



**St. John's
Episcopal
Church**

The Red Door

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of
St. John's Episcopal Church



March 2026 - Volume 2, Issue 2



The Holy Season of Lent is Upon Us

Just like the weather changing quickly, so here we are in another church season. Advent began on February 18 with Ash Wednesday and a Eucharist service that evening. All in attendance will recall quite a mild evening outside, with a bit of thunder adding to the rhythm of the service.

Fr. Mitch Yudasz On all accounts, it's sounding like it's going to be an early spring. Of course, one of our first indicators is the up-and-down roller coaster weather we've been having. I've seen a couple of Robins out there, and if the snow would stay gone long enough, I want to check and see if many of my spring flowers are starting to come up. Onward we go.

During the season of Lent, we are called to go into a more penitential period. Lent is given to us as a time to reflect and look within ourselves. There are many things about ourselves that I'm sure we'd like to change - I know that's certainly the fact with me. Now is the time to begin that process. It's a great time to start that work, and make those changes. As I said in my sermon on Ash Wednesday, just because there's 40 days of Lent doesn't mean that we have to completely make changes in that time frame. But working toward change and being aware of things we'd like to change is a great start. Some things to consider include our prayer lives, involvement with community and church groups, and the like. Change is never an easy thing, but the end result can be incredible!

Speaking of incredible, may I bring to your attention a special group that we have at St. John's, as if you don't already know this. Our Daughters of the King chapter includes very dedicated ladies that take a vow to do Christ's work for the good of everyone here on earth. And they serve us in a number of ways - both seen and unseen. I consider it a big privilege to have a DOK chapter right here in our parish. If you look across the diocese, there are but few parishes that have chapters. Our group is extremely active and has gained members. Ladies, if this type of service and camaraderie is something you feel you may be called to, please see any of the DOK members. I'm sure they will be more than happy to speak to you!

The Outreach Committee met and came up with some very good - and very manageable ideas. An Easter Egg Hunt (the Saturday before Easter, and a craft fair on May 9 are just a few of the events that were discussed. Recurring events such as bake sales and spaghetti dinners were also discussed. While it's important to keep everything in perspective and balance within everyone's crazy-busy schedules and lives, I ask you to please consider getting involved with some of these events. Things like this help us grow - both financially, and in numbers. Any opportunity to showcase St. John's and the wonderful people that make it what it is, is something that is worth the effort.

Holy Week is coming up in 4 short weeks. Please consider participating in the services that will be offered, as we journey with Christ through this most solemn and holiest weeks of the year. You'll find the Holy Week schedule on page two. For those winter lovers, enjoy the last bit of the season. For us warm-weather types, the light is at the end of the tunnel. And the only thing I can say to that is *Groovy!*

Bring it on!

-Fr. Mitch+

Worship With Us - All are Invited

Sunday Services



Mar. 1 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
Fr. Mitch Yudasz

Mar. 8 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
Fr. Mitch Yudasz

Mar. 15 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
Fr. Mitch Yudasz

Mar. 22 9:30 am Morning Prayer
Officiant: *Nick Hamblin*
Reader: *Jim Godbout*

Palm Sunday Service

Mar. 29 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
Celebrant: *Fr. Mitch Yudasz*



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



We held our annual Pancake Super on Tuesday, February 17. See "View from the Second Pew" column for more event details.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH invites you to our 2026

Spring Bazaar

Featuring

🌸 Arts 🌸 Crafts 🌸 Flowers

🌸 Baked Goods 🌸

Lunch Available

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Noon - 5 pm



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

555 S. Wayne Rd., Westland, MI 48186

For more info call (248) 982-8588

Or email jacquie3ritter@gmail.com

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Holy Week Schedule

March 29 - Palm Sunday

Mass at 9:30 a.m., combined service at St. Johns with St. Matthew-St. Joseph (Matty-Joe)

April 2 - Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday)

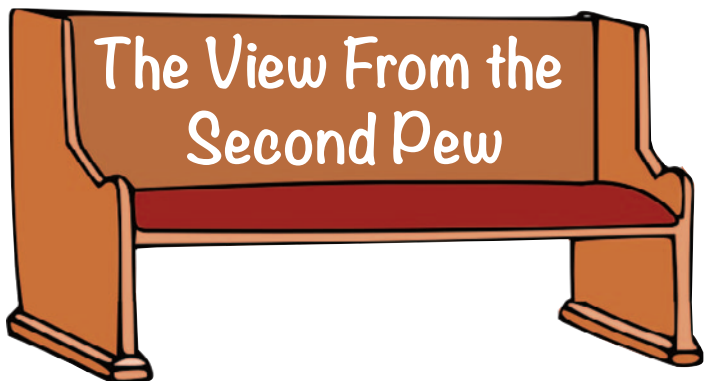
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m.
Night Watch until 10:00 a.m. Friday.
Sign-up sheet for times will be available in the church in early March.

April 3 - Good Friday

Good Friday service with reserve sacrament at 12:00 noon.

April 5 - Easter Sunday

Festal Mass at 9:30 a.m. followed by coffee hour



The view from the 2nd pew has been quite busy this past month. We've had some new visitors which always delights us. Chuck has been away but he will return soon.

We are very excited to share that we had our first Outreach meeting! Father Mitch, Sande Godbout, Deacon Jenny Ritter and Mary Vellardita (who we called to join in on the meeting) and myself were present. Mary and Jacquie were voted in as Co-chairs.

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with a pancake dinner, which included crepes and all the toppings. We are grateful for all those that attended, it was a wonderful time! Thank you to Vi and Don Streeter for their commitment and hard work! Thank you to Sande Godbout for baking up all those yummy sausages and providing Mardi Gras gold bead necklaces, Erin Downey for mixing multiple batches of pancake

mix by hand! Thank you to Julie Jones and Mya as they served and cleaned up afterward. Thank you to Zee, Dan Dillingham's spouse for making those amazing crepes! To Deacon Jenny Ritter, Jacquie Ritter, Lindsay Cannon who manned the griddles and cleaned up, many thanks.

We discussed more ways to Outreach and as of today, February 22, 2026, we not only have new people viewing our Facebook page...we have 415 followers!! Great job! We will also work on making our entrance more welcoming and to make sure that the brochure holder is full and refilled. We have a lot of visitors to our church, it's important they get to know us better via the printed word.

We wrapped up the meeting as Mary and Jacquie shared that we are planning a Spring Bazaar on May 9, 2026. Thus will be the first one since before COVID. We will have more details to come! If anyone is interested in renting a table, contact Jacquie Ritter at 248-982-8588.

Our next meeting is Sunday, March 8, 2026, come join us and share your ideas!

Lord, let our little church be a beacon welcoming to all those who need some Light, and may they come to find whatever it is that they may need and finally find home in the beautiful community of St. John's. Amen.

*Respectfully submitted and For His Sake,
Jacquie Ritter*



Have You Stopped by the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour After Services Yet?

You don't have to be a coffee lover or a member of St. John's to join us. Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee, tea, snacks or just some fellowship if you wish! Sometimes we celebrate special events as is in the pictures shown, and sometimes we just enjoy getting to know special people...like YOU!!! ALL are invited, ALL are welcome!

Last month we were able to celebrate the February birthdays of Deacon Jenny and Jacquie Ritter at Coffee Hour. *See picture on far right.*



March Birthdays:



1	Erin Downey	22	Blake Brown
10	Megan Aston	22	Lonna Brown
12	Rod Aston	24	Mary Anne Ford
14	Wendy Clayton	31	Greg Aston
21	Joshua Russell		



Our apologies if your name should have appeared here! Please help us update our list. Send your special day to: minutemgr@gmail.com

2026 Lenten Meditations *article by Deacon Rev. Jenny Ritter*

Written by Sister Monica Clare, an Episcopal nun, author and unlikely TikTok star, our 2026 meditations offer an invitation to rediscover—or deepen— HOLY HABITS of prayer, worship and engagement with Scripture. These holy habits provide a path to a life that is given shape, meaning and direction by being rooted in a deeper relationship with God.

Article continued on next page

LENTEN MEDITATIONS *continued*

Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

— Mark 1:25-28

In today’s passage from the Gospel of Mark, Jesus begins his earthly ministry by calling Simon, Andrew, James and John to follow him. They leave their families and their livelihood behind and go with Jesus to Capernaum, where he teaches in the synagogue and drives out an unclean spirit from a man.

I always wonder what it was that Simon, Andrew, James and John saw in Jesus that made them give up everything to follow him. In religious life, we also give up all we possess to devote our lives to Jesus, but our choice is made because we already know Jesus. We know of his divinity and miracles, and we know his teachings. We feel secure in following the one whom we know to be the Messiah. Those first apostles knew none of these things, and yet they chose to follow this gentle teacher whose very presence was powerful enough to draw them into his ministry.

The four fishermen may have thought that following Jesus would be a temporary thing, or they may have had a few doubts as they set out for Capernaum, but their doubts were probably dispelled as they heard the brilliance of his teaching in the synagogue. Their faith must surely have taken deep, permanent root when they witnessed Jesus casting out the unclean spirit. Maybe they were not at all sure until they heard the spirit proclaim, “I know who you are, the Holy One of God!”

Reflect: What was it that made you realize Jesus is the Holy One of God? Was it something you were taught, or was it an experience?

**March Altar Guild Schedule**

Mar. 1	Wendy C., Violet S.
Mar. 8	Sande G., Priscilla H.
Mar. 15	Sande G., Julie
Mar. 22	Wendy C., Violet S.
Mar. 29	Sande G., Priscilla H. (Palm Sunday)

**FOOD PANTRY OPEN**

Thursday, March 12,
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

On the last Sunday of the month
collection plate donations go to our
Food Pantry Ministry.

**MARCH EVENTS CALENDAR**

Sun. Mar. 1	Daughters of the King, <i>after service</i>
Sun. Mar. 8	Outreach Committee, <i>after service</i>
Sun. Mar. 15	Vestry Meeting, <i>after service</i>

Join us for Coffee Hour *after our 9:30 services.*
Enjoy coffee, tea, light refreshments and fellowship.

St. John’s Episcopal Church

555 S. Wayne Rd., Westland, MI 48186

Office: (734) 721-5023

Parish office hours: Mon. & Thur. 10 am-2pm

www.stjohnswestland.com

stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com

We’re on Facebook!

St. John’s Church Westland

Live-streamed every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsepiscopalwestland>

**ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CLERGY & STAFF**

Rev. Mitch Yudasz, Priest-in-Charge

frmitchy@gmail.com

Rev. Jenny Ritter, Deacon

jjritter@comcast.net

Janet Swanson, Parish Secretary

stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com

Dan Dillingham, Music Director/Organist

mclungave@comcast.net

2026 OFFICERS

Sande Godbout, Senior Warden

Don Streeter & Nick Hamblin, Junior Co-Wardens

Mary Vellardita, Clerk

Erin Downey-Tarnowski, Treasurer

2026 VESTRY MEMBERS

Amelia Hamblin, Nick Hamblin, Julie Jones, Susan Mallard