

FEBRUARY 2025

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St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



The Epistle to the Elizabethans

A WORD FROM FR. NORM.....



The Epistle of James begins with these words; "Count it all joy, my brother, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord...."

We have just completed our Diocesan Convention and held our annual church meeting. The reports of the ministry of the church have been shared and the news, whether good or gloomy, has been shared. I am aware, as are many of you, that we have come a long way in the past year and the truth of what we heard is that we have an optimistic and exciting future before us as we fully focus on the ministry that God would have us do here at St. Elizabeth's. The writer of James tells us to put these challenges in perspective. He reminds us that God wants nothing but the best for our church. We should focus all our cares and concerns on him and trust he will answer our prayers. We need to remain open to hear His words and follow as He would lead our community.

Let us dedicate our lives and ministry to the service of God in this New Year. February is a month that is filled with a lot of activity. We begin by remembering great leaders of our country as we celebrate President's Day. We also share love with one another on Valentine's Day.

Lastly we will begin our journey in Lent soon as well. Lent is a penitential time in the church year when we should go deep within to cleanse our bodily home of any impediments that keep us from the love of God. Some of us have a lot of work to do while others might not need to do as much. Each of us should be asking the question whether we are doing enough for God with our lives. Use the time to get in right relationship with God. Know that God has great things in store for you and our church.

Let us keep our hearts and ears open that we may know where God plans to lead our church in 2025. I pray you will have a holy and reasonable Lenten season. Walk with God. Read His words. Pray incessantly. In all this we will not have any doubt that we are doing exactly what is right for our community together. God bless and be steadfast in all you do.

Fr. Norman +

February Birthdays		February Anniversaries	
Jonathan Childs	2	Michael & Susan Millard	10
Alice Stone	8		
John Dixon	12		
Carmen DelVerde	13		
Skip Scheller	15		
Ash Badger	17		
Roberta Bodeau	19		
Deby Duke	20		
Geno Bersos	27		



Friday, February 14th



Monday, February 17th



Have you attended a Cursillo weekend?

The Cursillo Community of our Diocese is sponsoring their annual picnic on

Saturday, March 1st 10:00am - 2:00pm

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
 5873 N. Dean Road
 Orlando, Florida 32817

This potluck event promises to be a time of food, fun and fellowship and music too!

There will be a presentation about the San Pedro Center the new home for Cursillo weekends.

All ages are welcome to attend. The next Cursillo weekend dates: June 20-22 & November 14-16

For more information please contact William Brown ~ willfsu1@yahoo.com

FEBRUARY 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to our newly elected "VESTRY" members

Janet Farmer, John Flockhart & Denise Roberts

Congratulations to our new Sr. Warden, **Denise Bersos**

"THANK YOU" to Ken Dean, Michael Colangeli & Janet Mandeville for your service!

A word from our "New" Sr. Warden, Denise Bersos

"May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in Him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." *Romans 15:13*

Our dear friend Kay sent me this scripture this morning. The Holy Spirit truly gifted me through her the perfect blessing to share with you! Last Sunday we all met in the newly remodeled and beautiful Russell Building for our annual meeting. What a great turn out. It speaks volumes to the commitment and love we all share as the body of Christ at St. Elizabeth's Church. All our ministries were presented at the meeting. An invitation was extended to each of us to "join in" and become a part of any or all of these ministries. I would like to challenge us all to look deep inside and feel the nudge of the Holy Spirit of which ministry we each might enjoy. Then reach out and contact one of these ministries and see if it is a good fit for you and your gifts. Many hands make light work. We have built a wonderful foundation and are moving optimistically into a bright future to share God's love with others. Last Sunday we also said good bye to three of our vestry members, and our Sr. Warden, Ken Dean has served our church as Sr. Warden and Vestry member with such love kindness and integrity. Thank you Ken! Thank you to Janet Mandeville and Michael Colangeli for sharing your gifts to help bring St. Elizabeth's Church to where it is now in these last three years. We welcome Denise Roberts, John Flockhart and Janet Farmer as our newest Vestry members. Thank you to Deacon Lori, Deacon Bob & Deacon Carolyn for all they do for us all. We are so blessed by your love and care of all of us. Thank you to Irene for her patience and hard work as she tries to keep us all on task. A very heartfelt thanks to Fr. Norm for his wisdom, vision, leadership, and humor. Thank you for staying with us and reminding us how good God is and how much he loves us all. *Blessings to all!* **Denise Bersos, Sr. Warden**



Congratulations to Valerie Nubi-Collins & Alfonso Chester
who were married
on January 22, 2025 at St. Elizabeth's!

SR. WARDEN REPORT ~ 2024

It has been an honor to have been your Sr. Warden for the last two years. I want to thank everyone who has worked to make St. Elizabeth's what it is today. You heard the reports of our many ministries. All of these groups are bricks in the foundation of St. Elizabeth's. THANK YOU Fr. Norm for your spiritual leadership and great sermons. THANK YOU to our Deacons Bob & Carolyn Quinnell and Lori Hoey, for your pastoral care and lively and informative bible studies. THANK YOU Guy McKenzie, Jr. Warden for your hard work in keepings things running and for your patience Pam when he says " *This won't take me long*". Kudos to our office staff and office angels. Reams of paper are printed, folded, sorted and distributed every week. Money is counted, deposited and individually recorded to all of our accounts. Choir and sound booth are indispensable. With everyone working together our attendance has increased and our finances are stable. We have been a welcoming church and I hope we have made every newcomer feel like a part of our family. I hope we continue to make great strides in Jesus's name.

Ken Dean

ALTAR GUILD REPORT ~ 2024

Our Altar Guild has ended another year of faithful service setting up for all of our services and putting away after the services. Our core members are Denise Bersos, Diana Iverson and myself. Sharon Albee has continued helping between services. Michele Condron helps after the 10:00am service. Both ladies are greatly appreciated! Janet Farmer has continued to create beautiful floral and greenery displays for Holy Days and holidays. Cindy Winters lends a hand to our church displays as well as to a few dinner events held in the Russel Bldg. Thanks to these two ladies as well. With much sadness, we bid goodbye to Peggy Klamm. She was a longtime member of our Altar Guild. Even while very ill, she continued to care for our linens with washing and ironing them through most of the year, her way of continuing to be a part of this ministry. God bless you! We would love to have some new members! This is a special and wonderful ministry! Speak to a member, ask Fr. Norm or leave a note in the office or collection plate! Thank you!

Linda Dean, Altar Guild Directress

HELPING HANDS REPORT ~ 2024

Many of our St. Elizabeth's work day crew volunteer to act as a helping hand to our church family. We have lent a hand for light yard work and small repairs. We have put up storm shutters and taken them down. If you like to keep busy with small projects or yard work we have a need for you! Please see Ken Dean or Guy McKenzie, Jr. Warden or call the church office! Blessings to all!

Ken Dean

In with the New...Out with the somewhat Older in the DOK

In January 2020 Dawn & I became co-presidents of St. Elizabeth's DOK Chapter. At our January 2024 meeting Sue Johnson & Kay Distefano stepped forward to be President & Vice President. Dawn and I stepped into our leadership roles during Covid. We asked our DOK if they would be willing to call our congregants and check on them since we were not able to gather at Church. This led to several of the DOK members writing out Birthday & Anniversary cards to our congregation. Twice a year the DOK started offering lunch & Bible Study to our congregation. We brought back movie night during the summer with hot dogs & popcorn. We have several daughters that help with our mission to The Source. Several cooks in the kitchen and several come down to The Source to serve food and pray with the clients of The Source. We have several daughters that participate in Food for Neighbors by taking food to those in need. This ministry served over 250 families, friends, & neighbors in 2024. Deacon Lori has asked for our help in making Prayer Pockets for the families in Hospice. During the last 4 years Dawn has trained seven new Daughters. We continue to be Prayer WARRIORS for our congregation and look forward to helping Sue & Kay expand our ministry in 2025. Thank you St. Elizabeth's for letting us serve you!

Dawn Curtis & Chrissie Grimison

