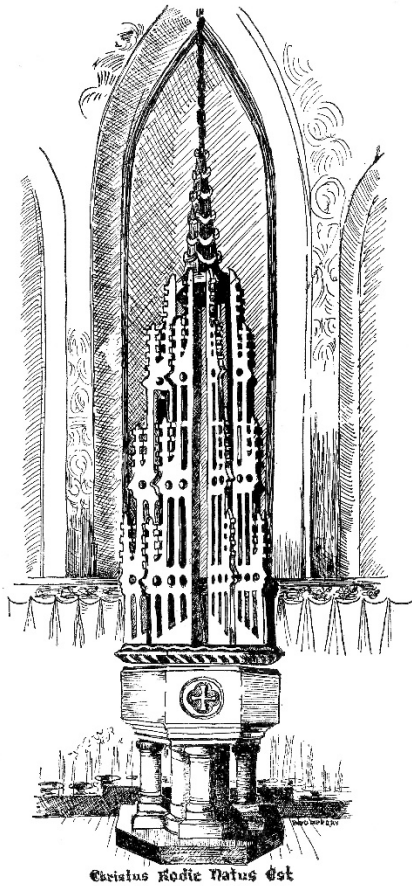


ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

MAY 2025

FATHER JOHN'S EASTER REFLECTIONS



the illustration on a Christmas card.

I mention the baptismal font because at our Great Vigil of Easter, we welcomed Lane Kuhns to his new life in Christ on the same evening as we greeted the Risen Christ. The incarnation and the resurrection of Jesus are the

Lent brought some wonderful surprises. The first was my introduction to the son of Boyd Dippery (1896-1960), a parishioner who designed and built the canopy over our baptismal font in the 1920s. His son, Matthew, refinished our pews in 1980 – he remembered because it was the year that Mt. St. Helens erupted.

Take a good look at the symbols and colors on the canopy, and then look up and see the steel dove descending (a symbol of the Holy Spirit). It's likely that the dove was made at Standard Steel because it resembles the workmanship of the old lights that used to hang in the church and parish house. Our font is 200 years old; the canopy has seen a century of baptisms.

One Christmas Boyd sketched in pen and ink the font and canopy. The Latin words mean "Christ was born this day." In very small letters you can read Boyd's name. I wonder if he used





two great mysteries of our faith. Christmas and Easter are bookends on a story that we celebrate in Scripture, prayers, music, and art. Sure, the Lord is risen, but first He had to be born.

I am grateful to all who worked hard during Holy Week to make our services so wonderful: Joanne and Kaley were with us for all of them; Tracey and Blair worked heroically on our linens and flowers; our readers did overtime on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil. Tracey was a very gracious host after our Vigil.

May you have a blessed Eastertide until Pentecost on June 8, which coincidentally marks my eighth anniversary as your priest. Father John ✠

MAY AT ST. MARK'S

On May 4 we will celebrate the baptism of Claire Wilson, a grandchild and great-grandchild of people dear to our parish, the Wilson and Welham families. We expect more than 30 guests.

On May 11, 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.

Later in May we will place flags on the graves of our veterans for Memorial Day.

On May 25, we will celebrate Memorial Day.



FIRST SUNDAY PROGRAMS THIS SUMMER



June 1: Molly Bourg will share her knowledge of the Amish in Kish Valley. What's the story with the colors of their buggies? What do they do for fun? Why do they take the "day off" for Ascension?

July 13 Enjoy an afternoon with the songs of Frank Sinatra and the Big Band Era. The concert will feature a 12-piece band and several vocalists.

August 3: Piano concert by Wanli Wang, a doctoral student at Penn State. The concert will have classical favorites and perhaps some jazz as well.

September 7: Concert by two Penn State faculty, Naomi Seidman (flute) and Jon Dexter (cello)

All presentations will begin at 2PM and will be followed by refreshments.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD & BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

In March MHC provided food to 484 people as well as 30 Easter meals. On April 2, BBT provided a home-cooked meal of Salisbury steak, home-made rolls, carrots, and dessert

(thanks, Chef Pete and the fabulous kitchen team) to more than 30 people, including our helpers from St. Mark's.

PRAYER LIST

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

3—First Anniversary of Ashlyn and Lane Kuhns
15—Dan Dillon, 1
8—Jeff Baumgardner,
20—Anniversary of Hal and Sandy Jenkinson,
23—Richard Walters,
30—Jon Myers

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