

St. Mark's Messenger

April 2025

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS
ALLELUIA! CHRIST HAS RISEN.



We all know that. But until we get to Holy Week, we should focus on self-examination and listen for ways that the Holy Spirit is nudging us into a closer relationship with God and our neighbors.

St. Mark's is a partner in the nudging. We have an Adult Enquirers' Class on Wednesdays at 11 and an Adult Forum on Sundays at 9AM. We have Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 12:15 as well as a midweek service of healing at 10AM on Wednesday. A highlight of the

Easter Vigil (April 19) will be the baptism of Lane Kuhns. **Be there to greet the Risen Lord. We will all acclaim "Alleluia! Christ is risen!"**

Our Holy Week services will be especially wonderful this year. Both Joanne and Kaley will prepare special musical offerings, and we will have a reception for Lane Kuhns and his family after the Easter Vigil. Our church will be dazzling with Easter flowers.

Please bring a friend or neighbor to share the good news.

Father John✠

EASTER FLOWERS?

Please sign up to purchase Easter flowers so we know how many to buy. There is no need to give me the names of family members unless you wish to add new persons to your. In that case, please give the information to Father John before Sunday, April 13. If you are giving flowers for the first time this year, please use the card at the back of the church.





Holy Week at St. Mark's

Maundy Thursday at 7PM
Good Friday Friday at 7PM
Holy Saturday (The Great Vigil) at 7PM
Easter IOAM

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



welcomes you

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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (APRIL 18-20)

Following the Palm Sunday celebration on April 13, we will celebrate the liturgy of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil.

What makes these Three Great Days unique? The liturgies occur only once each year. The three services develop over three days and make one extended Eucharist. What starts on Thursday is not complete until Saturday night.

On Maundy Thursday, we will strip the altar and empty the tabernacle of reserved bread and wine. It will be empty until Easter, and there will be no covering on the altar. We depart from the service in silence – I do not dismiss you.

On Good Friday I will wear a black stole, and we do not celebrate the Eucharist but instead receive from the elements consecrated the day before. We have a very long reading of the Passion gospel, and we will have multiple readers. “Passion” means suffering.

At the Great Vigil on Saturday evening, we will light our new Paschal Candle, which will burn until Pentecost. It is lit only for baptisms and funerals throughout the year, and we will have a baptism. The lengthy readings from the Old and New Testament provide the context for the death and resurrection of Our Lord. We will return the

“missing” elements from our Lenten liturgies – the Gloria, for instance, and the “alleluias.”

Flowers return to the altar – Easter lilies. We will not have a confession of sin either since we have done that work in the two previous services. This is also a time for incense (we will use it sparingly) and lighting of candles throughout the congregation.

WHO WANTS TO BE MORE COMFORTABLE IN CHURCH?

The new pew cushions have been ordered and will arrive in June. **It is not too late for you to contribute to the cost of this project (about \$10,000).** Many thanks to the ten families who have already pledged.

PROPERTY AND SAFETY UPDATE

As a memorial to Sharon Copenhaver, we have purchased new tables for the parish house. We used them for the first time at Breaking Bread Together on March 25. Sharon and Lew cherished hospitality, especially the ministry of feeding. We know that this gift pleases her children. We have also ordered a new handrail for the stairway leading from the church into the parish house. Feel free to take one or more of the rectangular tables from the Parish House. They were a generous gift from the ECW, and they have served us well for decades. Please take yours before Easter.

UPDATE ON “FIRST SUNDAYS” IN JUNE AND JULY

Molly Bourg will present a lively introduction to the Amish on Sunday, June 1, at 2PM.

On Sunday, July 13, at 2PM James Eldrith’s “swing band” will present a concert of Frank Sinatra favorites. For both presentations, we will have a free-will offering to benefit a local non-profit.

HELP WANTED: MONEY COUNTERS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

At every service we receive money from our members or visitors. Usually we receive checks, but some give cash. We receive other pledges in the mail. What happens to these gifts? They are counted by two people, who also fill out a deposit slip and take the deposit to the bank. Counting usually takes about 30 minutes. Right now we have four counters, but to have a better schedule, we need eight people. In this way nobody needs to count more than once a month. Please see Father John if you are willing to help.



While we have the service of Morning Prayer (MP) and a Eucharist every Wednesday morning, we rarely have MP on Sundays. Would you like to lead this service? Our hope is to have a combination of MP and Eucharist as a regular part of worship. If you are interested in exploring this new role, please talk with Father John.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for our sick and shut-ins, especially Myra Bannon, Judy Clare, Shirley Mancino, Tony Hatfield-Nicholson, Doris McKee, Carole Mease, Lynn Stricker, Patty Wagner, and Evelyn Wilson. We pray also for the victims of warfare and violence in Israel, Gaza, and

Ukraine. There can be no peace without justice.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

5—Edie Swank, 6—Robin Wilson, 7—John Stewart and Hilarie Mohn, 7—Kaylee Blewett, 11—Kelly Crawford, 14—Max Wilson, 19—Elizabeth Cvejkus, 22—Patricia Wilt, 26—Zanica Kaler

O GOD, OUR TIMES ARE IN YOUR HAND: LOOK WITH FAVOR, WE PRAY, ON *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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