

ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2024

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS

October will be very busy for me, St. Mark's, and the Diocese.

On Sunday, October 6, we will bless our companion animals, celebrating the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi.

At noon on Wednesday, October 9, St. Mark's will host the leadership council of the Chamber of Commerce. I will give the group of 25 people a tour of the church and talk about our history before we have lunch. At 5:30 that afternoon, we will host a meeting of Bishop Audrey Scanlan and the 30 delegates to convention from the ten churches in the Altoona Convocation. We'll provide light refreshments, so we will need help in the kitchen. The group will hear about the resolutions that will be presented at our 154th Annual Convention on October 18-19. We will need



The most momentous resolution will be whether to reunify with the Diocese of Bethlehem and become a new entity: the Diocese of the Susquehanna. Until 1904, we were one Diocese, and each Diocese must support the motion. Pray for wisdom and guidance. For full information about the issues, see <https://reunificationdiobethdiocpa.org/>. I invite you to attend the Convention as guests.

On Thursday, October 10, we will see the return of the Apple Dumpling Gang. For only \$5, you can enjoy the best treat in Mifflin County.

On Wednesday, October 23, you are invited to the doctoral piano recital by Rui Zhang, who played at St. Mark's this summer. Her concert begins at 5PM in the Recital Hall.

If you've not yet visited the new Palmer Museum at Penn State, you should. Please let me know if you'd like to have a group tour.
Father John+



TIME FOR YOUR COVID AND FLU VACCINES

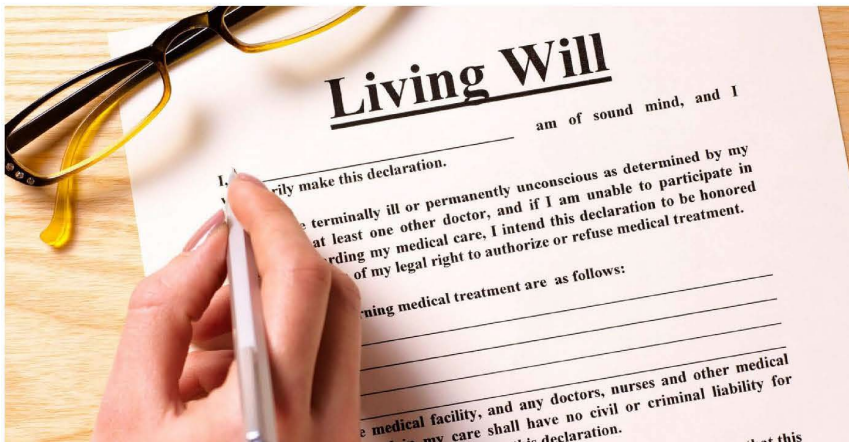
COVID is with us for the long-term. I know seven people who were mildly sick in the past few weeks, one of them being hit much harder but not hospitalized (but pretty close). Please protect yourself and others. Father John got both shots on September 23.

PLANNED GIVING: STEWARDSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

Have you remembered St. Mark's in your will? I have. About 68% of Americans do not have a will, a health-care proxy, or a durable power of attorney. You will do your family a big favor by writing down your intentions. This "living will seminar" will give you lots of information.

LIVING WILL SEMINAR

PRESENTED BY THE MIFFLIN-JUNIATA TRAINING CLEARINGHOUSE



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

THE COMPASS CENTER

31 S. DORCAS STREET • LEWISTOWN, PA

THIS TRAINING IS FREE AND AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

AT 2 DIFFERENT TIMES:

3:00pm – 4:00pm • 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Topics of discussion include Living Wills, Power of Attorney, and Guardianship. The seminar will be led by Steinbacher, Goodall & Yurchak, an Elder Care Law Firm located in Williamsport, PA.

Space is limited! RSVP by contacting Robin White: email rwhite@mifflincountypa.gov or call 717-914-6215.



When we celebrate All Saints Day on November 3, we are reminded of the continuing presence of the saints in our lives. Look around at the beauty of our church and the richness of our ministries.

What we have is a gift from those who came before us and loved this church deeply. Because they remembered their church in their wills, we remain strong today.

Two things are certain: death and taxes. Please plan your funeral now.

St. Mark's has very simple forms to fill out that will make your family's life simpler.

Alas, St. Mark's is unable to help with your taxes!

PROPERTY UPDATE

Thanks to a hardy work crew (Hal, Pete, Jane, and Jim), we have cleaned part of the exterior walls with two different products: we'll choose the winner in a few months. We have contracted with a roofer who will soon replace the valleys and gutters on our many roofs. We are actively evaluating kinds of pew cushions and should have a recommendation soon. If you have not yet made a pledge, would you consider making one now?

Now that we have a large-screen TV in the Parish House, wouldn't it be fun to have a movie night? If you have a favorite movie or two, please let Father John know your top choices.



THE BLESSING OF OUR PETS

We will mark the feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a service of blessing and thanksgiving for pets following our service on October 6.

Bring your pets to our St. Francis Memorial Garden at noon, or you can bring a photo of your pet (living or deceased). If you prefer that I visit with you and your pet at home, please let me know. If the weather is bad, we'll hold our brief service in the parish house.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD

In August we served 552 people (total families- 210; new individuals- 43; new families- 18). MHC is now distributing Narcan (a nasal spray that prevents fatal overdoses) for clients who request it.

HOW TO CONTACT FATHER JOHN

The best ways are my cell (814-571-0687) or email (jttharwood@comcast.net). Do

not worry that you are "bothering me." I want to know if you or a family member is in need



- or if you have a concern about the parish.

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES ON ALL SAINTS DAY

We will celebrate All Saints Day on November 3. **Please let Father John know if there are changes to the list of people you want to remember before October 20.** Contributions to the flower fund are also welcome.

PRAYER LIST, OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS, AND ANNIVERSARIES

We pray especially for Myra Bannon, Judy Clare, Mary Daily, Shirley Mancino, Tony Hatfield-Nicholson, Dawn Lowe, Doris McKee, Carole Mease, Carol and Rob Smith, Lynn Stricker, Patty Wagner, and Evelyn Wilson.

We also give thanks for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month: 7—Cynthia McKinley and Emily Zylstra 10—Sharon Copenhaver, 11—Alice Woodring, 18—Catherine Pinkerton, 19—Anniversary of Father John's ordination to the priesthood, 21—Maxwell Remy, 22—Billie Gay Snook, 24—Consecration of St. Mark's church in 1824 27—Dee Calhoun

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 21 South Main Street Lewistown, PA 17044
--