

# Good News from St. John's

November 2021

St. John's Episcopal Church  
313 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St. — PO Box 882  
Parsons, KS 67357



620-421-4540  
[www.StJohnsParsons.org](http://www.StJohnsParsons.org)

**MISSION STATEMENT:** With God's help we seek to share our love, fellowship, charity and faith with all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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## History of Thanksgiving Day

For many of us, the meaning of Thanksgiving usually includes feasting, four day weekend, football games, family reunions, or a forerunner to Christmas festivities. The "first Thanksgiving," however, was neither a feast or a holiday, but a simple gathering. Following the Mayflower's arrival at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620, the Pilgrims suffered the loss of 46 of their original 102 colonists. With the help of 91 Indians, the remaining Pilgrims survived the bitter winter and yielded a bountiful harvest in 1621. In celebration, a traditional English harvest festival, lasting three days brought the Pilgrims and natives to unite in a "thanksgiving" observance.

The "thanksgiving" meal would not be celebrated again until June of 1676. On June 29 the community of Charleston, Massachusetts proclaimed a day of thanksgiving for their good fortune. One hundred years later, in October of 1777, all 13 colonies participated one a one-time "thanksgiving celebration which commemorated the victory over the British at Saratogo. It would take a span of over 150 years more to establish "Thanksgiving as we celebrate it. George Washington proclaimed it a National holiday in 1789. Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November in 1863, and Congress sanctioned it as a legal holiday in 1941.

The meaning of Thanksgiving has undergone numerous transitions—an expression of gratitude for survival, a council's recognition of its flourishing community, submission of the local natives, the defeat over the British, resulting in a collection of our nation's traditions and values. Over the centuries, families added their customs to the Thanksgiving celebration, preserving that which they held most precious.

In the Bible, the meaning of thanksgiving reflected adoration, sacrifice, praise, or an offering. Thanksgiving was a grateful language to God as an act of worship. The true meaning of Thanksgiving focuses upon relationship. Thanksgiving is a relationship between God and man. Upon their arrival at new Plymouth, the Pilgrims composed the Mayflower Compact, which honored God. Thanksgiving begins with acknowledging God as faithful, earnestly giving Him thanks, in advance, for His abundant blessings. Thanksgiving is an attitude of the heart that reinforces an intimate relationship with God.

**Please join us on Thanksgiving day at noon, as we honor God by sharing the blessings he has given us, with all of you, our neighbors and friends.**

Mother Sharon

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The season of Advent begins this year on Sunday November 28, 2021. In lieu of a sermon that day we will be decorating the **Advent Jesse Tree** with 25 symbols from the Old and New Testament. There are several changes in the liturgy that comes with Advent. The **Gloria** disappears and is replaced with the **Kyrie**. We do a special lighting of the **Advent Wreath** with congregational responses. We also change to **Eucharistic Prayer B**. The altar guild will have decorated the church with greenery, with blue symbols and ribbons, and the altar flowers will be replaced with an Advent greens arrangement. In Advent, we not only celebrate the first coming of our Lord, but eagerly prepare for His Second Coming as well, when the restoration of all things takes place.

The primary color of Advent now, in most churches, is **Royal Blue** to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent. Our hangings will be royal blue and rose (on the third Sunday of Advent.) The color rose is used on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, the plural form of the Latin verb “gaudere” which means to rejoice. In these days of preparation leading up to the feast of our Savior’s birth, it reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, as a kind of “break” when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Jesus.

The **Advent Wreath**, a circular evergreen wreath with four candles which reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. The candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

The colors of the candles are (3 blue and 1 rose). The first Sunday one of the blue candles is lit, a short devotion read, and a prayer offered, after the Collect of the Day. On subsequent Sundays,

previous candles are relighted with an additional one lighted. The rose candle is lighted on the third Sunday and the last blue candle on the fourth Sunday. We also have banners on our advent wreath; Hope, Peace, Love and Joy, that correspond with the four candles.

Christmas Eve the Advent candles are replaced with white candles and a center candle (the Christ candle) is added. The Christ candle reminds us that the incarnation is the heart of the season, giving light to the world. These white candles are lit through Epiphany.

It is our hope that this article has provided you some education about the Season of Advent and we look forward to worshipping with you as we ALL prepare for the Second coming of our Lord.

Adult Education Ministry Team  
Candy Scarborough, Martha Stone, and Mother Sharon

## THE SYMBOLISM OF ADVENT AND THE ADVENT WREATH

Historically, the primary color of Advent is **Purple**, the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King. The purple of advent is also the color of suffering used during Lent.

However, many churches now use blue to distinguish the Season of Advent as being different from the season of Lent and the connection between Jesus’ birth and death. **Royal Blue** is also a color of royalty. St. John’s has used royal blue for several years to denote the season of Advent..

The word **Advent** means “**coming or arrival.**” The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Advent is far more than simply marking a 2000 plus year old event in history. It is celebrating the truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be

reconciled to God. That is the process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment of sin, and the hope of eternal life.

Besides the royal blue hangings and vestments, we also use an **Advent Wreath**. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The three blue and one rose candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

The **light of the candles** itself becomes an important symbol of the season. The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others. The progression in the lighting of the candles symbolizes the various aspects of our waiting experience. As the candles are lighted over the four week period, it also symbolizes the darkness of fear and hopelessness receding and the shadows of sin falling away as more and more light is shed into the world. Finally, the light of the world that has come into the world is plainly visible as the candles are changed to white and the Christ candle, in the center, is added and lighted on Christmas Eve, and worshippers rejoice over the fact that the promise of long ago has been realized.

We will be doing a special lighting service each Sunday during Advent, and on Christmas Eve at the beginning of the service. The service will be printed as an insert in your bulletins. This will be a service that everyone will participate in as we wait in **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love** and then realize our prayers have been answered when the **white** candles, and **Christ** candle are lit on Christmas Eve.

Mother Sharon

## **Nursing Home**

St. John's has been taking monthly snacks to 12 residents of Good Samaritan Nursing home. These are residents who don't have any family or support locally. The residents and staff of Good Samaritan have been very appreciative of this new ministry.

We are going to adopt these 12 people for Christmas this year. We have asked the Nursing home for ideas and sizes and will have them on a wreath for you to pick one or more item.

Look for more information in the weekly bulletin. Thank you in advance for your support in this new ministry.

## **COMMON TRADITION OF RED DOORS IN EPISCOPAL CHURCHES**

Do you know why many, if not most, of Episcopal churches have red doors? In the earlier days of the church it was understood that a soldier could not pursue an enemy that had entered through the red doors of a church. The red doors were a symbol of refuge and sanctuary for all people who entered. To all concerned the red on the doors signified the blood of Christ that had been shed so that all who came to him could be saved. Anyone passing through those doors was safe as long as they stayed behind them.

Over time, Christian people began to see the red doors of the church as symbolizing not only physical refuge and safety, but spiritual refuge as well. The blood of Jesus, and of the Church's martyrs, that the red doors symbolized, would protect you from evil, both physical and spiritual. The red doors spoke to the world of holy ground that existed inside those doors, space that had been purged and made clean by God's Holy Spirit.

In a world where change seems to happen at a pace that leaves us wondering and uncertain, we hope that our churches proclaim through Word, Sacrament, and Ministry the unchanging truth of our Lord Jesus Christ. In a world where our own sins, and the sinfulness of our human condition, leave us feeling broken, and separated from one another and from our Loving God, we hope that our

churches can be a place of forgiveness and reconciliation.

In a world where illness and disease abound, where relationships often seem broken beyond repair, where people feel that the cultural values of the day leave them spiritually wanting, we hope that our churches can be a place for physical, emotional and spiritual healing. In a world where domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and physical, emotional, and sexual abuses of all kinds abound, we hope that our churches can be places of safety, where every person's worth and dignity can be affirmed and protected.

It is our hope and prayer that the red doors of St. John's are a regular reminder to all people who pass by them on 18<sup>th</sup> street or Corning, that this church will be recognized as a place of peace, refuge and salvation for all people.

Mother Sharon

### **St. John's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting**

**September 21, 2021**

Present: Carrie Tierney, Verlyn Bolinger, Karla Cox, Jupe Allen and Mother Sharon.

Absent: Bess StoneBolinger.

Development:

Gospel Based Disciples included a reading from St Matthew Apostle and Evangelist Matthew 9:9-13.

Treasurer's Report:

The transaction and budget reports were reviewed. The report was approved.

Old Business:

The Bylaw change increasing the Vestry to 7 was discussed. A vote may occur later in the year.

Worship in the Park as well as Katy Days has been postponed until May of 2022.

The Minster Art Project on Racism in our Churches and Communities has been completed. Skip Smith, a local artist, produced a drawing based on an essay written by Mother Sharon and Candy Scarborough. The drawing and essay will be submitted to the SE Minster for evaluation.

The Annual Picnic was held on September 20 with 28 people present. Reports were positive for the food, especially the plethora of potato salad.

The Bishop has released her official photograph. We were fortunate enough to obtain two copies. One hangs in the narthex and one in Fox Hall.

New Business:

The 2022 Apportionment has been assessed and next year we pay \$7,740 down from \$9,180 this year. The Apportionment is the money each church is required to pay the Diocese.

The Diocese of Kansas has requested we make a monetary gift for the rehabilitation of the Memorial Garden at Bethany Place at the Cathedral in Topeka. The congregation will be invited to make donations.

A thank you note was received from Labette assistance Center for 70 food items and 119 school supply items.

Assessment:

Sharing: No report.

Minutes from the August 9 meeting were approved.

Vicar's Report: No report.

Wardens:

Senior: No report.

Junior: No report.

Discernment:

Worship & Music: A meeting is scheduled for this Thursday.

Outreach: Head Start is in session and snacks are being packed.

Evangelism: No report.

Communications: No report.

Education: Children's: No report., Adult: No report.

Stewardship: The theme for this year is "The Gifts of God for the People of God" The campaign will run from October 17 to November 21.

Planned Giving: No report.

Buildings & Grounds: A maintenance agreement has been made with TLC Nursery of Independence for one year to oversee and maintain our new Memorial Garden.

Endowment: No report.

ECW: No report.

Next meeting, Monday October 11, 2021, at 5:30. A prayer by Mother Sharon concluded the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jupe Allen  
Clerk



**Treasurer Report**

Verlyn W. Bolinger Jr.  
Treasurer of St. John's Episcopal Church



**Prayer List**

**Our prayers have been asked for:**

Teresa, Jim, Mary, Harry, Gina, Gloria, Ethan, Jim, Janie, Kelly, Wuanita, Jeffrey, Boo, Jane, Regina, Bretten, Richard, Carolyn, Lynn, Dwayne, Doris, Alan, Kay, Lorrie, Addlee, Jon, Josh, Vickie, Ron,

Randy, Janet, Rita, Bridget, Tommey, Keyandria, Bill, William, Debra Lynn, Molly, Frank, LaDonna, Laura, David, Nicky, Jackie, LaVena, John & family, Special needs children their families and caregivers, Les, Mark, Kay, Priscilla, Jennifer, Becky, Jaden, Kelle, Becky, Michelle, Alice, the Gabaric family, those with and those recovering from Covid-19 and their families, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, all clergy in the Southeast Convocation especially, Dick, and David, BKSM students, dispatchers and first responders, the men & women serving our country here and abroad, and those who have served.

Those who have died:  
Kathy Gabaric



**November Birthdays**

- 2 Tom Tanner
- 19 Teresa Downum
- 25 Ray LaVallee
- 27 Joe Stone
- 29 Anna Bolinger



**November Anniversaries:**

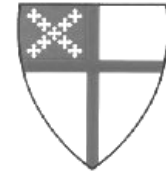
- 7 John & Heidi Daley
- 9 Verlyn & Bess Bolinger
- 18 Joe & Martha Stone

Please send Articles for The Good News to Senta Meister, [sentabradmeister@aol.com](mailto:sentabradmeister@aol.com) or St. John's Episcopal Church, PO Box 882, Parsons, KS 67357.



# St. John's Episcopal Church

## NOVEMBER 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> All Saints' Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Mother in office 1-5 pm	<b>5</b> Mother's day off	<b>6</b>
<b>7 The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  Holy Communion 9:30 am Confirmation Service 3 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Mother at PMA 1-3 pm Mother in office 3-5 pm	<b>12</b> Mother's day off	<b>13</b>
<b>14 The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  Holy Communion 9:30 am Bless UTO offering	<b>15</b> Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Mother in office 1-5 pm  Worship & Music 5:30 pm	<b>19</b> Mother's day off	<b>20</b>
<b>21 The Last Sunday after Pentecost</b>  Holy Communion 9:30 am	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day Dinner - noon</b> Mother not in office	<b>26</b> Mother's day off	<b>27</b>
<b>28 The First Sunday of Advent</b>  Holy Communion 9:30 am	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

# St. John's November 2021 Schedule

	11/7/2021	11/14/2021	11/21/2021	11/28/2021
<b>Officiant</b>	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
<b>Lector</b>	Patti Vernacchia	Alice Miller	Jupe Allen	Daria Condon
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Ryan Willis	Verlyn Bolinger	Candy Scarborough	Joe Stone
<b>Acolytes</b>	Alex, Ava, Zoe	Verlyn Bolinger	Tim Downum	Sidni Meister
<b>Greeters</b>				
<b>Counters</b>	Vestry			
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Daria Condon			