

# Good News from St. John's

February 2023

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



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[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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## LENT 2023

The highlight of the year for Christians is Easter, the day when our Lord rose from the dead. Lent is a 40 day season of preparation for Easter. **Many changes in the liturgy changing to the Holy Eucharist Rite 1 on page 323 in the BCP. Lent service music lamented sheet in the pew racks.**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper on Tuesday February 21 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. (See article elsewhere in newsletter)** Shrove Tuesday is also called "Fat Tuesday" because on that day a thrifty housewife uses up the fats that she has kept around for cooking, but that she will not use during Lent. Since pancakes are a standard way of using up fat, that is why we have a pancake meal.

**Ashes to Go** will be disbursed in front of the church and at 18<sup>th</sup> and Main from 11 am to 1 pm on Ash Wednesday. (See article elsewhere in newsletter)

Our first Lenten service begins on **Ash Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday February 22.** All candles on the Lenten Wreath will be lit at this service, and beginning on the First Sunday of Lent, one will be extinguished each week, with the final candle extinguished on Good Friday. Other Wednesdays we will have a worship service, followed with our Lenten study (See article elsewhere in the newsletter).

### **The Lenten Wreath of Thorns.**

On Ash Wednesday all the candles on the wreath will be lit and all extinguished at the end of the service. However, on the first Sunday in Lent, and each Sunday thereafter, one of the four purple candles, and the rose candle will be extinguished each week. The Red candle will be extinguished on Palm Sunday and the white candle extinguished on Good Friday. The wreath's growing darkness signifies the sacrifice our Lord made for each of us and focuses our personal and spiritual preparation during the Season of Lent.

### **Wood Lenten items.**

A wood processional cross with a crown of thorns, wood altar and office candle holders, and wood altar book stand, to help convey the season of lent in a more profound way.

### **Chalice and Paten**

We use a chalice and paten with the crown of thorns wrapped around it.

### **What is Lent?**

Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self-examination, and repentance. It is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

### **What are the Colors you will see during Lent?**

The color used for most of Lent is purple, a color that symbolizes the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus as well as the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. On the fourth Sunday in Lent the color changes to rose. But purple is also the color of royalty, and so anticipates through the suffering and death of Jesus the coming resurrection and hope of newness that will be celebrated in the Resurrection on Easter. Rose is a symbol of joy at the mid point in Lent.

The color changes to Red for Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday, representing the color of the church and Pentecost, but also remembering the martyrs of the church. Since it symbolizes shed blood, it is used on Palm Sunday to symbolize the death of Jesus.

The color changes to black for Good Friday as we extinguish the final Lenten candle symbolizing that Christ has died.

May your Lenten journey be holy and blessed.  
Mother Sharon

## **“ASHES TO GO”**

Have you ever heard about “Ashes to go?” It was begun in St. Louis, in 2006, by an ecumenical Bible study group made up of clergy, spearheaded by an Episcopalian. This group realized that many people could not attend church on Ash Wednesday to receive the Imposition of Ashes because of work schedules or other valid reasons. They mentioned, you can order food at the drive-thru, pickup you cleaning and do your banking, so why not offer “ashes to go.”

So the idea was born to take ashes to the streets. They felt very strong that the need, humility, and healing, shouldn't be confined to a church building. Jesus preached and taught everywhere he went; feeding multitudes of the hungry, preaching from the mount, plain, river bank, by going out to meet his people where they were, even walking on water and climbing that hill with his cross. This movement has spread across the country to at least 31 states and Canada, the UK and South Africa, as an expression of liturgical evangelism.

So taking ashes out to share with our communities cannot begin to compare with the impact that Jesus' life and ministry had and still has on the world.

This is not to be used as an excuse not to attend the Ash Wednesday service, but it is an opportunity for those, of the Episcopal tradition, as well as ALL people to receive ashes and to take a fresh look at the church and the gospel.

We will be distributing ashes, Wednesday February 22nd in front of the church and at 18<sup>th</sup> & Main from 11:00 to 1:00 pm.

Mother Sharon

## **Shrove Tuesday**

The day before season of Lent begins - which this year is February 21st - is called Shrove Tuesday (or Pancake Day, or Fat Tuesday). It was traditionally the last chance to use up the foods Christians would

not be eating during the Lenten fast. This great feast day continues to take place in cities all over the world.

**Would you consider gathering with friends and neighbors to celebrate God's goodness and look forward together to the season to come?\***

Below is a reflection and prayer that you may wish to use as a guide.

## **A Fat Tuesday reflection...**

Tonight, we feast, thanking God for the gifts He gives us. And tomorrow some of us will join millions around the world and begin to fast, seeking God to use our self-denial to make us more aware of the needs of others, and to help us to follow Him in laying down our selves for the sake of blessing and serving others. We will practice saying no to ourselves, and yes to God and the people around us.

But not only is Lent a time for us to reflect on and practice self-denial, it is also a time to reflect on and delight in the gracious love of God for us and for all, supremely revealed at the cross.

Which should clue us into the fact that Lent doesn't need to be a somber time. It is a time to take the love of God to heart; to meditate on and celebrate the love of God, for us and for all. So much so, that God's love would come to reshape the whole of our lives.

So, as we consider and enter Lent, let's make this our aim – to fast *in love*, and *for love*, knowing that this love has a name – Jesus.

May God use this season of Lent, and our participation in it, to awaken us afresh to our need for the cross, and to transform us into men and women who live in the way of the cross for the sake of the world around us – our friends and family, our neighbors, and strangers...

Before we read and pray the “Fat Tuesday prayer”, have a few people share how participating in Lent

has impacted their lives in the past, or how they intend to participate in Lent this year.

### **Fat Tuesday prayer...**

[read a portion, then pass it to the next person to read, and so on]

*Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for it is from your goodness that we have this day to celebrate on the threshold of the Season of Lent.*

*Tomorrow we will fast.*

*Tonight we feast.*

*We thank you for the abundance of gifts you shower upon us.*

*We thank you especially for one another.*

*As we give you thanks, we are mindful of those who have so much less than we do.*

*As we share these wonderful gifts together, we commit ourselves to greater generosity toward those who need our support.*

*Prepare us for tomorrow.*

*Tasting the fullness of what we have today, let us experience some hunger tomorrow.*

*May our fasting make us more alert, and may it heighten our consciousness so that we might be ready to hear your Word and respond to your call.*

*As our feasting fills us with gratitude, so may our fasting and abstinence hollow out in us a place for deeper, holy desires and an attentiveness to hear the cry of the poor. May our self-denial turn our hearts to you and give us a new freedom for generous service to others.*

*We ask all this with our hearts full of delight and stirring with readiness for the journey ahead. We ask them with confidence in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.*

### **WARDENS OF A PARISH**

“Warden” means “steward” or “guardian,” and wardens are the chief stewards and servants of their congregations. Wardens have a special and public ministry, and must lead by example as faithful churchgoers and visible donors of time, talent, and treasurer. They must be willing to listen, able to delegate, and, above all, trustworthy and able to engender trust in relationships with the Priest and the congregation.

There are some traditional models for the sharing of responsibilities between a senior and junior warden. One is for the senior warden to serve as the “priest’s warden,” with the junior warden being the “people’s warden”—a division that goes back to the earliest days of the Anglican Church.

#### **Duties of the Senior Warden are:**

Meets with the Priest to review the life and work of the congregation, plan ahead, anticipate and resolve problems.

Provide leadership by demonstrating a positive attitude, recognizing accomplishments and giving thanks for those things that build community and further the mission of the church.

Available to discuss any and all concerns with the Priest and maintain confidentially.

Keep an open dialog, with the Priest, regarding their health and well-being, and to see that they are not overworked or overburdened.

#### **Duties of the Junior Warden are:**

Assist the Priest and Senior Warden in providing leadership in the vestry and to identify the mission and goals of the congregation.

Provide leadership by demonstrating a positive attitude that seeks to solve problems.

Available to discuss any and all concerns with members of the congregation.

Have an ability to work with people and to recruit and motivate members of the congregation in the mission and ministry of the church.

The Priest looks to the wardens to be a source of support, an extra set of eyes and ears that will monitor the pulse of the congregation. A Priest

needs wardens who are able to see the big picture and who can provide honest feedback.

Collaboration, willingness to share in decision-making (and sometimes to help make difficult decisions); people skills, good communication skills, and the ability to maintain confidentiality are all highly prized.

If you have any questions, please speak to the “Priest’s” Warden (Jupe Allen) or the “Peoples” Warden (Carrie Tierney).

**Vestry Officers for 2023:**

Jupe Allen-Senior Warden
Carrie Tierney-Junior Warden
Jupe Allen-Clerk
Verlyn Bolinger-Treasurer

**St. John's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting  
December 12, 2022**

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

Absent: Karla Cox.

Development:

Gospel Based Disciples were suspended due to a need for expediency.

Treasurer's Report:

The date to prepare the 2023 budget is set for January 9 during the regular vestry meeting. The budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting for approval. The transaction and budget reports were reviewed. The report was approved.

Old Business:

The maintenance agreement with TLC was approved for 2023. A wish list of projects for the garden was discussed but no action was taken.

New Business:

Epiphany will be celebrated on Friday January 6 with a service at 6:30. We will reach out to our Minster partners and readers will be sought from St Peter's and St Mary's. A party

hosted by the Evangelism Ministry will follow the service.

Assessment:

The Vestry approved the Minutes from the November 14 meeting.

Vicar's Report: Accompanied Daria on her Eucharistic Visitor rounds and saw Carolyn Adams, Peggy Doty, and Regina Cook. Lynn Reeves was not available that day.

Wardens:

Senior: No report.

Junior: Absent.

Discernment:

Worship & Music: Meeting December 15.

Outreach: HeadStart is up to 30 kids so more snacks will need to be packed. Snacks are going to be packed on January 8.

Evangelism: Planning the Epiphany party.

Communications: No report.

Education: Children's: The children's entry into the Stella Wells auction raised \$1,900 for this most worthy event. It was purchased by The Friends of Parsons and donated to the Youth Crisis Shelter. Congratulations to Bess and the children as well as the supporting cast.

Adult: No report.

Stewardship: No report.

Planned Giving: No report.

Buildings & Grounds: No report.

Altar Guild: Will set up for Advent after church on Sunday November 20.

Endowment: Balance as of 11-30-2022 was \$86,465.62

ECW: Sign up sheet is up for the Christmas dinner.

Sesquicentennial Anniversary: No report.

Next meeting, Monday January 9, at 5:30.

A blessing by Mother Sharon concluded the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jupe Allen,

Clerk



## Prayer List

Teresa, Jim, Harry, Gina, Gloria, Ethan, Janie, Wuanita, Jeffrey, Boo, Jane, Regina, Bretten, Richard, Carolyn, Lynn, Dwayne, Alan, Lorrie, Addlee, Jon, Vickie, Randy, Bill, John & family, children with special needs their families and caregivers, Les, Mark, Michelle, Karla, Olive, Jennifer, Arthur, those with and those recovering from Covid-19 and their families, Becky, Cindy, Antonio, Karla, Stacie, KJ, Pete, George, John, Michelle, Curt, Stacie, Michael, Joel, Darrell, 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:



## February Birthdays

6 Joe Brooks  
7 Michelle Moss  
29 Brody Ellis



## February Anniversaries:

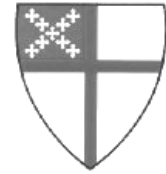
12 Anna & Verlyn Bolinger, Sr.

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

## FEBRUARY 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Mother in Office 1-5 pm	3 Mother's day off	4
<b>5 The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Holy Communion 9:30 am	6	7	8	9 Mother NOT in office	10 Mother's day off	11 COMAP training 10am
<b>12 The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Holy Communion 9:30 am	13 Vestry dinner meeting 5:30 pm	14	15	16 Mother in Office 1-5 pm Worship & Music 5:30 pm	17 Mother's day off	18
<b>19 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Holy Communion 9:30 am	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper 5-6:30 pm	22 Ashes to Go 11 am – 1 pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm	23 Mother NOT in office	24 Mother's day off	25
<b>26 The First Sunday in Lent</b> Holy Communion 9:30 am	27	28				

# St. John's February 2023 Schedule

	02/05/2023	02/12/2023	02/19/2023	Ash Wednesday 02/22/2023	02/26/2023
<b>Officiant</b>	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Martha Stone	Joe Stone	Verlyn Bolinger	Candy Scarborough	Martha Stone
<b>Lector</b>	Daria Condon	Patti Vernacchia	Jupe Allen	Alice Miller	Daria Condon
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	None	Daria Condon	None	None	None
<b>Acolytes</b>	Verlyn, Ava	Sidni	Verlyn, Elsa	Verlyn, Ava, Zoe, Brody	Joe
<b>Greeters</b>	David Bambrger & Tom Taanner	Frank & Patti Vernacchia	TBA	TBA	Daria Condon
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Tierneys	Alice Miller	Help Yourself		Help Yourself
<b>Counters</b>	Vestry				
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Martha Stone				