
The Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NY

March 2026

From The Pastor's Desk...

"Reduce the complexity of life by eliminating the needless wants of life, and the labors of life reduce themselves." (Edwin Teale)

For your Lenten reflection, I'd like to share some thoughts about simplicity. For most of us, life is anything but simple! We face demands of family, pets, and home; work and/or school; community responsibilities and relationships, etc.—not to mention trying to get in time for activities we love, and friends. Life does not naturally become simpler—just the opposite! Things accumulate. Possibilities and responsibilities accumulate. If you want life to be simpler, you cannot just "go with the flow"—you must take intentional action to set limits and restore balance. If we allow ourselves to stop being mindful, we slide into habits that work against simplicity. It takes paying attention to reality, making the hard decisions, and practicing restraint to restore/maintain simplicity.

If you can't do everything, then you must make choices about what you will do, and that requires setting priorities. Otherwise, you might slide into mindless practices like responding to the loudest demands, or working from deadline to deadline, without ever questioning the worth of what is being asked of you. Some of the most important things in life do not have deadlines, so they won't appear on the radar screen until something goes wrong:

- Physical health – food, sleep, exercise, cleanliness
- Spiritual health – relationship with God, discipleship, purpose
- Mental/emotional health – education, training, emotional well-being, creativity
- Social health – loving and being loved; being needed, valued; supportive and supported
- Vocational health – work that gives you a sense of meaning, using your gifts
- Economic health – being able to support oneself and give something back to others

You take these aspects of yourself with you everywhere you go, no matter what you are doing or whom you are seeing. If you are not well in these ways, there will be repercussions to the quality of your life. Don't wait for something to go wrong with them! Live in such a way that you include space and time to address these things and nurture well-being. Lent gives us the opportunity to recognize when we need to make a course correction. What would make your life simpler? It's worth giving this question some thought.

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined. As you simplify your life, the laws of the universe will be simpler".

Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)



Treasurer's Report...

January 2026

Income:	\$ 1,302.00
Expenses:	\$ 3,076.77
Total Income:	-\$ 1,774.77
Dividends:	+\$ 628.03
Interest:	+\$ 1.07
Total Net Income:	-\$ 1,145.67



Sunday
March 8th



I will be collecting your palms that you have from last year so that I can save them for Ash Wednesday next year. Please bring them before Palm Sunday. If I'm not there, you can put them in the office on the counter. Lois Bateman

Sr. Warden – John Frank

As we move through this winter season, I am continually grateful for the faithfulness and generosity that define our parish.

I see the prayer, care, and thoughtful stewardship that sustains us—not only on Sundays, but throughout the week.

February has been a very active month. The delicious Valentine brunch and socializing was enjoyed by all.

The Moms group held their annual pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday. The children had a great time with some even volunteering to help wash the dishes.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and effort making these events successful.

Faithful stewardship is not only about finances—it is about caring well for the people, property, and mission entrusted to us. Every pledge, every volunteer hour, and every quiet act of service contributes to the health of our parish.

I want to express sincere thanks to our clergy Susan and ministry leaders. Their dedication often unseen, blesses the congregation in countless ways. Please continue to hold them in your prayers.

The Western New York Diocese publishes a newsletter via email. If you haven't signed up for it and would like to please follow these directions:

- Go To: episcopalwny.org*
- Click On: News*
- Then Click On: Newsletter*
- Scroll Down To: "To Subscribe Click Here"*
- Then: Enter your information*

Prayer List...

The Doty Family, who are expecting a new baby boy, Tina, Felix, Bonnie, Kevin, Judith Lee, Priscilla & John, Kenneth, Allison, Janet Failla, Doloris, Chester, Josh, Edward Wysocki, Tim, Jackie, Barb & Kali, Clyde, Robin, Michael, Craig, Patrick and Nicole McCartney, Rebecca, Laura, Craig and Nicole, Chris and Ela, Zack, Rose, Donna, Miranda & Kaila, Melissa, Jeffrey.



We provide Forward Day by Day to parishioners as a simple and effective daily prayer practice. Each day features a Bible verse from the daily readings and a related reflection written by a different author each month, all in less than 200 words. It even includes the

daily feast days, as well as prompts to take faithful action in your daily life. These can be found in the vestibule of the sanctuary and in the parish hall.

The Forward Day by Day podcast is available on all streaming platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and anywhere else you listen to podcasts.

Food Pantry...



Lent is here and Easter is fast approaching. We have been asked to help with the Food Pantry Easter dinner. They need 16 oz. canned chocolate frosting to top off the dessert they are providing. Brand does not matter, as long as it is chocolate. They are anticipating about 70 dinners to be distributed to our neighbors, friends and families this year.

Please put the items in the basket in the rear of the church. Also, if you prefer a monetary contribution is always welcome. Just note "Food Pantry" on check or on the outside of an envelope if donating cash.

As always, feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or suggestions. Keep warm and safe during this brutal cold.

Lucy Kraatz
859-816-6869



Kelly Roberts 3/09
Denise Failla 3/14

SJC MOMS Group...

March 2026

Thank you all for supporting SJC Moms Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It was a great success!



This year we did not have our Ash Wednesday Eve service and it was missed by some. So one mom and daughter came to the Wednesday evening service for ashes!!

GOD is good.
Priscilla Moot

Vestry – February 2026

The following was discussed at our last meeting:

- Forms to officially change Pastor Susan’s title to “Priest in Charge” were given to Jennifer to mail in to the Bishop.
 - Ministry Day is March 7th. Pastor urged everyone to attend. Priscilla Moot is registered to attend.
 - Discussion on whether to change the time of our Sunday morning worship. It will remain at 9:30 a.m.
 - John Franke spoke with Kyle Doty from TLK Outdoor Services regarding the good job he has been doing on the snowplowing. Kyle will be coming in the spring to level off and backfill the new portion of the blacktop.
 - Furnace: Monitoring system is working. Furnace should be serviced once a year.
 - Moms Group pancake supper was a huge success and John thanked everyone.
 - John will be filing for a grant from the Diocese to possibly obtain funds for the sidewalk. Quotes that we have are around \$5,000 due to the increase in the price of concrete. Pastor Susan asked about a capital fund drive. Lois Bateman said that we have had them in the past.
 - Jerilyn Carney: Met with Sam Kalinowski who has been retained to clean the church. She cleans the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month for 4 hours each (\$160/month). Talked to Maria Carillo who has offered to do the other two weeks of the month.
 - Jennifer Farwell-Puskas had the following:
 - Phone in the office is forwarded to John Franke, Sr. Warden.
 - Buildings & Grounds Committee: Kevin Brown, Wayne Brown, Jane Hamilton, Janet Hoffman and Lucy Kraatz.
 - Palms have been ordered with Sean from St. Andrew’s.
 - Plant Sale on May 2nd. Jennifer will not be present that day but will have everything ready to go. Jane Hamilton will be taking the money.
 - Wilson Farmers Market: Jennifer has been asked if St. John’s would do a plant sale at their first market on May 19th. This will be at no cost to the church and all proceeds will come to St. John’s. Plants left over from May 2nd will be taken to this sale along with any others.
 - Parish Administrator job duties will be posted in the office and published in the March newsletter.
 - Reminded Buildings & Grounds about the gutter on the side of the sanctuary near the ramp and door. The elbow needs to be replaced to prevent ice from building up. Mentioned it in 2025 but nothing was done. Would like it fixed before winter of 2026.
 - Key in parish hall door. No one knows who it belongs too. Pastor Susan has asked Jennifer to contact a locksmith. They will be coming on Monday. After church Jennifer and Lucy checked the doors and there is no key in either one. Jennifer will cancel the locksmith.
 - Easter Schedule has been posted on the website.
 - Asked if we could change the day of Vestry meetings back to Thursdays. Jennifer has commitments on the weekends that will prevent her from being present on Sundays to take notes and to vote on things that come up. It was decided to go back to Thursday nights starting on March 19th at 6:30 p.m.
 - Jennifer asked what app to use to monitor the temperature in the parish hall. Govee and sign in and send your email to get a code.
 - Furnace: Jennifer explained to everyone for informational purposes only what transpired on the day that she found no heat in the church with Matt from Sterling Plumbing. It was decided that we use John from Niagara Frontier Refrigeration in the future.
- Next meeting will be Thursday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Farwell-Puskas, Clerk of Vestry

Fellowship Committee...

March 2026

Thank you Jerilyn and Denise for coordinating Valentine’s Celebration. We had lots of great treats and wonderful fellowship. Everyone felt the love!

Mothering Sunday on March 15, 2025 focuses on themes of refreshment, appreciation and community with a suggested, specific theme of “A Crown of Jewelry”. As it falls on the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday), it balances honoring mother figures with themes of light, nurture, and joy within the Lenten season.

Key Themes and Context for 2026:

- **“A Crown of Jewelry”:** This theme focuses on celebrating the strength and beauty of women, encouraging a time for rejuvenation and fellowship.
- **Reflecting on Nurture:** The Church of Scotland highlights a theme of the church as a nurturing body, focusing on care, compassion and hospitality.
- **Honoring Mother Figures:** The day celebrates mothers, grandmothers, aunts and carers, often with traditions like giving flowers, baking Simnel cake, and spending time together. (U.S. has Mother’s Day).
- **Historical Roots:** Traditionally, this day involved returning to one’s “mother church”.

We will have our traditional Soup & Bread Sunday following our church service. Please sign up to bring your favorite soup in a crockpot. The signup sheet is on the counter in the parish hall.

Come and enjoy different soups, bread and fellowship! See you there.

God is Good.
Priscilla Moot



Easter Season 2026

February 18	Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 p.m.
March 15	Soup & Bread Lenten Meal	10:30 a.m.
March 29	Palm Sunday	9:30 a.m.
April 2	Agape Meal in Parish Hall	5:30 p.m.
	Maunder Thursday Service	
April 3	Good Friday Service	7:00 p.m.
April 5	Easter Sunday	9:30 a.m.

The following is the job description for Parish Administrator at St. John’s. Please read it so everyone understands why I ask the questions that I do and for what reasons.
Jennifer Farwell-Puskas

**Parish Administrator
Job Description
As of February 21, 2026**

The Parish Administrator should be a person who is willing to take initiative and work in partnership with both Wardens. Two sets of skills have highest priority: Strong communication skills and a welcoming manner that exemplifies the hospitality to which the Gospel calls us. It is expected that this person will either have expertise or be ready to learn, to create and manage computer databases using Microsoft Office, Access, Excel, Word, Email and Website Management Software.

This is a voluntary, non-stipendiary position.

The Parish Administrator must take part in the Diocesan training for Administrators and also Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse, with respect to both adults and children.

The Parish Administrator will work 5 hours/week (20 Hours/month) with a schedule negotiated with both Wardens. This work need not be done in the church office.

The work of the Parish Administrator will be reviewed with the Wardens at least annually, in the fall, with observations and any mutually agreed objectives made a matter-of-record to guide future performance and review.

Duties

Communications:

- The Parish Administrator shall represent St. John’s in telephone, email and office contact with its members, building users, the Diocese and the community at large.
- The Parish Administrator will be a liaison with both Wardens, Vestry and members of the congregation, acting as the center of communications.
- The Parish Administrator will make copies and do mailings for Vestry Meetings, the Annual Meeting and special events as requested by the Wardens and event organizers.
- The Parish Administrator will produce a Parish Directory as needed.
- The Parish Administrator will prepare the monthly newsletter:
 - o Solicit and monitor submissions
 - o Update schedules, announcements and calendar
 - o Copy and fold
 - o Distribute via email, website and U.S. Mail to parishioners

Office Management:

- The Parish Administrator will monitor and maintain all office equipment (e.g. copier, printer, computer), office supplies and files.
- The Parish Administrator will order office supplies as required for daily operations.
- The Parish Administrator will maintain functional files for the office.
- The Parish Administrator will create and maintain parish databases and a vendor file.
- The Parish Administrator will accept deliveries and verify accuracy of contents with shipping documents.
- The Parish Administrator will set up vendor accounts and provide tax exempt certification as required.
- The Parish Administrator will obtain the U.S. Mail from our post office box and distribute.
- The Parish Administrator will update and maintain the website and Facebook page.

Easter Altar Flowers

One of the lovely aspects of Easter is the flowers that adorn the Church. If you would like to contribute toward the cost of the decorating, please fill out the form below so we can remember the people or events memorialized in the bulletins during the Easter season. Any amount is helpful!

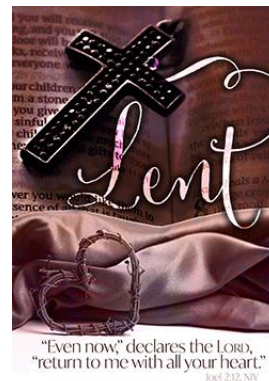


Name _____

In memory of _____

Amount \$ _____

Make checks payable to St. John’s Church and note “Easter flowers” on the memo line. Please submit your offering by **March 22nd**, so we can list the names in the Easter bulletin. They can be put in the offering plate or sent to the Church Office at P.O. Box 28, Wilson, NY 14172.



St. John's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 28
Wilson, NY 14172