



**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



April 2026 - Volume 2, Issue 3



There's a Newness in the Air



It's that time of the year. We all get anxious for warmer weather, green grass, spring flowers, and the newness that spring offers. While Easter is traditionally that time of the year when all things new happen, we must always keep in a mind a small caveat to that theory: Michigan!

The weather has not disappointed, and as I write this it's 30 out, albeit sunny. By the time you're reading this, we will already have gone through Passiontide/Holy Week. This is one of the most solemn and foundational times in the church calendar, and naturally one of the busiest. The drama and tradition that is Holy Week really hits home; the foundation of our faith and the sacrifice that Christ made on our behalf. And starting on Easter all the doom goes away and we go into a more jubilant period. Colors, flowers, and the paschal candle being lit signify for us the awe and wonder. So amazing and awesome for every one of us.

The outreach committee has met several times, and has a few events in mind (with more coming!). After Easter service there will be an Easter egg hunt outside for the kids and on May 9 there's a craft bazaar, flower sale, and bake sale. While all of this is a benefit for us and brings in welcome revenue, there's more important goals with events such as this. First off, it makes us visible to the community - and shows that there's lots of life and love at 555 W. Wayne Rd.

Secondly and just as important, it brings us together in fellowship. While there's work that has to be done for these events, coming together makes the work a bit easier to accomplish. As they say, many hands make light work. Plus the fellowship opportunities of working, playing, and laughing together are priceless opportunities for us. Please consider coming that day, and even better if you are able, please join us for all or part of the day to share in the many tasks that will need to get done. And bakers, heat up your ovens and churn us out some good stuff to sell in the bake sale. More will be coming in the very near future.

I would like to do a repeat of what we did last year. Sometime in early May, we need to have an outside work day. Weeding, planting, hopefully power washing, and the like. I'd love to see us repurpose the bulbs from the Easter flowers out around the church so each year, newness will pop up in the Spring. Also if anyone has some large planters or pots that they'd like to send our way, it would be appreciated. A few pots of flowers out front and on the porch by the entrance to the back would look just swell. That combined with some power-washing, newly painted red doors, and some general TLC will beautify our church grounds. And again, it's a family affair, with folks pitching in together as they are able. Remember, this place is ours and any potential future members spiritual home!

Happy beginning of spring!

-Fr. Mitch+

Worship With Us - All are Invited

Easter Sunday Service



April 5 9:30 am Festal Mass
Celebrant: Fr. Mitch Yudasz
Chalice Bearer: John Buehner
Deacon: Jenny Ritter
Reader: Jim Godbout

Sunday Services

April 12 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
Fr. Mitch Yudasz

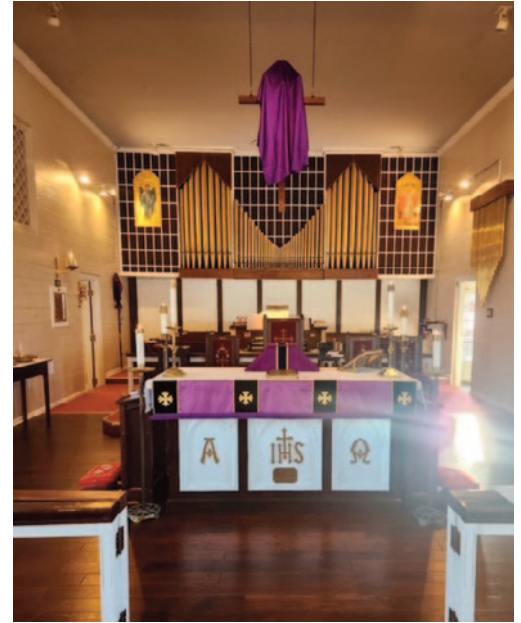
April 19 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
Fr. Mitch Yudasz

April 26 9:30 am Morning Prayer
Officiant: Nick Hamblin
Reader: Sande Godbout

If You Ever Wondered Why

During Lent you may notice that things are a little different around the church. Things are very plain, very bland, very simple. There is a lack of flowers on the altar, the music is toned down - less joyful and more solemn, and purple is the color of the altar linens and the priest and deacon stoles and vestments.

One very obvious thing is the lack of a visible cross. The cross over the altar and the crucifer cross (the cross carried in procession by an acolyte) is covered in purple. Many people have questioned about it, so here's your answer. The covering of crucifixes during Lent is an ancient tradition that was started in the Roman Catholic church, although many different denominations have adopted the custom as well. The purple or violet cloth represents a penitential period within the church calendar. Covering the crosses in the Episcopal church is generally for the entirety of Lent starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing until Easter Sunday. Many churches cover on the fifth or last Sunday of Lent lasting until Easter Sunday. This period is known as **Passiontide**.



The covering a cross is meant to create a void. And through this void one doesn't focus on the suffering and death of

Christ (which comes at the end of Lent,) but more so to focus on the journey through Lent. This journey is not just that of Christ leading up to Easter, but also our journey as we progress through forty days of anticipation. In essence, the cross is a foundational symbol of God's greatest gift to us. It allows us to focus on what's to come and the guarantee of eternal life for each and every one of us. In some churches a white cloth is draped around the cross (not covering it) starting on Easter

Sunday and left for the entirety of East-ertide.

While a beautiful custom, logistically it's not the easiest to get up there and cover in purple, let alone drape in white. Just ask your priest about scaling that ladder and draping cloth at that altitude!



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

Spring Bazaar

Featuring

🌸 Arts 🌸 Crafts 🌸 Flowers

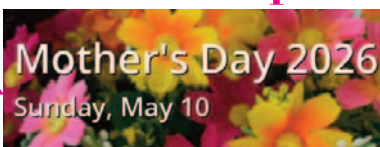
🌸 Baked Goods 🌸

Lunch Available

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Noon - 5 pm

get flowers for Mom



yummy baked goods



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

555 S. Wayne Rd., Westland, MI 48186

For more info call (248) 982-8588

Or email jacquie3ritter@gmail.com



He has He Risen! He has Risen Indeed!

Spring is here and we are very busy preparing for the Spring Bazaar on May 9th, 12pm-5pm. If anyone is interested in helping with kitchen duties, or any other area, see Jacquie Ritter or Mary Vellardita. Once we get helpers in place, we will create a Phone tree in case anyone needs to trade shifts. The shifts are 10am-12pm, we will not be unloading/loading vendors as most vendors know they are responsible for that, not the host. We only need a few people for the 10am shift. The next shift is 12pm-2:30pm and 2:30pm-5 pm for Bake sale helpers and Flower helpers, we will need three helpers for each shift. Thank you to Sande Godbout who will be in charge of the bake sale and thank you to Julie Jones for overseeing the flower sale. We need a few people to cover

the Kitchen from 12pm-5pm. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the parish hall.

We are very excited to announce that we will be a part of Canton pride OUTside on Thursday, June 25, 2026 from 6pm-8:30pm. Set-up will be at 4pm and Jacquie Ritter will provide a tent, table and chairs. Come join us and celebrate!! We will be passing out Pride swag, and any informational brochures that we have on hand to encourage more visitors.

We also spoke of upcoming events that might be possibilities like hosting fairs, game nights, movie nights, Wayne cruise, Trunk or Treat by coordinating with the city and we spoke of creating Love your Neighbor kits for families in need in our community.

We are always looking for new visitors and people looking for a church so if you know anyone that is looking, please send them our way!

Our next meeting will be April 12th! Join us! Until next month, May/April bring showers for the flowers and dry weather in May for our Spring Bazaar.

For His Sake,
Jacquie Ritter, Outreach Co-chair



Parishioners and clergy from St. Matthew - St. Joseph joined us at St. John's for a beautiful Palm Sunday service.

April Birthdays:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 4 | Violet Streeter | 15 | Joe Tarnowski |
| 5 | Ken Coyne | 17 | Pat Feamster |
| 7 | Joni Fuchs | 21 | Melissa Clayton |

Happy April Anniversary To:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 3 | Pam & Jeff Brescoe | 21 | Joan & Owen Smith |
| 4 | Joan & John Harmon | | |



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

We Bid Farewell To Our Parish Secretary

Janet Swanson, our parish secretary, has submitted her resignation. She has taken a new position at The Henry Ford (Greenfield Village/Henry Ford Museum,) where she has been a long time employee. Her new position requires a greater commitment of time than previous positions have and it will be year-round.



While some of you know Janet, to many of you she's the invisible force in our office. We are all recipients of the fruits of her labor in our Sunday bulletins, sign-in sheets, scheduling of our Church ministry folks, and scheduling and keeping track of the various meetings and other activities within our building. She also did a great service keeping up with the unending correspondence, and especially in her support to the clergy. Her time with us and her work has been much appreciated by our Parish family.

Vaya Con Dios Pax Christie (Go with God in the peace of Christ,) Janet!

Looking for a way to serve our church?
 There are lots of ways to help out. The Altar Guild needs more volunteers, and we need volunteers for upcoming events such as the Spring Bazaar. Contact Jacquie or Mary for more information!



April Altar Guild Schedule

- April 5 Sande G., Julie (Easter Sunday)
- April 12 Wendy C., Violet
- April 19 Sande G., Priscilla
- April 26 Sande G., Julie

FOOD PANTRY OPEN
 Thursday, April 9,
 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
 On the last Sunday of the month collection plate donations go to our Food Pantry Ministry.

APRIL EVENTS CALENDAR

- Sun. April 5 **Easter Egg Hunt**, after service
- Sun. April 12 Outreach Committee, after service
- Sun. April 19 Vestry Meeting, after service

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