

# Revelations



**Induction of Our New Priest Father Alexander Andujar**



*Fr. Alex Induction*

## **From Our Rector** **for June 2024**



One of my favorite memories from visiting the Holy Land was a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. The Sea of Galilee is known for being calm one moment and terrifying the next as the weather changes on a dime. One of the most powerful stories we reflected on was the storm that threatened to swamp the boat with Jesus and the disciples in it.

*And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:37-41).*

My key takeaway from that story is that Jesus was in the boat with them. Even though they were terrified he slept calmly. This is the kind of trust that Jesus had in God the Father and calls us to have as well.

As a person who loves sailing, the words of St. Boniface always touches my heart. "The Church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life's different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship, but to keep her on her course". As I begin this new journey with you I want one thing to be absolutely clear: **WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER**. There will be challenges ahead. There will be moments of stress and anxiety as we navigate change and invite the Holy Spirit to transform us as individuals and as a parish. But the good news is that no matter how the waves beat on us, no matter how hard the wind blows, Jesus is in the boat with us. And if Jesus is in the boat then we have nothing to fear. He is ready to say "Peace! Be Still" to anything that comes our way.

The other side of being in this together is that each of us has a part to play in the ministry of our parish and there are no small tasks. Everyone's contributions matter and we can't do it without you. It has been a pleasure to sit in on committee meetings for the various ministries of our parish and listen to people's energy and enthusiasm about what they are doing and what they hope to do in the future. I urge every member of our parish to pray about how God might be calling you to a deeper service to St. John's. I look forward to seeing the vision God has for St. John the Divine and how we will get there together.

**Fr. Alex**





## **From the Priest in Residence** **for June 2024**



The word "stifle" has an interesting origin, appearing in the late 14th century as "stuflen" meaning to suffocate or choke. We probably remember it as a catch phrase from *All in the Family* when Archie Bunker barked, "Just stifle it, Edith!" meaning, "Shut up. Don't go there!" We all wanted Archie to follow his own advice. Tiring of front page headlines and all the negativity on television, I am ready to say, "Just stifle it!"

I have wondered if we, as individuals, might get rid of our negatives in much the same manner - stifle them! Kill them with disuse. I've wondered if hatred and anger and greed and gossip and the thousand and one little things that, in time, breed suffering and violence might be done away with simply through lack of use. The idea is workable even if it isn't very realistic. Some say Jesus' admonition to love one another is not too realistic either.

The Sigmund Freud concept of the adult personality that adheres to the notion that a person's character and disposition may, in later years, be altered but not changed, is now meeting with much disagreement.

European psychologists now say that a person isn't really washed up if the first three years of life didn't quite jell. Carl Jung defined personality as a growing process, not what one is, but what one can become.

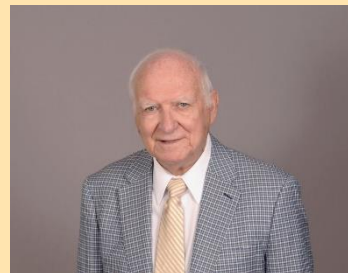
Any vacuum will be filled. One never eliminates hate until one pours out a lot of love. One never eliminates anger until one becomes saturated with understanding. One never eliminates greed until that person can place another's happiness on equal level with his or her own. One never eliminates gossip until that person starts looking for the good instead of the bad.

Am I dreaming? Maybe I am. But while we can't change the world, we can change ourselves. Just "stifle it!"

**FATHER LEE**

## **Sr. Warden Report**

Fr. Alex led the vestry in its first retreat, Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. The day was divided into 4 parts. Part I Sharing our story. Getting to know each other and how God and SJD were part of our story. Part II Forming the vestry, session on Policies and Procedures. Part III What do we



wish for SJD. We broke into 3 groups, what do we wish for SJD to be for the people and community. Whom do we serve and what are some of the major challenges Part IV closing Eucharist? The vestry will take the next several months to discuss the vision of SJD over the remaining of 2024 and for 2025. Members of the parish will be asked to help with this endeavor.

The May meeting of the Finance meeting elected Steve Van Loan as the new leader (Chairperson). The committee is composed of the following persons: Steve Van Loan- Chairperson, Tom Kramer- Treasurer, Mary Lane Kullman- Clerk, Doug Roderick, Barbara Sirois, Howard Roshaven, Don Fisher – members.

Members of the finance committee will be updating the parish on how we are meeting our goal as we move through the year.

The Endowment Fund Committee has three members, Doug Roderick – Chairperson, Bill Duhn – parish member and Steve Van Loan – vestry member.

Blessings,  
Don Fisher  
Sr. Warden



**Need Prayer?  
just ask.**

Do you know of someone who would like prayer  
or

Would you like to be a part of our Prayer Team?

Contact:

Barb Gingrich at 813-633-5649 or [barinscc@gmail.com](mailto:barinscc@gmail.com)

Or

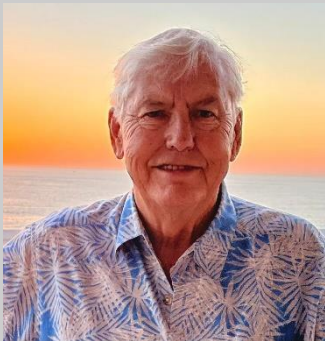
Val Bryant at 813-352-1207 or [vjb350@aol.com](mailto:vjb350@aol.com)



### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SR. WARDEN**

**At May 5<sup>th</sup> coffee hour, the congregation enjoyed Don's favorite...carrot cake!**

**Barbara Gentry**



### **From the Desk of the Jr Warden,**

Hello All and welcome to Spring/SUMMER, It's already hot and we have a long way to go through the summer months.

Speaking of heat, our new Rector, Fr. Alex has all the burners going as he gets settled in to his new position as rector of St. John the Divine Episcopal Church in Sun City Center, Fl.

Fr. Alex has come up with some great suggestions and we are on our way

implementing them as we move along.

The property is looking pretty good and it couldn't have happened without the help of John Gentry and Dennis Accardo.

They have been such a great help and when you see them in church I am sure a quick thanks to them would be appreciated.

Especially our sparkling white buildings.

Please keep in mind we are still looking for volunteers to help keep the inside of the church looking good, so if you would like to help in any way please let me know. We only have the cleaners coming in on Fridays so there is a lot that can happen until the next time they clean. Just vacuuming the entrances is a big help and sweeping up here and there is also appreciated along with emptying the trash cans after a meeting. If you see something, say something as we need to keep our church looking good.

**Blessings  
Steve Van Loan Jr Warden**



## RECEPTION FOR FR. ALEX

An evening to remember. After a moving service, folks retired to the reception. The Parish Hall was beautifully decorated (including the Bishop's Miter napkins) and an incredible array of food arranged on charcuterie boards. The kitchen crew outdid themselves. Thank you to all who helped make this event such a success. *Barbara Gentry*



## A Mother's Love

By the time you are reading this, you would have observed the season of Lent and after what seemed like eternity, celebrated the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior

Jesus Christ. What is often overlooked is the part women played in His life. Regardless of which Gospel you read, there were women with him at the cross and at the tomb. We often wonder what pain his mother Mary bore as she watched her son beaten and crucified. In spite of this all, she remained steadfast with him.

Last Sunday we celebrated "Mother's Day." As far as I remember, the second Sunday of May was always significant to me. The arrival of this day brought mixed emotions. There were the feelings of joy, at celebrating this day with the one woman who meant all the world to me. On the other hand, there was the sad feeling no doubt caused by the realization of her mortality. Thank God, the feelings of joy were the dominant ones, thereby making this day, forever one of pleasant memories.

For each of us, Mothers' Day holds different memories. Whatever those memories, try to remember the person responsible for your presence here today. For you, young and old alike, take some time to tell your mother (if alive) you love her. A mother's love cannot be truly defined or measured. I guess one of the best demonstrations of a mother's love would be the actions of a cat named Scarlet. There was a fire in Brooklyn NY, a few years ago. The fire forced Scarlet to flee the house leaving her week-old kittens in the inferno. However, the maternal instinct kicked in. She rushed back into the house and rescued her kittens one by one. In spite of the burns she suffered, she systematically returned until every one of them was rescued. This was beyond bravery. This was a case of unconditional love. This was indeed a mother's love.

Mother's Day is a day for all members of the fairer sex. From the day she is born, a woman is endowed with the basic instincts for nurturing. To you mothers, to you mothers-to-be and to you who are not mothers, we



salute you. Thanks for being there when we needed you. It is remarkable coincidence, that nurses' week culminated on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Mother's Day. Nurses for the most part are an extension of our mothers. I congratulate nurses. Please join with me as we say, **GOD BLESS MOTHERS! GOD BLESS MOTHERS! GOD BLESS NURSES! GOD BLESS NURSES!**

In God's Grace and Peace  
Aubrey V. Thompson  
Head Verger

## Bake Sale

The April 20th Bake Sale was a huge success. Proceeds were \$1579 coupled with the January Bake sale of \$702 for a total of \$2,281. Thank you to the team and all who baked made home made jam, spreads, mustard and crafts and thanks to all our valued customers. Check out the hard working team.

Barbara Genty



# Happy Birthday to Roxanne Andujar.



**ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®**

Our June outreach focus is *The Longest Day*, a fundraiser for Alzheimer's. The funds will be divided between the local Samaritans Alzheimer's Auxiliary and the national Alzheimer's Association. We are supporting this all-day event sponsored by the Duplicate Bridge Association of Sun City Center which will be held on Sunday, June 23, at the Community Hall on South Pebble Beach from 10:30 am until 9:00 pm.

There will be bridge and other games all day long (morning, afternoon and evening sessions), complementary lunch and dinner for those who purchase an all-day ticket for \$25, and a wide variety of baskets and items will be raffled off. Lunch tickets are available for \$10 for those not interested in playing games. Raffle items include a week stay at a timeshare in Hawaii, \$100 of lottery scratch-off tickets, high tea for eight people, a home cooked Italian dinner for eight people, a variety of golf packages, a classic Howdy Dowdy marionette, a wine basket, 50-50

drawing, \$250 cash, a signature bottle of Frank Sinatra Jack Daniels whiskey, and many other items.

There are several ways you can help! Buy a ticket and come and play in one or more of the game sessions. Help with the many volunteer tasks during the event. Stop by and purchase raffle tickets for the variety of baskets and special items available. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions, contact Ronda O'Farrell at [rondascc@gmail.com](mailto:rondascc@gmail.com) or (813) 614-6265 or Linda Duhn at [Lduhn06@gmail.com](mailto:Lduhn06@gmail.com) or (407) 340-1713.



## **Anticipatory Grief June 2024**

Here is the thing about grief – though we think of it as something that happens after a death, it often begins long before death arrives. It can start as soon as we become aware that death is a likelihood. Once death is on the horizon, even just as a possibility, it is natural that we begin to grieve. Though this is different than the grief that follows a death, anticipatory grief can carry many of the symptoms of regular grief – sadness, anger, isolation, forgetfulness, and depression. These complicated emotions are often coupled with the exhaustion that comes with being a caregiver or the stress of being left alone in battling addictions or terminal illnesses. In advance of a death, One can grieve the loss of person's abilities and independence, their loss of cognition, a loss of hope, loss of future dreams, loss of stability and security, loss of their identity and our own. Caring for them as they suffer takes an emotional toll on us. These things can contribute to a sense of relief when the death eventually comes, and a guilt that can come with that relief. We feel guilty for this relief, thinking it diminishes our love for the person. It doesn't, of course, but this relief can be a confusing feeling.

Things to remember when dealing with Anticipatory Grief: Accept that anticipatory grief is normal and you are not alone. Allow yourself to acknowledge that, though the person hasn't died, you are grieving. Seek out caregiver support groups so you can connect with others who understand the challenges you are facing, including anticipatory grief. As long as you are there for support, you are not giving up on a family member or friend. There comes a time where we often accept that an illness is terminal and that recovery is no longer a possibility. Though it is reality, there can be a feeling of guilt that comes with that acceptance. But. In actuality, you are shifting your energy from hope for



recovery to hope for meaningful, comfortable time together. Take care of yourself. Finally, when someone dies there can be a sense of relief that is completely normal, but that can also create feelings of guilt. It is a normal reaction after a stressful and overwhelming time in your life.

Just because your loss was an anticipated loss, do not assume this will either speed up or slow down your grief after the death. It has been said it before and will be said again: we all grieve differently.

The Grief Support Group at Saint John Divine offers more than just discussions for those who have lost someone. Grief is a natural process. It isn't a disorder or an illness. You may be grieving about anything you've lost, whether it's a loved one or a job or something that had meaning for you. We meet every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 10:00 AM in the Dons Room in the Banner building. When you feel the need, we can be there for you.



## Members of our parish participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Service

It was a very profound and emotionally moving experience



## Meet AL

If you park near the pond, keep your eyes out for AL. This is alligator mating season and



they tend to sun  
themselves on the  
bank waiting for a  
mate.

John Gentry

## **Treasurer's Update**

Last January at the annual meeting, I explained the financial status of SJD, noted that the budgeted projected deficit for 2024 was (\$128,000) even with proposed staff reductions and stated that the only way for SJD to become financially sound would be to increase donations and reduce expenses.

At that meeting, the "Step-Up" initiative to increase donations was started. I am pleased to report that many parishioners did step up and through April 2024 donations increased by 24% compared to the same period in 2023. The donations for all of 2023 were \$340,000. A goal of \$400,000 was established for all of 2024 as part of the step up initiative. Through April, SJD is on pace to reach that goal!

On the expense side, there was another payroll reduction that brought the projected deficit for 2024 down to (\$98,000).

Parishioners have also been industrious by increasing revenue through the thrift store and bake sales which have generated \$20,000 in income through April 2024. Please continue to support these and upcoming fundraising opportunities and consider giving of your time and talent to help make them a reality.

If revenues continue at this pace through the balance of 2024, I am confident that the actual deficit for 2024 will be less than (\$50,000) - substantially less than the (\$220,000) deficit in 2023 (when we only had a rector for 2 months) and the (\$350,000) operating deficit in 2022 (when the rector was paid for 12 months).

While we have made great strides towards financial stability - where our revenues at least equal our expenses will take time. Casting a new vision for St. John's mission and ministry in our community will only come through all our efforts.

Thank you for your generosity.

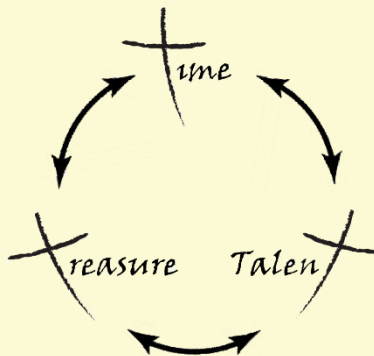
Tom Kramer

## DIVINE JEWELRY SHOP

Although business is slowing down a little as summer draws near, we still managed to donate another \$5000 to SJD General Funds making the year-to-date total \$20,000. Thank you to our volunteers and our customers. Everything we sell in the shop is donated by you and the community. Right now, we are in need of rings. Do you have any you are ready to part with? The May Vera Bradley Purse Sale was quite a success. Remember, a donation or a purchase at the shop is yet another way of donating to SJD. *Barbara Gentry*



**Daughters of  
the King  
Service of  
Admission  
will be June  
9th**





## **Reducing your tax burden when you give!**

Last month I discussed Required Minimum Distributions or RMDs for those that have tax deferred accounts and are age 73 or older, and the impact withdrawals have on their taxable income level.

This month, I want to discuss you younger folks that are 70 1/2 and older, and if charitable giving is part of your financial plan, you can further your philanthropic goals and help reduce the tax hit from you RMD. You can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). Previous QCDs were limited to \$100,000 per year, but that amount is now indexed for inflation; for 2024, the QCD limit has increased to \$105,000.

QCDs don't count as income - meaning you can't deduct the contribution on your tax return - but their tax benefits could outweigh those of donating cash or other assets to charity, by reducing your total taxable income.

Please consider St. John the Divine Episcopal Church as part of your financial giving, whether as your annual pledge or gift; truly a loving way to support SJD and give thanks for the grace God has given us. Again, I would be happy to answer any questions a parishioner might have regarding any of the methods of giving to SJD or just in reducing your federal tax load. Also, if you have a financial advisor, I would highly recommend you discuss RMDs or QCDs with that person.

Next month , we will begin some discussions about legacy planning

Doug Roderick  
Triple T Ministry  
843-283-2941





**The Vestry Retreat was a great experience to get to know everyone and to plan God's work for the coming months at the Church**



## **Holiday Festival**

Please reserve November 23, 2024 for the annual Holiday Festival.

We'll be needing arts and crafts, attic treasures, jams, jellies and pickled goods and whatever else you have to offer. More to follow.

Please contact Susan Morgan at

[simorgan319@gmail.com](mailto:simorgan319@gmail.com)

Or Barb Sirois for crafts at

[teacherslandb@hotmail.com](mailto:teacherslandb@hotmail.com)



**If you wish to give online, please scan or click the QR Code**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Pauli Bruno - 6/2  
Rudy Metz - 6/5  
Linda Dolph - 6/7  
Linda Cardillo - 6/7  
Leah Richardson - 6/9  
John Gentry - 6/13  
Carol Croll - 6/14  
Greg Boldoc - 6/14  
Joyce Astwood - 6/15  
Dick Barrett - 6/17  
Tom Kramer - 6/17  
Susan Callaghan - 6/19  
Shirley Smith - 6/23  
Raymond Barrett - 6/23  
Paulina Buxo - 6/23  
Sue Crawford - 6/26  
Linda Gabler - 6/27  
Santiago Rodriguez - 6/28  
Linda Duhn - 6/30

### Anniversaries

Dennis & Karen - 6/1  
Dan & Linda Cardillo - 6/7  
Ron & Carol Drummond - 6/12  
Chet & Judy Budziak - 6/17  
Gail & Dennis Silkebakken - 6/17  
Jack & Terry Edison - 6/22



**Michael & Erin Carrano - 6/25**

## **Vestry**

Don Fisher -- Sr. Warden, Steve Van Loan -- Jr. Warden,  
Val Bryant -- Clerk, Thomas Kramer -- Treasurer  
Marianne Strehar, Mary Lane Kullmann,  
Clare Thompson, Jackie Winder,  
Dennis Accardo, Katie Arp, Barbara Gentry,  
D.J. Holt, Mike Magnant

## **Clergy and Staff**

The Rt. Rev. Douglas F. Scharf  
*Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida*  
The Rev. Alex Andujarr - *Rector*  
The Rev. Lee Miller - *Priest in Residence*  
Valerie Southwell - *Music Director*  
Cheryl Savini - *Parish Administrator*

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