



The Grapevine
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

APRIL MAY 2026

A Note from the Wardens – April / May 2026

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

While it is hard to believe two months have gone by since Mother Nancy retired, the people of St. Mark's have demonstrated our resiliency and community spirit during that period! It has been wonderful to see so many of you attending the services and we are thankful to all who have stepped up to ensure this wonderful parish community continues to grow and thrive!

As you may know, Rev. Kim Karashin is fully embracing her new role as Small Church Missioner for the Diocese! She has been instrumental in scheduling our supply priests so far and is determined that we will be able to celebrate Holy Eucharist at least twice per month! The Diocese is also taking a more active role in trying to find a permanent priest for St. Mark's and St. Francis in the Fields.

The month of May will bring four Sundays of Holy Eucharist, with one of them celebrated at St. Francis in the Fields (Somerset) instead of St. Mark's! The Rev. Norm Erb-White will officiate at St. Mark's on May 10 and May 17. Pentecost (May 24) and Trinity Sunday (May 31) will be celebrated by Rev. Kim Karashin. Since Rev. Kim is the only available priest then, both parish Vestries agreed to hold combined parish services those two Sundays rather than try to change service times. The May 24 service will be held at St. Francis in the Fields (Somerset) at 10 AM. We will coordinate carpooling to Somerset that day and the service will also be available online. The May 31 service will be at St. Mark's, and the St. Francis congregation will come celebrate with us in our beautiful church!

Finally, Mother Nancy's departure also meant that the Senior Warden had to undertake additional duties until a new priest can be found. To help balance the workload and ensure that nothing important falls through the cracks, Lisa Bell-Loncella and Colleen Curry have been serving as co-Senior Wardens for the past several months to share the responsibilities. As always, do not hesitate to reach out to either of us with any questions or concerns.

Good's Blessings,
 Colleen and Lisa

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
 Web site
www.saintmarksjohnstown.com

Our Staff:
Priest: Rev. Nancy L. Threadgill
Vergers: 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.*

Schedule for Readers & Greeters – May, June & July 2026

Sunday		Readers	Greeters & Ushers
May 3	MP	Doug Zawiskie & Donovan Pendell	Tina Grata & Joann Lacko
May 10	HE	Richard Burkert & Lisa Bell-Loncella	Melissa Babalonis & Aiden Barlow
May 17	HE	Pam Hysong & Joann Lacko	Sam & Heid Buchan
May 24	HE	@ St. Francis Somerset	
May 31	HE	Colleen Curry & Donovan Pendell	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter
June 7	MP	Joann Lacko & Donna Carosi	Amy & Penn Whitlow
June 14	MP	Doug Zawiskie & Colleen Curry	Tina Grata & Joann Lacko
June 21	MP	Donovan Pendell & Richard Burkert	Melissa Babalonis & Aiden Barlow
June 28	MP	Pam Hysong & Joann Lacko	Sam & Heidi Buchan
July 5	MP	Tina Grata & Doug Zawiskie	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter
July 12	MP	Donna Carosi & Colleen Curry	Amy & Penn Whitlow
July 19	MP	Lisa Bell-Loncella & Richard Burkert	Tina Grata & Joann Lacko
July 26	MP	Pam Hysong & Joann Lacko	Melissa Babalonis & Aiden Barlow

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

Worship Schedule May 2026

Sunday, May 3, Morning Prayer Colleen Curry

Sunday, May 10, Holy Eucharist with Fr. Norm Erb-White

Sunday, May 17, Holy Eucharist with Fr. Norm Erb-White

Sunday, May 24, Pentecost, Holy Eucharist with Rev. Kimberly Karashin at St. Francis

Sunday, May 31, Trinity Sunday, Holy Eucharist with Rev. Kimberly Karashin

Calendar and Hospitality Committee Tentative Plans for the Coming Months

May:

- Pot Luck (5/3)
- Mother's Day—Special Coffee hour (5/10)
- Spring Clean-up (5/17)
- Calendar Committee meeting (5/19)
- Pentecost (5/24) at St. Francis
- Memorial Day (5/25)
- Trinity Sunday (5/31) at St. Mark's

June:

- Father's Day (6/21)
- Juneteenth (6/19)
- Strawberries for Coffee Hour (6/21)

July:

- Independence Day (7/4)
- Saturday's Kitchen (7/11)
- Christmas in July (7/19 or 7/26)

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

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.

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 \$15.00
- A hanging basket/pouch for \$20.00.

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 \$17.00 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 1, 2026. 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 23rd

Rain date: 5/30

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.

SHARING OUR STORY

Join us for a day retreat at St. Michael's, Ligonier to discern how God has acted in each of OUR lives and grow more comfortable sharing those experience with others.



Featuring

The Rev. Robert Heaney
Virginia Theological
Seminary



WHEN: Saturday, May 23
9:30am - 4pm

WHERE: St. Michael's of the Valley
Episcopal Church
2535 State Rt. 381, Rector, PA

WHAT: A day of fellowship, conversation,
study, and prayer. Lunch included!

Christianity is about testimony, people sharing the story. The story of Jesus Christ, passed down by his disciples around the world in every generation, and the stories of God's love and power experienced by our neighbors which makes the Gospel real here and now.

We'll be joined by the Rev. Robert Heaney, professor of Theology and Mission at Virginia Theological Seminary. Dr. Heaney is a priest and theologian with experience teaching and ministering on three continents. [Please register here](#). There is no charge, and lunch will be included! Please register here.

For more information, please call 724-238-9411 or jbrownfield@stmichaelsligonier.org.



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.



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.

5/10 (1), 5/17 (1), 5/24 (2), 5/31 (2)
6/7 (1), 6/14 (1), 6/21 (2), 6/28 (2)
8/2 (1), 8/30 (1), 9/21 (1), 9/27 (1)
10/4 (1), 10/18 (1), 10/25 (2)
11/1 (1), 11/8 (1), 11/15 (2), 11/22 (1), 11/29 (1)
12/27 (1)



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 21

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 two very busy months here at the Pet Food Pantry.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Pet Food Ministry: Carol J. Harp, Valerie Kasper-Wilson, John & Betty Gritzer, John & Sharon Flick, Doug Zawiskie, Marion Gaydos, Ms Dolores Sebastian, Tim Cicotello, Joann Knapp, Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Hess, Bill & Cathy Sampson, Carol & Lou Shaffer, Dennis & Carol Loushe, Linda Cordes, Donna Rzasa, Nardecchia Spay-Neuter, Theresa Kosaber, Annette M. Kristofco, Helen Petruska, Barry & Karen Orner, Joann Lacko, Tom Birk, Christine Hess, Annett Kristofco, and Patricia Valari.

During the months of March and April we were able to assist 180 Families, with 14 of them being new to the Pet Food Pantry.

We were able to help feed:

139 Dogs and 43 Puppies 522 Cats and 143 Kittens

Totals for the months of March & April were:

Dogs & Puppies: Dry food 750 lbs

Cats & Kittens: Dry food 1090 lbs

Total for January thru April:

Dogs Dry Food 1120 lbs

Cats Dry Food 1545 lbs


Pet Food Dates for May: May 14th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Many Thanks,

Cynthia Greig, and Joanne McKinley

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Animal Welfare Ministry

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