

HOLY WEEK

Moving from Darkness to Light

This time of year in Michigan, we all start to appreciate the lengthening of the daylight hours and the retreat of that winter darkness. This is the image that I have been meditating on for Lent as we prepare at St. John's for the joy filled celebration of Easter. In Genesis, as well as in quantum theory, the universe begins in darkness. This is why the Hebrew tradition marks the start of each day as sundown, when the darkness falls. To me the season of Lent represents this creative darkness on which God's grace and light dawn with the coming of Easter.

As a parish, St. John's has been through many challenges. Yet God has always been faithful and good shining his light upon us and bringing us new life. We are celebrating this new life with five baptisms this month! My hope for us, as we complete our Lenten practice, is that we go ever deep in our walk with God and with each other. By doing so we will celebrate with our baptismal candidates the power of Jesus' resurrection and the vitality of God's presence in our church.

Also, as a sign of the grace of baptism, we will continue our house blessings during the Easter season for anyone who is interested. It has been a wonderful opportunity for the clergy of St. John's to get to know you all better and to participate in this wonderful rite of the church. May the power of Jesus' resurrection fill your lives with God's joy and love and may you have a blessed and joyful Easter.

In Christ,
Fr. Daniel+ | Priest & Rector



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The C.S. Lewis Pub Club reads "The Screwtape Letters."

Get your tickets for the Lenten fish dinner.

What is Holy Week?

Living into our Easter blessings with baptisms and house blessings.

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Sharon Reardon
- 2 T.J. Luxton
- 7 Nicholas Jacqmain
- 7 Evelyn Williams
- 7 Peyton Miller
- 8 Janet Cosenza
- 8 Beth Garza
- 8 Marriana Renna
- 9 Keith Birdsall
- 11 Erin Reardon
- 12 Elizabeth Braun
- 12 Bill Scharffe
- 12 Jerry Young
- 13 Jim Magyar
- 14 Jim Shannon
- 14 Greyson Peters
- 16 Sage Morley
- 18 Vanessa Daugherty
- 19 Marcella Marcet
- 19 Ashley Strahm
- 20 Jordan Hernandez
- 20 Xavier Magyar
- 21 Sarah Thamm
- 22 Cynthia Lange
- 22 Lilly Oliver
- 22 William, Jr. Vlassis
- 24 Vera Hoganson
- 24 Ron Swarthout
- 24 Brett Yeager
- 26 Nancy Bovill
- 28 Valerie Harrell
- 28 Matthew Hoffman

Thank You

Thank you to **Tom & Sherry Grobowski, John Carter, Mark Mahlburg,** and **Dann Federico** for joining our ranks of worship servers this month!

Thank you to **Michael Keenan** and **Berney Jones** for going above and beyond as Good Samaritans!

Thank you to **Marcia Hoffman** for helping with office errands!

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. 3 - Mar. 16	Diane Grigg	793-1669
Mar 17 - Mar. 30	Jim & Marsha Braun	793-5015

Vestry Members:

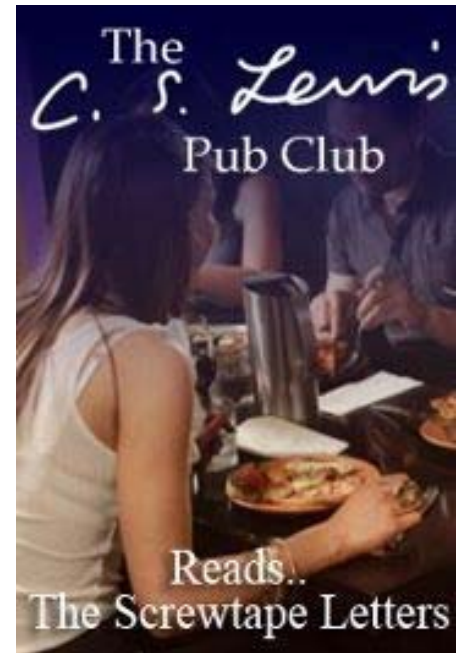
Keith Birdsall	652-6768	quilter37@charter.net
Drew Christiansen	392-0109	drewchristiansen78@gmail.com
Lucas Curell	798-0031	lcurell@gmail.com
Jane Girdham	790-8712	kgirdham@svsu.edu
Melanie Hollman	792-3888	melaniehollman@hotmail.com
Barb Ilkka	793-4204	bhilkka@gmail.com
Mark Mahlberg	793-0801	mark-mahlberg@yahoo.com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

C.S. Lewis Pub Club | March 19 @ 7:00pm

C. S. Lewis is a person most of us would like to meet. He was a critical thinker when it came to faith and Christianity and 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.

On March 19th, the C.S. Lewis Pub Club will discuss the tricky Screwtape and his clumsy demon apprentice, Wormwood, in the comical commentary on temptation, **"The Screwtape Letters."**

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



Lenten Fish Dinner | March 22 @ 6:00pm

It’s a common tradition for Christians to give up meat during the season of Lent. The point isn’t to grieve the absence of our steak dinner and suffer as Jesus did, but rather to “sober up” and enter a time of fasting. Lent is a time to remove some of the clutter and distractions around us so that when we miss the things we’ve given up, we remind ourselves to make room in our lives for God to give us something greater.



No matter what sort of Lenten discipline you’ve chosen this year, consider joining us for our Lenten Fish Dinner and come together in fellowship with others at St. John’s.

Baked salmon and chicken with sides will be on the menu. Tickets are \$10.00/adult and \$5.00/child and will be on sale following Sunday services in March or by contacting the parish office to reserve tickets.

Holy Week Service Times & Descriptions

What is Holy Week?

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 it makes His victory (and then 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 24 @ 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. The mass itself includes the Passion story of Jesus' capture, suffering and death.

Maundy Thursday | March 28 @ 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 | March 29 @ Noon



On Good Friday, the church mourns for 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.

[continued...]

Holy Week Continued...**Holy Saturday | March 30 @ Noon**

Mass isn't celebrated on what is liturgically Holy Saturday, but there is a provision for a simple service of the word with readings commemorating the burial of Christ.

The Great Vigil of Easter | March 30 @ 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, 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! *New this year, this service will use incense! If you find heave fragrances a distraction to your worship, consider attending the Easter Day services which will not use incense.*

Easter Day | March 31 @ 8:00am & 10:30am

Easter Day, which immediately follows Holy Week, is the great feast day where 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!

A Real Blessing

During the season of Epiphany, Father Daniel and I had the honor of doing six house blessings for our parishioners. Truly, it was just as much a blessing for us as for the people and the homes involved. We enjoyed being able to sit and chat before beginning the blessing. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know St. John's folks in their own homes. We thank all of you who opened your homes to us and to the Holy Spirit and we look forward to continuing this tradition in the Eastertide season. Below is an accounting by Dann Federico of one such blessing.

The Rev. Pam Renna | Assistant Priest

Would you like to schedule a house blessing?

On or about January 16th, I responded to this question in the announcements of the bulletin. We scheduled the blessing for the afternoon of the 29th. I figured it would be just a very simple event beginning on the front porch with maybe a walk around the house, with the sprinkling of holy water on the house and the saying of a prayer or two and my house would be blessed!



To my surprise and delight, it was not simple. When I answered the door, I was greeted by both Fr. Daniel and Rev. Pam. I welcomed them inside and they proceeded to explain how this event was going to take place. They brought a few prayer books, one for me to read from, the aspergillum, the vessel that carries and flings the holy water, their stoles and a small wooden box.

As we began, I learned that there was a separate prayer for each room of the house. I even had my part as well. Then there was the sprinkling of the holy water in each room. Whether it was the entrance, office, dining room, bedrooms, living room, kitchen, guess room and the like, a special prayer referred to the use of that room.

After the rooms were blessed, we concluded in the kitchen. They opened the wooden box that they had bought which contained the wine and hosts to be consecrated for holy communion. To me, it was like having church in my house.

...continued on page 7.

A Real Blessing continued...

Everything was so special, so holy. I realized I should not have worried about how clean my house was because they weren't there to look at my "house;" they were there to bless my "home!" That's what this is all about, the blessing of one's home. Not the building, but the "home" in which you live with God. The blessing really highlights the fact that God is with you in your home all the time.

Being a new member of St. John's, I want to strongly recommend that you, too, have your home blessed so that you will know that God is with you there as well as with you in church. Thank you very much, Fr. Daniel and Rev. Pam.

Dann Federico

*Yes, you read this correctly, praise and worship isn't just for church and it isn't just on Sunday. Scheduling a house blessing is a special way to affirm that our God is with us wherever we go. If you'd like to **schedule a house blessing** during the Easter season, please call the parish office to set an appointment! (989-795-3-9575)*

Meet Kelsey Dillon

Kelsey Dillon is the newest member of the St. John's team, beginning her position as parish secretary in February of 2013.

Originally from Minnesota, she moved to the Saginaw area in January allowing her husband to take a position with Nexteer Automotive in 2011. Kelsey graduated from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, which she insists is the "real" U of M with a degree in economics and German studies. She spent the following year serving AmeriCorps as a Program Coordinator for a youth center in the city of Duluth before getting married in the summer of 2012. Although a recent grad, Kelsey is not new to ministry.



While in college, she served in various capacities as a leader for the campus ministry, InterVarsity. She also served for six summers at a Christian Camp near North Dakota where she had a number of opportunities to serve people of all ages and backgrounds through differing roles and programs. Kelsey is thrilled to serve the people of St. John's as their new secretary and is also eager to begin a second position as an InterVarsity campus staffer in the months ahead. She is thankful to everyone for making her arrival at St. John's such a welcome one.

EASTER FLOWERS & MUSIC FUNDS

Donations to St. John’s Easter Flower & Music Funds provide the flower arrangements, decorations and guest musicians that we enjoy during the Easter Season. Contributions of any size are welcome and gifts of \$100.00 or more will be given special designation.

DEADLINE: Sunday, March 17th, 2013

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.

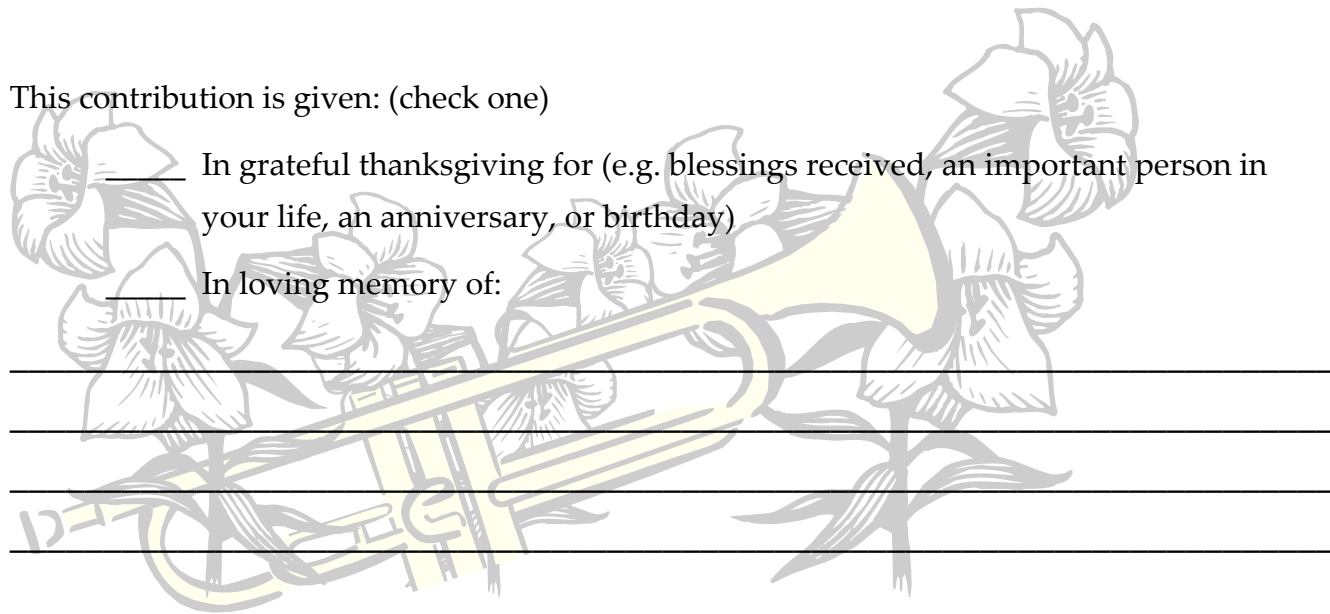
Please make checks payable to **St. John’s Episcopal Church**. Indicate on the check “Easter Flowers” or “Music Fund.” Please seal your check and a copy of this form in an envelope and place it in the offering plate or return it to the parish office.

Name: _____

This contribution is given: (check one)

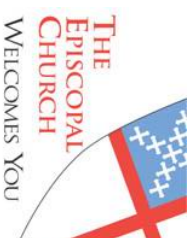
In grateful thanksgiving for (e.g. blessings received, an important person in your life, an anniversary, or birthday)

In loving memory of:



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 123 N. MICHIGAN AVE.
 SAGINAW, MI 48602
www.stjohns-saginaw.org

MARCH 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 <i>The Third Sunday of Lent</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 9:00am—Choir Rehearsal 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	4	5	6 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist 5:30pm—Soup Supper 6:30pm—Compline Service	7	8	9
10 <i>The Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 9:00am—Choir Rehearsal 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	11	12	13 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist 7:00pm—Vestry Meeting 5:30pm—Soup Supper 6:30pm—Compline Service	14	15	16
17 <i>The Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 9:00am—Choir Rehearsal 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	18	19 7:00pm—C.S. Lewis Pub Club	20 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist 5:30pm—Soup Supper 6:30pm—Compline Service	21	22	23 9:15am—Old Town Christian Outreach Volunteer Day
24 <i>The Sunday of the Passion</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 9:00am—Choir Rehearsal 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	25	26 7:00pm—Finance Meeting	27 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist 6:00pm—Altar Guild Dinner Mtg.	28 7:00pm—Maundy Thursday Service	29 Noon—Good Friday Service	30 Noon—Holy Saturday Service 8:00pm—The Great Vigil of Easter
31 <i>Easter Day</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 9:00am—Choir Rehearsal 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist						