

News Features:

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## The SEASONS of St. James Church

### COLD-HEARTED VIRUS

*By The Rev. Dawn M. Frankfurt, Rector*

As you look at the graphic below accompanying this article, hopefully one of the first things you noticed is that there is no “green” status.

This was done intentionally by Bishop Bascom and her advisers to communicate that there is no completely safe time for a group of people to gather while the virus is uncontrolled in our community.

That’s a sobering reminder.

New policies and guidelines about when to consider gathering for indoor, in-person worship have been published by The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas and are intended to be in effect from Advent One until Easter.

The statistics which define the status of each parish are according to the county in which the parish is located.

*Continued on page two*

### Measurements for Allowing In-Person Worship Services

Based on data from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/160/COVID-19-in-Kansas>

**Less than 10% positive and  
less than 100 cases per 100,000**

**Greater than 10% positive or  
greater than 100 cases per 100,000**

**Greater than 10% positive and  
greater than 100 cases per 100,000**

Just because these policies are in effect from now until Easter does not necessarily mean there will be no worship the whole time. At the very least, there will always be online worship when we are not worshipping in person.

Currently there is a moratorium in place on indoor, in-person worship for our whole diocese through December 13. Staff in the diocesan office are tracking the statistics. Whenever fifty percent or more of the parishes in the diocese are in the “red” category, then in-person worship will be halted for the whole diocese. That is the reason we currently have a moratorium.

In instances when we have been unable to have indoor, in-person worship for some time, and the statistics for Sedgwick County have kept us in the “red” zone, we will keep watching virus activity in our community. When

there is not a moratorium, and the weather is cooperating, we can consider outdoor worship when our status is “orange” or “yellow.” We will schedule indoor, in-person services on Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m. when the Sunday being considered follows at least two consecutive Sundays of Sedgwick County being in “yellow” status.

While it is true that parishes have the option to consider opening for in-person worship in “orange” status, this is primarily meant to provide flexibility to parishes with small congregations. St. James will not gather in person when Sedgwick County is in the “orange” status as defined by this criteria.

When we have indoor, in-person worship services at St. James, they will be clearly announced in our weekly email, The eTower, so keep in touch!

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

*Isaiah 40:28-31*

Please remember to wear a mask when you visit St. James.  
We also ask that you sign in and out at the front desk.



Welcome to Deb Gruver, who has joined St. James as its new administrative assistant. Her first day was Nov. 17.

Deb is a former newspaper reporter who worked at The Wichita Eagle for 16 years. She left the newspaper in 2015. During her time there, she covered crime, consumer affairs and state and local government. She also wrote a weekly open records column.

Since leaving journalism, she has worked in public relations and public affairs and was director of communications for a nonprofit organization.

She owns Word Scout Communications Solutions, a small public and media relations firm that provides writing, editing and other services to nonprofit organizations and small businesses.

Deb is married to Joshua Wood, whose father, Bill, was rector at St. John's Episcopal Church in Wichita for several years.

She grew up in Iowa and studied journalism at the University of Kansas.

Josh and Deb don't have children but do have two rescue dogs, Boo Radley and Harper Lee. Deb enjoys traveling (during non Covid-19 times, at least), music, art and eating Josh's fabulous cooking.

Her mother, Vera — aka The Vera G — lives in Wichita and is a big part of Deb's life.



## ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

*By The Rev. Dawn M. Frankfurt, Rector*

The following schedule on page five is provided as a guide to the schedule of worship we expect to offer in 2021. If the virus clears up and goes away before the end of this schedule, then we will celebrate! Here are a few notes about some new things on the schedule.

We are adding:

**Seasonal Services:** In both the Advent and Christmas seasons, additional services based on traditional lessons and carols will be made available for your holiday listening and viewing

pleasure. They will be posted periodically and you will be able to find them on our YouTube channel and on our Facebook page.



**Holy Eucharist on Third Sundays:** One brief service (similar to a home Eucharistic visit) will be offered on the third Sunday of each month at 10:45 a.m. Worshipers stay in their cars, tune into the short service on the radio, and Mother Dawn will come out of the church to distribute the Blessed Sacrament at each vehicle.

**Worship with the wider church:** On second Sundays: We will provide links to online worship at the Washington National Cathedral in DC. On fourth Sundays: We will provide links to online worship at Grace Episcopal Cathedral in Topeka.

# Advent, Christmas & Epiphany 20-21

Sunday of the Month	Day	Month	Date	Liturgical Day	Location of Worship Service:	Holy Eucharist For Our Congregation?	Presented Online?
fifth	Advent One special seasonal service			Advent 1	St. James Church (online)	No	Yes (Seasonal)
	Sunday	November	29	Advent 1	St. James Church (online)	Spiritual	Yes (Early Sun Morning)
first	Advent Two special seasonal service			Advent 2	St. James Church (online)	No	Yes (Seasonal)
	Sunday	December	6	Advent 2	St. James Church (online)	Spiritual	Yes (Early Sun Morning)
second	Advent Three special seasonal service			Advent 3	St. James Church (online)	No	Yes (Seasonal)
	Sunday	December	13	Advent 3	Washington National Cathedral	Spiritual	Yes
third	Advent Four special seasonal service			Advent 4	St. James Church (online)	No	Yes (Seasonal)
	Sunday	December	20	Advent 4	St. James Church (online)	Spiritual	Yes (Early Sun Morning)
---	Sunday	December	20	10:45 a.m. Advent 4	St. James Church (in parking lot)	Yes	No
	Thursday	December	24	Christmas Eve	St. James Church (online)	Spiritual	Yes
---	Thursday	December	24	7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve	St. James Church (in parking lot)	Yes	No
	Friday	December	25	Christmas Day*	St. James Church (online)	No	Yes
fourth	Sunday	December	27	1st Sunday After Christmas*	St. James Church (online)	No	Yes (Seasonal)
first	Sunday	January	3	2nd Sunday After Christmas	St. James Church (online)	Spiritual	Yes
second	Sunday	January	10	1st Sunday After the Epiphany	Washington National Cathedral	Spiritual	Yes
third	Sunday	January	17	2nd Sunday After the Epiphany	St. James Church (online)	Spiritual	Yes
	Sunday	January	17	10:45 a.m. 2nd Sun. After Epiphany	St. James Church (in parking lot)	Yes	No
fourth	Sunday	January	24	3rd Sunday After the Epiphany	Grace Cathedral Diocese of Kansas	Spiritual	Yes
fifth	Sunday	January	31	4th Sun. Epiphany / Annual Meeting	St. James Church (online)	Spiritual	Yes
first	Sunday	February	7	5th Sunday After the Epiphany	St. James Church (online)	Spiritual	Yes
second	Sunday	February	14	Last Sunday After the Epiphany	Washington National Cathedral	Spiritual	Yes
---	Wednesday	February	17	Ash Wednesday	To be determined.	Spiritual	Yes
third	Sunday	February	21	First Sunday in Lent	St. James Church (online)	Spiritual	Yes
	Sunday	February	21	10:45 a.m. First Sunday in Lent	St. James Church (in parking lot)	Yes	No
fourth	Sunday	February	28	Second Sunday in Lent	Grace Cathedral Diocese of Kansas	Spiritual	Yes

\*Special Christmas Seasonal Service

## SABBATH YEAR

*By The Rev. Dawn M. Frankfurt, Rector*

Your vestry, executive committee, nominating committee, and rector declare to you that 2021 shall be a Sabbath Year at St. James Church.

Have you ever heard of a Sabbath Year? Most everyone has heard of taking the seventh day of the week as a sabbath, but what about a whole year? It exists! Or, it used to exist, among our Hebrew forebears who established patterns for observing Sabbath Years. Some communities observed them every seventh year, in a pattern of seven times seven years (every 49 years), and others 7 times 7 times 7 years, or every 7 times 70 years. The frequency differed from place to place, but it almost always harkened back to the rest the Lord established at creation on the seventh day. The Sabbath Year was called the Year of Jubilee. It was a time to reimagine society, renew faith and spiritual life, release animals and land from their burden, and to forgive debt. A sabbath (or jubilee) year must have felt like the closest thing there ever was to a miracle made by human hands (on advice of the Creator, of course). When a Sabbath year was declared, fields which were normally plowed, planted, and harvested, lay fallow all year. Nothing was required of it except to receive what God gave. All debts: large, small, official, or on the sly, were cancelled. Every account was reckoned as paid. All slaves were set free. Anyone who was held under any obligation was released from it. This was a time to rest, to heal, to mend **and to strengthen. People relied on God's bounty, abundance of former years, and steadfast faith during the jubilee.** They gave thanks to God for all that they had been given and they rested from their labors.

Your vestry, executive committee, nominating committee, and rector declare to you that 2021 shall be a sabbath year at St. James Church. We have labored together for years to make our parish home secure, and in the perverse way only the virus could have of showing us, we are ready for sabbath. It is as if we have held in reserve for this special time our world-weariness and grief.

The parish leadership is sure of the solidity of the parish, and feel assured about being called to a time of parish quietness. We are not called to stop being the church, but we are called to slow down, breathe, and collect ourselves. In this sabbath year we can recollect our community, our fragmented families, our dis-ordered lives, and our souls. We can become able to be whole in the presence of God where we can be blessed and give thanks.

In 2021 we will honor a time to rest while it appears (chiefly because of COVID-19) to be especially needed and especially possible. Here are some things we expect not to do in 2021:

We will not hold elections at the 2021 Annual Meeting. Nothing further (like making yourself available to run for an elected position) will be asked of our volunteers this year. Vestry, Endowment, Delegates and Alternates will operate with fewer members for the year. If any member intended to “graduate” from the committee at the 2021 Annual Meeting chooses to stay (with voice and vote) for another year, they may. There is no requirement. The 2020 Nominating Committee will serve in 2021 and nominate members to the slate for elections in 2022. This will be accomplished by consent of the parish at our 2021 Annual Meeting.

We will not hold the two largest annual events of the St. James Church year. We will miss the fellowship and funds we could raise, and still, we believe it is unrealistic to plan to be able to offer an Oyster Dinner in February or an Olde English Tea in May. We will conserve our energies for now.

The ministries upon which we will shine a simple focus in 2021 are:

CELEBRATING



**St. James**  
Episcopal Church

- The completion of our 100th Anniversary celebration (including a capital campaign). We hope an in-person event will be possible at the end of the year.
- The annual stewardship campaign upon which we rely for the operation of the parish.
- Ministries of all other groups will be conducted at the discretion of the leaders of each initiative, with awareness that we dedicate this year to soundness of heart, mind, body, and soul with the hope that strengthened spiritual moorings prepare us purposefully for the ministry God has yet to lay out in front of us.

A sabbath year is for you to be renewed and restored. You are not asked to plow, or haul, or build. You are allowed to be silent, pray, appreciate, and hold in reverence the abundance God has given each and every one of us. AMEN.

## ALTAR GUILD NOTES

*By Crystal Barber, Chair*

As the year 2020 continues to give unexpected situations to the world, our nation, our state, our county, our community and even individuals, we know our church will always be here to help us with our needs.

This year's Christmas will be a bit different concerning greens. There will be no contributions toward greens and poinsettias for Christmas decorations.

As the church continues to serve, please remain vigilant with hand washing and mask wearing, keep distancing, and most important, keep praying for our world, nation, county and each individual as we continue through these most uncertain times.

You may contact Danny Blair, Randy Harrison or just leave your name with the office, and we will be in touch.

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Passages from Mary Oliver's book of poetry, "Devotions"

### The Gift

Be still, my soul, and steadfast.  
Earth and heaven both are still watching  
though time is draining from the clock  
and your walk, that was confident and quick,  
has become slow.

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We seek love  
To know God's love, to love and be loved by others, and to love ourselves.

We seek freedom  
From the many forces - sin, fear, oppression, and division - that pull us from living as God created us to be: dignified, whole, and free.

We seek abundant life  
Overflowing with joy, peace, generosity, and delight. Where there is enough for all because we all share with abandon. A life of meaning, given back to God and lived for others.

We seek Jesus  
The Way of Jesus is the Way of Love, and that way has the power to change lives and change the world.

**LOVING  
LIBERATING  
LIFE + GIVING**  
*the Jesus Movement*

## FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

By Marlene Hallstrom, Director of Music

Worship and music at St. James continues to evolve as we end 2020 and look toward 2021 with hope for a return to our familiar routines and customs.

While we wait, we continue to find ways to worship and make music together. As many of you have experienced, we have worshiped through YouTube, Facebook and television, in our cars in the parking lot and occasionally in the church. In addition to providing for our spiritual life, the safety and health of worshipers has been a major concern.



However, that doesn't mean that the musicians of St. James have been silenced. Individuals, families and small groups have been able to prepare and share music either in person or by recordings for many of our worship services. We have found creative and safe ways for handbells and choir members to rehearse and record music and have even used recordings from the past to enhance worship.

Thank you to all of these musicians who have participated during this uncertain time:

Vocal Quartet: Joan Moore, Adrienne Edwards, Andrew Aitken, Rick Milhon – March 22

Vocal Duet: Cheryl Schmeidler and

Tim Garrels – April 26

Vocal Quartet: The Compton Family – May 31

Vocal Solo: Jennifer King – June 7 and August 23

Clarinet and Saxophone Solos: Rick Milhon – June 14 and September 20

Flute Solo: Pam Young – July 11

Cello Solo: Olivia Laycock – July 26 and October 4

Handbell Solo: Peggy Johnson – August 9

Vocal Solo: Tim Garrels – August 16

Cello and Piano Trio: Daniel Dye, Coral Hartl, Marjorie Williams – August 30

St. James Choir (recording) - September 6 and November 1

Handbell Quartet – September 13

Vocal Solo: William Compton – October 4

Handbell Ensemble – October 11 and November 22

Oboe Solo: Jeanne Kroeker – October 18

Flute and Clarinet Duet: Pam Young and Rick Milhon – October 25

Plans are being made for the seasons of Advent and Christmas to present videos of Advent Reflections and Music and Christmas Lessons and Carols with music by various St. James musicians.

I hope you will take time to watch and listen to music of the seasons with St. James. Watch the E-Tower and website for details.

I hope and pray for our St. James family that we will one day soon appreciate being together as we worship and sing our hymns of praise and thanksgiving.

## FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

*By Danny Blair, Junior Warden*

Come join the Audio/Video Club!

Seriously, we have expanded our sound system and our ability to reach out to bring our services to everyone in new ways, and we are still expanding.

We would love — and seriously need — more volunteers to join us so that we can keep things **running smoothly**. You don't need to be an expert or have special abilities other than a willingness to learn and help. Randy and I would love to introduce you to our equipment and teach you all that you need to know to help with our enhanced systems so you can be a part of the growing things that we are planning.

Come and be a part of this fun ministry.



Dearest friends at St. James.,

Blessings to you and your family this holiday season.

I realize many of the things you usually do at this time of year have gotten a shake-up in 2020. Some things you will still manage to do, but in a different way: gathering with family over the phone or on Zoom instead of crowding in around the table. Other things, like hugs and kisses, will probably be saved for 2021. We are certainly going to miss the traditional Thanksgiving Day meal at St. James! However, as much as things have been changed, please do plan to keep several things on your calendar:

Traditional Episcopal worship with your parish family.

*The lighting of candles on the Advent Wreath.*

*Special services offering Advent Lessons and Carols.*

*Receiving Holy Eucharist at St. James on Christmas Eve.*

*The service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.*

*Music offered by the many musicians of the parish.*

*The beauty of our worship space and the holiness of the season.*

While we are concerned with our own traditions and spiritual nurture, we have even more with which to consume ourselves this holiday season. Due to the extraordinary circumstances in the world with a spreading virus and pressures on the economy, many people are without their basic necessities. The compassion of Christ incarnate in each of us calls us to do what we can for people who are hungry and without privileges. As you consider an end of the year gift to St. James, please also hold in your prayers and foremost in your thoughts, the needs of others. If you would like to help feed the hungry in our metropolitan area, you are invited to join us in pooling resources to support the Food Bank in Wichita. Send a check made out to the payment of St. James Church (and write "Food Bank" in the memo line). We will send the church's full contribution to our local charity to see that individuals who need our care receive it. Additional gifts may be directed to the parish if you so desire.

Join us online for worship throughout the season – and periodically in-person, gathered in our parking lot for Holy Eucharist. You will find links to worship on our Facebook Page and all services at our YouTube Channel. Come in-person at 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and at 10:45 a.m. on each 3rd Sunday of the month.

Every Blessing as we celebrate the Incarnate God.

Mother Dawn+

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

*By Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs*

The children are learning the story of Jonah in a four-part series. We've learned how Jonah was in a crisis when God asked him to go to Nineveh. Each month's activities, songs, science experiments, cooking, and movement exercises are posted in our Google classroom. Then, we meet on the first Sunday of the month on Zoom. Our next meeting is December 6th. If your child would be interested in participating and is not receiving our Children's Ministry email, please contact Chelsea, [formation@stjameswichita.org](mailto:formation@stjameswichita.org)

Children's chapel is recorded each month and released on St. James' YouTube channel the first Sunday of the month. It is similar to our Children's Chapel in-person where we learn more about the Gospel reading, our prayers, and Episcopal lessons.

## **ADULT FORUM**

Adult Forum meets every Sunday starting at 9 a.m. on Zoom. We are discussing the origins of Christianity around the world and how different cultures celebrate Christianity. An in-depth discussion follows each presentation. All are welcome to join. Zoom information is found in the weekly e-tower or by contacting Chelsea, [formation@stjameswichita.org](mailto:formation@stjameswichita.org).

## **BIBLE STUDY**

The Wednesday evening Bible study continues to work through N.T. Wright's intriguing and insightful recent biography of the apostle Paul. The group reads a chapter a week of "PAUL: A Biography" and also studies the passages from Acts and Paul's letters discussed in the chapter. The study puts Paul, his ministry, and his teachings into a historical human context very helpful to understanding the relevance of this significant early theologian. The group meets on Zoom, and anyone interested in joining can certainly jump in at any time. For the link, persons should contact Phil Speary, the facilitator, at 685-2652.

## **CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER**

Contemplative Prayer is every Monday starting at 5:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join at any time. For more information, including the Zoom link, please contact Mary Kay Chavez, [marykay.chavez@gmail.com](mailto:marykay.chavez@gmail.com).

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will  
reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up.

*Galatians 6:9*



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

*Hebrews 12:1-3*

## Season's Report from the Endowment Funds Board -- Winter 2020

By Tom Gossen, Stewardship Formation Chairperson

The EFB has had two Zoom meetings during this past quarter, and the 2019 Annual report was distributed.

In August, the EFB had its annual meeting (via Zoom) with our account manager at SSgA regarding the performance of the Endowment invested funds and planned investment strategies for the next year. The COVID19 pandemic continues to prevent the EFB from scheduling parish meetings or large group educational sessions regarding the Legacy Society. However, the EFB wants to remind parish members of the following points:

Although there are many ways the estate of an individual or couple can provide a financial gift, in many instances there is no need to alter a will or trust to leave a bequest for the church. You can simply leave a percentage or specific dollar amount of a life insurance policy, an IRA, or a 401(k) by listing St. James Church Endowment Fund as a secondary or contingent beneficiary on the document. Your financial adviser or brokerage company can provide a form for your signature in the event an IRA or 401K is to be used.

Unlike gifts made to the Endowment Memorial Fund, the amount of a Legacy society bequest is not reported to the Endowment Fund Board or St. James Church and will not be specified in the annual publication of the Endowment Fund Board Report until after the Estate of the bequeathing member or members is closed.

What monetary amount should be made as a financial bequest? A suggested guideline is that a bequest amount could reflect the member's intent to continue your annual pledge for a certain number of

years after death. However, no specific bequest amount is required to join the Legacy Society and members can join anonymously if they so choose. Membership in the Legacy Society only represents a public commitment to the legacy of St. James Church and only requires that the individual or couple specify in writing that they have made a bequest to St. James Church in their estate documents.

Please remember the work of the Church in your estate plans. Your legacy gift will make a difference.

If you have questions regarding joining the St. James Church Legacy Society, please contact Hew Goodpasture (cell # 214-5400) or Tom Gossen (cell # 204-1104).



## PMEF ~ What's That?

Each edition of Seasons includes news about the Perpetual Memorial and Endowment Fund (PMEF) of St. James Church. Are you aware of the opportunities and benefits of the PMEF?

Gifts to the PMEF grow in perpetuity – that is, the gift is never depleted. Only income generated by the gift is disbursed annually and spent as directed by the vestry per the spending rules adopted for the administration of the fund. Your gift will continue to grow and to empower the ministries of St. James long into the future.

Give thanks to God for a significant event in your life, or for a loved one (or someone else) who has influenced your life by making a gift to the PMEF. There are two categories of tributes: (1) Living tributes for those who are still living; and (2) Memorials in remembrance of the deceased.

Enrolled gifts are reported in perpetuity in the annual report of the PMEF. New - and additions to previously enrolled gifts - are announced in each edition of SEASONS.

Create an enrolled gift by completing an enrollment form available on St. James website (or contact the parish office.) Initial gifts to the PMEF can be as small as \$100 (multiple smaller gifts can be combined).

New enrollments and additions to the St. James Perpetual Memorial & Endowment Fund

### *New Living Endowments from August 1, 2020 thru October 31, 2020*

Dillons Community Rewards Program \$ 352  
Endowment Fund Support from enrollees in Dillons Community Rewards Program.\*

### *New Memorial Enrollments from August 1, 2020 through Oct. 31, 2020*

Patricia (Pat) Ann Malcom Rahl \$ 1,000  
In memory of a beautiful person! She leaves behind husband, Larry, and children Robin Speer, Barney Rahal and Nancy Carroll.

**\*To make “no cost” contributions to the PMEF thru the Dillons Community Rewards Program, enroll online at [www.dillons.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/](http://www.dillons.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/)**

To honor a loved one by making a gift, visit the Endowment page at the St. James website: [stjameswichita.org](http://stjameswichita.org) for the Enrollment Forms (Living Tribute and Memorial) or contact the church office 316-683-5686.

## NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

By Woody Swain

With the recent arrival of Bert and Anne Clark's son, Beckett, Bert needed to shift his free time from being our Treasurer toward fatherly duties. I have agreed at the Vestry's request to take on that role, and in mid-October, I became your new Treasurer.

Our finances and our books are in good shape, thanks largely to the hard work of Bert, Paul Clark and Susie Stallings. As our new bookkeeper, Susie is continuing to make improvements to how we account for and manage our finances at St. James.

As we near the end of a crazy 2020, our financial position remains solid thanks to our fellow parishioners following through on their giving plans for this year, good control of expenses and a PPP loan from the government's CARES Package that we hope will be forgiven. Our Endowment Fund is in excellent shape, thanks to continued giving, wise management by its Board and good performance of its investments.

As we develop a 2021 Ministry Fund Plan (AKA "budget"), it's important that we know that our giving will continue to support essential needs such our important ministries and relatively small paid staff and maintaining our beautiful church home.

If we are able to maintain 2021 pledging at the same level as 2020 pledges, we should be able start 2021 with a balanced funding plan.

Just following our Ingathering Sunday on November 8<sup>th</sup>, we had received approximately 2/3 of the final 2020 pledge tally, both in the number of pledges received and the amount pledged. Pledge letters or commitments are continuing to arrive daily, so we are hoping that soon after Thanksgiving we will be close to having everyone's pledge and a balanced plan for 2021.

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Passages from Mary Oliver's book of poetry, "Devotions"

I Wake

Why do people keep asking to see

God's identity papers

When the darkness opening into morning

Is more than enough.

## OUTREACH AT ST. JAMES

By Judy Goodpasture, Outreach Committee Chair

Our Outreach Ministry Committee meets by zoom on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We are managing to adapt most of our projects to our COVID precaution environment. If you would like to visit, please send an email to Judy Goodpasture, [jgoodpasture@cox.net](mailto:jgoodpasture@cox.net). We would enjoy having your input.

### Project Reports

- Mother Dawn suggested that we resume our Pocket Change Ministry at the drive-in services. We are most grateful that our congregation responded very generously. On Oct. 11, we presented a check for \$500 to St. Francis Ministries, and in another month, we will be ready for our donation to **Kansas Children's Service League**. Because charitable agencies are particularly stressed during this COVID crisis, our contributions are truly helpful. Thanks to Gary Thudium, we can continue the Pocket Change Ministry.
- In spite of COVID, our annual Blanket Drive for the homeless served by HumanKind (formerly known as Inter-faith Ministries) has been very successful. 70 blankets have been delivered to the homeless shelters that opened Nov. 1. Thank you St. James!
- Our American Red Cross Blood Drives at St. James have been canceled for the fall and winter, but we urge donors to go to the American Red Cross building, 707 N. Main, to donate. Call ahead for reservations, 800-733-2767. Dottie Evans Clark chairs this project.
- At Christmas time, St. James has a tradition of providing generous food baskets and personal gifts to individuals and needy families referred by agencies such as Breakthrough ESS, St. Francis Ministries, and **Kansas Children's Service League**. Our Youth Group helps with the sorting and filling of food baskets; parishioners deliver them shortly before Christmas. More details from project chair Mary Druding will appear in our Friday e-Towers.
- Because of COVID, St. James will not sponsor in-person booths at this year's Alternative Gift Market. Alternative Gift Market catalogs are available at the front desk or at [alternativegifts.org](http://alternativegifts.org). Donating by mail or online is a safe, convenient way to support these life-giving projects for special occasions throughout the year. We appreciate the many years of support Suzi Miner and our Sunday School and Vicky Petty and her office have given to the Alternative Gift Market.
- Our committee continues to send cards to ill and bereaved parishioners. If you know a parishioner who might appreciate a card, please email [jgoodpasture@cox.net](mailto:jgoodpasture@cox.net).
- And speaking of cards, Deacon Jeff **Roper's Card Ministry** for prisoners continues. Just drop off cards at the front desk.

Our Outreach Ministry Committee wishes each of you good health and blessed holidays. Thank you St. James, for making our outreach efforts for the community successful!

## ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES AT MOUNT ST. MARY'S CONVENT

*By Father Chas Marks, Saint Francis Ministries*

During the month of November, it is a common and commendable practice to name something each day for which we are grateful. Today I am especially grateful for the ongoing financial support and prayers from St. James. Thank you for helping us provide healing and hope to children and families. We are so grateful for the generous \$500 gift given through your outreach committee that will be used to provide car seats and beds to assist children and families in our care. I just received another blessing in that Saint Francis youth have been added to your Christmas giving tree. This pandemic has created difficult circumstances for all of us and yet the staff at SFM have continued to rise to meet the challenges and are doing their best to safely assist the 1,353 children and youth in our care in the Wichita area. As with many of us, this has meant in many cases working from home and using teleconferencing to connect to each other and to the families we serve.

As you might imagine, it has not always been easy. Our staff members work in difficult and tense situations regularly and the added issues created by the pandemic have increased the level of stress, as it has for all of us. Among the many ways that Saint Francis is addressing this for our co-workers is to offer a weekly time of quiet and prayer on Wednesdays via teleconferencing. Staff may attend live on Wednesdays or watch sessions at another time as the services are all recorded. We are reaching our staff members from all across the country with this time of prayer, and it is also providing opportunities to connect with staff and ensure they are taking care of themselves.

November is National Adoption Month. Every year over 200 children and youth in **Saint Francis' care are adopted.** While we typically have a large celebration in Wichita for those children and their families, we have had to reconfigure how that will happen this year. Our Wichita Adoption team will caravan to the new adoptive homes and leave presents to celebrate this special day. We have 75 foster children and youth currently waiting to be adopted. Please call us if you are interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent. Our classes are currently presented virtually. You may reach us at 316-381-0330.

Each day we celebrate successes for our children and youth. Let me share one such story with you. A sibling set of two brothers and a sister were placed in DCF custody in October 2019 for some serious issues in the **mom's home.** We were able to place them with their grandmother shortly after that. Their dad worked hard to complete all the court orders. His visits with the children were excellent, and they loved seeing their daddy. SFM was able to work out a reintegration of the children with **their dad.** He is moving into the grandparents' home where the children are already placed. This provides dad with the support he needs to be successful going forward. It also allowed the kids to stay in their routine. We are so happy for this family.

Saint Francis Ministries has offered a fatherhood program in Kansas that has produced some really excellent results. We have received funding for this program for the last five years from the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

## **CONTINUED: ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES AT MOUNT ST. MARY'S CONVENT**

*By Father Chas Marks, Saint Francis Ministries*

This year we have been awarded a grant of nearly \$5 million for five years from the Federal Administration for Children and Families to continue to provide a Fatherhood Initiative in Kansas as well as add this new effort to the Saint Francis programs in Texas and Nebraska.

The Saint Francis program supports fathers in multiple ways — from learning how to parent and co-parent to building relationship skills, offering behavioral health support as needed, and even prepping them to find jobs. We are grateful for this opportunity to expand this important work.

Again, thank you for your ongoing support of Saint Francis Ministries. We will keep you in our prayers. Please keep our families, children, and co-workers in your prayers. May God bless your parish for your generosity.

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