

# Good News from St. John's

March 2025

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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“...I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word...” BCP 265

We derive the word Lent from the Middle English word *Lente*, which means Spring, or the Old English *lengten*, which means to lengthen in daylight hours. Originally, Lent was a time to prepare candidates for Baptism and became a period of penitence for those already baptized. This is the time of year that grocers may notice a marked drop in meat, chocolate and cigarette sales. Most of us can say that we have given up at least one of the three during one Lent or another. While Lenten sacrifice may be a noble pursuit, one must question the spiritual benefit and motivation behind such denial, especially if it becomes more distracting and self-serving. In his book, Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church, Laurence Stookey suggests some other things to consider in keeping a holy Lent.

1. What progress am I making in sharing gladly what I have with others, particularly with strangers and the poor?
2. What attitudes do I convey to those who irritate me? How can awareness of my own need of God's grace enable me to be more gracious to them?
3. How has my sense of interconnectedness in corporate worship grown of late, and how can I move ahead in appreciating the contributions and needs of other members in the congregation to which I belong?
4. Am I as charitable and thoughtful to family members as to others? Or do I "take it out" on my family when life at school or work gets hectic?
5. Can I redistribute my long-range personal budget in order to have more money to give away?
6. When I hear someone being unjustly maligned, do I speak up to correct the record, or am I a silent accomplice?
7. How can I more effectively and consistently support legislation and social programs that help the disadvantaged rather than hurt them?
8. In devotional acts of prayer and reading, am I increasing my attention span and discovering new ways of listening rather than of talking, of giving thanks rather than of complaining?

9. As I uncover and attempt to deal with one level of prejudice in my life, what other levels do I find lurking underneath, and how can I confront them?
10. In addition to intercessory prayer, what habits can I develop that allow me to be more responsive to the sick, the distressed, and the bereaved, particularly when their needs emerge suddenly and require immediate attention? Can I plan spaces into my life to allow for such unanticipated opportunities to minister to others?
11. Am I, by consistent attendance at worship, a witness to others of the worthiness of the God I follow?

I pray that this season will be a time of lengthening for us. May it be a time when we grow in compassion, humility, generosity, and good will.

Pax Christi,  
Kelley+

## **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**

**Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

**Pancakes and sausages. Tickets are \$ 7.00 each.**

**Proceeds to Church Camp.**

## **ASHES TO GO!**

**We will once again have our Annual  
“Ashes to Go” on March 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m.  
to 1:00 p.m. We will have two locations,  
1801 Corning at St. John’s and  
18<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets.**

**St. John's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting  
February 2025**

Present: Candy Scarborough, Verlyn Bolinger, Carrie Tierney, Heidi Daley, Anna Baker, Martha Stone, Jupe Allen, Deacon Jeanine Blessant and Father Lackey.

Minutes from January 12, 2025 Vestry Meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Transaction Report and the Budget were reviewed and discussed. The report was approved.

**Old Business:**

Since we have been trying to get Father Kelley's pension set up with the diocese with no success to date, a call to the Episcopal Church pension group will be made. Hopefully this is the department to which we need to speak.

The Discretionary Fund implementation has been a work in progress. This month's plan is for Father Kelley, Verlyn and Candy to put their heads together and bring a concrete plan to next month's Vestry meeting. Stay tuned, this just might work.

Update on the proposed video system. Father Kelley has a guy in Emporia who is an a/v guru. He has suggested a system that is in our budget range. Verlyn and Father Kelley will proceed to order and effort the installation. The plan is for the system to handle the visual and audio transmission of the service as well as playing the hymns. To one who is technologically challenged this seems awesome! Bring it on!

The handrail to the basement is officially on Tobel's list which ensures it will happen sometime.

The damage to the carpet in the church caused by an overly enthusiastic thurifer has been repaired. Mike Alderman fixed it for \$100. It looks pretty good. It is not unnoticeable but will weather in time.

The long-awaited garden sign is done and will be erected soon. The \$785 cost will be paid in part by several memorial donations.

**New Business:**

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will occur on Tuesday March 4. Some of the features of this year's feed are:

It's a fundraiser for Summer Camp

We will be reaching out to the community with banners and flyers

Serving is from 4:30 to 7:00 PM

Tickets are \$7 for all you care to eat Pancakes and Sausage

Gluten Free pancakes are an option

ALL parishioners are invited to sell tickets

Ash Wednesday plans are for Ashes to Go and Ash Wednesday Eucharist at 6:30. Following the pancake feed old palms and old prayer books and bibles will be burned to provide ashes for anointing.

Reports: Priest: As this meeting followed the Annual Meeting, Father Kelley had nothing further to offer except a need for lodging the evening of Shrove Tuesday. A reservation will be made at the Four Seasons of Parsons, aka Holiday Inn Express.

Deacon: No report.

Sr Warden: No report.

Jr Warden: No report.

Ministries:

Worship & Music: Deacon Jeanine and Martha and Candy will pick hymns for March and April including Holy Week.

Outreach: Delivering SnakPacks on schedule

Evangelism: No report.

Communications: No report.

Children’s Education: No report.

Adult Formation: A Lenten study is being considered.

Stewardship-Planned Giving: No report.

Buildings & Grounds: No report.

Altar Guild: No report.

Endowment: January 31, 2025 \$98,198.82 up \$2,461.86 but reflects a dispersal of \$5,400.27.

Clergy Support: January 31, 2025 \$182,675.93 up \$2,904.76

ECW: No report.

Pastoral Care: No report.

Next regular meeting, Sunday, March 9, 2025 after church

A blessing by Father Kelley concluded the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jupe Allen, Clerk



**Prayer List**

**Those who have died:**



**March Birthdays**

- 14 Barbara Cunningham
- 15 Zoe Tierney
- 16 Alice Miller
- 25 Tim Downum



**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 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<b>2 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Morning Prayer 9:30 am	3	<b>4</b> Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 4:30 – 7:00 pm	<b>5</b> Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm	6	7	8
<b>9 The First Sunday in Lent</b> Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Vestry Meeting	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>16 The Second Sunday in Lent</b> COMAP 9:30 am	17 Newsletter Deadline	18	19	20	21	22
<b>23 The Third Sunday in Lent</b> Holy Eucharist 9:30 am	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>30 The Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> Morning Prayer 9:30 am	31					

# St. John's March 2025 Schedule

	Morning Prayer 3/2/2025	Ash Wednesday 03/5/2025	HE 03/9/2025	COMAP 3/16/2025	HE 3/23/2025
<b>Clergy</b>		Father K	Father K		Father K
<b>Leader</b>	Deacon	Deacon		Deacon, Daria	
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	None		Candy		Joe
<b>Lector</b>	Candy	Candy	Patty	-	Martha
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	-	-	Senta Meister	-	-
<b>Acolytes</b>	Joe	Verlyn, Nola	Ava, Zoe, Livingston, Jaylynn	Zoe	Verlyn, Ava, Nola, Livingston
<b>Greeters</b>					
<b>Coffee Hour</b>					
<b>Counters</b>	Vestry Members				
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Daria, Heidi				

# St. John's March 2025 Schedule

	<b>Morning Prayer 03/30/2025</b>		
<b>Leader</b>	Martha		
<b>Lector</b>	Alice		
<b>Eucharist Minister</b>	None		
<b>Acolytes</b>	Joe		
<b>Greeters</b>			
<b>Coffee Hour</b>			