

St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School
2500 N. 10th Street
McAllen, Texas 78501

Phone: (956) 687-6191 fax: (956) 687-6193
info@stjohns-mcallen.org

Services of Worship

Sunday 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday 5:30 p.m.

Christian Formation Classes

Tuesdays 7:30 a.m.
Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.
Thursdays 9:00 a.m.

For the most up to date information about activities & events, visit us at:

<http://www.stjohns-mcallen.org>



2500 N. 10th Street
McAllen, Texas
78501

Address Service Requested

St. John's Staff:

The Rev. Jim Nelson	Rector
The Rev. Nancy Springer	Assistant Rector
Michael Waller	Head of School
Carrie Guerra	Youth & Family Ministries
Melissa Galindo	Parish Admin. / Bookkeeper
Arlyn Olson	9:00 a.m. Music Director
Stacy Gonzalez	11:00 a.m. Music Director
Renee Hinojosa	Treasurer
Rene Robledo	Sexton
Rosa Beltran	Sunday Hospitality Sexton

Vestry:

Patty Klement	Senior Warden	
Markus Villarreal	Junior Warden	
Renee Hinojosa	Carol Lynn Looney	Pam Palacios
John Kreidler		
Edward Villareal	Jordan Dietz	
Johnny Cozad	Lorena Rojas	
Richard Moore	Ben Abbitt	

Litter for the Lord!
Don't throw your
newsletter away - leave
it for others to read.

Newsletter
DEADLINE

Deadline for articles/calendar dates/
announcements for the
November 2013 issue is
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14TH
mgalindo@stjohns-mcallen.org or
delivered to the church office.

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 8
McAllen, TX



OCTOBER 2013
Word Logos

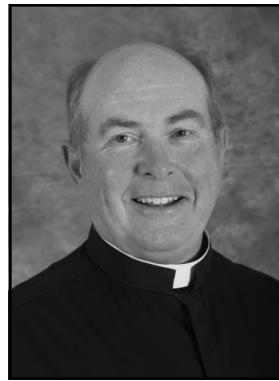


**Gone With The Guilt
Ministry Fair**

Sign up
for a Ministry
and dunk
a Priest!



"St. John's seeks to be a sanctuary for equipping people to deal with the issues of life, in an atmosphere of love, security, and support. We find sanctuary in Jesus Christ."



The Rev. Jim Nelson
Rector

ups

Is your spiritual life a series of and or “near and fars?”
downs

In one of my all-time favorite books “The Screwtape Letters”, C. S. Lewis talks about the fact that the closest human beings can consistently expect to be with God is within the “law of undulations”. He says the nearest we can get to constancy is within this law of undulations because we exist in time and to be “in time” is to be in constant change. Makes sense since the only things that don’t change are either inanimate or dead. We are always more-or-less moving between feeling either further away or nearer to God in all three aspects of body, mind, and spirit. Sometimes the undulations are small like a coastal tide – other times like a tsunami. The best we can do is lessen the swing of the undulations and arrive at more constancy. It’s my contention that God stands ready to speak to us and guide us into more constancy throughout our day and into ways to more clearly hear His voice and direction. Thankfully there are many tools to help us have a more consistent relationship with God.

Let me tell you about just one way in which we can learn to more consistently feel closer to God in a truly conversational way and actually begin to listen for His leading. It’s called the Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina is Latin for divine reading, or “holy reading,” and represents a Christian practice of prayer and scriptural reading to

increase your knowledge of God’s leading of humanity but, more than that, to get you into conversation with God. You see, God really wants to be in conversation with you and when you open yourself to God’s word you’ll find God speaking to you throughout your day as well.

Lectio Divina involves four parts, which can be likened to eating. The first part is taking a bite (reading a passage of Scripture), second is chewing (meditating on the passage), then, third, savoring the flavor (opening your heart to God), and, fourth, digesting it (incorporating it into yourself).

Constancy demands a determined focus. It’s important that you set aside a time to be with God in Scripture and a place free of distractions. The amount of time is certainly up to you but don’t start with too high of a goal...maybe as little as five minutes a day to begin with. As you get ready, prepare as you would to listen to your best friend. In other words, open yourself fully to God.

There are many ways to lessen the undulations of “near and far” in our relationship with our Creator and to actually consistently feel closer to God’s voice. The important thing is prioritizing conversation with God. Once you establish this discipline (or one like it) in your life you’ll be amazed at how life begin to level out.

Peace,
Fr. Jim ✝

Pet Blessing - In honor of St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday, October 5th 10 a.m. - 12 noon
at St. John’s Garden

Donations (pet food, towels & cash) will be collected and given to the Humane Society.

You may come by the church office to receive your souvenir photo.



St. John’s Family News

Continuing from the last edition we will have a monthly space set aside for “family news!” Family news might include any news you might think the parish family would like to know; from your third grader winning the class spelling bee to a former parishioner sharing any news. So, let us know by email, phone, or face to face your “news!”



Congratulations to Nancy Springer and Jim Chase on their wedding on September 15th.

Please keep Jose and Laura Moya in your prayers as they continue to investigate a resolve for Jose’s ongoing health issues.

Thank you Maggie Jamieson, Lynda Moore, Betty Johnson, and Jeanne McCormick for your time and service volunteering in the church office. You are truly a blessing!

Our Guatemala Medical/Dental mission trip was a huge success! We offered medical and dental care to approximately 500 people in 4 1/2 days. Thanks to the team for your service and thank you to St. John’s for your prayers and support that make mission trips possible.

Welcome to our new Ham choir members: Soloman Lopez, Veda Ojeda, and Enid Hagelberg. Thank you for sharing your voices with us!

Ministry Visits

Please let the church office know if you or someone you know at St. John’s has an upcoming surgery or is currently ill.

We would like to add them to our prayer list and, if desired, arrange a visit from our ministry team, Father Jim, or Mother Nancy.

You can call the church office at 687-6191 or e-mail us at info@stjohns-mcallen.org.



Hospitality Ministry

Needs YOU!

The Hospitality Committee

provides the munchies on Sunday and we need more families and individuals to help. This project provides an opportunity for folks to gather in the Parish Hall for a visit between services and to enjoy some light refreshments. Please contact the church office at 956-687-6191.

St. John’s Food Pantry

St. John’s partners with the RGV Food Bank to distribute food to needy folks in our neighborhood. The first Tuesday each month volunteers prepare food boxes to be distributed as well as a meal to serve to our guests.

Our next distribution dates:
Tuesday, October 1st
Tuesday, November 5th



Volunteers are welcome anytime between 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED ST. JOHN’S
IN YOUR WILL?

Let's Make Some MUSIC



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

The Choir
practices on
Thursdays at 6:30
p.m. in the Choir
Room.

For more information contact Stacy
Gonzalez at 776-6376.



The Ensemble
practices on Thursdays
at 7:30 p.m.
in the church.

For more information contact
Arlyn Olson at 556-2742.

Cursillo (a Spanish word meaning little course) gives church members the tools and "rules of life" to enthusiastically share the joys of knowing Christ with others in their everyday environments. Cursillo is patterned on Jesus' own example. He searched out and called groups of potential leaders, trained them and sent them out to bring the world to Him.



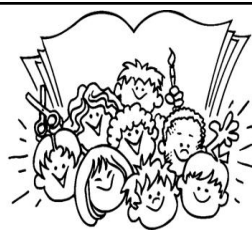
The Cursillo weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. During the weekend, participants engage in study, reflection, fellowship, and worship. Register online at dwtx.org

October 10-13

Cursillo weekend #261
Mustang Island Conference Center

November 7-10

Cursillo weekend #262
Camp Capers



PLEASE!
Will you be our guide?

The Children's Ministry of St. John's needs you to listen to the magic words of 'please' and 'thank you' and share your wisdom gained from faith experience through teaching "our" children on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings. We'll provide genuine anxiety-ridding curriculum and training. Please call the Church office to answer this call for the future of St. John's.



The signs of Fall are all around: school is in full swing, the butterflies are migrating; the birds are arriving, and, HEB has both pumpkins and Oktoberfest brews ...

Settling in?

"I need a routine again!" This was my plea yesterday when I got to the office and realized I had left my bookbag at home. My Jim and I are settling into our new life in his - our - home in Edinburg and I'm still trying to figure out some things, like where is the best place to put my purse, keys, bookbag, etc., when I get home so that I know where they all are when I leave in the morning. I like routine; it makes me feel safe and secure and confident.



The Rev.
Nancy Springer
Assistant Rector

Looking back at the last - I'm not even sure how many - years of my life, any routines I have had have been short lived. I often wonder when things will get to "normal" and then I remember that "normal" is just a setting on my washing machine.

Just how do we define normal in our lives? Scripture plainly tells us that as Christians, our normal is not what the world claims is normal. Jesus tells us to "follow me", and shows us by His own life that walking His Way is anything but routine. In the Great Commission, Jesus says "go" (Matthew 28:19-20). Paul tells us that we are to "press on toward the goal" (Philippians 3:14). The writer of Hebrews tells us to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus" (12:1-2). None of this presents a passive faith or a passive life but one of continuous movement forward as we work together to reveal the Kingdom of God to the world around us.

So, perhaps seeking a new normal and a new routine means that I need to look forward to where God is leading rather than to some ideal (imaginary or real) of the past. Normal, for Christians, isn't settling in and becoming content with where we are but striving forward in the Kingdom. Yes, we all need sanctuary and rest on a regular basis, but that is not to be our norm. Our norm is to seek the fully lived life that God calls us to each moment of each day, continuously listening to His voice and looking for His presence. I can't think of a more safe, secure, and joyful way to live, can you?

But, I still need to figure out where to put my "going out the door" stuff so that I don't leave anything at home in the morning ...

God's peace,
Mtr. Nancy+

*Thank you for sharing our wedding day
and celebrating with us!
Mtr. Nancy & Jim Chase*



In Step With St. John's School



Michael Waller
Head of School

What's New Around Campus . . .

If you had the opportunity to visit our classrooms during the school day this year, you might see our teachers using their new MacBook laptop computers. Working to get more technology integrated into the classrooms, we began with the teachers. With monies raised from The Spaghetti Supper, we purchased laptops for the teachers to use for instruction and lesson planning. Upon their arrival this past August, the teachers spent a day in a professional development workshop learning about their new computer and how it might be used in the classroom. As the teachers become more and more comfortable with this new technology, I expect to see new and interesting teaching strategies and lessons come to pass.

In addition to the laptops, we have purchased ELMO document cameras that the teachers can use in their classrooms in connection to their laptops and/or with the LCD projectors we also purchased. Document cameras are the 21st Century version of the overhead project. However, they can do way more than the old school overheads ever used to do. For example, in a science class, the entire class can view the root system of a live plant and compare it to other plant root systems. The old overheads require everything to be on a transparency to be displayed. Not anymore. The teacher can show the roots of a plant and dissect a flower stem for all to see under the lens of the document camera. So, not only is it a document camera, but a digital presenter and visualizer. The kids and the teachers have really enjoyed this new tool.

Some of the other upgrades and changes we made during the summer include the fence and gate system on the alley near the northeast end of the Parish Hall. This better secures the campus from people taking a short cut from the alley to 10th Street. Additionally, the doors on the 3K and 4K houses have been reinforced and reconfigured to, again, offer greater security. We also have a stepping stone path along the backside of the Parish Hall that was done as an Eagle Scout Project.

All that we have done promotes the Mission of St. John's Episcopal School to give our students the very best each and every day. . .

St. John's Episcopal Day School provides each student with a well-rounded academic program that develops their full competence, creativity, character, and compassion in a Christian environment. Through attainment of this mission we produce responsible young individuals equipped to live a life worthy of a child of God.

St. John's Episcopal School
686-0231
www.stjohns-mcallen.org

2 years though 5th grade
Office Hours: 8 a.m.– 3:45 p.m.

For application information or to arrange a tour of the campus, contact the school office at 686-0231.

2013-2014

Yoli Kamel	President
Ann Greenfield	Vice Pres.
Lizzy Smith	Secretary
Jon Klement	Treasurer
Kevin Collier	Liaison Chair
Mike Waller	Head of School
Rev. Jim Nelson	Rector
Jeremy Enslein	Shannon Dopp
Amy Seitz	Michael Pruneda
Sharon Flores	Jennifer Davenport

Birthdays of the Month

- 1-Oct Chris Rupert
- Emma Morales
- Aislyn Morales
- 2-Oct Arlyn Olson
- 3-Oct Preston Chandler
- 4-Oct Jeffrey Fawcett
- 5-Oct Sharon Flores
- 7-Oct Tyler Marriott
- 8-Oct Morris Nelson
- Diana Glenn
- 9-Oct Ricardo Reybal
- Kristi Collier
- 10-Oct Jennifer Lewis
- 11-Oct Jon Gillespie
- Alec Rojas
- 12-Oct Gianna Eason
- 13-Oct Jerri Gonzales
- 17-Oct Sofia Sahadi
- 18-Oct Margaret Leonard
- 19-Oct Brandon Rojas
- Judith Garza - Moreno
- 21-Oct Sandy Weaver
- Emma Vela
- Riley Henry
- 23-Oct Sophia Uribe
- 24-Oct Austin Harris
- Donna Hutchins
- 27-Oct Fenn Sullivan
- 28-Oct Jim Hawley
- Maggi Palacios
- 29-Oct Mary Pat Paris
- Hanna Hutchins



Angel Tree Tags Christmas Family Sharing

Look for your opportunity to help make it an extra special Christmas for local children in need. Pick up your Angel Tree tag and purchase a toy or clothing item for a boy or a girl.

Tags will be made available on Sunday, November 17th.

NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH

What is this?

In 2013 NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH is **Blood DRIVE** Sunday, November 17th

So, mark your calendars for this special Sunday in the upcoming THANKSgiving Season

You can donate blood and/or register to donate organs/tissue. Each pint of blood saves 3 lives; organs and tissue saves 8 lives.

DONATE LIFE

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A PART OF THIS LOCAL AND NATIONAL OUTREACH MINISTRY.

Soul Sisters

Comfort House Collections

Soul Sisters has donated \$1347.00 to assist Comfort House with the repair of their kitchen facilities. Their kitchen is now complete and they are very thankful for your generous gifts.

Look for more ways the Soul Sister will be blessing our community and how you can help!

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

October 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 8A - Traditional 9A - Contemporary (Worship band) 10A - Sunday School - All ages & Communion Class 11A - Traditional (Choir and organ) 12P - Acolyte Training	7	8 7:30A - Business Person Bible Study 12:15P - AA Mtg.	9 10A - Eugene Peterson - The Jesus Way - Adult Study in Library 5:30P Healing 6P - Over the Hump Wednesdays - All Ages Youth Group	10 9A - Max Lucado - Grace - Adult study in Library 6:30P - Choir 7:30P - Ensemble Rehearsal 8P - AA / AI Anon	11	12
13 8A - Traditional 9A - Contemporary (Worship band) 10A - Sunday School - All ages & Communion Class 11A - Traditional (Choir and organ)	14 Newsletter Deadline	15 7:30A - Business Person Bible Study 12:15P - AA Mtg. 5P - Finance Committee Meeting 6:30P - Vestry Mtg.	16 10A - Eugene Peterson - The Jesus Way - Adult Study in Library 5:30P Healing 6P - Over the Hump Wednesdays - All Ages Youth Group	17 9A - Max Lucado - Grace - Adult study in Library 6:30P - Choir 7:30P - Ensemble Rehearsal 8P - AA / AI Anon	18	19 Youth Rummage Sale! 8A-12P
20 8A - Traditional 9A - Contemporary (Worship band) 10A - Sunday School - All ages & Communion Class 11A - Traditional (Choir and organ)	21	22 7:30A - Business Person Bible Study 12:15P - AA Mtg.	23 10A - Eugene Peterson - The Jesus Way - Adult Study in Library 5:30P Healing 6P - Over the Hump Wednesdays - All Ages Youth Group	24 9A - Max Lucado - Grace - Adult study in Library 6:30P - Choir 7:30P - Ensemble Rehearsal 8P - AA / AI Anon	25	26
27 8A - Traditional 9A - Contemporary (Worship band) 10A - Sunday School - All ages & Communion Class 11A - Traditional (Choir and organ)	28	29 7:30A - Business Person Bible Study 12:15P - AA Mtg.	30 10A - Eugene Peterson - The Jesus Way - Adult Study in Library 5:30P Healing 6P - Over the Hump Wednesdays - All Ages Youth Group	31		



Acolyte:

- n. ¹ One who assists the celebrant in the performance of liturgical rites.
- ² A devoted follower or attendant.

Our Acolytes are truly a blessing to our church and often they are one of the first methods of reaching out to visitors and new young people. As visitors join us on Sunday, they are assisted in worship by those teens who serve in this ministry. All of our Sunday servers are living representations of our engagement in worship and ministry and acolytes are among the most visible leaders during our Sunday services. They also serve as a wonderful model of Christian faith in action for our younger children and an example to others of some of the opportunities for youth involvement. To serve as an Acolyte both connects one with worship and offers the chance to serve others. I'd like to thank our youth for their service and commitment and invite those youth who might be interested in this ministry to attend an Acolyte training and see what it is all about.



Carrie Guerra
Lay Associate For
Youth & Family
Ministries



Youth Rummage Sale

Saturday, October 19th 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Proceeds benefit St. John's Youth activities.

We need your junk!
Start collecting your junk & bring it to the
Parish Hall beginning October 9th or
contact Carrie Guerra to make arrangements.



**Volunteers are needed.
Call the office at
687-6191 to sign up.**

Acolyte Training

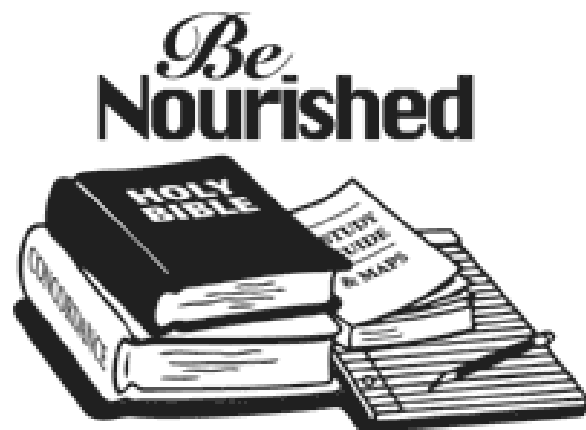


All teens 6th - 12th grades who wish to serve in this worthwhile ministry that combines service and worship are required to attend. This training will combine both instruction for new acolytes and new information for seasoned acolytes.

You must attend one of these trainings in order to be eligible to serve as an acolyte.

- Sunday, October 6th from 12noon-1pm

For more information, contact Carrie Guerra at the church office at 687-6191



Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. In the Library.

Breakfast is provided. All interested business people are invited to participate.

Questions?
Call Rick Hawkins at 330-5880

Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine
By: Max Lucado

Max Lucado asks a deeper question: Have you been changed by grace? Shaped by grace? Strengthened by grace? Emboldened by grace? Softened by grace? Snatched by the nape of your neck and shaken to your senses by grace?

Deborah Case- Kryzak will be leading this Book study beginning September 12th from 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

*Books and participant guide cost \$21.00 and will be available in the church office.

The Jesus Way
By: Eugene Peterson

We will continue in Eugene Peterson's series on spiritual theology with, The Jesus Way: a conversation on the ways that Jesus is the way.

Mother Nancy will be leading this Book study beginning September 11th from 10am - 11:30am in the Library.

*Books cost \$10.00 and will be available in the class or in the church office.



New and Improved Lay Ministry Schedules

Thank you for all you do at St. John's! Your engagement in ministry is so important not only to the life of St. John's but also to the future of those people who will make St. John's their church home. Therefore, on behalf of those yet unknown people, we appreciate your ministry.

As you know, we have been working on setting up a new ministry scheduling software. This program will not only make ministry scheduling more efficient, but will also give you a more effective way to access ministry calendars, find replacement servers, and arrange for those times and dates in which you cannot serve.

Using this online system you'll be able to specify exactly what times do and do not work well for you to serve. You'll also be able to check your schedule from anywhere and easily find a substitute when you can't make one of your scheduled dates. This new system will also be able to email you the monthly ministry schedule as well as reminders for your specific service dates.

The link to the Web Terminal is: www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/stjohns_mcallen

If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Guerra or Bob Morehead at ministry@stjohns-mcallen.org.

Adult Sunday Bible School

Sundays at 10:15am in the Parlor

A lectionary (the schedule of Sunday readings throughout the church year) based study with focus on the same Bible passage – the same passage that will be used that Sunday in worship.

Class led by Maggie Jamieson

Sundays at 10:15am in the Parish Hall Library

C.S. Lewis provides a series of lessons in the importance of taking a deliberate role in living out Christian faith by portraying a typical human life, with all its temptations and failings, as seen from devils' viewpoints.

Class led by Bob Case

Wednesday Nights at St. John's

Bible conversations for all ages Wednesday 6 - 8 p.m.

Join us for an evening of fellowship, food, and Bible discussion for EVERY AGE GROUP: preschool (potty trained 3 year olds) through adult. Nursery will be provided for the littlest ones.

YOUTH WEDNESDAY WITNESS
Food, fellowship, worship, and fun!

IT'S HUMP DAY! WHOOHOO!