

*The Grapevine*  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church



**MARCH 2025**

A Note from Nancy – March 2025

So much is happening just in the first week of March! Tuesday is Mardi Gras Day so eat up all the sugar and fat in your kitchen so you won't be tempted during Lent. Wednesday is Ash Wednesday or the beginning of Lent. I will be in Central Park with "Ashes to Go" from 8 - 10 am and from 2 - 4 pm. The Ash Wednesday Liturgy with the Imposition of Ashes will be at 5:30 pm in the church. ( I will be at St. Francis in Somerset at 7:30 pm.) Thursday is Pet Food Day from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. And..... Saturday night, remember to move your clocks ahead one hour. Whew!

As we move into Lent, let us spend quality time with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit each and every day. As children of God, we are expected to do that. It could be time reading and studying scripture, praying silently or aloud, dancing with joy and thanksgiving, coming to church, listening to special podcasts, visiting with the lonely, assisting the poor, and being available to hear God's response to us.

May you have a Holy Lent.

Love, In Christ,  
Mother Nancy

Sharing Christ's love unconditionally  
through transformational worship and service.

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
335 Locust Street  
Johnstown, PA 15901  
814-535-6797

Email: [stmarks@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:stmarks@atlanticbbn.net)  
Web site  
[www.saintmarksjohnstown.com](http://www.saintmarksjohnstown.com)

**Our Staff:**

**Priest:** Rev. Nancy L. Threadgill  
**Verger:** Cindy Leap  
**Organist:** Dolly Lopresti  
**Treasurer:** Pam Hysong  
**Secretary:** Joanne McKinley  
**Sexton:** Nikki Forsythe

**The Vestry:**

Senior Warden: Lisa Bell Loncella  
Junior Warden: Michael Teore  
Secretary: Doug Zawiskie  
Treasurer: Pam Hysong

**2025**

Cindy Leap  
Susan Wertz Kelly  
Michael Teore

**2026**

Lisa Bell-Loncella  
Richard Burkert  
Tina Grata

**2027**

Donovan Pendell  
Doug Zawiskie  
Colleen Curry

*Please remember  
St. Mark's Church in your will.*

## ***From the Discernment Committee***

The search for our new priest continues and is posted on multiple sites. Based on candidate response, we are reposting the position announcement with updated Parish documents and a new Discernment Prayer (see below).

The members of the St. Mark's Discernment Committee are Richard Burkert and Colleen Curry (Co-Chairs,) Lisa Bell-Loncella, Kitty Batrus, Cindy Leap, Catherine Anne McCloskey and Doug Zawiskie. If you have questions or concerns about how the discernment process is going, please reach out to Richard Burkert (rburkert89@outlook.com) or Colleen Curry (potsie1008@hotmail.com).

The following are links provide more information about our efforts to search for and call a new priest.

St. Mark's Website: <https://saintmarksjohnstown.com/our-search-for-a-new-priest-2025/>

St. Francis Website: <https://www.saintfrancisinthefields.org/our-search-for-a-new-priest>

Diocese: <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/search-for-priest-to-serve-in-johnstown-and-somerset/>

We will continue to keep everyone updated as we continue in the discernment process. Meanwhile, please keep the Discernment Committees, Vestries of both parishes and this process in your prayers as we continue to work through this very important process!

Richard Burkert & Colleen Curry

St. Mark's Discernment Committee Co-Chairs

### ***Prayer for Guidance during our Discernment Process***

*Gracious and loving God, you teach us that things happen in your time. As we continue to wait for clergy candidates, encourage us, the people of St. Francis in the Fields and St. Mark's Episcopal Churches, to grow steadfastly in our ministries to love and serve our neighbors by sharing the Good News in Jesus Christ.*

*Guided by the Holy Spirit, we open our hearts and minds to new opportunities and ideas, following where you lead — knowing that Jesus Christ walks with us each step of the way. As this discernment period evolves, empower the members of our Vestries and Discernment Committees to share their thoughts openly and honestly; to respect the opinions of others; and to encourage humility, patience, and joy. Finally, instill in us a glorious vision of the future: one where we are united in love and ministry in fulfilling the mission of our baptismal vows; through our savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## News of Note

### Many things happening this month!

Be sure to check out all the events this month.

### Shrove Tuesday is March 4

### Ash Wednesday is March 5

The service of imposition of ashes will be Wednesday evening at 5:30. Mother Nancy will be in Central Park with "Ashes to Go" from 8 - 10 am and from 2 - 4 pm.

### Lenten Quiet Day

Join us Saturday, March 22 for a Lenten Quiet Day, a period of respite when time is set aside to be quiet, spend some time with God and refresh your spirit. This year's theme is "What is the purpose of Lent?" The Quiet Day begins at 9 AM and ends at 1 PM and includes a vegetarian lunch. Yes, it will be on zoom. Please call or email the church to receive a zoom invitation. You can find more information elsewhere in the *Grapevine*.

### Ham Loaf Sale

Our congregation is planning a Ham Loaf Sale this month.

We are seeking donations for the ingredients and volunteers to help prepare the loaves on Saturday, March 15 from 9 AM to 12 Noon. Tasks include prepping ingredients, mixing the ham loaves, wrapping and sorting. Many hands make light work. Please plan to join us. More information is available in this issue of the *Grapevine*.

**Sharing Christ's love unconditionally  
through transformational worship and service.**

## Children's Church is Here! Grown-ups Needed!

When I was about five years old, my Sunday school teacher taught that "Jesus is with us all the time." I was a restless and inattentive child, but for some reason, that sentence stuck. From that moment on, I took Jesus with me wherever I went. We climbed trees together and had picnics. He was even brave enough to ride on the back of my tricycle.

In that lesson, Jesus transformed from a vague bearded figure in a bathrobe into my First Friend. That Friendship was foundational to my faith and has seen me through the hardest times of my life.

Oddly, I have no memory of the teacher, not even her face. She may have considered her lesson trite or even silly. She may have thought of herself as a 'cat-herder' or babysitter. But I consider her one of the most impactful people of my life.

Children's ministry is essential to welcoming children to the church. It lets them hear the ancient stories in words that are familiar to them, and makes lessons concrete in games and crafts. It provides a foundation for their faith and relationship with God. It helps them feel truly a part of the family of God.

St. Mark's Children's Church has started, but it needs more volunteers to continue. You can be as active as you like with planning or presenting, or you can just sip coffee and watch to help keep the children safe. All talents and personalities are welcome, and you have no idea the impact you can have.

Please reach out to me or Mother Nancy with any questions or to get started.

Thank you,

Lyssa Nickle-Madden

[lyssanickle@hotmail.com](mailto:lyssanickle@hotmail.com)

229-630-2499



# Lenten Activities at St. Mark's

## Lenten Quiet Day

Saturday, March 22  
9 AM to 1 PM

In person and via Zoom.

## Stations of the Cross

Slide show on the web site:  
<https://saintmarksjohnstown.com/the-way-of-the-cross-stations-of-the-cross/>

Art work and music by our parishioners, a traditional Lenten meditative practice.

## Additional Lenten Resources

- **Forward Day by Day** online forum - a group of prayerful individuals tune in to read the readings, meditation and share their own reflections ... a family of sorts and everyone has something powerful to share. <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/fdd>
- The Brothers of the **Society of St. John the Evangelist** (SSJE, <https://www.ssje.org/>) offer a special Lenten program called "In the Midst."
- **ERDF (Episcopal Relief and Development)** meditations are on line and one can receive them in a daily email (<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/>). The site invites us to reflect on our newness in Christ as we journey through the meditations based on the Daily Lectionary, and discover new ways our faith is guiding us through the world.
- The **Washington National Cathedral** offers daily email meditations written by members of the Cathedral Staff (<https://cathedral.org/lent/>). Daily morning prayer and meditation via YouTube and Facebook <https://cathedral.org/worship/>.
- **Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer podcasts from Forward Movement** (<https://cms.megaphone.fm/channel/FDMV8366345804> and <https://cms.megaphone.fm/channel/FDMV2784874884>); **Forward Day by Day Podcast** (<https://www.forwardmovement.org/Pages/Item/12306/Podcast.aspx>). These are available on most podcast platforms: "Anywhere you listen to podcasts".
- **Lent Madness from Forward Movement** - a great way to learn about the saints and engage in some jolly competition and lighten up your Lent - <https://www.lentmadness.org/>
- **The daily lectionary** - <http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/>
- **Morning prayer from Mission St. Clare** - <https://www.missionstclare.com/english/>.
- **More resources on our Website:**  
<https://saintmarksjohnstown.com/lenten-resources-for-worship-and-study/>



**In-person & via Zoom**  
**Saturday, March 22, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon**

- A Quiet Day is a period of respite when time is set aside to be quiet, spend some time with God and refresh your spirit.
- This year's theme is "What is the purpose of Lent?"
- Event consists of alternating periods of meditation & quiet time followed by final prayers and a vegetarian lunch.
- During quiet times you can engage in relaxing activities, read books available in the Parish Hall or find a quiet spot in the church to read or meditate.
- Participants are asked not to talk until after final prayers.
- Event is free. All are welcome. A vegetarian lunch will be provided.
- If you wish to participate via Zoom, contact The Reverend Nancy Threadgill at [revnancy-stmarks@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:revnancy-stmarks@atlanticbbn.net) or (814) 535-6797 in advance of the event to obtain the login information.

# Ham Loaf Sale

St Mark's is planning a Ham Loaf sale this Spring. We hope you may be available to help with this effort for the benefit of the church and our community.



- Our **prep day will be Saturday, March 15, beginning at 9:00 AM.**
  - We need people to measure ingredients, weigh meat, mix the ham loaves, wrap them, make the glaze and clean up. With enough volunteers we can finish in 3 to 4 hours!
- We are in need of the following supplies:
  - ~~15~~ 46 oz. cans of pineapple juice
  - 9 dozen eggs
  - 2 gallons of cider vinegar
  - ~~19~~ boxes of cornflakes (cheapest brand)
  - Donations to cover the cost of the meat

We are still accepting **donations of supplies** and **monetary donations to pay for the meat.**

## **Ham loaves are for sale frozen with glazing sauce and baking instructions.**

- One pound loaves will be available for pick-up at a cost of \$9.
- Two-pound loaves will be available for pick-up at a cost of \$17.
- We are sold out, but we're taking names in case there are extras.
- Pre-ordered loaves will be available for pickup at the Church Office after March 20.
- To order ham loaves, call (814) 535-6797 or email [stmarks@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:stmarks@atlanticbbn.net). Please schedule a pick-up time when you place your order.
- Proceeds from the ham loaf sale benefit ECW Ministries and St. Marks.



# Diocesan-Wide Lenten Book Study

Dear Friends,

Our diocesan-wide Epiphany prayer course has concluded, and I now invite you to join me for an online book study during Lent. Since my heart continues to nudge me toward prayer, I invite you to read with me *How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People* by English author and pastor, Pete Greig.



This book study will take place online via Zoom on **Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. The group will meet virtually for 1-hour sessions beginning Sunday, March 16 and ending Sunday, April 6.**

One can [register here](#) or via the link below. If you sign up, please purchase a copy of the book as soon as possible and read the first 47 pages in advance of the March 16 session.

I hope you will join me in this continued effort to delve further into the art of learning and practicing the spiritual discipline of prayer.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Pete Greig".

[Register Now!](#)

*How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People* by Pete Greig is available at:

**Bookshop.org:** <https://bookshop.org/p/books/how-to-pray-a-simple-guide-for-normal-people-pete-greig/16623325>

**Barnes & Noble:** <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/how-to-pray-pete-greig/1130803572>

**Amazon:** <https://www.amazon.com/How-Pray-Simple-Normal-People/dp/1641581883/>



## Readers and Greeters – March, April & May 2025

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Greeters &amp; Ushers</b>
March 2	Joann Lacko & Colleen Curry	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter
March 9	Pam Hysong & Tina Grata	Sam & Heidi Buchan
March 16	Richard Burkert & Lisa Bell-Loncella	Amy & Penn Whitlow
March 23	Pam Hysong and Tina Grata	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter
March 30	Donovan Pendell & Richard Burkert	Tina Grata & Joann Lacko
April 6	Lisa Bell-Loncella & Colleen Curry	Melisa Babalonis & Aiden
April 13	Richard Burkert and Tina Grata	Sam & Heidi Buchan
April 20 (Easter)	Pam Hysong & Lisa Bell-Loncella	Amy & Penn Whitlow
April 27	Joann Lacko & Doug Zawiskie	Richard Burkert & Tina Grata
May 4	Joann Lacko & Colleen Curry	Melisa Babalonis & Aiden
May 11	Pam Hysong & Tina Grata	Sam & Heidi Buchan
May 18	Richard Burkert & Lisa Bell-Loncella	Amy & Penn Whitlow
May 25	Pam Hysong and Tina Grata	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter

If you are unable to read on the day you are scheduled, please find a substitute or let Mother Nancy know so a sub can be found in a timely manner. Thank you.

## Calendar and Hospitality Committee Tentative Plans for the Coming Months

### **March:**

- Mardi Gras Pot Luck (3/2)
- Shrove Tuesday, March 4
- Ash Wednesday, March 5
- Ham Loaf Prep (3/15)
- Lenten Quiet Day (3/22)

### **April:**

- Palm Sunday (4/13)
- Holy Week (4/14—4/19)
- Easter (4/20)

### **May:**

- Mother's Day (5/11)
- Pot Luck Brunch (5/18)
- Calendar Committee meeting (5/22)
- Memorial Day (5/26)

### **June:**

- Pentecost (6/8)
- Father's Day (6/15)
- Strawberries for Coffee Hour (6/22)

**2025  
EASTER MEMORIAL BOOKLET**

**Listing Request Form**

Honor your Loved one this EASTER, by remembering them in our Easter Booklet.  
The Cost is \$10.00 for every two names or \$25.00 for unlimited names.

Please mail your listing request to the Church Office or  
Place it in the Sunday Collection Box or email your requests to the office.

Deadline is Sunday, April 6th.

Please carefully print the following information:

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify "In honor of", "In memory of" or "In Thanksgiving"

In Honor \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

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Payment Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No      Amount \_\_\_\_\_



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### **ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL**

February has come to an end and we have seen an increase in the number of families coming to us for help to feed their pets.

We would especially like to thank Carol Harp, Jennifer Hartland, Karen & Barry Orner, Victoria Lucas Orledge, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Diana Mock, Ms. Margie Duranko, Tim Cicotello, Bill & Kathy Sampson, Valerie Kasper, Mark & Helen Mishler, Carol & Lou Schaffer, Annett Kristofco, John & Sharon Fleck, Chris & Delbert Hess, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Loushe, Barbara Thomas, Hlen Petruska, Healing Hearts, for their continued support.

During the month of February we were able to assist 124 Families, with 8 Emergency "walk ins". We are seeing an increase in cats and kittens.

#### **Totals for the month of February were:**

Dogs:	Dry food	860 lbs	108 lbs puppy food
Cats:	Dry food	750 lbs	140 lbs kitten food

#### **Total for January thru February:**

Dogs	Dry Food	2255 lbs
Cats	Dry Food	2895 lbs

Pet Food Dates for March:      March 6<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

God Bless you!

*Cynthia Greig and Joanne McKinley*



### **2025 Weekly Altar Flowers & Monthly Altar Candles**

Donation price is \$30 a Sunday for flowers and \$8 a month for candles. Please contact Parish Office with your requests.

**We have openings for the entire year.**

**During Lent:** March 5th through April 13th there are no flowers on the Altar. However, if you wish, you may request a seven- day Sanctuary Candle which will burn over the ambry in honor of your loved one.



## **COLLECTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH**



### **Heat and Snow Removal**

The First Collection for the Month is for snow removal and heating costs.

### **Building Fund Campaign**

The second collection of the month is for our Building Fund Campaign. There are major repairs needed at the Narthex of the Church due to water damage from the roof. Your continued generosity towards the Building Fund Campaign is making it happen!



### ***Mission***

All families of the church are encouraged to donate \$1.00 on the Third Sunday of the month for Missions. Please mark your donation separately for Mission.

### ***Pastoral Care***

All families of the church are encouraged to donate \$1.00 on the Fourth Sunday of the month for our Pastoral Care. Please mark your donation separately for Pastoral Care.

## **VESTRY MEETING**


**Thursday, March 20th, 6:30 pm**

Also on Zoom

## **DONATE ONLINE**

Pay your pledge or donate to our special collections online using PayPal or a Credit Card. Go to the Donate page of our website to make your donation.:

<https://saintmarksjohnstown.com/give-to-support-st-marks-and-its-ministries/>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MARCH</b>						1
2 <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist Rt II</b> Church & Zoom	3	4	5 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> <b>Church &amp; Zoom</b>	6 <b>PET FOOD PANTRY</b> 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM	7	8
9 <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist Rt II</b> Church & Zoom Daylight Savings Time	10	11	12	13	14	15 <b>Ham Loaf Prep</b> <b>9:00 to 1:00</b>
16 <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist Rt II</b> Church & Zoom	17  Happy St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 <b>Vestry Meeting 6:30 PM</b> In person & Zoom	21	22 <b>Lenten Quiet Day</b>
23 <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist Rt I</b> Church & Zoom	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist Rt II</b> Church & Zoom	31			<b>3/5 Ashes to Go: 8:00 am to 10:00 am In Central Park</b> <b>3:00 pm to 4:00 pm</b>  <b>Pet Food Pantry: 3-6 10:00 am to 2:00 pm</b>		