

# Good News from St. John's

April 2025

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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## Wholly Holy Week

We have almost come to the very heart of the Christian year and the central tenet of our faith. Of course, I am talking about Holy Week and Easter. As Christians, we are called to be Resurrection people. Unfortunately, though, we often expect resurrection on our own terms. Those terms usually include starting with life, avoiding the suffering and death part, and skipping right to the already risen Jesus. I can find myself extremely uncomfortable with the notion of my own mortality and the mortality of those I love. I believe that good evidence of our unwillingness to face suffering and death is apparent in the number of Christians who come to church on Palm Sunday and do not return until the following week, the First Sunday of Easter. Indeed, that was the norm for most churches until the recovery of the ancient liturgies of the church during the 20th century. Western Christianity, chiefly Roman Catholics and Anglicans, restored the great liturgies of the Paschal Mystery that embraces the whole core of Christian proclamation, 'Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again'.

While I don't like to do a lot of stern admonishing these days, I will strongly, but lovingly, encourage you to participate in Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil this year. These three services are considered three parts of one service known as the *Triduum Sacrum* (sacred three days) that convey the wholeness of the Christian proclamation.

Maundy Thursday is marked by the commemoration of the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the washing of feet (be prepared to have a priest wash your feet and ladies, please wear knee-high hose or shorter). The service does not conclude but 'dissolves' with the darkening of the church, the stripping of the altars and the removal of the blessed sacrament to an altar of repose. The drama of the evening's liturgy helps us to participate in that last evening when Jesus washed his disciples' feet, shared the last supper with them and then was betrayed, arrested, and taken away in the darkness. Following the service, I will be hearing private confession. A watch (also known as a vigil) will be kept by anyone who would like to spend an hour with the Blessed Sacrament at the altar of repose (see sign up sheet in the narthex).

Good Friday is the one day of the year that the church is forbidden to celebrate a Holy Eucharist. The Good Friday liturgy has no opening or retiring processions, which subtly reminds us that we are in the middle of the story. The service is marked by the singing of the Passion and Veneration of the Cross. Any leftover Sacrament is consumed, and the church is left stark and cold. The starkness of the day hangs heavy with death and the church feels more like a dark and lonely tomb. In this service, we are confronted not only with the suffering and death of Jesus but

also with the painful reality that sin, human suffering and death are an ongoing reality. Once again, I will be available for private confession following the liturgy.

The Great Vigil of Easter begins at sunset on Saturday evening because the ancients saw sunset as the beginning of the new day. The church is darkened, and our drama continues with the lighting of the new Paschal flame. Out of the darkness of death breaks forth a tiny glint of light, the story of Israel's redemption is recounted, and we reaffirm our baptismal vows with those who are baptized with Christ into the resurrection life. (That is why the Paschal Candle stays by the baptismal font after Easter and is used at funerals; as a sign of our Easter life in our Baptism.) After any baptisms are finished, the Great Alleluia is sung, the candles are lit, the lights return, and bells are rung (don't forget to bring your own bells from home to increase the joy) and the church breaks forth in music. At this moment, we are reminded that through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, we are brought out of the darkness of death into the light and joy of resurrection.

Three nights in a row may seem like a lot of church for many of us. On top of that, I know that these services are emotionally and spiritually demanding with their lows and highs. But please trust me when I say that if you commit yourself to the full experience, you will be greatly rewarded. Ask anyone who has committed to the full Triduum, and they will share with you that it will profoundly change your life in Christ. And after all, isn't that what we as the Church are all about?

Pax, Kelley+

## **St. John's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting 3-9-2025**

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

Fr Lackey opened the meeting with a prayer.

Candy, Junior Warden, presided over the meeting.

February meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Verlyn reported we are good on pledges, taking in approximately \$4400.00 a month. The Transaction Report and Budget were reviewed and approved with a correction to an Outreach line item.

### **Old Business:**

Pension- Verlyn received an email to confirm the start of Fr Lackey's pension fund.

Discretionary Fund- It was proposed that Candy and Bess will distribute the emergency assistance funds: \$50 (utilities), \$50 (gas), \$75 (rent), transportation (case by case basis). Will post info in the office by the phone. Checks will be kept at the church. Currently, \$482.00 balance. Candy will check with Mtr Sharon re: "repeat offenders". Motion made to approve setting up the Discretionary fund. Motion passed.

Video System Update- We have the equipment. Fr Lackey's goal is to have it up and running by Easter service.

Pancake Supper- Was a success with \$492.00 in profits. The Fanestil sausage from Emporia was a hit. Thank you to all who cooked, cleaned and generously contributed. Will work on advertising (flyers/banners) for next year.

Ash Wednesday- We burned our own ashes from previous years palms, which was also enjoyable for the kids. Approximately 29 people attended "Ashes to Go" which was offered in two locations-downtown and the church. Our doors were open which brought in some people from the community as well. Total of 54 attended ATG or Ash Wed Holy Eucharist service.

Father removed the Christus Rex (temporarily) until Easter. In it's place, is a beautiful cross created by Ava Tierney in welding class. It is perfect for the Lenten season.

Handrail to the basement update- Verlyn reported Tobel is unable to begin work for 6 weeks.

### **New Business**

Parochial Report- Completed, reviewed by vestry and sent to the Diocese.

Prayer List- Will be under the Deacon's purview. Candy requested that the prayer list be read aloud, as previously

done. Fr would like to break up the "cadence" and keep names current. Members can request prayers by using the purple slips. Names will stay on for 60 days. It was noted that some individuals are perpetual. Father stated that for certain services, the prayer list will not be read, ie. The Great Litany.

Fr Lackey presented an idea for temporarily relocating the Altar of Repose, which is in the basement, stating it is not easily accessible, not very inviting and needs a good cleaning. It was suggested to move it to the back of Fox Hall or to the Nave, both of which would be easy to access. After some discussion, it was decided to leave it as is, and request the cleaning crew to give it some attention.

Fr Lackey and Candy have done a great job cleaning out the office and sacristy.

### **Reports**

Priest- previously reported

Deacon: No report

Sr Warden: No report

Jr Warden: No report

Ministries:

Worship & Music: Candy reported the need for the W&M team to meet at a designated time to choose the music.

Fr Lackey asked our opinion on using Rite One and the King James' readings- positive feedback. Anna stated that she is not in favor of singing partial verses in the hymns, especially when it is one which is only sung once a year. Candy commented how nice the singing sounded from the altar.

Outreach: Carrie reported snacks will be packed on Sun March 23.

Evangelism: Anna reported that at their Feb meeting, it was discussed handing out "wholly" water, having a Fall Festival "Block Party" with hot dogs and chips, and building a large nativity for Advent and Christmas made of plywood.

Communications: No report

Children's Education: No report

Adult Formation: Online Lenten Study was announced to parishioners and will begin Wed Mar 12 6-7PM. Send emails to Fr Lackey if interested in participating.

Stewardship: No report

Buildings & Grounds: Candy reported that Scott will be returning to do our gardening. Will need a timing system for watering and recommended having a formal contract specifying his duties- "extra" jobs will require additional pay.

Altar Guild: Heidi and Candy reported it is working well having a two-person team each month to cover altar duties. All members will be helping for Holy Week/Easter. Fr Lackey will take brass items to clean.

Endowment: As of Feb 28, 2025: \$99,506.13 (up \$1,032.00)

Clergy Support: As of Feb 28, 2025: \$182, 258.14 (down \$778.86)

Pastoral Care: No report

ECW: No report

Bring non-perishable items for Labette Assistance.

Heidi will contact The Farmhouse Airbnb and Edwards Manor House B&B for rates re: future lodging needs for Fr Lackey.

**Next Meeting:** April 13, 2025 after church

Father Kelley concluded the meeting with a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Daley, Alternate Clerk



### Prayer List

Les, Michelle, Becky, Cindy, Antonio, Olive, Tiffany, Lynn, Regina, Carolyn, Fran, Teresa, Randy, Linnie, Anne, Charles, Jason, Gina, Jim, Abigail, Jeff, Bill, Jade, John and family, Michael, Casey, Cayla, Randall, Melody, Joaquin, children with special needs their families and caregivers, those serving our country here and abroad and those who have served

### EASTER EGG COLORING

**The Sunday School kiddos will have an Easter Egg Coloring party on April 19, at 10:00 a.m.**

### EASTER EGG HUNT

**We will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning, following Easter Coffee Hour.**



### April Birthdays

3 Frank Vernacchia  
18 Jordan Stone  
27 Connie Spinks



### April Anniversaries:

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

## APRIL 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
<b>6 The Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> COMAP 9:30 am  ECW Meeting	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>13 The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday</b> Holy Communion 9:30 am Vestry Meeting	14	15	16	<b>17 Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>18 Good Friday Service</b>	<b>19 Holy Saturday Service</b>
<b>20 The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Sunday</b> Holy Communion 9:30 am	<b>21</b> Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24	25	26
<b>27 The Second Sunday of Easter</b> Morning Prayer 9:30 am	28	29	30			

# St. John's April 2025 Schedule

	COMAP 04/06/2025	Palm Sunday 04/13/2025	Maundy Thursday 04/17/2025	Good Friday 04/18/2025	Holy Saturday 4/19/2025
Clergy		Father K	Father K	Father K, Deacon	Father K, Deacon
Leader	Deacon, Candy	-			
Eucharistic Minister		Martha Stone	Joe Stone	Martha Stone	Verlyn Bolinger
Lector		Patty Vernacchia	Alice Miller	Jupe Allen	Candy Scarborough
Eucharistic Visitor					
Acolytes	Joe	Verlyn, Zoe, Ava, Nola, Livingston, Jaylynn	Verlyn, Ava, Nola, Livingston	Verlyn, Zoe	Joe, Zoe, Ava, Nola, Livingston, Jaylynn
Greeters	Carrie Tierney	David Bamberger and Tom Tanner	Alice Miller	Jupe Allen	Candy Scarborough
Coffee Hour Counters	Help Yourself Vestry	TBA	None	None	??
Altar Guild	Candy and Anna				

# St. John's April 2025 Schedule

	Easter 04/20/2025	Morning Prayer 04/27/2025			
Clergy	Father K, Deacon				
Leader		Daria Condon			
Eucharistic Minister	Candy Scarborough				
Lector	Daria Condon	Alice Miller			
Eucharistic Visitor					
Acolytes	Verlyn, Ava, Nola, Jaylynn	Joe			
Greeters	Daria Condon	Alice Miller			
Coffee Hour	ECW Easter Egg Hunt	Help Yourself			
Counters	Vestry				
Altar Guild	Candy and Anna				

