

THE MESSENGER

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | SAGINAW, MI



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April 2013



Christ is risen! With these words we proclaim to the world the meaning and power of Easter—the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. This proclamation is the cornerstone on which the entire Christian faith stands or falls. As St. Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 15:14 and following: *If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain...If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

This is why it is so important that we take the time to celebrate this truth of our faith: that The Lord is risen indeed! Because he is risen, we also will rise again. Because he is risen, we know that death is not the end. We know that God has prepared a place for us and that no circumstance, not even death, can separate us from his love.

The Church calendar gives us fifty days in the Easter Season to celebrate this message of faith. It is a traditional time in the Church for baptisms and we will be continuing to offer house blessings as a reminder of God's resurrection power in our homes and families. In so many ways, the Easter season calls us to acknowledge that God is greater than our troubles, greater than our fears and sorrows...that for every injustice and suffering like Good Friday, God can redeem them with the joy of the empty tomb, that Christ is alive forever and loves us without end. So I want to wish you all a happy Easter and pray that the grace of the resurrection may touch your lives during this holy season.

In Christ,

Fr. Daniel+ | Priest & Rector

In This Issue...

Family Traditions—
from 40 days of Lenten
Fasting to 50 days of
Easter Feasting !

The Pub Club discuss-
es "**The Lion, the
Witch, and the Ward-
robe**" this April!

House Blessings are
back!

Congratulations to the
Rev. Sharon Voelker!

Happy Birthday!

- 2 Ted Grigg
- 3 Julia Cannon
- 5 Drew Christiansen
- 5 Cheryl Heath
- 7 Jimmy Harrell
- 8 Lauren Gerhardt
- 8 Kathie Humpert
- 9 Shirley Blodgett
- 9 Kathy Sedwick
- 10 Jack Mott
- 10 Elsa Presentine
- 11 Aimee Lynes
- 12 John Reardon
- 15 Herb Spence Jr.
- 16 Brayden Winters
- 19 Marilyn Wells
- 21 Rebecca Curell
- 23 David Thamm
- 25 Ruth Joswiak
- 25 Michael Spence
- 28 Betsy Greenwood
- 30 Thorin Magyar

Happy Anniversary!

- 22 Nancy & Dan Cramer

Thank You

Thanks to **Sallie Swanson** for making the beautiful spring table runner and placemats for our coffee hour table!

Thank you **Pat Lynes, Dann Fedrico** and **Sue Brigham** for your help assembling the massive amount of Holy Week bulletins!

Thank you to **Marcia Hoffman, Burris Smith, Val McDonald and Ellen Redfield** for managing the bereavement dinner for Carol Brown.

A HUGE thanks to all of our **readers, greeters, worship leaders and reception** hosts for your heroic efforts during Holy Week.

Is there someone in our parish who has gone above and beyond? If you would like to offer thanks, please call the office at 793-9575.

Good Samaritans:

Mar. 31—Apr. 13	Betty Donaghy	793-2700
Apr. 14—Apr. 27	Marcia Hoffman	799-5583

Vestry Members:

Keith Birdsall	652-6768	quilter37@charter.net
Drew Christiansen	392-0109	drewchristiansen78@gmail.com
Lucas Curell	798-0031	lcurell@gmail.com
Jane Girdham	790-8712	kgirdham@svsu.edu
Melanie Hollman	792-3888	melaniehollman@hotmail.com
Barb Ilkka	793-4204	bhilkka@gmail.com
Mark Mahlberg	793-0801	mark-mahlberg@yahoo.com
Sue Marquardt	790-0656	r-s-keyofc@sbcglobal.net
Duncan Redfield	799-7893	redsailor7@yahoo.com

Start an Easter Family Tradition

After 40 days of Lenten fasting, we get 50 days of Eastertide feast! But how do we make joy and rebirth of the Easter season last when the chocolate bunnies and marshmallow chicks are eaten?

Home Movies

In the days of iPhones, Flip recorders and other digital media it's not difficult to record what our families are up to. Set the camera on a bookshelf to record the whole family, or assign different family members different events to cover such as Easter dinner, decorating eggs, getting ready and going to church, performing in Passion plays, or whatever your existing family traditions are. Then edit your film together so you can talk about the important moments. It won't be long before you have several years of terrific family memories ready for watching and you'll be surprised at what your teenagers can produce!



Plant an Easter Garden

Lilies are a time honored symbol of the new life of Easter. (Don't the church lilies look and smell wonderful on Easter Day?) Use your own plants and flowers to brighten your yard and discuss how they remind us to say goodbye to winter and embrace spring! Just as we transformed with Christ in his victory over death they, transform our environment and will be constant reminders of our Easter joy.



Bake Easter Cookies

Easter is a time of feasting! So why not add a special dessert to a meal? Catch the post-Easter sales and find some special cookie cutters that tell the Easter story such as leaves (palm branches), crosses and circles like the stone that covered the entrance of the tomb that was rolled away. Decorate your cookies and enjoy the after-dinner treat!

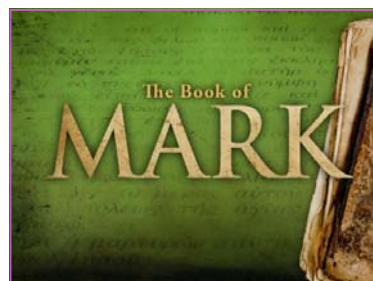


Share the Feast!

Choose several dates during the Easter season when your family and friends come together for dinner! Use a table cloth or the good silverware, make a special dessert, open a bottle of wine, or do whatever is going to make these designated dinners extra special during the Easter season!

Get into Scripture

Looking for something with a little more meat? The Gospel of Mark is short and ends with the resurrection story! An annual reading is perfect for spouses' or individual devotions.



House Blessings Continue

Because the response to our Epiphany house blessings was so great, we're going to extend the tradition through Eastertide! If you would like to schedule a house blessing please contact the parish office at 989-793-9575.

Looking for More? Read our Blog Post: "House Blessings are About More than Houses"

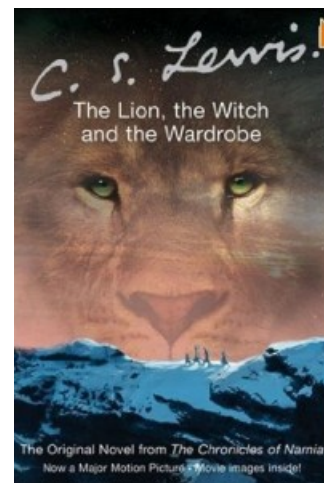
<http://stjohns-saginaw.org/house-blessings-are-about-more-than-houses/>



C.S. Lewis Pub Club | April 23 @ 7:00pm

The C.S. Lewis Pub Club is reading the famous resurrection allegory "The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe."

Why read books by C.S. Lewis? He was a critical thinker when it came to faith and Christianity who liked to write about it in "plain English." If you'd like to get to know this author better and talk about some of the issues of our faith, but don't have time for a weekly book group, then the C.S. Lewis Pub Club is for you! The Pub Club will meet only once for each book so there is no on going commitment! Read the selections you think you may enjoy and come when you can.



Join us at Spenser's Route 46. Food and drinks will start at 7:00pm with a casual book discussion following at 7:30.

Congratulations to The Rev. Sharon Volker

We are pleased to announce that, God willing, one of our own, Sharon Voelker, is to be ordained to the priesthood this Easter Season on April 20th at 2pm at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Bay City.

Sharon's ordination as a deacon in October 2012



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APRIL 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist	4	5	6
7 <i>The Second Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	8	9	10 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist 7:00pm—Vestry Meeting	11	12	13
14 <i>The Third Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	15	16	17 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist	18	19	20
21 <i>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	22	23 7:00pm—C.S. Lewis Pub Club	24 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist 6:00pm—Altar Guild Dinner Meeting	25	26	27
28 <i>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	29	30				

Care, Share, Worship, Celebrate, & Love