

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

SHARING LENT WITH FRIENDS

As we journey toward Holy Week and our celebration of Easter, we have the opportunity to prepare our hearts together to receive God. I think that this togetherness is the most important part of Lent. When we come together, whether in person or for one of our Lenten events online, something truly miraculous happens. We discover that each one of us is an integral part of the greater whole of God's Church.

IN THIS EDITION

Events

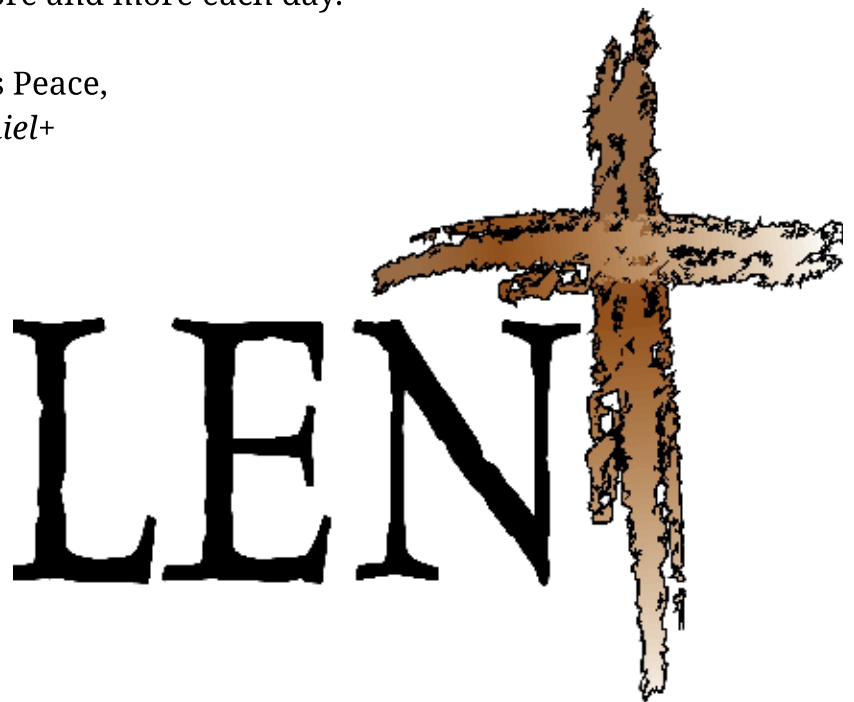
- LIVE Facebook chats w/ Fr. Daniel
- Is the Flag Above the Cross? A Lenten discussion about Christians in American History
- Salmon Supper

Lenten Outreach

- H.I.S. Ministries Baby Bottles

There is a power and grace that inevitably comes whenever we collaborate with others in our church family. This year at St. John's, we are excited to be expanding our Lenten activities to include those who are connected to our church online. Just a simple act like reflecting on our daily Facebook meditations or posting our thoughts on the bishop's online Bible Study can help us connect and get to know one another. And more than that, our attempts to connect and share our lives with others help us grow into the image of Christ—who lived for others. May this Lent find you connecting with God and those around you more and more each day.

Christ's Peace,
Fr. Daniel+



SERVICE IN PROGRESS...

That's the easy part. But I came to a crossroads when it came time to pass along the handbook. Yes, you read that correctly. A few years ago office staff and a few of our more experienced volunteers sat down and spelled out in fine detail all of the tasks involved in ushering. If you really want to know, you can have a look in [The Greeters and Ushers Guide to Absolutely Everything about Everything](#). Again, it's great that all of these things are spelled out clearly, but how overwhelming for someone new on the scene! As I read, I came by a set of instructions that included, **"hang the 'service in progress' sign on the main doors."**

This is a helpful sign. We're an urban church and this sign ensures that late comers will be directed to the worship space in a way that reduces the possibility of problems in areas of our building that are unoccupied. But just like a giant manual can be a roadblock for enthusiasm of a new volunteer, our "service in progress" sign adds an obstacle to those seeking to worship. This is when it struck me.

Isn't the work of the church always a "service in progress?"

We attend worship and our formation is in progress. We volunteer and our formation is in progress. We share our faith and our formation is in progress. As smooth or as clumsy as we might be, when we make an effort our relationships with God and each other grow. Our service is in progress. We're never really finished figuring things out and it's nice to know we're not doing this alone.



There may come a time when we rethink our door sign. But there is also a part of the manual that I hope never changes. It falls under the "hospitality" section. Yes, we have a section on hospitality. I hope it encourages you, as it did me, and hopefully our new usher as your service is in progress.

"Find a way of being welcoming that matches your style. And be aware of the body language other people are using. Some of us like to talk. Others prefer a friendly smile and a simple 'Hello.' If you are friendly, genuine and true to yourself then guests can feel free to be friendly, genuine and true to themselves. ... It's impossible to predict every situation, but if you keep your eyes open and put yourself in someone else's shoes, with God's help you have no option but to succeed."

Amy Simons

"If you are friendly, genuine, and true to yourself than guests can feel free to be friendly, genuine, and true to themselves..."

MARCH EVENTS

LIVE Facebook Chats

Each Thursday in Lent @ 7:00pm



Each Thursday in Lent at 7:00pm, Fr. Daniel will re-post the most recent video from Bishop Ousley's bible study, "The Biblical Wild." Here, we can watch and discuss it together! To join the conversation simply log onto your Facebook account and visit www.facebook.com/stjohnssaginaw. Do you have friends who may have an insight or opinion? Tag or share the post with them!

"Is the Flag Above the Cross?"

Friday, March 20 @ 7:00pm

Dr. Thomas Renna, member of St. John's and professor emeritus of history from SVSU, will be leading a discussion about Christians throughout American History.

Bring a friend and an appetizer to share!

Salmon Supper

Friday, March 27 @ 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** 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.



We'll also be in need of some volunteers to help pull this amazing meal together. Sign-up in the community room!





HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday

March 29 @ 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 the palms under His feet. Then the congregation processes together into the church for mass to begin.

Maundy Thursday

April 2 @ 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday begins the detailed story of Holy Week where 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

April 3 @ Noon

On Good Friday, the church mourns Christ's death and marvels at His life for His obedience until death. The altar remains completely bare and it's customary to empty the holy water from the font in preparation of 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

April 4 @ 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 leads us. The congregation gathers in darkness, with the new fire, which represents the light of

salvation and lights the Paschal candle. The Paschal candle 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! **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

April 5 @ 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!

Birthdays

Mar. 1 - Tara Gearhardt
 Mar. 2 - Janet Finn
 Mar. 2 - T.J. Luxton
 Mar. 4 - Tyler Spence
 Mar. 7 - Evelyn Williams
 Mar. 7 - Payton Miller
 Mar. 8 - Janet Cosenza
 Mar. 8 - Marr Renna
 Mar. 9 - Keith 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. 16 - Sage Morley
 Mar. 20 - Xavier Magyar
 Mar. 21 - Sarah Thamm

Mar. 22 - Bill Vlassis
 Mar. 22 - Cyndy Lange
 Mar. 22 - Lilly Oliver
 Mar. 26 - Nancy Bovill
 Mar. 28 - Matt Hoffman
 Mar. 28 - Valerie Harrell
 Mar. 29 - Hugues Coman

Anniversaries

Mar. 23 - Tom Lippert &
 Janet Botz

THURSDAY'S

LIVE Facebook chats w/ Fr. Daniel about "The Biblical Wild"

MARCH 20

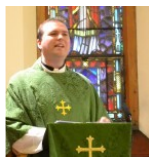
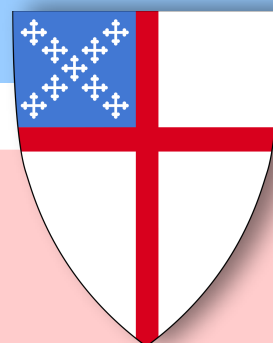
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MARCH 27

Salmon Supper @ 6:00pm

LOOKING AHEAD...

Mar. 29 - Palm Sunday
 Apr. 2 - Maundy Thursday
 Apr. 3 - Good Friday
 Apr. 4 - Holy Saturday & The Great Vigil of Easter
 Apr. 5 Easter Day



THE REV. DANIEL CANNON

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Easter Flower & Music Fund

Donations to the St. John's Easter Flower and Music Funds 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 29

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 to the church office.



Name: _____

This contribution is given (check one):

- In grateful thanksgiving for (e.g. blessings received, and anniversary, or birthday)...
- In loving memory of...

