

# Good News from St. John's

March 2016

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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## HOLY WEEK-2016

### **Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday-Sunday March 20, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.**

This Sunday observes the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that was marked by the crowds, who were in Jerusalem for Passover, waving palm branches and proclaiming him as the messianic king. The service will begin with the Liturgy of the Palms at the front of the church.

This Sunday is also known as Passion Sunday to commemorate the beginning of Holy Week and Jesus' final agonizing journey to the cross.

The color for Palm Sunday is red, to commemorate and reflect upon the death of Jesus.

### **Maundy Thursday-March 24, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.**

The term Maundy comes from the Latin word mandatum (from which we get our English word mandate), from a verb that means "to give," "to entrust," or "to order."

The sharing of the Eucharist is the means by which most Christians observe this day. At the end of the service, the "stripping of the altar" symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers prior to his crucifixion. The altar then is covered in black in preparation for the Good Friday Liturgy.

We will have an Altar of Repose, beginning immediately after the Maundy Thursday service, ending at midnight, in the downstairs Chapel. We also will have a door monitor, for safety purposes.

### **Good Friday-March 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.**

On this day, the church commemorates Jesus' arrest, his trial, crucifixion and suffering, death and burial. Since services on this day are to observe Jesus' death there is no celebration of the Holy Eucharist, instead, we partake of the pre-sanctified body and blood from the night before.

Following this service, the Stations of the Cross is held, by walking around the church and stopping at each of the stations, that portray Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trial, and death.

### **The Great Vigil of Easter-March 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

The Great Vigil, is the first service of Easter Day. It is celebrated between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter morning. The service consists of four parts:

1. The Service of Light.
2. The Service of Lessons.
3. Baptisms or Renewal of Baptismal Vows.
4. The Holy Eucharist with the administration of Easter Communion.

## **FORTY FOR FORTY**

We are going to try something new this season of Lent. Instead of Lenten coin folders we are handing out large plastic bags. Every day put a nonperishable item in the bag. This can be a food item or a paper or cleaning product. At the end of Lent we will bring our forty items to church to be blessed and then distributed to various food pantries in Parsons.

As you are placing this item in the bag each day pray for the person that will receive it, the group that will pass them out and thank God for the many blessings you have in your life.

St. Elisabeth's Altar Guild

## **Sacra Triduum**

Most people don't understand the three Sacred Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Each liturgy flows one to the next without dismissal or beginning. They present to us the whole of Christian faith as we move from the Upper Room, into the Garden of Gethsemane; from a mock trial to the tree planted on Golgotha; with the Blessed Mother and John our patron saint we watch as the bruised, beaten, dead body of Jesus is removed from the Cross, prepared and laid in a new, borrowed tomb; and we wait with wonder and expectation with Christians throughout the world who gather at the Great Vigil and First Mass of the Resurrection to listen to the story of God's redemption and deliverance of God's people through the waters of the Red Sea, and of new Christians through Baptism into the new Covenant, and we are fed once more by Christ with his glorious and risen Body.

Please mark your calendars now, and make the Sacra Triduum your first priority during Holy Week. Maundy Thursday March 24-Good Friday March 25-Easter Vigil March 26. God bless you and may we be renewed and revitalized in our faith and commitment to Christ and to all of Christ's people.

Mother Sharon

## **What is the Veneration of the Cross?**

The "Veneration of the Cross" is a specific ceremony in the Good Friday liturgy which a person pays respect to the cross on which Jesus was crucified.

The earliest description of this ceremony is found in the late fourth century treatise "The Pilgrimage of Egeria." In this diary she describes the Good Friday ceremonies in Jerusalem. During that service, fragments that were believed to be of the true cross were placed on a table in front of a bishop. The people came forward, bowed toward the table, and kissed the sacred wood. Variations of the ceremony developed throughout Christianity.

The custom was restored in the 1979 BCP, in which a wooden cross may be brought into the church and placed in sight of the people

The practice at St. John's is, after the Solemn Collects, a wood cross is brought in by the Priest, and after they have venerated the cross, everyone else present may come forward and venerate the cross, by bowing before it, touching it, or kissing it.

Mother Sharon

## **MEANING OF THE FOOT WASHING RITUAL ON MAUNDY THURSDAY**

This service is more than merely the washing of feet. It was an act of hospitality performed in the ancient Near East when a guest entered a house. The early church practiced foot washing to follow Jesus' example of humble service.

I realize many of you may have some uneasy feelings about having your feet washed. I am going to try to put those uneasy feelings to rest for you.

When Jesus washed his disciples' feet, Peter refused this gift. Peter, like us, didn't feel comfortable in being served in this way. Peter didn't want Jesus to enter his world as a humble servant. For Jesus, however, this entry is at the heart of fellowship: "Unless I wash you, you have no share in me." No foot washing, no communion. Once he understands

what's going on, Peter wants Jesus to wash everything—if that's what it takes to be in communion with Him.

The foot washing ritual connects us with the forgiveness and the life Christ gives us through the Cross. It creates in us a discipleship shaped by Christ's humility. It is important to realize that the foot washing is the last message Jesus was to give to the disciples before he left them. He is telling them how the church is to act in the world when you wash feet.

His loving us has more to do than the humble act of washing feet. Washing another's feet means giving up oneself for another. Jesus washing his disciples' feet anticipates and foreshadows his dying for them on the cross, and the meaning of the footwashing can only be grasped in hindsight, after the crucifixion.

The water that flows over the disciples' feet, and over our feet, is linked to the water that pours out of his pierced side. And it is that water that will be poured over your feet. That water, the water of God's emptying, sacrificial love that will be poured over your brother's and sister's feet.

Because this rite is about humble service, I will do the foot washing.

A Lay leader will dry your foot.

It is customary that only one foot will be washed.

Ladies will need to remember not to wear panty hose.

May the Holy Spirit guide you in making your decision.

Mother Sharon

### **Vestry Summary from January 11, 2016 meeting**

Present: Alice Miller, Candy Scarborough, Gary Chubb, Martha Stone, Gloria Young, Verlyn Bolinger, Jupe Allen, and Mother Sharon.

#### Development:

Gospel Based Disciples on John 1:1-18.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

#### Old Business:

Nominating Committee report on positions up for election.

Amendment to the bylaws has been sent to the Bishop for his approval.

Successful Epiphany service and celebration following.

ECW will provide a brunch for the annual meeting. Annual reports are due by January 17<sup>th</sup> for printing in the booklet.

#### New Business:

Lenten study will be on the Gospel of John.

2016 CDG were approved.

A Mutual Ministry Review will be conducted by The Rev. Canon Torey Lightcap.

Thank you notes were read.

Approved to send \$5,000.00 to the Clergy Support Fund.

#### Assessment:

Minutes from Dec. 13, 2015 were approved.

#### Discernment:

Outreach-6 weeks of Snack-packs have been packed. \$1,000.00 has been sent to the Ngeya School in Kenya for firewood. Submitted application for a grant to the Parsons Community Foundation.

College Ministry-Laundry & Latte resumes this week.

Children's Sunday School will not be held the first Sunday of the month due to teacher availability.

Next meeting-February 8, 2016.

Meeting closed with prayer and blessing by Mother Sharon.

Jupe Allen, Clerk.



## Treasurer Report

The following is a brief report on how our 2016 pledges and donations received to date compare with 2015:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total of pledges received	22	17
Total pledged (annual)	\$59,496	\$52,900

Total Amount Received (to date Number of Pledges Received) \$7,930 we are \$ 3,521.66 ahead of budget. This is a great start for the year

Thank you again for your generous and persistent support of our great church. Thank you for all who have pledged for 2016

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



## Prayer List

### Our prayers have been asked for:

Jim, Marla, Lois, Terry, Teresa, Jim, Sharon, Sammie, Ruth, Kris, Terrell, Jean, Rosie, Mary, Harry, Jolene, Syrus, Gina, Gloria, Michael, Lynn, Breklyn, Ben, Jean, Max, Bill, Jerry, Jennifer, Tony, Jordan, James, Betty, Ethan, Adin, Jane, Judith, Cathryn, Betts & Umbarger families, Jim, Janie, April, Avery, David, Harrison, Gary, Austin, Michael, Fred, Jamie, Jim, Steve, Danny, William, Jim, Becky, Nolan, Troy, Carole, Pat, Diane & the Young family, Jackie, Julia, Able and the McCray family, Kelly, Kent, Veronica, Loretta, Nick, the Smith, Haviland and Stangle families, Nicky, Ginger, Steve, John, Richard, Kara, Phyllis, Karla, Bess, Kelly, Trinity, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, President Obama & his family, all college ministries in the

Diocese of Kansas, all Southeast Convocation clergy especially JW, Gary, and Dick, the men and women serving our country here and abroad, and those who have served, and those persecuted for their faith in the Sudan.

## Those who have died:



## March Birthdays

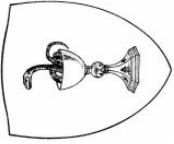
14 Barbara Cunningham  
16 Alice Miller  
25 Tim Downum  
28 Whitney Kephart



## March Anniversaries:

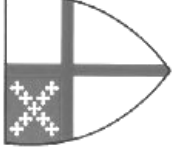
16 Jupe & Debbie Allen

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

## MARCH 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 -8 pm @ Fabric Care	4 Mother's day off	5
<b>6 The Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	7 The Great Litnay & Lenten Study 6:30 pm	8	9	10 Mother in office 3-5 pm L&L 5:30 -8 pm @ Fabric Care	11 Mother's day off	12
<b>13 The Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am Vestry Meeting 11:00 am	14 The Great Litnay & Lenten Study 6:30 pm	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18 Mother's day off	19
<b>20 The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday</b> Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	21 The Great Litnay & Lenten Study 6:30 pm	22	23 Worship & Music 6:00 pm	24 Maundy Thursday – HC, Footwashing, Stripping of Altar 6:30 pm, Altar of Repose 7:30 pm – 12am	25 Good Friday – Mass, Veneration of Cross 6:30 Stations of Cross 7:30	26 Easter Vigil- Blessing of the New Fire, First Mass of the Resurrection 7:00 pm.
<b>27 The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day</b> Holy Communion 9:30 am Easter Egg hunt 11:30 am	28	29	30	31 L&L 5:30 -8 pm @ Fabric Care		

# St. John's March 2016 schedule

	Maundy Thursday			Good Friday
	03/06/2016	03/13/2016	03/20/2016	03/24/2016
<b>Officiant</b>	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Gary Chubb	Joe Stone	Martha Stone	Candy Scarborough
<b>Lector</b>	Jupe Allen	Linda Nichols	Bess Stone-Bolinger	Daria Condon
<b>Acolytes</b>	Karla Cox	Tim Downum,	Meisters, Verlyn Bolinger, Karla Cox	Verlyn Bolinger and Bess Stone-Bolinger
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	None	Senta Meister	Daria Condon	None
<b>Greeters</b>	Bruce Lindemann & David Bamberger	Meister Family		L.T. & Carrie Tierney
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Tommy & Fran McLarty	Meister Family	Verlyn Bolinger and Bess Stone-Bolinger	None
<b>Counters</b>	Jupe Allen and Alice Miller			
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bess Stone-Bolinger			

# St. John's March 2016 schedule

	Easter Vigil	Easter Day		
	03/26/2016	03/27/2016		
<b>Officiant</b>	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon		
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Gary Chubb	Candy Scarborough		
<b>Lector</b>	Alice Miller	Linda Nichols		
<b>Acolytes</b>	Tim Downum, Verlyn Bolinger, Joe Stone	Gary Chubb, Tim Downum, Verlyn Bolinger, Bess Stone-Bolinger, Joe Stone, Meisters		
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	None	None		
<b>Greeters</b>	Bruce Lindemann	L.T. & Carrie Tierney		
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	None	ECW		
<b>Counters</b>	Jupe Allen and Alice Miller			
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bess Stone-Bolinger			