



Fab Friday - February 17, 2023

EVERYTHING HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S AND MORE THIS WEEK



It's hard to believe that Ash Wednesday and Lent are already upon us! Wasn't it just Christmas last week? And Spring seems to be coming early this year too - have you noticed some plants already in bloom?

Ash Wednesday has a very interesting history and story behind it. Ash Wednesday is the start of the Easter season as it marks the beginning of Lent. Ashes were often used as a symbol of sorrow for sin in the Bible. Though Ash Wednesday itself isn't mentioned in the Bible, we find the use of ashes in the book of Daniel where ashes were first associated with penance.

The use of ashes as a symbolic gesture has early roots, all the way back to the 11th century. Because Lent is a time for fasting, self-sacrifice, and repentance, it makes sense to begin the 40-day period with a symbolic gesture of solemnity.

The practice of spreading ashes on foreheads became widespread in the U.S. as recently as the 1970s. It was part of a wider trend in American religion of people wanting to connect their physical and spiritual lives. The mark became an obvious association with religion that people embraced, as they could wear it throughout the day.

Across the nation, people will gather in churches for the imposition of ashes this coming Wednesday. Please join us on this solemn occasion as we begin this Lenten season.

Your [Sunday Bulletin](#) is available at this link.

Blessings,
Nancy

Sharing the Love - Families Event - February 11, 2023



Good news! The young families of St. John's shared the love, and obviously enjoyed it, to many parishioners who are alone, incapacitated, or homebound, plus all those living in our neighborhood nursing home. They packaged and delivered approximately 100 treat bags, so the initiative was a success!! "Making valentines for lots of sweet people!" is what this February gathering was all about. Mission accomplished!

For those who contributed items for the treat bags, THANK YOU for helping to make this a fun and loving project.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S - WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19

**Weekday and Special Services • Special Events – Church and
• Special Events – Outside Groups**

Saturday, Feb 18 – Mayfair Hills Neighborhood Game Night – 5:00 pm

Wednesday, Feb 22 – Ash Wednesday – 7:00 Evening Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Friday, Feb 24 – Feast of St. Mathias – 5:30 Evening Eucharist

**A FULL LENTEN AND EASTER SCHEDULE WILL BE INCLUDED
IN NEXT WEEK'S FAB FRIDAY**



ST. JOHN'S PARK - PET ASHES GARDEN

As you may have heard, the next phase of the development of St. John's Park is to add a sweet little Pet Ashes Garden just east of the Chapel, north of the dog park. **But we need your help to complete it!**

The estimated cost of the garden, including a brick structure filled with garden soil and flowers, is \$3,500. To date, we have raised \$700 toward this goal.

We need your support with a donation to this project.

Any of you that have, or have had, pets appreciate how precious our 4-legged friends are to us - and **we want them to have a lovely place to rest under the trees at St. John's.** Please consider a donation to this project. If you choose to give, please make a note in the memo line of your check or online donation that says simply "Ashes Garden". We'll know where it goes.

And Thank You in advance for your generosity.

The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma



You're invited to -

VOCATION GATHERING

Do you feel a pull to ordained ministry as a priest or deacon? Gather with us to listen, discern and explore. Spouses / partners & sponsoring priests are required to join.

Feb. 23 / 6:30 pm Via Zoom

First step: Speak with Fr. Nate about ordained ministry, and then Step Two: **register for the Vocational Gathering by Feb 22**. This will be a ZOOM meeting. Spouses/partners and sponsoring priests are required to join. [Click here to register](#).

If you are considering ordination, and want a better understanding of the commitment, you will find more information about priesthood and the diaconate at epiok.org/ordinations.



**Coming soon!
Combined Youth & Adult Sunday School**

"Church History—The Reformation"

Are Episcopalians Protestant? Are we Catholic? Both? Neither?

The Reformations of the 16th century created both new understandings and deep divisions within Christianity related to theology, liturgy, authority, and religious experience. These changes are still influential today, including within The Episcopal Church.

Please join us on **February 26 (the First Sunday of Lent) at 9:15 in the Parlor** for the beginning of a joint Sunday School class (both Youth and Adults) on The Reformation.

This 12-week course will be led by Steve Orwig and Rosemary Orwig-Rodgers, with help from Deacon Lisa and others.

The **Children's class will continue to meet and follow the Storybooks** curriculum through May 28. The following Sunday, June 4, will begin the summer hiatus for all Sunday School classes.



St. John's Outreach News and Needs

Teacher's Toolbox is in need of wide-ruled notebook paper, glue sticks, dry erase markers, Sharpies, and washable Crayola markers at this time. Our teachers so appreciate your donations.

Our birthday list for **Sunbeam Birthday Boxes for February and March** has three children: **The children for March include twins – KaNaya and Kei** who both would love any sensory or colorful toys plus **Ava** who likes CoComelon and shapes.

CAIR-OK's urgent needs for the next two weeks are shampoo for adults and children, and full-size toothpaste. They also have **need for volunteers on Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00-1:30 and 1:30-4:00.**

Volunteers will also be needed to assist with the **Ramadan Clothing Bazaar on March 10 and 11 in the Wade-Dalton Hall.** Volunteers are needed for set up on March 10 and the Bazaar on March 11 (Friday and Saturday). Shifts are 9:00-11:30 and 11:30-2:00 on Friday

and 9:30-12:45 and 12:30-4:00 (or while supplies last) on Saturday. Lunch will be provided for volunteers. To sign up online, [click here](#) to be sent to the Sign Up Genius. OR you can contact Jen Hurd at jhund@cair.com to become involved.

Caring Teens and Adults We Need YOU!

We continue to need attendants for our youngsters in the nursery on Sundays. To find out more, please talk with Daisy Leyva, Director of Children, Youth and Families, to volunteer for a Sunday that works for you. We hope to have two people each Sunday, ideally one adult and one teen, to entertain and watch over our little ones.

