

Good News from St. John's

April 2021

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



620-421-4540
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.

**Changes to previous guidelines from the Bishop
Effective April 5, 2021-Easter Day**

FIRST, AND FOREMOST: WE GET TO RESUME COFFEE HOUR

- Hand sanitizer on each table.**
- Social distancing as close as possible.**
- Snacks in purchased individual packages.**
- Individual bottles of juice, tea, and water.**
- Coffee from the regular coffee machine will be turned around.**
(Sanitary wipes available to wipe off the handle after each use.)
- Masks may be removed while eating or drinking.**
- Disposable plates, cups, and silverware.**
- Touchless trash can.**

Additional guidelines for Fully Vaccinated People

(Two weeks after their second dose, or 2 weeks after the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.)

Small groups (12 or fewer) may gather unmasked.

HOWEVER, Masks must be worn in the presence of unvaccinated people and those at risk.

We may allow for outside groups to meet in Fox Hall, following the above guidelines.

STILL NO CONGREGATIONAL SINGING ALLOWED
(Soloist and small groups may sing as long as they are 30 feet from the parishioners)

We are planning to offer wine, in small disposal plastic cups, beginning on Easter.
More details will be sent in the weekly eblasts.

Vestry of St. John's supports these guidelines.

THE SEASON OF EASTER

In the Christian church year, the two major cycles of seasons, Christmas and Easter, are far more than a single day of observance. Like Christmas, Easter itself is a period of time rather than just a day. It is actually a seven-week season of the church year called **Easter tide, the Great fifty Days** that begins at sundown the evening before Easter Sunday (the Easter Vigil) and lasts for six more Sundays until Pentecost Sunday.

The Easter season celebrates the three dimensions of the resurrection, ascension and the sending of the Spirit. During this season, the hangings and vestments remain the glorious gold and white, the Paschal Candle remains in the sanctuary and is lit at every service up to and including the Day of Pentecost. "Alleluia! Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!" forms the greeting in every service during Eastertide. Similarly, "Alleluia! Alleluia!" is added to the Dismissal. These help to give these celebrations a distinctive festal feel.

During this season, Forty days after Easter Sunday, is Ascension Day, which always falls on a Thursday. Ascension Day marks the day when Jesus Christ ascended up into Heaven. We do not have an Ascension Day service, here at St. John's, but we have the opportunity to travel 25 short miles to Neodesha, Kansas and celebrate it at the Church of the Ascension. Mark your calendars now, Thursday May 13, 2021 to be in Neodesha at 6:00 p.m.

Ten days after Ascension Day, is the Day of Pentecost, ending the Season of Easter. Next month's newsletter will have an article on Pentecost and the Season after Pentecost.

Mother Sharon

The Sacra Triduum-What is it?

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. Some congregations reenact the foot-washing ritual on this evening. However, the true climax of Maundy Thursday worship is 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 worshippers will sit before the reserved sacrament, in the chapel downstairs, until midnight in one hour 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. Worshippers can offer a sign of adoration such as bowing or kneeling in front of 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.

The third part of the Sacra Triduum, the Great Vigil service will not be held this year due to Covid-19

Mother Sharon

The Great Fifty Days of Easter

The Easter services and Easter egg hunts are over. But Easter isn't over, at least not for millions of Christians. We have entered into a new church season: Eastertide.

Celebrating Easter for 50 days is not duplicating Easter Sunday fifty times over. It's taking time to reflect upon and delight in the truth of Easter and its implications for our lives. The basic truth of Easter is simple.

*Alleluia. Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen, indeed!
Alleluia.*

The Season of Easter gives us a chance to reflect more broadly and deeply on the multifaceted meaning of the resurrection of Jesus.

- ❖ You could meditate upon what the resurrection says about the character of Jesus Christ as the Righteous One of God (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:25-28).
- ❖ You might ponder the fact that death has been swallowed up in victory (1 Corinthians 15:54-56).
- ❖ You could reflect upon the fact that the very power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to you today (Ephesians 1:15-23).
- ❖ You might think of how the resurrection of Jesus is a precursor to your own resurrection (1 Corinthians 15).
- ❖ You could consider how the resurrection gives us "new birth into a living hope" (1 Peter 1:3).

Eastertide allows us to think deeply and broadly about what the resurrection of Jesus means, both to us and to our world. Recognizing Eastertide gives us a chance to take the truths of Scripture and to allow them to percolate in our hearts.

What would happen in our lives if we went through each day with a sixth-sense awareness of the resurrection? What would we attempt if we truly believed that the power that raised Jesus from the dead was available to us? What difference would it

make if we knew for sure that death had been defeated through Christ?

The Great Fifty (50) Days of Easter helps us surrender to the grace of God's love. Let us challenge each other to embrace the energy, which only comes from knowing the Lord of Life, that we might move beyond the narrow confines of our imaginings, and catch a glimpse of the limitless world of the Kingdom of God.

Together, as a Body that has died and risen again in the waters of Baptism, we can live our lives more in harmony with desire of God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Mother Sharon

St. John's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting February 11, 2021

Present: Karla Cox, Carrie Tierney, Verlyn Bolinger, Bess Stone-Bolinger, Jupe Allen and Mother Sharon via Zoom.

Development:

Gospel Based Disciples were not included in this meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

The transaction and budget reports were reviewed. The Endowment Board will meet February to reallocate investment funds. The report was approved.

Old Business:

The Annual Meeting went well, however the Zoom attendance was light.

The new Letter of Agreement with Mother Sharon has been signed by the Bishop.

The proposal for new live-stream equipment will be presented at the next meeting.

Ashes to Go has been suspended for this year due to inclement weather.

New Business:

Welcome Carrie and Bess to the Vestry.

We now have permission from the Bishop to hold in person services. This is due to Labette

County being classified as Orange Status 2 weeks consecutively in the state's Covid-19 Report. This Sunday, February 14, we will still have Morning Prayer but the Ash Wednesday service will be the first in person Eucharist and will be at 6:00 pm. Ministry Team Coordinators will be assigned at the March meeting. New pages for the Vestry notebooks will be placed in the mailboxes at the church. Anyone wishing to receive the publication Vestry Papers can sign up for them at <https://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers>. Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will be held in-house with only members invited and will be carryout only. Alice will call members for orders. The Parochial Report is approved. Highlights include:

- Members 102
- Members in good standing 44
- Youth in good standing 9
- New members 5
- Average attendance 17

A Minster meeting on church gardens will be held March 7. A Zoom license will be purchased by the church for \$150.

Assessment:
Minutes from the January 11 meeting were approved.

Vicar's Report: Carolyn Adams is in Good Sam recovering from surgery but does not like nursing home life.

Wardens:
Senior: Has been checking on Bob Adams.
Junior: Has been sending the Adams' cards.

Discernment:
Worship & Music: Will meet to pick hymns for March.
Outreach: Have purchased enough snacks for the rest of the year.
Evangelism: No report.
Communications: No report.
Education: Children's: No report.
Adult: Chose a Focus on The Way of Love for the Lenten Study.
Stewardship: The Tree of Life charms will be distributed to those making pledges.

Planned Giving: No report.
Buildings & Grounds: No report.
Endowment: The Clergy Support Fund balance stands at \$82,600.
ECW: Will collaborate with the Presbyterian church to provide a grab and go lunch on Thursday of Holy Week.
Next meeting, March 8, 2021 at 5:30.
A prayer by Mother Sharon concluded the meeting.
Respectfully submitted,
Jupe Allen
Clerk



Treasurer Report

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



Prayer List

Teresa, Jim, Mary, Harry, Gina, Gloria, Ethan, Jim, Janie, Kelly, Wuanita, Jeffrey, Boo, Jane, John & family, Regina, Doug, Ava & Zoe, Bretton, Richard, Robin, Bob, Lynn, Carolyn, Lynn, Dwayne, Doris, Breklyn, Casey, Cayla, Randall, Dominic, Jaylyn, Joe, Marla, Alan, Kay, Leslie, Lorrie, Tina, Addlee, Randy, Jon, Tara, Josh, Vickie, Ron, Sharon, Daniel, Denise, Lisa, Jennifer and family, Janet, Scott, Lillian, Aaron & family, Andrew, Thompson family, Hanson & Loffer families, Bremer family, LuAnn, Mary, Mother Ann, Lu, Rita, Bridget, Jim, Darren, MacDonald family, those with the coronavirus and their families, healthcare workers, scientists and

researchers, teachers, staff, students and parents, Bishop Cathleen and her family, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, the Southeast minster project, all Southeast Convocation clergy especially Gary, Dick, and David, BKSM students, dispatchers and 1st responders, 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:
Those from the coronavirus**



April Birthdays

- 3 Frank Vernacchia
- 6 L.T. Tierney
- 18 Jordan Stone
- 26 Gary Chubb
- 27 Jim Nichols
- 27 Connie Spinks



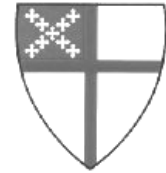
April Anniversaries:

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 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Mother NOT in office Maundy Thursday – 6:30 pm	2 Mother's day off Good Friday Liturgy – 6:30 pm Stations of Cross 7:30 pm	3 Easter Egg Dying 10:00 am
4 The Sunday of the Resurrection – Easter Sunday Holy Communion 9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt – 11:00 am	5	6	7	8 Mother NOT in office	9 Mother's day off	10
11 The Second Sunday of Easter Morning Prayer and Sunday School 9:30 am	12 Vestry meeting 5:30 pm	13	14	15 Mother NOT in office	16 Mother's day off	17
18 The Third Sunday of Easter Morning Prayer 9:30 am	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22 Mother NOT in office Worship & Music 5:30 pm	23 Mother's day off	24
25 The Fourth Sunday of Easter Morning Prayer 9:30 am	26	27	28	29 Mother NOT in office	30 Mother's day off	

St. John's April 2021 Schedule

	Maundy Thursday 4/1/2021	Good Friday 4/2/2021	Easter Day 4/4/2021	4/11/2021 Morning Prayer	4/18/2021 Morning Prayer
Officiant	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Verlyn Bolinger	Bess Stone-Bolinger
Lector & POP	Martha Stone	Ivan Crow	Alice Miller	Jupe Allen	Daria Condon
Acolytes	Karla, Verlyn	Karla, Verlyn	Verlyn, Karla, Alex, Sidni, Ava, Elsa, Zoe	Karla	Sidni
Soloist	Ivan Crow	Bess Stone-Bolinger	Bess Stone-Bolinger	Ivan Crow	Ivan Crow
Greeters					
Coffee Hour	None	None	ECW		
Counters	Vestry Members				
Altar Guild	Martha Stone				

St. John's April 2021 Schedule

	4/25/2021 Morning Prayer				
Officiant	Martha Stone				
Lector & POP	Candy Scarborough				
Acolytes	Alex				
Soloist	Bess Stone-Bolinger				
Greeters					
Coffee Hour					
Counters	Vestry Members				
Altar Guild	Martha Stone				