



THE EVANGEL

March 2020

WEBSITE: www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING February 19, 2020

- Patty DiCioccio was elected Junior Warden
- Annual Parochial Report (Activity, Attendance, Financial, Membership, Stewardship) was presented and reviewed before submission to the diocese
- Annual "Not-For-Profit" report filed with the state
- Senior Warden Bob Harrington and member Michael Pooser will be signers on the bank accounts
- Agreement with AA for use of the building will be finalized; Kent DeBruler will serve as AA liaison
- Property issues addressed: sprinkler system, safety-improved doormats, battery operated doorbell on parish hall door, and new keyless lock on sacristy door



Undie Sundays!



ST. EDMUND THE MARTYR EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Arcadia, Florida

LENT 2020

UNITED THANK OFFERING

Thankfulness Leads to Generosity.

Sundays of March: 1st - 8th - 15th - 22nd - 29th

Upcoming Events

March 1

Undie Sunday & UTO

March 5

10:00 am Daughters of the King

March 8

Undie Sunday & UTO

March 11

Visani Comedy Club/ECW

March 18

5:30 pm ECW (Beef O'Brady's)

6:00 pm Men's Group (Slim's BBQ)

7:30 pm Bishop's Committee

March 15 & 22

UTO

March 29

UTO In-Gathering

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

4:00 pm "Exploring Our Faith"

5:00 pm Way of the Cross

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

PRIEST – IN - CHARGE

At this writing we are in preparation for Lent. Lent began on February 26 with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is known to have existed in the seventh century. On Ash Wednesday those who were penitent were dusted with ashes in a public place. They were to enter into a fast and think on their sins and beg God's and the church's forgiveness. This was necessary so that they can be admitted into the full grace of the church on Easter. Until they were received they were to kneel outside of the church door to hear the sermon and lessons read, but had to depart before the Eucharistic meal. In the 8th and 9th centuries the rule was reformed as all were short of the Glory of God and sinners. It was determined that all would undergo the imposition of ashes, including clergy. The ashes would be a cross on the forehead as a sign of penance. Ash Wednesday is the portal wherein we prepare for the Easter event, the Resurrection.

Lent is a time in which for 40 days we are called to pray, study and if capable undertake a fast. In the early church during six days of the week people were to fast by not eating meat, fish or eggs. These prohibitions were enforced with rigor. Sunday was declared as a day of rest, wherein one could eat a regular meal. This was later relaxed. We are called to discipline ourselves through prayer, study and participation in worship.

Bishop's Committee (vestry met on February 19. In our meeting we nominated and elected our new Junior Warden, Patty DiCioccio. She wasted no time in tackling the job. She recommended that we move away from a keyed entrance to the sacristy door. A number pad was discussed and voted on. Safer floor mats at our entrances was also discussed. Our new Vestry is proving to be a workhorse. St. Edmunds has been fortunate to have had great governance through the efforts of great Wardens and members. We were blessed with Joe Mancuso and now we are blessed with Bob Harrington as Senior Wardens.

I pray that we all will keep a Holy Lent so that Easter will become more to us than the Peter Cottontail of the commercial world. Instead of taking children to see the Easter Bunny we need to help them see Jesus.

Fr. Jim McConnell+



SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

December Average Attendance

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

January Average Attendance

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

February Average Attendance

8:00 - 14
10:00 - 50
7:00 - 28

Bishop's Committee

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

Irene Pooser, Clerk
Pat Moore, Treasurer

Roy Michaud & Bill Stephenson
Property Managers

DEACON

We have entered into the Season of Lent. When I was a child I found Lent to be a mixed experience. I did not welcome the penitential aspects, such as not eating candy or going to the movie theatre, but appreciated the solemnity of the season and special liturgies such as the weekly formal “Way of the Cross” service. Although penitential components still exist for the observance of Lent, we now tend to emphasize spiritual growth during Lent by increasing prayer, study, and responding to those in need.

In addition to individually choosing spiritual reading and time for prayer/mediation during Lent, Father Jim offers the congregation a study program and the “Way of the Cross” on Tuesdays. Also during Lent the annual United Thank Offering effort (starting on March 1 and the in-gathering on March 29) provides a means to respond to need and the special ministry of the Episcopal Church.

On the First Sunday in Lent (March 1st) we will use **The Great Litany** as part of our liturgy.

The Great Litany, one of the most important prayer experiences of the Anglican liturgical tradition, was the first English language rite created by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (primary author of the **First Book of Common Prayer of 1549**) as he set about the creation of the English language liturgy in the 1540s. The Litany was first used in English in 1544.

The Litany’s use in church processions was ordered by King Henry VIII when England was at war with Scotland and France. During the early days of the church in this country it was a regular part of church services. This is evident in a notation by Bishop William Gray on his visit to St. Edmund Church on May 18, 1911: “*Said litany and then Communion Service...It was indeed a precious service, and all felt that Christ had indeed been present with us.*” When we pray **The Great Litany** we are participating again in the creation of our heritage as Anglican Christians.

The Great Litany may be said or sung. The officiant and congregation may kneel or stand, or it may be done in procession. **The Great Litany** is especially appropriate during Lent.

The Great Litany includes an invocation of the Holy Trinity; a series of petitions seeking deliverance from evil, spiritual harm, and natural calamities; and a series of intercessions pleading the power of Christ’s incarnation, life, death, and resurrection in our individual and communal lives.

Our use of **The Great Litany** on the First Sunday in Lent will be in place of the processional hymn.

I hope we all have a blessed and holy Lent as preparation for the celebration of our Lord’s resurrection on Easter Sunday.

---Deacon Robert Vaughn

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- ❖ We are going to miss Ginny Fusco at St.Edmund's Church. She was such a sensitive, caring and intelligent lady who never gave up. Her daughter pointed out to me that she had shared friendships with many people at St.Edmund's forty to fifty years. She actually taught Michael at DeSoto High School and, remember, he is 71 now!
- ❖ Margaret Shillinglaw is home recovering from shoulder surgery. She has all her neighbors at her door, helping her. And, no, Margaret! It is not just because you bake the best cakes in town! I understand, she is everybody's favorite lady, mine included. Her daughter comes down every week from Frostproof to visit. She hopes to be back into full swing next month.
- ❖ In case you did not hear, the ECW postponed the annual Rummage/Bake Sale. So many of our members are battling sickness and we ran into so many scheduling conflicts. Save your stuff-we are planning to reschedule in the fall!
- ❖ The McConnells plan on focusing on getting healthy and getting back to the YMCA. They are looking forward to laughs and a good meal at Visani's Comedy Club on March 11th as they participate in a soldout ECW fundraiser. They are also looking forward to travel in May.
- ❖ Jeanette and Bob Fowler report that the virus slowed them down at Christmas time and took a lengthy recovery time. And, of course, all their family was there for Christmas. Jeanette just let them all take charge! They were invited out for Christmas Dinner and to meet their granddaughter's future in-laws. They live at Homestead-just 70 miles up 17. The area reminded her of areas of Indiana. She reports that Bob is out for his coffee run everyday and that she is still making the sewing machine hum with quilting. I sure do miss those two wonderful people.
- ❖ Father Jim will be doing a Graveside Memorial Service at Oak Ridge Cemetery on February 23rd at 2 PM. The service will be for Dick and Isla June Davis. Isla June was my mother-in-law's Maid of Honor when she married. They had moved away before I came to Arcadia but Michael remembers them well. Unfortunately, we will be in Gainesville and will be unable to attend.
- ❖ Charlene Michaud's sister Ruth will be arriving on the 24th of February and will be here about nine days. I bet they will do a lot of catching up! Roy has to have his ear operated on again March 6th. Please hold him in your prayers.
- ❖ Pat Novean does not have a lot of news but she is finally over the cold that hung on forever and kept her away from church. The sad news is that she had to say goodbye to her 15 year old cat Chloe. It is so sad when they lose that quality of life. Pat and Bob got away for a few days after that, so that helped. The good news is about two weeks ago she adopted a kitten from the Animal Welfare League. The first week was rough; she was timid and skittish and she had to keep her crated. But her older cat George came to the rescue and started playing with her though the bars. Finally it was time to let her out and she is having so much fun running around the house.

MARCH BIRTHDAY

5th – Pat Moore

15th – John Adams

22th – Dick Pryor

31st – Pat Novean

MARCH ANNIVERSARY

11th – Sandra & Bob Stantz

20th – Jan & Hal Lewis

- ❖ So nice to have Dante Lanzetta back now that he is over his cold. Seems he can always find a Prayer Book in the back of the church even when no one else can!
 - ❖ I need your help paying for the 25 Easter Lilies we ordered. They add so much to Easter at St. Ed's. Please fill out a form and mail it in with your money or place it in the Offering Plate. I also have openings for Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles as we creep up on summer. Talk to me at church, call me or email me.
 - ❖ Nancy Jo & Robert Vaughn had a busy February. Robert had an unplanned trip to Indiana with his sisters for the funeral of an aunt. Although they would have liked to have gone for a different reason, they enjoyed being "Back Home Again in Indiana" and visiting with the many gathered family members. Nancy Jo & Robert had a couple of Elks Lodge special events to participate in since he is an officer. They both enjoyed a couple of days at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood FL for the Rod Stewart concert and some "very limited" playing the one-armed bandits. (Robert claims to have come home with winnings!) They attended the Avon Park Historical Society dinner with Pat Moore and Linda & Barry Gromen for an interesting presentation about the history of the Avon Park Bombing Range.
 - ❖ Some nice, some cute sayings from Haila Lewis: "A thing of beauty if a joy forever." "The house does not rest upon the ground but upon a woman." and "The Lord will put the grapes within our reach, but He will not put them into our mouths."
- See you in church! Irene

SENIOR WARDEN

I consider it a great honor to be picked for the post of Senior Warden for 2020. It will be a huge challenge to follow in the huge footsteps of our previous one, Joe Mancuso. He has done an exemplary Job for the past several years. While I do have experience in this post, the most recent was during the rebuild after hurricane Charley. In other words, I have a huge coat of rust to scrape off. Please feel free to talk with me about any questions and concerns. I do a great job of honoring confidences. By the time you read this, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be in the books. I have every confidence it will again be a great success. I was very pleased to ring the bell in the parish hall during coffee hour on the 16th to announce that I had no more tickets for presale. Great job to all my salesmen & women.

On a personal note: On Valentine's Day, we [Arcadia Village] had 2 men (both living alone) found dead in their homes. Very sadly, one of them, seemingly very healthy and active hadn't been seen or heard from for 5 days. Now to the point of all this. We need to do a better job of looking after our friends and neighbors. I hold myself especially accountable because Bill lived near me and missed golf with me on the 13th. Both I and my neighbor just assumed he had gone off somewhere. We also had an incident where a member of our church family had fallen and spent a long time on the floor, unable to reach a phone. I can't even imagine the feeling of being helpless on the floor with no one around. We are a caring, loving family. Let's devote ourselves to staying in touch, and making an arrangement with someone living alone to at least make a phone call daily to insure the safety and welfare of each other. If we don't receive the expected call, then stop by and make sure everything is okay.

Bob Harrington

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, March 5th, at 10:00 am.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

The annual Rummage/Bake Sale planned for the end of February has been postponed until the fall due to illnesses and scheduling conflicts. Just box or bag up your donations and store them in a back room or a closet. We want your stuff and your baked goods-just not until the fall! A big thank you goes to Pat Moore and Nancy Jo Vaughn for their leadership!

The ECW is planning a busy March. On March 1 and continuing through Lent again this year we will be involved in our churchwide **United Thank Offering** Drive. As the whole community of St. Edmund's, we will be thanking God for our blessings daily by offering our prayers and donations. Our donations combined with those of the other Episcopal churches are used to respond to needs shared through grant applications. This ministry is a wonderful outreach of the Episcopal Church. Last year the people of St. Edmund's responded under the leadership of Nancy Jo Vaughn with a record ingathering of \$793.92 --a small church truly making a difference.

Also, on March 1st and March 8th the ECW will be holding our traditional "**Undie Sunday**" On those two Sundays, the congregation is asked to bring unopened packages of children's underwear to be shared with our local schools. Please bring underpants, undershirts and socks for children of all ages. They will be delivered and housed at the school county level and dispersed to schools to be used as needed. Remember that school children of all ages have emergencies; also please remember that we have a number of homeless children of all ages in our community. Place your donations in the box at the entry of the church. They will be delivered March 9th.

The ECW is participating in a fundraiser dinner and program at Visani Comedy Club in Charlotte County on March 11th. All thirty tickets were sold and a fun evening awaits. A big thanks to Carolyn McConnell for her idea and her diligent work on this project!

All women of St.Ed's are part of our ECW and are certainly welcome to attend and participate. Our next meeting will be at Beef O'Brady's on Wednesday, March 18th, at 5:30. Hope to see you there!

Thanks!

Charlene Michaud, President

UNITED THANK OFFERING



The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box (or a provided envelope, if you prefer). UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute the 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

St. Edmund's UTO starts on Sunday, March 1st and the boxes/envelopes will be collected at the 8:00 and 10:00 Eucharists on Sunday, March 29th.

Nancy Jo Vaughn, UTO Coordinator, St. Edmund ECW

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

	MARCH 1	MARCH 8	MARCH 15	MARCH 22	MARCH 29
ALTAR GUILD	Sandy Stantz	Pat Moore	Irene Pooser	Linda Gromen	Carolyn McConnell
LEM	Joe Mancuso	Pat Moore	Irene Pooser	Linda Gromen	Pat Novean
ACOLYTE	Pat Moore	Irene Pooser	Joe Mancuso	Joe Mancuso	Bob Harrington
GREETERS	Irene & Michael Pooser	Phylis & Joe Mancuso	Bob Harrington Pat Novean	Steve Bianco James Bianco	Charlene & Roy Michaud
PRAYERS	Nancy Jo Vaughn	Bob Harrington	Pat Moore	Irene Pooser	Carolyn McConnell
8:00 LECTOR	Haila Lewis	Wendy Carter	Bob Euerle	Haila Lewis	Wendy Carter
10:00 LECTOR	Irene Pooser	Kent Debruler	Joe Easterwood	Rosemary Seal	James Bianco