

ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

MAY 2023

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS



“Alleluia! The Lord has risen indeed, alleluia!” For centuries Christian have proclaimed these words. When we lit the Paschal candle next to our baptismal font, we recalled our Lord’s triumph over death. Just as we are baptized with Christ into his death, we rise with Christ. As I processed into the church, I chanted: “the light of Christ,” and you responded: “Thanks be to God.” Let us carry the light in our hearts

throughout the fifty days of Eastertide.

I am grateful to all who worked so hard to make these services beautiful, especially Blair Hannon and the altar guild, and to our musicians (Kaley and Joanne).

Jesus promised his disciples that he would meet them in Galilee, but today he’s hoping to meet new followers in Mifflin County. Forty days after Easter we will celebrate the Ascension, and ten days later we will have the feast of Pentecost.

Please invite a friend or neighbor to church. If you know someone who used to attend St. Mark’s, ask them to join you for our services on Wednesday or Sunday.



Father John✠

MAY AT ST. MARK'S

We will celebrate Mother's Day on May 14 and Memorial Day on May 29. After May 20, we should be past the "frost danger" zone, so gardeners will be busy, though in our state anything is possible! A special highlight will be "Scouts Sunday," when we recognize the Cub Scouts and their parents. Our pack number is #1823. Does anyone know the significance of that number?



We celebrate Mother's Day on May 14. Our Bible uses female imagery to talk about divine love. Isaiah says that God will comfort us as a mother comforts her child. Jesus says that he would like to be like a mother hen who protects her chicks. Let us thank God for all who have nurtured us - Moms, Grandmothers, and Aunts as well as Dads, Grandfathers, and Uncles. Families

come in all shapes and sizes: let us be grateful for those who have shaped us.

We will celebrate Pentecost on May 28.

Memorial Day and Rogation Sunday are on May 29. "Rogation" comes from the Latin word "to ask." We are asking God to protect our crops from pestilence so that harvest will be plentiful. In earlier times priests would go into the farmers' fields and bless them. (If you would like me to bless your garden, just let me know!) We also pray for all who work to make our society safe and sustainable as well as the Earth, our island home.



May will also be very busy for me personally. On May 12, I will be in Reading with the Unification Discernment Committee. On May 22-24, I will be in Danville for the annual Clergy Convention. Our focus will be evangelism, and the keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. Patricia Lyons, is the author of the book that our Adult Forum is reading. Do you want to join us?

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD & BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

We are seeing strong indicators that the need for food assistance is rising sharply. Consider the total number of people we served in the past four months: an increase of 80% between December and April. Last year MHC spent about \$5,000 per month on food, but this year we will need to increase that amount significantly to keep pace with demand. Please help if you can!

December	468	individuals
January	535	individuals
February	560	individuals
March	714	individuals
April	851	individuals (365 families; 27 new families & 73 new individuals)

On April 25 we served a tasty meal of sloppy joes and baked beans to about 40 of our neighbors.

Men's Breakfast on Saturday, May 6

Join us at the OIP in Burnham at 8AM.

Altoona Convocation Meets at St. Mark's

We will gather for a potluck lunch at noon on Saturday, May 13. Please join us for a time of fellowship and sharing. Bring a dish that you can share.

Cemetery Flags: Honoring our Veterans for Memorial Day



To honor our veterans buried in St. Mark's cemetery, we will put flags on graves during the week before Memorial day. Please let Fred McKinley know if you can help.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month; and we pray especially for Ralph Bitner, Bob Briar, Mary Daily, Carole Mease, Steve Myers, Willa Silverman, Lynn Stricker, Deb Vaughn, Patty Wagner, Evelyn Wilson, and Bill Wilson.

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

15—Dan Dillon, 23—Richard Walters, 30—Jon Myers

PROPERTY UPDATE

We are making great progress on creating a “janitor’s closet” in the unused space at the entrance to the Parish House. This will make our janitor’s job much easier. We are also finalizing plans for Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard to use its space more efficiently and for the church to make more regular use of the Parish House for social events, including a new “First Sunday” program for the community that will begin in June. Future speakers will include Graham Spanier, former president of Penn State, who will discuss his career and his book, *Out of the Lions’ Den*.