

ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

MAY 2024

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS



On May 9, forty days after Easter, Christians throughout the world will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. Will you be sending Ascension cards to your friends and family? Me neither. But our Amish neighbors will not be in their shops or fields on that day. What are we missing?

The Ascension holds deep meaning for Episcopalians. It marks the culmination of the Easter season, signifying not just Jesus' resurrection

but his return to heavenly glory.

Here are five reasons why it matters:

- **Completion of the Paschal Mystery:** The Ascension completes the narrative of Jesus' sacrifice and redemption. His earthly ministry is finished, yet his presence remains through the Holy Spirit.
- **Christ's Reign and Intercession:** Jesus ascends to his rightful place at God's side, a symbol of his ongoing power and authority. He acts as an advocate for humanity, interceding for us.
- **Transformation and Hope:** The Ascension teaches that our physical limitations don't define us. Jesus' glorified body offers a glimpse of the potential for transformation, both for him and for us.
- **Empowerment of the Church:** With Jesus' departure, the disciples are left to carry on his mission. The Ascension is seen as a catalyst for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, empowering the church to spread the Gospel.

We celebrate the Ascension with special prayers and reflections, rejoicing in the completion of Jesus' work and the hope it brings for humanity. We'll mark the day at our Wednesday service.

Ten days later (May 19) we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. Please invite a

friend or neighbor to church.

Father John✠

MAY AT ST. MARK'S

Along with other downtown churches, St. Mark's will participate in KidConnection on Saturday, May 11. Our goal is to have kids and their parents visit St. Mark's and for us to share a positive church experience with them. We'll need helpers from 8:30AM to 2PM. Please let Tracey McKee know if you can help.



On May 12, we will celebrate Mother's Day. The 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 19. Please dress in red and bring a bell to ring. This day marks the true birth of the church.

On Tuesday, May 21, we will place flags on the graves of our veterans for Memorial Day. Please come to the cemetery at 6PM. Our Cub Scouts (pack #1823) will be hard at work with us.

On May 26, we will celebrate Memorial Day.



FIRST SUNDAY (JUNE 2)

What did the people of St. Mark's do for fun in the olden days? Can you imagine a world without TV, radio, email, texts, or the Web? Yes, that world did exist, and it was wonderful. Please invite a friend or neighbor to hear Paul Fagley talk about entertainment. His title is: **“Ticket, Please: Going to the theater in Mifflin and Juniata Counties.”** Here's a preview of his presentation.

Going to the theater has been a part of the human experience for thousands of years. From the ancient Greeks and Romans to Shakespeare and in our own

times, the theater was an important place in any town. While stage theater and opera have been around for centuries, in the late 19th century, new forms of entertainment led to the development of the modern theater. Live variety programs like Vaudeville and Burlesque became popular before the advent of the motion picture.

In Mifflin and Juniata Counties, buildings dedicated to theatrical performances were built beginning in the 1880s. Today, only a few survive from the many that once existed, most notably the Miller and Embassy theatres in Lewistown, and the Midway Drive-in in Juniata County.

In this program, we'll stroll down Memory Lane to see historic pictures of the many theatres that once entertained us and to give you an update on the efforts to return the Embassy as a venue for entertainment for our local citizens. Truly, there's no business like show business!

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD & BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER



In March MHC served 464 people. We received from Strodes Mills Elementary School 530 boxes of cereal. From FirstQuality we received 20 cartons of diapers and other paper products. A highlight of Breaking Bread Together was an upscale meal of pork loin, green beans, potatoes, and dessert. Thanks much to guest chef Pete Carry. Every member of St. Mark's is invited to join us for these meals.

PRAYER LIST

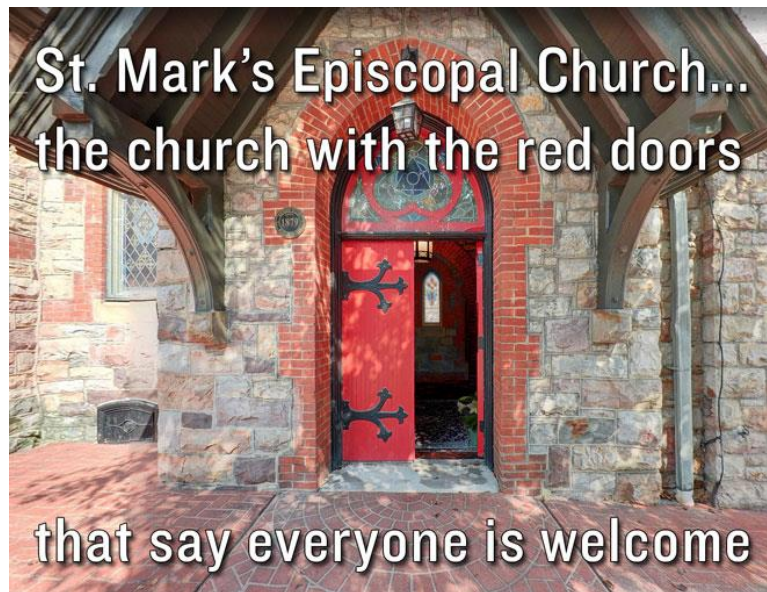
We pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month, especially for Ralph Bitner, Sharon Copenhaver, Mary Daily, Angela Kaler, Shirley Mancino,

Tony Hatfield-Nicholson, Doris McKee, Carole Mease, Lynn Stricker, Patty Wagner, and Evelyn Wilson.

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

15—Dan Dillon, 18—Jeff Baumgardner, 23—Richard Walters, 30—Jon Myers

O GOD, OUR TIMES ARE IN YOUR HAND: LOOK WITH FAVOR, WE PRAY, ON YOUR SERVANT *N.* AS (*S*)*HE* BEGINS ANOTHER YEAR. GRANT THAT (*S*)*HE* MAY GROW IN WISDOM AND GRACE, AND STRENGTHEN OUR TRUST IN YOUR GOODNESS ; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. *AMEN.*



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