

Good News from St. John's

April 2022

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



2022 Community Holy Week Services

Daily at Noon

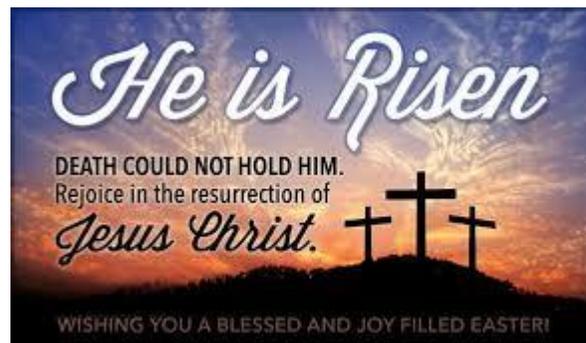
Monday April 11 through Good Friday April 15

Sponsored by the PARSONS MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

Will be held at First Baptist Church

In person with a Luncheon Meal, Spiritual Message, and Special Music

And prepare your heart to attend Church on Easter Sunday April 17!



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 or touching it.

This year, because of ongoing Covid-19 concerns, you may bow before the cross, touch the cross, but no kissing of the cross will be allowed.

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 where worshippers can offer a sign of adoration such as bowing, kneeling, or touching 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.

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.

I will do the foot washing, and Joe will dry your foot/feet.

May the Holy Spirit guide you in making your decision.

Mother Sharon

WHY DO WE CALL IT GOOD FRIDAY?

Calling the day of the Crucifixion ‘Good’ Friday is hard to understand for some. The church has always understood that the day commemorated on Good Friday was anything but happy. Sadness, mourning, fasting, and prayer have been its focus since the early centuries of the church.

Yes, despite—indeed because of—its sadness, Good Friday is truly good. Its sorrow is a godly

sorrow. Why? Because such godly sorrow “brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret” (2 Cor. 7:10).

This commemoration of Christ’s death reminds us of the human sin that caused this death. And we see again that salvation comes only through godly sorrow—both God’s and, in repentance, ours. To pursue happiness, we first must experience sorrow.

At the same time, of course, Good Friday recalls for us the greatness and wonder of God’s love—that he should submit to death for us.

Good Friday has always challenged merely human goodness. Its sad commemoration reminds us that in the face of sin, our goodness avails nothing. Only one is good enough to save us. That He did so is cause indeed for celebration.

May everyone come to know, “Why we call today Good Friday.”

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 15, 2022**

Present: Carrie Tierney, Karla Cox Verlyn Bolinger, Bess Stone-Bolinger, Martha Stone, Candy Scarborough, Jupe Allen and Mother Sharon.

Development:
Gospel Based Disciples included a reading from John 9:18-41.

Treasurer's Report:
The transaction and budget reports were reviewed. The report was approved.

Old Business:
The gift from the Fowler Memorial has yet to be received and will be distributed upon its arrival.

Instead of having Coffee Hour every Sunday, help yourself refreshments will be offered on open dates. Parishioners are encouraged to sign up as often as possible.

New Business:
Updated Bylaws and Vestry members contact information sheets were distributed to the Vestry.

The Parochial Report was reviewed and approved.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper will be held for church members only 5:00 to 6:30 March 1.

The roster of Ministry teams was made available. Ministry teams are asked to schedule their own meetings.

The Council of Trustees will conduct a listening tour of each convocation.

A Women’s summit will be held April 22 and 23. It can be attended via Zoom.

Thank you notes were received from Ryan Willis for his ordination gift of a cross and UTO for a donation.

Finally, masks are no longer required while attending church services. They remain optional.

Assessment:

Minutes from the January 10, 2022, meeting were approved.

Vicar's Report: Took communion to the McLarty's and Carolyn Adams.

Wardens:

Senior: No report.

Junior: No report.

Discernment:

Worship & Music: No report.

Outreach: Are asking each parishioner to bring 1 nonperishable item for each day during Lent.

Evangelism: No report.

Communications: No report.

Education: Children's: No report.

Adult: This year's Lenten Study is "Walk in Love" and will be held in person at the church on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 as well as via Zoom.

Stewardship: No report.

Planned Giving: No report.

Buildings & Grounds: We are having the parish hall waxed

Altar Guild: No report.

Endowment: Received the Endowment dividend of \$6,497.40 and dispersed it according to rule.

Balance as of 1-31-2022 was unavailable

ECW: No report.

Next meeting, Monday March 15, 2022 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, Harry, Gina, Gloria, Ethan, Janie, Kelly, Wuanita, Jeffrey, Boo, Jane, Regina, Bretten, Richard, Carolyn, Lynn, Dwayne, Doris, Alan, Kay, Lorrie, Addlee, Jon, Josh, Vickie, Randy, Tommey, Keyandria, Bill, Jackie, John & family, Special needs children their families and caregivers, Les, Mark, Priscilla, Jennifer, Jaden, Kelle, Michelle, Alice, Barb and the Wulf family, Keith, Lu, Olive, Vicki, Mary, Matthew, Lakin, Trevor, Kay, Lora, Lincoln, those with and those recovering from Covid-19 and their families, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, all clergy in the Southeast Convocation especially, Dick, and David, BKSM students, dispatchers and first responders, the men & women serving our country here and abroad, and those who have served.

**Those who have died:
Robbie Siu**



April Birthdays

3 Frank Vernacchia
6 L.T. Tierney
18 Jordan Stone
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.

ECW WOMEN'S SUMMIT

ECW Women's Summit will be held on
April 22 and 23 in Wichita.

There is a brochure on the bulletin board by the
office.

Several ECW members plan to attend via Zoom.

See the information on the last page of the
Newsletter.

If you need more information, please see Daria
Condon or Bess Stone-Bolinger.



St. John's Episcopal Church

APRIL 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Mother's day off Good Friday Liturgy – 6:30 pm Stations of Cross 7:30 pm	2
3 The Fifth Sunday in Lent Morning Prayer 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am	4	5	6 Lenten Worship & Study 6:00 pm	7 Mother in office 1-5 pm	8 Mother's day off	9
10 The Sunday of the Passion – Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Communion 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am	11 Community Holy Week Service & Lunch - 12 pm First Baptist Church	12 Community Holy Week Service & Lunch- 12 pm First Baptist Church Chrism Mass 10:30 am Topeka	13 Community Holy Week Service & Lunch -12 pm First Baptist Church Message – Mtr. Sharon, Lunch – St. Johns.	14 Community Holy Week Service & Lunch - 12pm 1st Baptist Church Maundy Thurs. Service 6:30pm Altar of Repose to 12am	15 Community Holy Week Service & Lunch - 12pm 1st Baptist Church Good Fri. Service 6:30 pm Stations of Cross 7:30 pm	16 Altar Guild Decorate for Easter 10 am
17 The Sunday of the Resurrection – Easter Day 1 st Mass of the Resurrection 9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 11 am	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21 Mother in office 1-5 pm Worship & Music 5:30 pm	22 Mother's day off ECW Women's Summit	23 ECW Women's Summit
24 The Second Sunday of Easter Morning Prayer 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am	25	26	27	28 Mother NOT in office	29 Mother's day off	30

St. John's April 2022 schedule

	Morning Prayer 4/3/2022	Palm Sunday 4/10/2022	Maundy Thursday 4/14/2022	Good Friday 4/15/2022	Easter Day 4/17/2022
Officiant	Daria Condon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
Lector	Jill Chambers	Patti Vernacchia	Mark & Jill Chambers	Alice Miller	Daria Condon
Eucharist Minister	None	Candy Scarborough	Joe Stone	Verlyn Bolinger	Martha Stone
Acolytes	Alex	Sidni, Verlyn, Ava, Zoe	Karla, Verlyn	Karla	Karla, Tim, Ava, Zoe, Elsa
Greeters					
Counters	Vestry Members				
Altar Guild	Candy Scarborough				

St. John's April 2022 Schedule

	Morning Prayer 4/24/2022				
Officiant	Bess Stone- Bolinger				
Lector	Mark Chambers				
Acolytes	Tim				
Greeters					
Coffee Hour					
Counters	Vestry Members				
Altar Guild	Candy Scarborough				