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

November Average Attendance

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

December Average Attendance

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

January Average Attendance

8:00 - 14
10:00 - 46
7:00 - 23

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

DEACON

ANNUAL REPORT (February 2, 2020)

In 2019 I started my 18th year as deacon at St. Edmund Church. That is almost 2/3 of my 29 years in ordained ministry; during that time I have served with five vicars/priests-in-charge by assignment from two bishops. It has been rewarding involvement with the congregation in offering the ministry and mission of Christ in our community. Many strong relationships have developed. During this past year my ministry as deacon has, as usual, had many dimensions.

The primary ministry of every deacon is *“a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.”* (BCP, p. 543) At St. Edmund Church I coordinate our benevolence and outreach ministry efforts. In 2019 we have been able to respond in an adequate manner to need. Following initial assessment of the situation, aid has been given for needs such as rent, utilities, and medical care for individuals and families. This type of benevolence is under the authority of the priest (according Episcopal Church canons). Over past years this responsibility has been delegated to me by the various priests. In addition to encouraging congregational members to become personally involved in local efforts and organizations, St. Edmund Church also assists community efforts and organizations with financial contribution. During 2019, we provided funds to DeSoto Cares Homeless Services, DeSoto County High School JROTC, Guardian Ad Item Program, and the community movie program at Tree of Knowledge Park. I serve in a consulting role with DeSoto Cares Homeless Services for program and community issues.

Another aspect of the ministry of a deacon is *“to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time.”* (BCP, p. 543) In this capacity, I serve liturgically and preach at the Sunday Eucharists and coordinate the other liturgical ministers (acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, and greeters). I also provide home (hospital & nursing home) Communion for shut-in and sick members of the congregation as well as coordinate the Eucharistic Visitors (who also provide home Communion). This past December, I conducted an Advent program of Evening Prayer with Mediation and supper.

At the diocesan level, I served in 2019 as facilitator of the Clinical Pastoral Training for two individuals seeking diaconal ordination. I also serve on the diocesan Commission on Ministry, including being the liaison for one person considering ordination in her discernment process with her home parish.

Although not an actual diaconal ministry, I serve as monthly newsletter editor and administrator of the St. Edmund website and Facebook page.

This coming December I will complete 30 years as a deacon and in January 2021 I will reach mandatory retirement age for clergy (as established by Episcopal Church canons). At that time, in conjunction with the bishop, options exist that include actual retirement from assigned ministry or receive year-by-year assignment. It is my intent to request the bishop grant me a three month sabbatical this summer as part of the discernment process in deciding the best path forward in 2021. I'm sure the congregation will keep us in your prayer as Nancy Jo and I consider this milestone in our life together. --Deacon Robert Vaughn

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- ❖ I hope you are able to attend our Annual Meeting. It is a great way to find out what happened at St. Edmund's over the past year and what is planned for the future. You get a concise picture of our finances from our treasurer, have a opportunity to vote for new Bishop's Committee members as terms expire for "old" members and, afterward, you can experience Mike and Bart's delicious ribs and all those terrific side dishes and desserts our congregation furnishes!
- ❖ Please remember Ginny Fusco in your prayers. Ginny is going through a rough time with her health. She is an amazing lady who never gives up and always shares kind, uplifting thoughts and feelings for others.
- ❖ Also please uplift Beverly Bousen. She is undergoing therapy at Sarasota Memorial Hospital following her second stroke. Her left leg was affected; however, Father Jim reported that she is thankful her vision and speech are still good and she is able to feed herself. She has had family visitors from Arizona and Texas in addition to many from here in Arcadia.
- ❖ Father Jim shared that it is so good to be fully active again with their church family. He and Carolyn are looking forward to the Highland games in Sarasota on February 1 and then the "deeeelicious" ribs as prepared by Mike and Bart following the February 2 annual meeting. They are presently exploring taking an early May trip to Belize.
- ❖ Carolyn and Ron Robins are finally back! We haved missed them so much while they were spending time with their daughter Joy in California. Please pray for their son Scott as he battles a rare form of cancer. I am so sorry for the challenges they are facing day by day.
- ❖ Shawn and Helen Bryan, who refer to themselves as our "Vermont eight o'clockers", arrived at Little Willie's RV Resort December 29th planning to spend several months in Florida warmth and sunshine in their fifth wheel. A few days into their stay the resort manager let them know a double wide manufactured home in the park was for sale. After a tour of the home they made a quick decision to sell the fifth wheel and buy the home so they now have a permanent residence in Florida to come back to each year. It was a surprise purchase for both of them and, unexpected, but they are very pleased with their new acquisition. It is an older home so the last three weeks have been a whirlwind of cleaning and maintenance, but they hope to slow down and enjoy the weather as their kids up north deal with cold weather, snow and ice.
- ❖ It is good to see Dante Lanzetta back at St. Edmund's. He reported that over and above having had a long but uneventful trip down here they feel blessed with lovely weather. They are still trying to get settled in and are doing countless but needful things.
Please send good thoughts Roy Michaud's way. February 6th he will be having ear surgery again. He claims it is not serious but, to me, all surgery is serious! Roy is such an important part of our church family. Our grounds and buildings stay so beautiful!
- ❖ Shelly Baumann continues to improve and is now walking and driving some as her foot surgery continues to heal. Bob is now battling a shoulder injury and has limited use of his left arm. Despite their

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

4th – James Bianco

4th – Ron Robins

14th – Don Reichert

18th – Barbara Anson

28th – Lonnie Kuhn

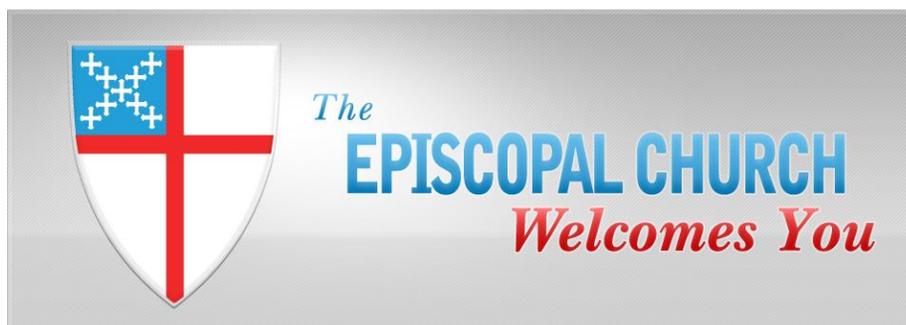
injuries they continue to enjoy the New Year and look forward to boating again as soon as Rum Runner has fresh bottom paint and minor mechanical issues worked on at Punta Gorda marina.

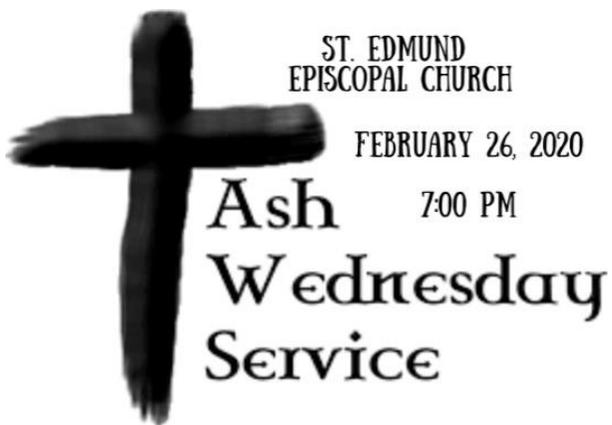
- ❖ It was nice meeting Jennifer Evans' grandkids at church with her. They had to return home but Jennifer is still with us, thank goodness!
- ❖ Gerry and Linda Call report they are doing well but not well enough to come down this year. Keep them in your prayers. I miss them!
- ❖ It is great to see Joe and Sandy Easterwood back from North Carolina in their regular pew again! They just enjoyed a one week Caribbean cruise with twelve members of their immediate family. What a wonderful gift for the Easterwoods to give their three daughters and their families! They are now planning a Baltic Sea cruise for the future-but just for the two of them. Joe announced that he is going to continue traveling and cruising until he runs out of money or dies. I guess he really, really enjoys that life!
- ❖ Mary Williamson (one of our terrific kitchen angels) fell over a 120 pound dog and is now wearing a corrective boot on one foot. But she just keeps on going! Nothing stops her-
- ❖ Linda Gromen reports that she is doing "Arcadia stuff" this month. They finally got out to Lions, Tigers and Bears. What a wonderful surprise! The animals were treated humanely and the volunteers truly loved their jobs. They topped the day off with orange soft serve from Joshua's. They are looking forward to a presentation at their clubhouse by Carol Mahler on the history of DeSoto County later this month.
- ❖ I understand Bill Bless is here from Delaware and is doing a great job helping out at the eight o'clock service. Please know that it is appreciated!
- ❖ Nancy Jo and Robert Vaughn celebrated their birthdays with an extended weekend stay at Matlacha FL and attending the Cape Coral Arts Festival. After three days of eating seafood, upon returning home, Robert's response was "where's the beef?" They ended the month, along with Pat Moore, attending a performance of "Hamilton" and a great Thai dinner. In February, Nancy Jo gets her Christmas present as they attend a Rod Stewart concert at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood FL.
- ❖ We are looking forward to Rosanne Collins' return from Massachusetts following the passing of her sister Joyce. We are truly sorry for her loss and happy she was able to spend time with Joyce and her family.
- ❖ Carol Wanless is doing a great job helping our with our kitchen hospitality team. Thanks, Carol!
- ❖ I have enjoyed getting to know Marlene DeSmit while she is here from Michigan again this year. Nice lady!

Mike and Irene Pooser are looking forward to a February trip to Gainesville as we celebrate Elizabeth Grace's third birthday. Hard to believe! We will also get to check on their new house as it nears completion.

See you in church!

Irene





DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

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, February 6th, at 10:00 am.

ST. EDMUND THE MARTYR EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2020
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

ECW FUNDRAISER

We have a reservation for 30 on Wednesday, March 11 at Visani's in Port Charlotte.

Tickets are \$10: all the money from the ticket sales goes to the ECW (\$300) and you just need to buy dinner/drinks.

The comedian is Greg Warren and the tickets will go on sale when they become available

We are looking forward to a fun evening out.

Carolyn McConnell



Save the Date !!!!!

SATURDAY, February 29th

The annual ECW Rummage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, February 29th. It is a terrific opportunity to show our support for the ladies of the parish and encouragement to move some of the items that we no longer have use or space for in our closets, under our beds, in the carport storage sheds, garages or any location that once out of site becomes out of mind. The funds raised are used to support the needs of the parish and also outreach in the community.

Setup is scheduled for Thursday, February 27th and Friday, February 28th. **Any and all help** is appreciated for the sorting and pricing and also the day of the sale, Saturday, February 29th.

The sale is an annual event that is anticipated by the community. In addition to our once loved treasures we also host a bake sale showcasing the culinary talents of members of the parish.

It is helpful to have all planned donations prior to the days of setup. If help is needed for pickup, please contact Nancy Jo Vaughn or Pat Moore.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

	FEBRUARY 2	FEBRUARY 9	FEBRUARY 16	February 23
ALTAR GUILD	Pat Moore	Irene Pooser	Linda Gromen	Carolyn Mconnell
LEM	Joe Mancuso	Pat Moore	Linda Gromen	Pat Novean
ACOLYTE	Bob Harrington	Joe Mancuso	Irene Pooser	Bob Harrington
PRAYERS	Pat Moore	Irene Pooser	Nancy Jo Vaughn	Bob Harrington
LECTOR 8:00	Haila Lewis	Wendy Carter	Haila Lewis	Bob Euerle
LECTOR 10:00	Joe Easterwood	James Bianco	Rosemary Seal	Irene Pooser
GREETERS	Charlene & Roy Michaud	Irene & Michael Pooser	Phylis & Joe Mancuso	Steve & James Bianco

FATHER MCCONNELL WELCOMED BACK FROM MEDICAL LEAVE

January 19, 2020



FEBRUARY 2020

NA=Narcotic Anonymous DOK=Daughters of the King

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ANNUAL MEETING ON FEB. 2 ND (followed by BBQ Lunch)						1
2 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	3	4 4:00 pm "Exploring our Faith" 7:00 pm NA	5	6 10:00 am DOK 7:00 pm NA	7	8
9 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	10	11 4:00 pm "Exploring our Faith" 7:00 pm NA	12	13 5:30 pm Desoto Cares 7:00 pm NA	14	15
16 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	17	18 4:00 pm "Exploring our Faith" 7:00 pm NA	19 5:30 pm ECW 6:00 pm Men's Group 7:30 pm Bishop's Committee	20 7:00 pm NA	21	22
23 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	24	25 5:00 – 7:00 pm Pancake Supper 7:00 pm NA	26 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Liturgy	27 (rummage sale set-up) 7:00 pm NA	28 (rummage sale set-up)	29 ECW RUMMAGE SALE 6:00 pm NA