

The Messenger

St. John's Episcopal Church | 123 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602
www.stjohns-saginaw.org | 989-793-9575 | Care, Share, Worship, Celebrate & Love

IN THIS EDITION

Upcoming Events

- **Salmon Supper**
- **Scavenger Hunt Fellowship**
- **Holy Week**

News

- **Search Committee Update**

Parish Life

LENT & EASTER

Holy Week is the last week of Lent where, through special worship services, we walk with Jesus through His entrance into Jerusalem, the last supper, death and resurrection. Yes, the walk is difficult. Surely it is more of an emotional challenge than Christmas. But staying the course and acknowledging the struggles of our Savior makes His victory (and ours) over death even more of a celebration on Easter Day. If you've never been to one of these "extra" Holy Week services consider it this year. Fill in the gaps between Palm Sunday and Easter Day with the whole Easter story.

Palm Sunday | March 20 @ 8:00am & 10:30am

Palm Sunday commemorates the entrance of the Messiah into Jerusalem. The service begins in the Community Room with the Blessing of the Palms and the reading of the Gospel's account of how Jesus humbly rode on a donkey and His people honored him by laying palms under His feet. Then the congregation processes together into the church for the beginning of mass. The mass itself includes the Passion Story of Jesus' capture, suffering and death.

Maundy Thursday | March 24 @ 7:30pm

Maundy Thursday begins the detailed story of Holy Week as we walk with Jesus on "the night he was betrayed." In this special service we share the gift of Holy Communion and remember Jesus humbly washing the feet of his disciples. These deeply moving actions give us a real experience of how powerful servant ministry can be. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar and all the decorative furnishings of the church as a symbolic representation of that final night.

Good Friday | March 25 @ Noon

On Good Friday, the church mourns for Christ's death and marvels at His life and his obedience until death. The altar remains completely bare and it's customary to empty the holy water from the font in preparation for the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil. It is a solemn reminder of exactly why Easter is such a joyful occasion.

The Great Vigil of Easter | March 26 @ 8:00pm

The Great Vigil of Easter is the link between the grief of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Day. The service begins in darkness at sundown and slowly moves into the light of the resurrection. Through this powerful liturgy, we recover the ancient practice of keeping the Easter feast. The Vigil is where all our Lenten preparation led us. The congregation gathers in darkness, with the new fire, which represents the light of salvation. The Paschal candle, which is lit by the new fire, is used throughout the Easter season and at baptisms and funerals through the year. We then process into the church to be among the first to sing our "Alleluias" with organ and brass sounding salvation during this glorious feast and to welcome our newly baptized! New this year, this service will use incense! If you find heavy fragrances a distraction to your worship, consider attending the Easter Day services which will not use incense.

Easter Day | March 27 @ 8:00am & 10:30am

Easter Day, which immediately follows Holy Week, is the great feast day when the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is celebrated! Come and sing "Christ, Our Lord is Risen Today" with organ and brass, renew your baptismal vows and celebrate our salvation with Christ!

FELLOWSHIP

Salmon Supper | March 18 @ 6:00pm

This is it! The fellowship event you've been waiting to taste all year... the St. John's Salmon Supper! Delicious baked salmon, red-skin potatoes, carrots, salad, desserts and more make this the best fish dinner in town. Tickets are on sale for \$10.00/adult, \$5.00/child (4-12) following Sunday services or by calling the church office. We are limited by how many we can seat, so large parties who would like to reserve a table, please don't wait to call the office. (989-793-9575) We'll also be in need of some volunteers to help pull this amazing meal together. Sign-up in the community room!

Scavenger Hunt | April 23 @ 1pm

You just know a scavenger hunt in a building that's more than 150 years old is going to be great. Mark your calendars for fellowship and plan on getting to know our building, our history and each other even better!

NEWS

Search Committee Report

The Search Committee has met with Michael Spencer, Canon of the Ordinary, from the Diocese. We will be meeting weekly during the month of March in preparation for gathering input from the congregation and formulating our Parish Profile. If you have questions or comments please contact a member of the committee.

Committee Members: Chairmen Marcia Hoffman, Lucas Curell, Dann Federico, Matt Gerhardt, Jane Girdham, Dave Humpert, Berney Jones, Ellen Redfield and Paul Schaub.

Birthdays

Mar 1 - Tara Gerhardt
Mar 2 - Janet Finn
Mar 4 - Tyler Spence
Mar 7 - Evelyn Williams
Mar 8 - Janet Cosenza
Mar 9 - Keith H. Birdsall
Mar 12 - Bill Scharffe
Mar 12 - Jerry Young
Mar 12 - Liz Braun
Mar 13 - Jim Magyar
Mar 14 - Jim Shannon
Mar 14 - Greyson Peters
Mar 15 - Janet Botz
Mar 20 - Xavier Magyar
Mar 22 - Bill Vlassis
Mar 22 - Lilly Oliver
Mar 28 - Matt Hoffman
Mar 28 - Valerie Harrell
Mar 29 - Hugues Coman

Apr 2 - Ted Grigg
Apr 3 - Isadora Inman

Apr.4 - Janis Thom
Apr 5 - Cheryl Heath
Apr 5 - Drew Christiansen
Apr 7 - Jimmy Harrell
Apr 8 - Kathie Humpert
Apr 8 - Lauren Gerhardt
Apr 9 - Shirley Blodgett
Apr 10 - Finn Helmer
Apr 10 - Jack Mott
Apr 11 - Amiee Torok
Apr 14 - Kinzlie Byron
Apr 17 - Jackie Blackney
Apr 19 - Bill Millar
Apr 19 - Marlyn Wells
Apr 20 - Kathy Coman
Apr 21 - Rebecca Curell
Apr 25 - Benjamin Keehn
Apr 25 - Michael Spence
Apr 27 - Tifany Mack
Apr 28 - Betsy Greenwood
Apr 30 - Thorin Magyar

Anniversaries

Mar 23 - Tom & Janet Lippert
Apr. 4 - Bob & Tammy Treib
Apr 22 - Dan & Nancy Cramer
Apr 25 - Tom & Sherry
Grobaski



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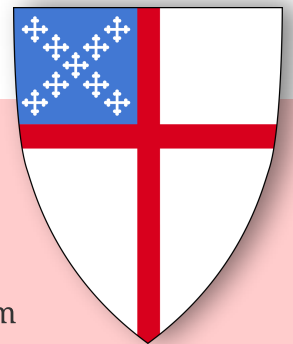
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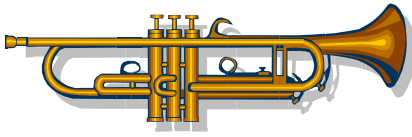
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EASTER FLOWERS and MUSIC FUND



Donations to St. John's Easter Flower & Music Fund provide the flower arrangements, decorations, and guest musicians that we enjoy during the Easter Season. Gifts of \$100 or more will be given special designation in the Easter bulletins.

DEADLINE: Sunday, March 20th

I would like to contribute \$ _____ to the St. John's Easter Flower Fund.

I would like to contribute \$ _____ to the St. John's Music Fund.

*Please make checks payable to **St. John's Episcopal Church**.*

Indicate on the check "Easter Flowers" or "Music Fund." Please seal your check and a copy of this form in an envelope and place it in the offering plate or return it the parish office. Forms and checks may also be mailed to St. John's Episcopal Church at 123 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, 48602.

Name: _____

This contribution is given: (check one)

In grateful thanksgiving for (e.g. blessings received, an anniversary, or birthday)

In loving memory of:

