



## **Fab Friday - April 19, 2024**

### **A Day of Remembrance**



Do you remember?

As with many occasions in history, you will probably remember just where you were and what you were doing at 9:02 on April 19, 1995 - the day that the Murrah Building was bombed, leaving 168 people dead and hundreds more injured.

I know where I was. At that time, I was living in Wickenburg, Arizona. It just so happened that on that day, and at that moment, I was packing to move to a new home when the "breaking news" interrupted the program I had on the television. I remember thinking at the time - NO, I must be hearing things. But I wasn't. Oklahoma City had been attacked by a terrorist - not from Russia or the Middle East but from our own country. From America! It just couldn't be true.

Immediately I was on the phone to contact my parents but all the lines were tied up and it took

hours to get through. In the meantime, I remained glued to the TV in tears as I watched firefighters and police officers moving in and out of the area, often helping or carrying people from the rubble. I will never forget when a firefighter was shown carrying out a 1-year-old baby who was one of 19 that would die that day.

"Where was God that day?" people asked. A question often asked in the light of a catastrophic event. Well, here is where I found God. God was in the response, not only of Oklahomans but of people around the world! God was found in the angels who left their homes and families and traveled long distances to be a part of the recovery efforts that would take weeks and months. God was working through the Oklahomans that came together in churches across the state to pray for the fallen. God worked his compassionate miracles through the emergency workers that were there, not thinking of themselves but only of those trapped in the building. God was in the response!

That's where I find God. These days, with all the chaos, descension, anger and infighting, I wonder where God is! I worry that the division in our country will result in a "civil war" - brothers and sisters in conflict with one another. Neighbors, fellow church members, children completely divided and willing to fight it out. Then I remember. It's simple - God is our HOPE. Hope that we will stop seeing Americans killing fellow Americans. Hope that we will come together, listen to one another and find solutions to our differences, solutions that we can all live with. Compromise, forgiveness, and love. That's where we will find God.

This morning, I happened once again to have the television on as the ceremony to commemorate the bombing was aired. As the crowd listened soberly to the speeches of the Mayor, Governor and the Secretary of the Interior, Deb Halland, I heard those messages from our political leaders. The speeches were astonishing and advocated for coming together with solutions rather than the anger and stubborn, righteous indignation that has ended in violence EVERYDAY in all places in our world.

Let our St. John's family lead the way in prayerful compromise, listening to one another, working together to create a better community within our small part of the world. Let us reach out to others who are mired in the mud of discontent, invite them in and love them as we so deeply love one another. That's where we will find God.

In gratitude for St. John's,  
Nancy

**PS: While Fr. Nate is on sabbatical from the Academy, his contact email is [nathan@commonplacebooksokc.com](mailto:nathan@commonplacebooksokc.com).**

[Here's your bulletin for Sunday, April 21.](#)

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**Adult Formation Class**  
**“God is Calling You”**  
**Sundays, April 21 through May 26, 2024**

We will spend time listening to a variety of songs, learning ways different people express their sense of “vocation and ministry,” what those words even mean and how they apply to each of us.

The structure will include

- o an opening prayer and some introductory comments
- o an explanation of “Lectio Divina,” and an opportunity to try it with something different than Scripture or a painting
- o a telling from experience from at least three different people (different Sundays) about discerning and responding to what God has been calling each of them to
- o an opportunity for questions and when I will find and share an answer to the questions
- o a handout each week that gives you all the references and quotations referred to, as well as space to write your own comments to help jog your memory after the class is over that day
- o a suggestion of what you might want to do during the week
- o a closing prayer

The opening prayer will be at 9:15 and the closing prayer at 9:50 in order to permit the choir members and bell ringers to get to what rehearsals they may need to do before the procession at 10:15. I will stay in the parlor until 10:10 if anyone has questions or comments they want to ask or share.

I’m excited about these classes and confident you will find something meaningful each week.

We are one in our prayer, Beverly Bradley

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## Registration is open for our Pilgrimage to England and Scotland



**You have been hearing about this and now it is reality!** Our portal is now complete and our group's information and pilgrimage documents have been added. It is ready for individual registration to start. If you have made the decision to go, there are [info packets](#) on the table under the bulletin board in the entry that will give you a lot of information about the itinerary, cost, hotels, etc. [The link for registration](#) is now open at <https://portal.myfaithjourneys.com/>. When you first open the link, you will start from the Home page for Faith Journeys.

You can go two directions from here. To the left of the page, you can preview our tour first. You will need our **Group Code: 25005** here and at other areas as you register. If you're ready to begin the registration, on the right **you will create an account by first [registering here](#)**. On the popup, select to register as an individual, not "host". [All instructions for registration can be found on this PDF](#) as well as a link on the home page. These step-by-step instructions should help you complete the registration process. If you have difficulties with registration or other questions, please contact Nancy and I will try to walk you through the process. The only way to register for the Pilgrimage is through this online process.

This is going to be a great trip and we hope to have a wonderful group from St. John's. At this time, the registration is open to our members only. In 2-3 months, we will open registration to other parishes Diocesan wide. St. John's members will be able to register even after we open up registration. **In the end, we will have a great group with which to share this once in a lifetime experience.**

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As announced last Sunday, we are working to **update our Prayer List**. Please review the list in [this bulletin](#) and **send information to Nancy by email** ([stjohnsokc@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnsokc@yahoo.com)). Please include your name and the name of the person(s) you would like to add or remove. I know you may want to take care of this on a **Sunday**. **Please give the information to Nancy IN WRITING** and again include your name and the name(s) of those you would like to update. If you rely on me to remember, you will find that my memory isn't at all what it was when I was 40.

## Outreach Ministry



The **27th** annual  
Letter Carriers  
Stamp Out Hunger®  
Food Drive is on  
Saturday, May 11



Save the Date

## Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Saturday, May 11th, 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Warr Acres Post Office  
6001 NW 63rd St., Oklahoma City, OK 73133

The Regional Food Bank is excited to partner with the United States Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers for the annual [Stamp Out Hunger](#) drive on Saturday, May 11. This event is the nation's largest single-day food drive in the country, where letter carriers collect non-perishable food donations along their mail routes. The food donated through this drive benefits the Regional Food Bank and its network of partner agencies.

St. John's has been invited to help sort incoming donations as the letter carriers return from their routes.

Children as young as 8 can participate (accompanied by parent or guardian).

**Stay tuned for event sign-up and details**



### **Cookies, Bars, Cakes, Breads, and Scones, Oh My!**

Help us raise money for a new adult-size changing table for St. John's Church. As our congregation grows, we want to be ready to welcome people of all ages and abilities. This is an important addition to our church to make this goal possible.

Bring your favorite sweet treat to sell at our Sunday bake sale to help us with this project.

