

Good News from St. John's

April 2019

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



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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.

Holy Week

What is Holy Week? Holy Week is the final week of Lent. It commemorates the events of our Lord's last week before His death. The chief festivals of Holy Week are Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil. Holy Week, together with Easter, is the most sacred part of the Christian calendar—the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

What is Palm Sunday? Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter. An enthusiastic crowd greeted Jesus by spreading palm branches along the road and shouting Hosanna, a Hebrew expression meaning "save us." Palm Sunday is called the Sunday of the Passion because our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem marked the beginning of His great and final humiliation—His suffering and brutal death on the cross to atone for the sins of the world. On Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, worship services feature the reading of the entire passion narrative from one of the synoptic gospels.

What is the Triduum? The most solemn and joyful celebration of the Christian calendar is the period from Maundy Thursday through Holy Saturday. Worship services on these days are considered to be parts of a single extended liturgical event called the *Triduum* (Latin for "Three Days").

What is Maundy Thursday? The first part of the *Triduum* begins on the evening of Maundy Thursday, during which Christians recall the events that took place the night Jesus was betrayed. The foot-washing ritual and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Bread and wine will be reserved for the Good Friday service. After the sacrament has ended, the stripping of the altar takes place. This ancient ritual is a powerful and dramatic reenactment of the Lord's humiliation at the hands of the Roman soldiers. The altar, left bare or covered only with a black cloth, is transformed from the communion table of Maundy Thursday into the tomb slab of Good Friday.

After this service ends, many worshipers will sit before the reserved sacrament, at the Altar of Repose, until midnight in 30 minute intervals.

What is Good Friday? Good Friday, the second day of the *Triduum*, is the solemn remembrance of Jesus' death on the cross. Music on this day is minimized. The altar is still covered in black. A wooden cross is brought in and leaned against the altar. Worshipers can offer a sign of adoration such as bowing, kneeling, touching, or kissing the cross. Holy Communion is provided from the Reserved Sacrament from Maundy Thursday. In spite of the solemnity of Good Friday worship, it is not a funeral service for Jesus. It is rather a time of quiet and serious contemplation on His great saving work.

What is the Great Vigil of Easter? The third and final day of the *Triduum* is Holy Saturday, known as the Great Vigil. The Great Vigil was for many centuries the most important festival of the entire church year. The Great Vigil is made up of four separate but connected worship services. The first is the Service of Light. The congregation gathers in darkness and is given unlighted candles. The presider lights the paschal candle, a large white candle symbolizing the presence of the risen Lord. As the paschal candle is carried up the aisle, worshipers then light their candles from this candle. The paschal candle is placed in its stand near the altar and then the Exsultet is read. When that is finished the worshipers extinguish their candles and the Service of Light concludes.

The Vigil continues with the Service of Readings. Several portions of the Old Testament are read that tell of God's wonderful acts of deliverance in the history of Israel. A responsorial psalm and brief prayer follow each reading.

The Service of Baptism (if there is a Baptism—otherwise we renew our Baptismal Vows) is the third part of the Great Vigil.

The climax of the Great Vigil is the Service of Holy Communion. The altar candles and other candles are lighted from the paschal candle. The presider greets the congregation with the ancient greeting: *Alleluia! Christ is risen!* The congregation replies: *The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!* All join in singing the Gloria in Excelsis, a hymn that has not been sung since the last Sunday after Epiphany.

The Great Vigil is the richest and most powerful liturgy of the Christian year. It and the other Holy Week festivals are wonderful and unique services that gather God's people together to celebrate the great paschal mystery—Jesus Christ's passage from death to life for our salvation.

I pray that all of you will make an effort to attend all of these Holy Week services as we journey with Jesus Christ to His death and resurrection.

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 foot washing 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

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

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 April 18-Good Friday April 19-Easter Vigil April 20. 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

St. John's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

February 2019

February 11, 2019

Present: Bess Stone-Bolinger, Alice Miller, Martha Stone, Verlyn Bolinger and Mother Sharon.

Development: Gospel Based Disciples included a reading from Mark 9:30-41

Treasurer's report: Approved as presented. The Vestry voted to send \$ 15,000 to the Clergy Support Fund

Old Business:

Looking for a Janitor. Applications have been given to several people.

New Business:

New Vestry Contact List was distributed.

New Outreach Coordinator is Carrie Tierney.

Need Stewardship Coordinator. Will check with Karla Cox.

Tom Tanner took our food to Labette Assistance, from the monthly basket and Souper Bowl of Caring.

Parochial Report was distributed and explained by Verlyn. It was approved as amended.

The report will be sent to the Comptroller of the Diocese.

Each member received a copy of the Vestry Covenant to read and sign and keep in notebook.

Vestry Retreat. Will be held on March 23, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00p.m.

New Safe Church Policy information was distributed. We will have Leader Training.

Mother Sharon is a Certified Leader. She will hold training at a later date.

Bess and Verlyn will take the recycling to their home to be picked up with their recycling.

Letter from Life Touch Pictorial was presented. It was decided to do another directory this Year, since it has been 5 years since our last one.

Assessment:

Minutes from the January meeting and Special Vestry Meeting on January 20th

Were approved as corrected.

Reports from the Wardens:

Senior: Verlyn reported that he and Alice updated the church mailing list.

Junior: Sent cards to bereaved families.

Vicar's Report:

All included in new business.

Discernment:

Worship & Music: Meeting February 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Preparing for Ashes to Go on February 6, Ash Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mother Sharon, Bess, Verlyn, Martha and Daria will distribute ashes.

Outreach: Carrie will call a meeting for the Committee.

College Ministry: On hold until fall.

Communications: Updated Web Site. Put Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday on site.

Stewardship/Planned Giving: Need Stewardship coordinator...

Evangelism: Will host Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on

Tuesday, March 5.

Will have a car in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and a group walking and distributing candy.

Education:

Children: Bess is working on Sunday school. We will have Bible School with the youth

From the Kansas City church same as last year.

Adult: Researching a topic for the Lenten Study.

Buildings & Grounds: Bottom strip on the north door has been repaired.

Dennis Condon repaired the cabinet top where it had come loose.

Need to have a basement clean –up day. The books should go to Labette Assistance.

Endowment: No Report.

ECW: Bess and Alice will coordinate funeral dinners in the future. Need to take the Pressure off Carolyn.

Next meeting: March 18, 2019

A prayer by Mother Sharon concluded the meeting
Alice Miller, Clerk

Food next month:

Main dish: Bess

Vegetable: Karla

Salad: Alice

Dessert: Mother



Treasurer Report

In minutes.

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



Prayer List

Terry, Teresa, Jim, Ruth, Kris, Mary, Harry, Gina, Gloria, Ethan, Jim, Janie, William, Kelly, Nicky, Kara, Phyllis, Wuanita, Raymond, Sue, Jim, Jeffrey, Barry, Boo, Jane, John & family, Randy, Regina, Doug, Gale, Evelyn, Gale, Valerie, Janice, Ava & Zoe, Bretton, Kathy, Richard, Alden, Sharon, Mindy, Darren, Sharon, Judy, Robin, Bob, Lynn, Jeanette & family, Carolyn, Lynn, Dwayne, Doris, Bishop Kathleen and her family, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, all Southeast Convocation clergy especially Gary, Dick, and David, those studying for ordination and lay certificates, 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:

Kelley Lackey, Sr.



April Birthdays

6 L.T. Tierney
18 Jordan Stone
26 Gary Chubb
27 Jim Nichols



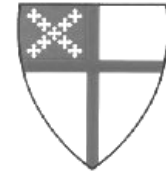
April Anniversaries:

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



St. John's Episcopal Church

APRIL 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Lent Worship & Adult Study 6pm	4 Mother in office 1-5 pm 1 st Communion Class 4pm	5 Mother's day off	6
7 The Fifth Sunday in Lent Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	8 Vestry dinner meeting 5:30 pm	9	10 Lent Worship & Adult Study 6pm	11 Mother in office 3-5 pm 1 st Communion Class 4pm	12 Mother's day off	13 Palm folding 10am
14 The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday Holy Communion 9:30 am Sunday School students – greeters with Bess	15 Lent Worhsip & Adult Study 6pm	16 Newsletter Deadline	17	18 1 st Communion Class 4pm Maunday Thur. Service 6:30 pm	19 Good Friday Liturgy 6:30 pm	20 Easter Egg Dying 10am
21 The Sunday of the Resurrection – Easter Sunday Holy Communion 9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 11 am	22	23	24 Worship & Adult Study 6pm	25 Mother in office 1-5 pm Worship & Music 6pm	26 Mother's day off	27
28 The Second Sunday of Easter Holy Communion & Sunday School 9:30 am	29	30				

St. John's April 2019 Schedule

	04/7/2019	Palm Sunday 4/14/2019	Maundy Thursday 4/18/2019	Good Friday 4/19/2019	Easter Vigil 4/20/2019
Officiant	Fr. George Wiley	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
Eucharistic Minister	Candy Scarborough	Verlyn Bolinger	Joe Stone	Martha Stone	Candy Scarborough
Lector	Candy Scarborough	Alice Miller	Bess Stone-Bolinger	Daria Condon	Jupe Allen
Acolytes	Alex, Verlyn	Karla, Sidni, Ava, Elsa	Karla	Verlyn, Karla	Tim, Karla, Verlyn
Eucharistic/Pastoral Visitor	Senta Meister	None	None	None	None
Greeters	David Bamberger	Bess & Verlyn	TBA	TBA	Alice Miller & Britt Dunlap
Coffee Hour	Tom & Juanita Tanner	Bess & Verlyn & Elsa			
Counters	Vestry Members				
Altar Guild	Bess Stone-Bolinger				

St. John's April 2019 Schedule

	Easter 4/21/2019	Morning Prayer 4/28/2019			
Officiant	Mother Sharon	Daria Condon			
Eucharistic Minister	Joe Stone	None			
Lector	Alice Miller	Candy Scarborough			
Acolytes	Tim, Karla, Alex, Sidni, Ava, Elsa	Karla			
Eucharistic/ Pastoral Visitor	Daria Condon	None			
Greeters		Tom & Juanita Tanner			
Coffee Hour	ECW	Daria & Dennis Condon			
Counters	Vestry Members				
Altar Guild	Bess Stone-Bolinger				