



**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 2025 - Volume 1, Issue 1

We're Excited that the Monthly Red Door Newsletter is Back!

After a several year hiatus, Mary and I started talking about resurrecting the newsletter back in December. While all good things are best left unrushed, and this was no exception, it's finally happening! It took us a few months to get ourselves set on this with me trying to adjust to St. John's, and Mary preparing for and ultimately retiring. But here we go! As I always say: Baby steps!

There's been a flurry of activity around here since I arrived - and that's the way that I like it. And judging from the comments I've got from folks, I'm not alone in my thinking! We had a great Christmas and services seem to be going well. I try to switch things up a bit here and there so we always have a bit of fresh things in our services. I truly believe that adds to our worship!

Dan has done some spectacular things with the music. For those that were at the organ chimes dedication with the bishop on March 16th, you could attest to the spectacular job he did showing us the capabilities of those chimes. Bishop Perry was beyond impressed with the chimes and with St. John's in general. Dan's been throwing in some new pieces here and there. We've gotten feedback from folks that they enjoy the music from Let Every Voice Sing (LEVAS) and would like to see more of it used. He's done just that. The trick is that we all have to sing!!

I've noticed a lot more participation - and that's wonderful! Please keep it up! If you have any feedback about the music, please speak to Dan or I. We'd love to hear your thoughts. Speaking of music, Dan puts a lot of effort into musical selections, and does an exceptional job on the preludes and the postludes. One reminder about the prelude. It is there for the purpose of getting us into a quiet, worshipful state. Many (including myself) use that quiet time to pray and prepare for worship. There is no room for socializing during the prelude prior to the bells ringing and service beginning. Please, please, please - refrain from conversation in the church during this time. I know it can be hard sometimes (look at who is preaching about it here!), but let's give reverence and respect to all of us in preparation for our service.

Lent is sailing right by. Soon Palm Sunday and Holy Week - the most solemn and somber week of the year, will be upon us. But through the somberness, remember what awaits us at the end. As the old adage goes, we sometimes have to go through the bad stuff in order to get to the very good stuff! Holy week services are listed to the right. I encourage you to try to be a part of all of it. Being immersed in the path that Jesus took for us brings us closer to him, and allows us to appreciate the greatest gift that we could have ever received through what he did.

I hope you enjoy the return of The Red Door! If there's something that you want to share with our parish family through it, please do not hesitate to speak to Mary and get your article in! You can email her directly at minutemgr@gmail.com.

-Fr. Mitch +

Worship With Us - All are Invited Sunday Service



April 6 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
Rev. Mitch Officiating April 6-20.

Holy Week Services

April 13 9:30 am Palm Sunday
Procession will start outside, weather permitting.

April 17 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday
Service includes foot washing and stripping of the altar.

9:00 pm until Friday April 18.
Night Watch in the lounge. Please consider signing up for an hour (or more) through the night to sit and pray with Jesus, who is jailed during that period prior to crucifixion.

April 18 12:00 pm Good Friday
Traditional Service with communion from the reserve sacrament.

8 pm Tenebrae Service
Ancient monastic service; may be shared with St. Andrews in Livonia. Location & details TBD.

April 20 9:30 am Easter Sunday
Festal Eucharist. Blessing of the new water and fire prior to services, starting outside, weather permitting.

Sunday Service

April 27 9:30 am Morning Prayer
*Officiant: Nick Hamblin
Reader: Sande Godbout*

Consecration of the Peterson Pipe Organ Chimes - Given In Memory of Matt Godbout by Jim and Sande Godbout

On Sunday, March 16 Bishop Bonnie Perry joined us for a special blessing and memorial ceremony at 2 pm. The service was followed by a lovely reception that included photographic tributes to Matt. We were grateful to have Bishop Bonnie join us and make this such a special event.



Thank you to the Godbout family and all of the reception volunteers for this very special tribute to Matt.



A Bit About Our Tower Bells

When Fr. Mtich came to St. John's, the tower bells (the ones up in the steeple) were a bit off kilter. The clock was 13 minutes off, so everything rang 13 minutes early. Bells for the Sunday Mass were ringing at 9:17 am, with the "warning bell" (as many affectionately call it) ringing at 9:04. Noon and 6:00 pm bells were ringing 13 minutes earlier as well. Fr. Mitch went through and reprogrammed all the bells so everything rings on time. We're looking into an upgrade. The system we have is going obsolete. More to come on that in the near future.



Here's when our bells ring and why:

Bell Schedule

Daily

- The Angelus - 12:00 noon and 6:00 PM

The Angelus is an ancient prayer that was traditionally said at 6:00 am, 12:00 noon, and 6:00 pm. The bells rang for the farmers at the time - time for work, lunch, and time to end work for the day. There Angelus bells ring in 3 sets of 3, then a 1 minute swinging bell. The prayer is as follows:

The Angel of Lord announced to Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

(3 Hail Mary's)

"I am the handmaid of the Lord - Let it be doner to me according to thy will."

(3 Hail Mary's)

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

(3 Hail Mary's)

This is followed by 3 hymns on the carillon.

- The De Profundus - 8:00 pm daily

The De Profundus is traditionally rung in monasteries and convents, and is used as a daily memorial to those who have gone before us. Traditionally, psalm 130 is prayed at this time (Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord)

- Call to Worship

A one-minute single bell is run 15 minutes before service, with a peal (4 bells ringing together) rung at the time of service.

We have the ability to manually ring bells for extra services, toll bells for memorial services and funerals, and peal bells for weddings. We can also play hymns on the carillon at any time. In the past, like the sanctuary light, for a donation songs were requested to be played after service on a specific Sunday. If there's an interest for that, please talk to Fr. Mitch - and we could look into resurrecting that.



Birthdays

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

Happy Anniversary to: Pam & Jeff Brescoe 4/3; Joan & John Harmon 4/4; Joan & Owen Smith 4/21

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

Easter Flowers for Our Altar

Flowers may be purchased now through Sunday, April 13. We will have lilies, daffodils tulips and hyacinths. Minimum donation for each potted plant is \$15. Please use the flower order form to submit your donation and include your loved ones name(s) to be honored or remembered. Please place the order form in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office. Thank You!



Shrove Tuesday



On March 4th, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday with a delicious pancake supper and raised over \$400! Special thanks to our kitchen volunteers and everyone who came out to enjoy the meal. You all made this a very special evening!



FOOD PANTRY OPEN

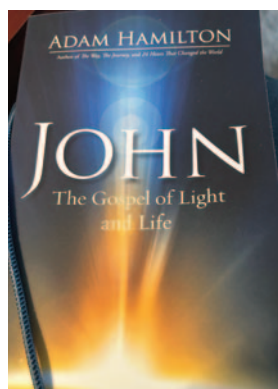
Thursday, April 10,
2 pm - 4 pm

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



Bible Study - Feel Free to Join!

John Buehner has graciously agreed to run a Bible study based on Adam Hamilton's "John-The Gospel of Light and Life". The book is available on Amazon. Even if you don't wish to purchase the book please feel free to sit in on the discussions. [schedule below]



APRIL EVENTS CALENDAR

Sundays:

- Sun. April 6 Coffee Hour *after services*
Daughters of the King, *after services*
- Sun. April 13 Coffee Hour *after services*

Lenten Bible Study:

- Sat. April 5, 12 & 19* Bible Study at 10:00 am
(*May be held on Fri. April 18 at 10:00 am - TBA)

Note: No Vestry Meeting scheduled in April

St. John's Episcopal Church

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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

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2025 OFFICERS

Sande Godbout, Senior Warden

Ken Coyne Junior Warden

Jeannie Coyne, Clerk

Erin Downey-Tarnowski, Treasurer

2025 VESTRY MEMBERS

John Buehner, Nick Hamblin, Julie Jones, Mary Vellardita