THE EVANGELIS December 2023 & January 2024

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ADVENT GREETINGS, BELOVED!

By the end of the long green season after Pentecost, I am ready for a change. Perhaps that's one of the many reasons I love the season of Advent so much. It certainly represents a big change in the tone and feel of the parish liturgy. While our Advent offerings are no less beautiful than what preceded them in the summer and fall, that beauty has been focused, honed perhaps, around the season's major motif of expectation. It's just what I need as we begin preparing our hearts for the great Christ-Mass at the Nativity.



he Rev. David Bumsted, Recto

It's putting it mildly to say that the ancient Israelites were ready for a

change. Lately, I've been thinking of Israel's Messianic expectation in terms of a deep longing to dwell once again with the presence of God. By the end of the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, there's a sense of ambiguity as to whether the Holy Presence is among the Israelites in the worship of the Temple. In fact, instead of the triumphal entry of God's glory into the rebuilt and reconsecrated Temple, the reader is confronted by Nehemiah's anxiety at the misadventure and misbehavior of the people when he prays, "Remember me, O my God, for good." It turned out that returning to Jerusalem after 70 years of exile hadn't fixed all that was keeping Israel from dwelling with the Divine Presence. Instead, Nehemiah, the prophets, and Jesus had come to the realization that the oldest enemies of humanity, sin and death, were keeping the people from enjoying God among them.

By the time of Jesus' first Advent, there was a unique fervor in the Israelite Messianic expectation, especially because Rome was looking a lot like the old enemies of Egypt, Babylon, and Assyria. But Jesus was not interested in a military reconquest but rather in the conquest of the aforementioned sin and death. In Jesus, the anxiety of Nehemiah and the prophets was finally relieved, for as Paul reminds us: "...in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" (Col 1:19). The fullness of God, the presence of the Almighty had come to be among us in Jesus Christ.

Beloved, he is still among us! Advent is a perfect time to devote our hearts to him and gratitude for all he has done for us! Perhaps Advent is a good time to join one of our many studies, to join us for the parish Daily Offices, or simply to be more present for the beauty and majesty of the Sunday Eucharist. In any case, know that God's own Presence is with us, guiding us and building us into a mansion prepared for himself!

Remembering Jesus,



SENIOR WARDEN'S NEWS

The beautiful season of Advent - the season of anticipation and preparation - has arrived. This has been a year of expanding and deepening bonds within our congregation, and it is exciting to contemplate what the new year may hold for Saint John's. Please join the Vestry for the annual Christmas Party on the 14th, and mark your calendars for all the various events and opportunities during December and the Christmas season. Maybe you will come especially to see the Advent wreath, hear the music of the season, or witness the joy of the Christmas pageant. I particularly love Advent lessons and carols, singing Silent Night together by candlelight at our Christmas Eve service, and then the service of nine lessons and carols the week after Christmas.

We are richly blessed to walk together in faith with one another, Father David and Beka, our tremendously talented and hard-working staff, and our inspired lay leadership. Thank you for all you have done to make 2023 a memorable year for our parish. I hope that, no matter whether your celebration will be small or grand, near or far, quiet or boisterous, you have a warm and wonderful Christmas. I'm looking forward with anticipation to sharing Saint John's future with you in 2024.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S NEWS

Greetings Friends!

Happy Holidays!

I hope this letter finds you well during this holiday season. At this time of year, I usually find myself both looking back on the year that was and looking forward to the year that is to be.

This last year has been especially busy for our Buildings and Grounds team. The Gardens and Grounds team was formally established this year and has conducted more regular clean-ups to really elevate our game in the gardens. Mike Reif's letter provides the highlights, and I want to thank him and all the volunteers who help with the ministry of keeping our grounds in great shape. Inside the building, we've updated several pieces of equipment this year, from our chillers to some aging air conditioning units to our water heater. These units were all beyond their normal life cycle, and we were happy to retire them and update our units. It's been great to get these items in line with the heavy usage our parish facilities have seen this year, with so many magnificent events and services for our community to attend.

We, of course, had a successful capital campaign to raise funds for our basement, kitchen, and flower rooms. The Transfigure Campaign was one of the fastest capital campaigns I've ever witnessed, with our fundraising goal being met within months of starting. This is a real testament to the giving spirit of St. John's and the value our parish has in the future of this church. We've continued engaging with our architect on the project to complete drawings and plans, with construction scheduled to begin next year. Our volunteer and support staff have been outstanding in getting us to the area of the project where we will soon be completing design work and moving into construction.

Looking forward into the next year, we hope to see our grounds and facilities continue to improve. We look to upgrade our security and lighting systems around the parish to help our campus to be safe for all those who attend and use it. We'll also be improving signage and wayfinding both in and out of the church to help direct all who visit us. Prior to the start of construction, we will also be conducting a cleanout of the basement for our renovation to take place.

On the Transfigure project, we expect to have our contractors selected and in work next year to execute the plans for our basement, kitchen, and flower room remodels. We look forward to seeing this major renovation completed next year, with new and improved areas of our building available for our expanding congregation.

Again, I want to thank all who have supported our ministry teams in their efforts this last year, and I look forward to another great year for our church.

All the Best.

Marc McCaw

TREASURES REPORT

Operating Revenue and Expense thru October Combined

Total income of \$1,209,063 is <\$185,426> under budget for the year to date. Total pledges are under budget for the year by <\$36,098>. Contributions & Plate of \$149,636 are <\$43,197> under budget for the year to date. Miscellaneous Income of \$247,492 (which includes transfers from our Investment Account) is <\$106,131> under budget.

Expenses of \$1,223,464 are \$177,866 under budget for the year to date.

Bill (hevaillier

Please join us for the PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY DEC. 14, 5:30 PM

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

Nursery - As some of you know, we have changed rooms for the nursery! Our nursery is now located in Fox Library. Kids 0 - PreK are welcome to stay there during the 10 a.m. service. The nursery opens at 9 a.m. and is open until the end of service.

Children's Chapel - Merry Christmas to all our children and families at Saint John's! We hope you all will have a wonderful holiday season! With that in mind, we will be doing a lot of Advent Activities, including creating our own Advent Wreaths!

Christmas Break - We also know that holidays are a time for families, so to honor that, we will have a Christmas break from December 24, 2023, through January 7, 2024.

Advent Wreaths - If you and your family are looking to have a homemade Advent Wreath, join Betsy Hocker on December 3rd in the Common Room at 9:00 am. We will be walking through the importance of the Advent Wreath and building our very own! RSVP to Diana at dcarter@sjtuls.org.

Youth Group - Our Youth Group will have a Christmas Party on December 20, where we will roast marshmallows around our fire pit and exchange White Elephant Gifts. Any teen is welcome to join! Following the Christmas Party, we will take a break until January 10, 2024.

Tech Team - We are very grateful for several teens' commitment to Saint John's and our capacity to livestream offerings. Working in shifts, they "run tech" for Sunday worship, events such as Music at Midday, choir concerts, and other special events. If you want to help with this ministry, contact Joshua Corsaro!

Acolytes - Are you or your children interested in helping out during the Sunday services? Then join the Acolytes! Our Acolytes are a group of children, teens, and adults who help in multiple roles throughout the service. Acolytes are allowed to start as early as 8 years old! If you are interested, speak to Josh for more information.

Kids' Night - If you are bringing your kid on Wednesday night, there is a group for them! Like Youth Group, our Kids' Night starts at 6:00 p.m. with a dinner and then goes on to play games and study the Bible. We then end at 7:30 p.m. and return the kids to their families.

Christmas Children's Pageant - Christmas Eve is around the corner, and with that comes our Children's Christmas Pageant. Formerly known as the Tableau, this year's Pageant will give kids and families the opportunity to relive the Gospel story of the Incarnation.

Rehearsals for the Pageant are on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th during Children's Chapel in Powell Hall. The children will then offer the Pageant during the 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service. If you have any questions or wish to sign up, please reach out to Joshua Corsaro.

Choristers -Our choristers will join our worship on Christmas Eve at the 4:30 p.m. service. They will provide not only the service music and the offertory but also lead the singing during the Christmas pageant.

Christmas
Pageant

4:30 pm, Dec 24
Everyone is welcome!

SAINT JOHN'S

For more information call
918-742-7381
jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org

ADULT FORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

Wednesday Evening Bible Study - Join Fr. David as he goes through the book of Acts. This book in our Bible from St. Luke shows the beginning of our church and even serves us today as a reminder of why we do what we do. This Bible Study meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, so come on and join!

Sunday Morning Formation - Our Sunday morning formations are at 9 a.m. in the Common Room. Currently, Dr. William Lyons is resuming his class on the Old Testament. Come and join us!

Dead Theologians Society - Our Dead Theologian Society group meets in two sections, alternating Wednesday mornings at 9:15 am and, on the following week, Thursday evenings at 6:15 pm. We have just started reading Cyril of Jerusalem's Catechetical Lectures, and now is a great time to join us. If you wish to join, please reach out to Zach Malavolti.

Iron Gate - A volunteer crew from our church serves at Iron Gate on the first Saturday of each month. This is a feeding ministry in downtown Tulsa for our neighbors with food and housing insecurity. Our team meets at Iron Gate at 8 a.m. and serves until 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you on the first Saturday in December. If you want to sign up to be a part of this, email me at jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org.

Young Adults' Brunch - We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas! We will resume this group on January 28, 2024.

Josh Corgaro

CANTATAS FOR THE ADVENT SEASON ~ DECEMBER 7 - 8, 2023

Sponsored by the DeKraai family. Admission is free and open to the public.

Thursday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. At the German-American Society 1429 Terrace Dr. Tulsa, OK 74104

Lecture by world-renowned Bach Scholar Christoph Wolff. Wolff is the author of Johann Sebastian Bach: The Learned Musician. Wolff offers new perspectives on the composer's life and remarkable career.

Joseph Arndt

Friday, December 8 at 7 p.m. At Saint John's Church

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 61 Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 62 Wachet! betet! betet! wachet! BWV 70 Joseph Arndt, conductor Cynthia Roberts, concertmaster Meray Boustani, soprano Nicholas Garza, countertenor Steven Soph, tenor David Grogan, bass



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS



You are cordially invited to the Advent Lessons and Carols event on December 10th at 5:30 pm. It's going to be an evening filled with beautiful carols and inspiring lessons. Join us for this celebration of the Advent season.

The glowy of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. Isaiah 40:5

TRUNK OR TREAT

We had a wonderful time with the kids at Trunk or Treat this year!



GARDEN AND GROUNDS

Our major effort this fall involves preparing and planting flower beds. October 21 was our fall grounds cleanup and tulip planting day. 1000 bulbs were provided to create beautiful spring flowers. Thank you to everyone who came out to help make our gardens beautiful!

During the summer, many areas have been replanted with grass sod. Look at the Garden of Resurrection! The south lawn has been restored, and the flag pole area has been renewed. The large oak in the west lawn will be removed in November primarily because of the risk of falling limbs. Over time, it has been weakened by many weather events. Additional tree work will be needed to remove low limbs.

The irrigation system is working well, although the station controller needed replacement. This will allow us to use WiFi on our smartphones to control the system remotely.

Have a wonderful and grateful Thanksgiving holiday! Mike Reif



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The Daily Office

You are invited to join us every weekday at 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. as we pray.

HOSPITALITY NEWS

THANK YOU to all our Hospitality Teams that have provided an abundance of Sunday Snacks this Fall season. It has been an incredible gift to our Saint John's community. We so appreciate your generosity and dedication.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ~ DECEMBER 24TH

Festive Christmas cookies will be a part of the joy and celebration after services on Christmas Eve. If you want to contribute two dozen cookies, please contact Kathleen Moss at 918-633-8881. Thank you!

NEW YEAR'S EVE ~ DECEMBER 31ST

After services on December 31st the Hospitality Team will serve donuts and muffins. Please contact Kathleen Moss at 918-633-8881 if you would like to contribute 1 or 2 dozen donuts or muffins that day. We would appreciate your help! Kathleen Moss M





THE ORDER OF DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Daughters of the King met on November 7th and enjoyed an interesting study of the BOOK OF ESTHER, the only Book in the Bible that does not mention the name of God. DOK also planned for a busy November and December. We will be preparing a Thanksgiving food basket for a family of six from one of our local public schools.

In December, we will have the Sunday Food offering on December 3rd. Preliminary planning sounds wonderful. We will also provide a special holiday luncheon for for clergy and staff on December 12. Finally, we will continue our Bible Study with Fr. David on December 7th.

DOK welcomes new members to join us and learn about our mission and activities at our monthly meetings. Contact Sharon Bell at 918-625-4840 with questions.

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

The LEVs (Licensed Eucharistic Visitors) are currently working on their qualification process. Bishop Poulson will be responsible for licensing each LEV after they complete the process, which includes training from Fr. David, completion of the online Safeguarding program, and submission of an application that needs to be approved by the Saint John's vestry.

If you haven't heard from Sharon Bell since September, please get in touch with her as she may not have had your updated contact information. You can reach her at 918-625-4940.

We are always happy to welcome new LEVs, and are planning another training session with Fr. David this winter. If you are

interested in becoming a LEV, please contact Fr. David or Sharon Bell.

ST. BARBARA'S GUILD

St. Barbara's Guild is a group of women dedicated to the study of the Bible, service projects, fellowship, and support of each other and Saint John's Episcopal Church.

Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month at 11:00 AM in the Common Room. Bring a sack lunch and your Bible. Beverages of water and coffee are provided.

If you need more information or have questions:

Contact: Kathleen Moss - 918-633-8881

Kathleen Moss

Join us at our December meeting on Thursday, December 21st at 11:00 AM in the Common Room. Father David will be leading our Bible Study on the Book of Esther.

Our January meeting will be on Thursday, January 18th at 11:00 AM in the Common Room. We will continue our study of the Book of Esther with Father David.

OUTREACH NEWS

It's time to embrace the spirit of the giving season and provide for the needs of others. As we continue to focus on our local schools, please remember that some children will have little to nothing for Christmas without our generosity. In December, there are two foci: an Angel Tree for young students in our local schools and NEW toys for Emergency Infant Services (EIS).

The Common Room has an Angel Tree with children's names, ages, and Christmas wishes from Eliot and Patrick Henry. Please choose a child and shop for that specific child, the gifts will go only to that person.

Instructions will be available when you choose your child. The deadline for Angel Tree gifts is December 15th, the last day of school for the children.

In addition, Emergency Infant Services is requesting NEW toys for children ages 0-5 years. There is an area in the Common Room to place your wrapped gifts. Please label the gifts with either boy or girl and the

I'm so proud of our Parish for providing clothing, food, and other local community needs this past year. Thank you for a job well done.

Prayers & Souares

Prayers & Squares is an interfaith outreach organization that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. The purpose of Prayers & Squares is to promote prayer through the use of quilts.

Each knot represents a prayer.

As each knot is tied, a prayer is offered for a person in need - someone who has asked us to pray for them. Each KNOT represents a prayer. Please don't tie bows; save those for shoe laces and Christmas packages because we don't want those bows to come undone with the use and washing of our Peggy Landrum

Christmastide at Saint John's

Christmas Eve - Dec. 24th

8:00 a.m. IV Advent - Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:00 a.m. IV Advent - Holy Eucharist Rite II 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve - Eucharist with Pageant 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve - Festival Eucharist Rite II 11:15 p.m. Christmas Eve - Solemn Eucharist Rite I



Christmas Day - Dec. 25th

10:00 a.m. - The Holy Eucharist Rite II (with hymns)

New Year's Eve - Dec. 31st

8:00 a.m. I Christmas - Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:00 a.m. I Christmas - Holy Eucharist Rite II 5:30 p.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

January 7th, 2024

8:00 a.m. I Epiphany - Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:00 a.m. I Epiphany - Holy Eucharist Rite II 5:30 p.m. I Epiphany - Solemn Eucharist Rite I



Janice Ingle



Milestones **December Birthdays**

1 Nancy Daniel

2 Teresa DiPrima **Judy Moore Cheryl Westfall**

3 Maredith Anguoe **Meray Boustani Julio Diaz** Mike Reif

4 Payton Ballard **Kristine Taylor**

5 David Shorten **Cheryl Waldeck Mickey Wilson**

6 Julia Phillips

7 Kari Cosner **Robert Gambill Judy Harris Dianne Schooley**

8 Hillary Cinocca Marvin Hockenson **Penny Johnston Lindsey Latham**

9 Judy Carroll

10 Edith Coen **Kathy Fields Bud Maguire Brad Williams**

11 Gentry Ballard **Robert Coon Ellen Prather Rowan Shores**

12 Betsv Blue **Christine Ford Natalie Gillett Dorian Kurin**

13 Marilyn Morris

14 Kellen Kappers

14 Jennifer Parker

15 Jimmy Cox **Lane Duel Ellie Floyd**

16 Martha Brown **Tommi Cox-Phipps Terri Dunbar Pat Elsberry Toni Rizley Michael Vestal**

17 Jason Smith

18 Bob Burlingame

19 Adrienne Ed **Jeff Slattery Fred Stowell**

20 Ann Maske

21 Dwayne Edwards **Gene Melton**

22 Leah Eckenwiler

23 Paula Rule

24 Christy Shellshear **Jennifer Smith**

25 Lynne Beeson **George Dotson Daphne Wise**

26 26 Charlene Fabian **Mark Gulick**

27 Bill Chevaillier **Steve Collinson Steve Lake**

29 Linda Farguharson **Justin Hart**

31 Linda Barnum **Wythe Dodson** Marilyn MorrisEva Sabo **Carolyn Shorten**

Passings 11/25/2023 Robert Reed

Milestones

January Birthdays

- 1 Jenna Byers Tammie Kolker Michael Morrison Michael O'Shea
- 2 Linda Arrington Dutch Prather
- 3 Bradford Cummings Zach Malavolti
- 4 Jon Cinocca
- 6 Jack Coon
- 7 Linda McAninch
- 8 Jim Mulcahy
- 9 Clark Phipps Nancy Westfall
- 10 Anne Gillingham Jan Schweiger
- 11 Conor Cummings
- 12 Nick Bradford
 June Marie Campbell
 Meghan Joiner
 Jim Landrum
- 13 Susan Lyons
- 14 Christine Payne
- 15 Melinda Billam
- 16 Nancy Ellis
- 17 Suzanne Pierson
- 18 Debbie Carder Emma Cinocca Nancy Paul Judy Randle
- 19 Jude Bergquist Bard Moss
- 20 Betty Briney Tim Hager Paul Schroedter
- 22 Gayla DeLay Jerry Lee Don Perry
- 23 Jo Anna Dossett Nathan Cinocca
- 24 Chris Osburn
- 25 Jo Farrimond
- 26 Jeanette Hughes-Willey Will Phipps Susan Slattery
- 27 Nina Lipe
- 28 Calvin Moniz
- 29 Jane Cowdery
 Gerry Reif
 Dianne Schroedter
- 30 Doug Burgess Susan Walker
- 31 Ellen Atkins
 Owen Cowdery
 Robert Johnston
 Courtenay Tetrick

Baptisms 11/12

Zoe Edwards Kollins Layton Eleanor Temple Aimee Hart

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Every year the Altar Guild and Flower Committee work hard to decorate the church for Christmas. This year the decorating will happen between Saturday and Sunday, December 23-24. The transformation is always breathtaking! We rely on contributions from individuals to purchase the greens, poinsettias, and other supplies that help make our already beautiful church even more festive.

Please consider a contribution to the Altar Flower Fund. Use the envelopes found in the pews to make your contribution. Donors will be recognized in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. Your support helps keep the church looking beautiful all year long. Thank you for your support!

BSA TROOP 153 NEWS

Troop 153 has had a great fall camping season! The weather was perfect and the opportunities were plentiful for all our scouts and adults to sleep out under the changing leaves. Miles were hiked and biked, targets were aimed for, camp fires were built, and cobblers were enjoyed. Most recently 24 scouts and 9 adults attended the Indian Nations Council Shooting Sports Campout at Mabee Scout Reservation near Locust Grove. We had several adults on staff for the event where scouts participated in archery, rifle, and shotgun shooting.

We are thankful for all the adult leaders who continue to volunteer their time with the troop. We also want to express gratitude to our Saint John's family. Recently, our scouts were given the opportunity to give back to the church by helping with some fall flowerbed clean up. Your continued support allows us to keep making a difference in the lives of our scouts, their families, and our community.

The past few months, our troop meetings have been a mixture of advancement, guest speakers, skill building, and fun! Recently, we heard mountain climber, author, inventor, world record holder, and motivational speaker Todd Huston tell his story of overcoming obstacles and inspiring others to do it,

Always striving to build better leaders, Troop 153 sent a handful of scouts as participants and staff to Pine Tree, a locally operated leadership training course that takes place at Mabee Scout Reservation. Congratulations to our Pine Tree participants!

Carolyn Davis











WITH BETH DUNKIN
MONDAY'S FROM 11 TO 12
OR
WEDNESDAY'S FROM 11 TO 12
UPSTAIRS IN THE
CONFERENCE ROOM





4200 South Atlanta Place Tulsa OK 74105-4331

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