

# The Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NY

March 2024

## *From Pastor Susan...*

Boy, am I ready for Easter! I want to hear singing and bells, smell hyacinths and lilies, and see kiddos hunting colored eggs in their Easter finery.

Resurrection, new life, "the strife is o'er, the battle done"—gimmee a slice of that! The problem is, before I get to Easter I still have to get through Holy Week. Betrayal, condemnation, torture, mocking, death—grace is *free*, but it is not *cheap*, and now comes the time when we face the cost of it.

There's always a temptation to skip the hard part. Easter attendance in most churches is big—but the Holy Week services, not so much. Wanting to avoid the unpleasant parts is understandable, but the truth is, there is *power* in facing the cross: God's power, unleashed by human faith and obedience, made perfect in human weakness. We need to be reminded of this, because the cross is so daunting.

This was certainly true for Jesus. Threatened with physical death (and a very ugly and tortured death, at that), he nonetheless was faithful to his calling: proclaiming the kingdom of God and inviting even the outcast to be part of it. He *feared* death—we can see that in the garden of Gethsemane—but did not let the threat of it sway him. Through his obedience, "he closed the yawning gates of hell, the bars from heaven's high portals fell." God raised him from the dead and made the whole creation new.

Throughout history, the followers of Jesus have also demonstrated their belief that, when they shoulder their own cross, God uses their sacrifice to make good things happen. Sometimes this has been a literal cross, or some other form of physical death—the Christian calendar is *full* of martyrs' days. Other times it has been a metaphorical cross—dying to self, for example, as opposed to dying physically. Sometimes the sacrifice has been one not of bodies, but of time, effort, talents, treasure, caring.

Other times it is a symbolic experience: walking through the services of Holy Week, for example; taking the time to focus on dark events that we'd rather *not* think about. Why do we put ourselves through that? After all, the crucifixion and resurrection are over and done with. What do we gain by spending Palm Sunday and Good Friday contemplating betrayal, torture and death?

There actually *is* a gain: these services are one of the ways we have to make the story of Jesus our *own* story—to let the truth of the power of resurrection *sink in*. It is important to absorb this story because we must still face death in our own lives: we are mortal. We still need to hear the encouraging word of

resurrection—but we cannot receive the deep joy of resurrection without first facing the stark brutality of crucifixion. Let Holy Week speak to you; participate as much as you can. Let it become *your* story.

It promises a glorious Easter!

## *Sr. Warden Report...*

I will be attending the next meeting on March 4th for Wilson's planning committee for the Solar Eclipse Event which will be held at Krueger Park on April 8th. Frank Boeck will also be attending with me so we will have all the final details. Frank has graciously offered the use of his food truck so we are planning on selling hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks. I will keep you updated as things are finalized.

The baker who is going to be using our kitchen has provided the documents we need and has had the Health Department inspection done. As soon as she has her schedule for selling her goodies, she will begin using the kitchen on Fridays from early morning to mid-afternoon. I know she is anxious to get started.

I have sent a letter to the Diocese regarding our Fair Share. I have written asking for a reduction in the amount they are requesting and am awaiting an answer.

Please feel free to contact me any time with questions, concerns or suggestions.

Moving forward with God,  
Lucy Kraatz  
859-816-6869  
[lucykraatz@aol.com](mailto:lucykraatz@aol.com)

## *Buildings & Grounds...*

With the help of Jane Hamilton and her two co-workers we have been able to determine what the water issue is. I am in the process of getting bids to see what the total cost is going to be to fix it completely. I will keep everyone updated as we move forward with the repairs.

No one has indicated any interest in the screen door in the office so I will be removing that in the near future.

Janet and Kenneth Hoffman took care of the front porch light so thank you very much.

As always, feel free to contact me any time.

Lucy Kraatz  
Chairman, Buildings & Grounds

**Birthdays...**

Denise Failla     March 14th



**Sunday on March 10<sup>th</sup>, Mothering Sunday**

“Mothering Sunday” The fourth Sunday in Lent, also known as Refreshment Sunday and Laetare Sunday. It was the traditional mid-Lent Sunday. It was a time of refreshment and relaxing the penitential discipline of Lent. Mothering Sunday is a day honoring mothers and mother churches, celebrated in the United Kingdom, Ireland and some Commonwealth countries.

We will again this year have our traditional soup and bread Mothering Sunday. Please join for fellowship and some nourishment. There is a sign-up sheet in the parish hall to bring your favorite homemade soup or bread!

**Clocks spring ahead an hour!! Daylight saving time. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead. You don't want to be late for the Soup.**

God is Good.  
Chairman Fellowship,  
Priscilla Moot

**Lent, Holy Week and Easter at St. John's, Wilson**

**Sundays in Lent:**

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist (informal)

**Note RE 6 PM service: This is a simplified and more informal service, with time for shared reflections instead of a formal sermon.**

**Palm Sunday**

9:30 AM: Blessing of Palms in the front yard, weather permitting; formal Holy Eucharist and Passion Display *(speak to Susan if you would like to help)*

6:00 PM: Blessing of Palms, Holy Eucharist (informal)

**Maundy Thursday**

6:00 PM: Agape and Holy Eucharist; the congregation of St. John's, Youngstown, will be joining us here in Wilson. *We will begin downstairs in the Parish Hall; sign up for bringing soup.*

**Good Friday**

Noon: Good Friday Liturgy, St. John's, Youngstown

6 PM: Good Friday Liturgy, St. John's, **Wilson**

**Holy Saturday – no service**

**Easter Day**

9:30 AM: Lighting of the new fire, Festal Eucharist *(bring bells to ring during the Gloria!)*

6:00 PM: Holy Eucharist (informal)

**Treasurer's Report...**

**January 2024**

Income:	\$ 4,008.08
Expense:	\$ <u>2,332.13</u>
Total:	\$ 1,675.95
Dividends:	\$ <u>1.27</u>
Total:	\$ 1,677.22

**Agape Dinner with Celebration  
Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

St. John's Agape dinner table will be set with similar food and vegetable soup; somewhat resembling that of Jesus time. We will start in the parish hall with dinner/service and finish with the stripping of the altar service in church. This year St. John's, Youngstown will join and celebrate with us.

God is Good.  
Priscilla Moot and Janet Hoffman



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
SUNDAY, MARCH 10th**





We are providing instant mashed potatoes for the Easter Dinner being provided for our friends and neighbors through the Food Pantry. The 4 ounce pouches of potatoes are a perfect size for most. I am personally taking care of the larger amounts for the bigger families. We need a total of 75 pouches and they need to be at St. John's by March 17th since they will be giving out the dinners the following weekend. Thank you all for stepping up and helping.

Lucy Kraatz

**SJC MOMS GROUP**

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was another success for SJC MOMS this year. It was a great gathering, with Jocelyn at the grill again this year making delicious pancakes, followed by the Children's Ash Wednesday Service.

GOD is GOOD.  
Priscilla



**Palm Sunday Service at St. John's** is not only the tradition of palms being made into crosses, but the reading of the Passion from New Message. Appropriate props will be brought forward during the reading to set the stage. The full size wooden cross was made by Pastor Susan's husband, Doug. This is a moving/emotional experience. Coffee hour and fellowship to follow. Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

***Vestry....***

The following was discussed at our February Vestry meeting:

- Pastor Susan opened the meeting with prayer.
- Pastor Susan apologized for missing our first evening service during Lent due to being ill.
- Holy Week Services:  
 March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. – Palm Sunday  
 March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. – Agape Meal w/Service  
 March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. – Good Friday Service  
 March 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m. – Easter Sunday
- Lucy Kraatz, Warden discussed the water issue at length with everyone. Bids are being taken for replacement of the water lines that run under the parish hall. Higher than usual water bills over the past months have prompted some investigating and a broken pipe has been found.
- The Warden will be attending the upcoming Solar Eclipse meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> to confirm the details of St. John's participating with Frank's food truck.
- It was noted that Mother Sunday is on March 10<sup>th</sup> not the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- SJC Moms Group made \$400 on the Pancake Supper.
- Next meeting is March 21st at 6:30 p.m.

***Please keep the following in your prayers: Lincoln, Addison, John, Emily, Eric, Megan, John Paul, Dawn, Brian, Jonathan, Betty, Dana, Pamela, Michael Curry, Cathi, Josh, Jon, Craig, Bev & Jack, Deidre, Sandy, Ron, Margaret, Jessica, Jeffrey, Zack, Cassie, Brandi, Don, Lizzy, Rose, Laura, Terry, Owen Wright, Michael, Lilyana, Shirley & Dean; Bonnie & Bill; Bonnie & Richard; Al, Christianna & their unborn baby; the Faqiri Family, and our prayer partner, St. John's, Youngstown. We pray for peace in Israel and Ukraine.***



**St. John's Episcopal Church  
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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**