



The Grapevine
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

MAY 2025

A Note from Nancy – May 2025

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

As I look out my office window, the sun is shining, the sky is blue, it is a beautiful Spring day. I am amazed at all the different greens I see on the trees as the leaves return after winter's sleep. God's creation is glorious today!

I can't say the same for last night, however. Around dinner time, we had an unbelievable storm. The wind was strong and blew sideways so the rain came down sideways. My cat, Samson, was outside and I was worried about him. I paced from the front door to the back door and back again. Magic and Lilibet did the same until the storm ended and Samson appeared – wet but unhurt. I learned later that two trees behind the house across the street were toppled and their roots had come out of the ground. Many homes in the Johnstown area were without power over night.

On reflection, isn't that how life is – wild and crazy one minute and then calm and serene the next? I think it would be wise during this Easter Season to remember how we get through every day with all the ups and downs, the knowns and unknowns, the joys and the griefs. For me it is my faith in God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit that keeps me going. Yes, I worried about Samson, but I also knew that he was being protected by angels just as I am protected and you are protected each and every second of every day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Love, In Christ,
Mother Nancy

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

335 Locust Street
Johnstown, PA 15901
814-535-6797
Email: stmarks@atlanticbbs.net
Web site
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

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 Discernment Committees of St. Mark's and St. Francis in the Fields are working with the Diocese on discernment of a potential candidate for the shared priest-in-charge position. The Committee co-chairs decided to pursue interviews and St. Mark's committee met on Monday, April 7. Both Committees agreed to move forward with a second joint interview. We will provide more information as we progress through the process.

Please continue to keep both Discernment Committees and parishes in your prayers!

Our Discernment Committee members are Richard Burkert and Colleen Curry (Co-Chairs,) Lisa Bell-Loncella, Kitty Batrus, Cindy Leap, Catherine Anne McCloskey and Doug Zawiskie.

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

St. Mark's Website:

<https://saintmarksjohnstown.com/shared-priest-in-charge-search/>

St. Francis Website:

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

Diocese/Grace Happens: [Search for Priest to Serve in Johnstown and Somerset – Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh \(episcopalpgh.org\)](https://www.episcopalpgh.org/search-for-priest-to-serve-in-johnstown-and-somerset)

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).

Richard Burkert & Colleen Curry

St. Mark's Discernment Committee Co-Chairs

Prayers for our Search

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.

Prayer for a New Priest

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, we humbly ask you to supply your grace to all priests who are called to the ministry of your peoples. Fill them with the Holy Spirit, the truth of your doctrine, and clothe them with piety so that they may faithfully serve where they are called. Open their hearts to the possibility and consideration of a new path whereby they may serve you. We beseech you to guide to us, the pastor you would have shepherd your people at St. Francis in the Fields and St. Mark's. Open the hearts of these parish families to acceptance of your choice for us, so that together, we may increase our faith, devotion, and obedience, and be prepared to readily do the good works you have planned for us to do. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

From the Senior Warden

Forward Day by Day

You've seen the little books ... on the chair next to the basket with the bulletins as you enter the church. Many at St. Mark's use them in their daily devotions. I grew up seeing the little books on my parents' bedside table. One Sunday (a long time ago) I picked one up from the rack in the narthex at St. Mark's and brought it home. My spiritual life needed a boost; the meditation guides I had been using weren't working. I needed something new. I started just reading the scripture passage and the meditation. After some time I started reading the lessons appointed in the daily lectionary (listed at the top of the page) and underlining passages and making notes in my *Bible*. The *Daily Lectionary* is a two-year cycle and after a few years I was reading the same stories again. After the second, and third time, I was seeing things I had missed the first time, and they were still speaking to me!

If you read every page of every issue of the *Grapevine* you might recognize these ramblings from last May. The last few weeks I've been overwhelmed with end-of-term responsibilities. As I was reflecting on what to write, I remembered this entry. This reminder *For Today* jumped out at me.

Next time you pick up a copy, look inside the front and back cover. This prayer is one of my favorites.

For Today

O God:

Give me strength to live another day;

Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties;

Let me not lose faith in other people;

Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness;

Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them;

Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity;

Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things;

Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth;

Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness;

and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls;

in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Blessings,

Lisa

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

PASTORAL CARE

Please remember all mothers this Mother's Day, your own, yourself and those who nurture others in their daily lives. Those who counsel and assist friends, family members, neighbors and strangers. Those who care for animals, nature and the Earth. Perhaps you cannot be with your loved one at this crucial time of distancing, but remember, they are always in your heart and thoughts.

A Mother's Prayer For You

I said a Mother's Day prayer for you
to thank the Lord above
for blessing me with a lifetime
of your tenderhearted love.

I thanked God for the caring
you've shown me through the years,
for the closeness we've enjoyed
in time of laughter and of tears.

And so, I thank you from the heart
for all you've done for me
and I bless the Lord for giving me
the best mother there could be!

~ *Anon.*



Happy Mother's Day to you and blessings to you and yours this month of May.
Pastoral Care Ministry

Schedule for Readers & Greeters — May, June & July 2025

Sunday	Readers	Greeters & Ushers
May 4	Joann Lacko & Colleen Curry	Melisa Babalonis & Aiden
May 11	Pam Hysong & Tina Grata	Joann Lacko & Colleen Curry
May 18	Richard Burkert & Colleen Curry	Amy & Penn Whitlow
May 25	Pam Hysong and Tina Grata	Richard Burkert & Tina Grata
June 1	Joann Lacko & Colleen Curry	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter
June 8	Pam Hysong & Tina Grata	Amy & Penn Whitlow
June 15	Richard Burkert & Lisa Bell-Loncella	Sam & Heidi Buchan
June 22	Pam Hysong and Tina Grata	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter
June 29	Donovan Pendell & Richard Burkert	Tina Grata & Joann Lacko
July 6	Lisa Bell-Loncella & Colleen Curry	Melisa Babalonis & Aiden
July 13	Richard Burkert and Tina Grata	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter
July 20	Pam Hysong & Lisa Bell-Loncella	Sam & Heidi Buchan
July 27	Joann Lacko & Doug Zawiskie	Richard Burkert & Tina Grata

If you are unable to read or usher 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

May:

- Mother's Day (5/11)
- Spring Clean-up (5/17)
- Pot Luck Brunch (5/18)
- Calendar Committee meeting (5/20)
- Memorial Day (5/26)

June:

- Pentecost (6/8)
- Father's Day (6/15)
- Juneteenth (6/19)
- Strawberries for Coffee Hour (6/22)

July:

- Independence Day (7/4)
- Christmas in July (7/20 or 7/27)

You are invited!

Yes! You!

You are invited to register and come to our Diocesan Ministry Celebration Day, which will include a delicious dinner!

When: Sunday, May 18, 2025

Where: Christ Church, North Hills
5910 Babcock Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Time: 3:30-6:30 p.m.



Why participate in this special celebration? Simply because it would be lovely to spend time together in in-person-fellowship with each other.

This year's agenda will include a presentation that I will offer on prayer; small group discussions; and time spent praying together. What's more, we will showcase the various ministries that are taking place in our midst and take time to say hello to one another. The afternoon will conclude with a [delicious catered dinner](#).

What's more, this will be an occasion to informally meet the Rev. Canon Joann Saylors, our Canon to the Ordinary for Mission, Vitality, and Administration.

So we can plan for the hospitality, please register below and come and celebrate!

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joann Saylors".

[Click here to Register Now!](#)

Flower and Plant Fundraiser



The ECW is having its annual Plant Sale Fund Raiser together with Stuver's Riverside Nursery. Coupons are now available. Stuver's coupons are available for

- A flat of annual flowers (8 market packs) for \$14.50
- A hanging basket/pouch for \$19.00.

There are a few changes to the program this year:

- **Flat coupons will be for flats (8 market packs) of annual flowers only.** (Perennials are not included in the fundraiser.)
- **Annual flowers sold in 4 ½ inch pots are not included in the fundraiser.** (They will be sold individually.)
- **Flats of vegetables are \$16.50 and can be purchased with a Flat coupon plus an additional \$2.00.**
- **Flowers and vegetables cannot be mixed in one flat** because of the price difference.

Coupons will be available in the church office and can be redeemed at Stuver's Nursery for the flowers of your choice until June 8, 2025. For best selection it is recommended that you shop early.

Stuver's Riverside Nursery will reimburse the ECW \$3.00 for each flat coupon and \$5.00 for each basket/pouch coupon sold. No sales tax is paid because this is a fundraiser. It is a convenient way to purchase flowers and the coupon holder can choose the flowers that they want.

These coupons make nice gifts for Mother's Day.

SPRING CLEAN UP

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Rain date: 5/31

9:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON



As the warm weather settles in and the plants begin to bloom, the weeds begin to crop up and the gardens need attention!

Please take time from your busy schedule to help beautify the Church Courtyard and surroundings. You will need gloves, rakes, and small garden tools. A light Lunch will follow. The more workers, the less time it will take to do the job.

Sacred Ground Dialogue Sessions Starting Soon



Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

In the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the *Sacred Ground* sessions are presented by our Beloved Community Initiative (BCI) and coordinated by our BCI Program Manager, [Shahnaz Alam Denlinger](#).

A new 9 week Level 1 course, available both in-person and online, will be starting on Thursday, May 29, at 6 p.m. at St. Thomas in Oakmont.

A new 7 week Level 2 course, also available both in-person and online, will be starting on Wednesday, May 14, at 6 p.m. at St. Thomas.

[Much More Information is Here.](#)



For those who are not aware, our diocese produces a monthly e-letter titled *Grace Happens*. If you are not already a subscriber go to <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/resources/grace-happens/> and you will be redirected to the sign up page.



2025 Weekly Altar Flowers & Monthly Altar Candles

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

5/11 (1), 5/18 (1), 5/25 (2)
6/1 (1), 6/8 (1), 6/15 (2), 6/22 (2), 6/29 (2), 7/6 (1)
8/1 (1), 8/4(1), 8/25 (1), 9/7 (1), 9/14 (1), 9/28 (2)
10/5 (1), 10/19 (1), 10/26 (2)
11/2(1), 11/9 (1), 11/16 (2), 11/23 (1)
12/7 (1), 12/21 (1), 12/28 (2)



Animal Welfare Ministry

The First Collection of the Month will be for our Animal Welfare Ministry.
Thank you for your continued support and generosity.



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!

Missions

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the Third Sunday of each month for our missions support. Please be sure to mark your donation separately Missions.

Pastoral Care

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the fourth Sunday of each month for our Pastoral Care. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for Pastoral Care.

VESTRY MEETING

Thursday, May 22nd

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/>



ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

St. Mark's Animal Welfare Ministry

335 Locust St.

Johnstown, Pa. 15901



We have finished another busy month here at the Pet Food Pantry.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Pet Food Ministry: Carol J. Harp, Valerie Kasper, John & Betty Gritzer, John & Sharon Flick, Marion Gaydos, Tim Cicotello, Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Hess, Bill & Cathy Sampson, Carol & Lou Shaffer, Dennis & Carol Loushe, Joanne A. Knapp, Nardecchia Spay-Neuter, Linda Cordes, Donna Rzasas, Theresa Kosaber, Annette M. Kristofco, Wendy Arcurio, The Late Dr. Andrew George Jr., Connie Rambnich, Helen Petruska and Joann Lacko.

A special "thank you" to Cinnamon's Closet for their donation of 30 lbs of biscuits.

During the month of April we were able to assist 119 Families, with 10 them being new to the Pet Food Pantry.

We were able to help feed:

169 Dogs and 19 Puppies 570 Cats and 76 Kittens

Totals for the month of April were:

Dogs & Puppies: Dry food 3580 lbs

Cats & Kittens: Dry food 960 lbs

Total for January thru April:

Dogs Dry Food 3880 lbs

Cats Dry Food 4685 lbs

Pet Food Dates for May: May 25th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Many Thanks,

Cynthia Greig, and Joanne McKinley

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Animal Welfare Ministry

Happy May Anniversary!

Irene & Vince Joyce
May 23, 1970



Heidi & Sam Buchan
May 22, 1993

Remember Today In Your Prayers:

Louise Mead, Susan Kelly & Mike Teore, Bill & Doris Horner, Catherine McCloskey, Maryann Marchl, Rick McKinley, David Wertz & Rebecca Church, Stacy Moskal, Randy Maurer.

Continue to Remember In Your Personal Prayers:

Carol Adams, Donovan Pendell, Cynthia Greig, Dottie Venet, Bonnie Murray, Vince & Irene Joyce, Richard Burkert, Regina Hoover, Daniel Wertz, Jr., Shawn & Tyler McKinley, Brooklyn Balamuta & Family, Jim Russell, Marlene Rhin, Lou Hoffer, Casey Daganhardt.

Rest in Peace


Please remember in your prayers, Jim Russell, a long time member of St. Mark's who passed away on April 14th. *Eternal Rest grant unto him O Lord.*



HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY



Name	Date	Name	Date
<i>Joanne Faint</i>	6	<i>Pam Mayer</i>	13
<i>Trish Corle</i>	7	<i>Sharon Howarth</i>	23
<i>Heidi Buchan</i>	8	<i>Genevieve Berkley</i>	25
<i>Melissa Babalonis</i>	13		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAY				1	2	3
4 11:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rt II Church & Zoom	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 11:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rt II Church & Zoom MOTHER'S DAY	12	13	14	15 PET FOOD PANTRY 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM	16	17
18 11:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rt II Church & Zoom	19	20 Calendar Committee 5:30:00 PM	21	22 Vestry Meeting 6:30:00 PM	23	24
25 11:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rt I Church & Zoom Pot Luck Lunch	26 MEMORIAL DAY 	27	28	29	30	31