

The Grapevine
St. Mark's Episcopal Church



MARCH 2026

A Note from Nancy – March 2026

This is difficult note for me to write, knowing that it is the last of many through the years.

You, the St. Mark's family, have been a joy to be with. You have been open to change in many ways, from experiencing liturgical varieties to changing service times to starting new church traditions (cats joining in the services, etc.) You have also been opening your hearts and minds to learning to love God with your entire beings and to love your neighbors as Jesus loves you. St. Mark's is known in the area as a church that will welcome everyone, including people from different denominations and the LGBTQ Community. I thank you for that.

I also thank you for the wonderful celebration of my retirement. It is a bittersweet time for me and for you. I was ok in church last Sunday until I saw some of you with tears in your eyes. It was then that tears came to mine. The dinner that night was incredible! So many people from St. Mark's and St. Francis came to wish me well. What a send-off! I thank Joanne and Pam for putting that together.

Your notes of congratulations, the gift cards and the contributions to my travel fund have been overwhelming! When I came to St. Mark's, I was told by the bishop that you were a congregation that needed to be loved. That was easy and I took his advice to heart. But, you have loved me back and I am grateful.

Johnstown is now my home. We will see each other often because Johnstown is small city and our paths will cross.

You remain in my prayers daily.

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@breezelinebiz.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
Colleen Curry
Junior Warden: Richard Burkert
Secretary: Doug Zawiskie
Treasurer: Pam Hysong

2026

Lisa Bell-Loncella
Richard Burkert
Tina Grata

2027

Donovan Pendell
Doug Zawiskie
Colleen Curry

2028

Louise Mead
Valarie Schultz
Cynthia Frank

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

From the Senior Wardens

In January Bishop Ketlen announced a new initiative in the Diocese. Starting February 1 the Rev. Kimberly "Kim" M. Karashin began serving in a new role as Missioner for Small Churches. This position will allow for providing fuller care for our smaller parishes, including St. Mark's.

Many of us at St. Mark's know Kim+ as the Canon for Transitions as she guided us through the discernment process. In her new role, one of her primary concerns will be ensuring that gaps in liturgical leadership and pastoral care are adequately filled. She will be filling these gaps herself on a regular basis, but also coordinating with a network of other clergy who are able to pitch in. Before she left Mother Nancy trained our Lay Worship Leaders. As it become necessary or helpful, Kim+ will facilitate the training and licensing of Lay Worship Leaders and Eucharistic Visitors.

So as we bid Mother Nancy Best Wishes on her Retirement, we welcome The Rev. Kim Karashin as our Missioner for Small Churches to guide and shepherd us through this interim period. In a recent communication Missioner Kim assured us that providing St. Mark's and St. Francis with as enriching a Holy Week and Easter as possible is at the top of her list of concerns.

When the Calendar Committee met in November, we planned for Holy Week and Easter with the assumption that we would most likely not have clergy for most of the services that have become tradition for Holy Week at St. Mark's. In calling Rev. Kim to the ministry of Missioner for Small Churches, God has blessed us at St. Mark's with a caring steward and guide. With Kim+'s help we have the following schedule for Holy Week:

- Palm Sunday, 10 AM Holy Eucharist, The Rev. Norm Erb-White
- Monday, 6 PM Reconciliation of a Penitent, Litany of Penitence and Evening Prayer - Lay Led
- Tuesday, 6 PM A Service of Healing Prayer and Compline - Lay Led
- Wednesday, 6 PM Night Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book - Lay Led
- Thursday, 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service, The Rev. Kim Karashin
- Friday, 12 Noon Good Friday Service, The Rev. Kim Karashin
- Saturday, 9 AM Holy Saturday Liturgy (Lay led or Rev Kim K)
- Sunday, 10 AM Easter Sunday The Rev. Kim Karashin

We also have a tentative schedule for the month following Easter:

- April 12 Morning Prayer Lay-led
- April 19 Morning Prayer Lay-led
- April 26 Holy Eucharist The Rev. Bill Geiger
- May 3 Morning Prayer Lay-led

We ask your continued prayers during our interim process,

Colleen & Lisa

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, p 832)

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.

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. Mark's and St. Francis in the Fields. 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.

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

Lenten Activities at St. Mark's

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 reflections on the Sermon on the Mount
- **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/>

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

229-630-2499



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 21, 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 groceries to be at the church by March 15.
 - 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 \$9.00
- Two-pound loaves will be available for pick-up at a cost of \$17.00
- Orders must be placed by March 13
- To order ham loaves, call (814) 535-6797 or email stmarks@atlanticbbn.net.
- Pick-up at the church will be March 23—27, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Proceeds from the ham loaf sale benefit ECW Ministries and St. Marks.

Readers and Greeters – March, April & May 2026

March 1	HE	Richard Burkert & Tina Grata	Melisa Babalonis & Aiden
March 8	MP	Donovan Pendell & Joann Lacko	Sam & Heidi Buchan
March 15	MP	Doug Zawiskie & Richard Burkert	Jane & Jerry Strittmatter
March 22	MP	Lisa Bell-Loncella & Donna Carosi	Amy & Penn Whitlow
March 29	HE	Richard Burkert & Joann Lacko	Tina Grata, Colleen Curry
April 5	HE	Donovan Pendell & Pam Hysong	Melisa Babalonis & Aiden
April 12	MP	Doug Zawiskie & Tina Grata	Sam & Heidi Buchan
April 19	MP	Colleen Curry & Donna Carosi	Jane & Jerry Strittmatter
April 26	MP	Joann Lacko & Lisa Bell-Loncella	Amy & Penn Whitlow
May 3	MP	Richard Burkert, Donovan Pendell	Tina Grata & Joann Lacko
May 10	MP	Doug Zawiskie & Colleen Curry	Melisa Babalonis & Aiden
May 17	MP	Pam Hysong & Joann Lacko	Sam & Heidi Buchan
May 24	MP	Lisa Bell-Loncella & Donna Carosi	Amy & Penn Whitlow
May 31	MP	Richard Burkert, Donovan Pendell	Jane & Jerry 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:

- Mother Nancy's Retirement Dinner (3/1)
- Saturday's Kitchen (3/7)
- Compline 8 PM (3/18)
- Vestry Meeting (3/19)
- Ham Loaf Prep (3/21)
- Palm Sunday (3/29)
- Holy Week (3/30—4/4)

April:

- Easter (4/5)
- Compline (4/15)

May:

- Pot Luck Brunch (5/3)
- Mother's Day (5/10)
- Calendar Committee meeting (5/19)
- Compline (5/20)
- Vestry Meeting (5/21)
- Pentecost (5/24)
- Memorial Day (5/25)

June:

- Father's Day (6/21)
- Strawberries for Coffee Hour (6/21)

**2026
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 _____

Payment Enclosed: _____ Yes _____ No Amount _____

Happy March Anniversary!

*Don & Kitty Batrus
March 1st*

*Sam & Heidi Buchan
March 22nd*



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY



NAME	DATE	NAME	DATE
<i>Allison Kelly</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>St. Patrick</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Liam Shaffer</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Valarie Schultz</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Trevor Buchan</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Vincent Joyce</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Lauren Burkert Lazzari</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Doris Horner</i>	<i>28</i>

Remember Today In Your Prayers:

Catherine McCloskey, Louise Mead, Jane & Jerry Strittmatter, Carol Adams, Susan Kelly & Mike Teore, Maryann Marchl, Rick McKinley, David Wertz & Rebecca Church, Randy Maurer & Gwen Hartnett, Carol Loushe.

Continue to Remember In Your Personal Prayers:

Donovan Pendell, Cynthia Greig, Bonnie Murray, Vince & Irene Joyce, Richard Burkert, Regina Hoover, Bill & Doris Horner, Shawn & Tyler McKinley, Marlene Rhin, Lou Hoffer.





2026 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.

We have openings for the entire year.

During Lent: February 18th through April 4th, 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 19th, 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
MARCH						
1 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rt II Church & Zoom	2	3	4	5 PET FOOD PANTRY 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM	6	7 Saturday's Kitchen
8 10:00 AM Morning Prayer Rt II Church & Zoom Daylight Savings Time	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 10:00 AM Morning Prayer Rt I Church & Zoom	16	17  Happy St. Patrick's Day	18 Compline 8 PM Zoom	19 Vestry Meeting 6:30 PM In person & Zoom	20	21 Ham Loaf Prep 9:00 to 1:00
22 10:00 AM Morning Prayer Rt II Church & Zoom	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rt II Church & Zoom Palm Sunday	30 Litany of Penitence Evening Prayer 6:00 PM	31 Healing Service Compline 6:00 PM	1 Night Prayer 6:00 PM	3/30 6:00 PM Reconciliation of a Penitent 3/31 6:00 pm Healing Service 4/1 6:00 pm Night Prayer 4/2 6:00 pm Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping Altar 4/3 12:00 Noon Good Friday Liturgy		