



March, 2023



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE

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A Note from Tom

“Lent is always so...miserable.”

This off-handed comment was made by a colleague of mine recently. And while I don't take the remark too seriously (it wasn't intended that way), it occurs to me that it does speak a certain truth. Depending on how one looks at it, Lent *is* somewhat miserable. The themes of sin, penitence, sacrifice, and obedience—often associated with Lent—are not especially congenial. It's almost as if Lent intentionally veils the church in a dark, foreboding umbrella of oppression.

And then when Easter arrives, the cloud of doom is lifted. The church again seems bright and happy. Our attitudes are immediately repaired, and we can once again be joyful and enthusiastic. We have taken off the shoe that doesn't fit. Our relief is immediate.

If this sounds like a particularly dark assessment of Lent, then I agree. Lent need not be miserable. The glass need not be half-empty. Beauty, as the old saying goes, is in the eye of the beholder. And guess what? So is Lent.

Rather than looking at Lent as 40 days of

agony, I prefer to look at it as 40 days of inspiration. Instead of focusing on our sins, for example, perhaps Lent could be a time when we focus on our achievements.

Instead of dwelling on our own inadequacies, maybe we can dwell on our triumphs. Maybe instead of begging God to forgive *us*, we can seek to forgive others. And rather than *humbling* ourselves before God, we can achieve the things that will lift us *up* in the eyes of God.

There is no doubt that Lent is a special time of year for those of us who are committed followers of Christ. It is certainly a time of preparation for the celebration of the resurrection at Easter. And it is likewise true that our attitudes *should change* during Lent. But they should change for the better, not the worse. Lent should be a time of renewed Christian energy. A time when we see Jesus' forty days as the triumph that it was. And a time when we try as hard as we can to create our own triumph to the glory of our God.

So have a great Lent. Have a happy Lent. And, dare I say, have a fun Lent!

Tom+



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## Editor: Becky Foster

St. John's Journey is published monthly. We're looking for your photos and articles. Please email them to "stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com" with the word "Newsletter" in the subject line. Dead-

line for March is



### Happy Birthday!

**Dianne Bishop**  
**Darlene Hernden**  
**Mark Wagner**

## Senior Warden

Dear Friends,

What a bummer! We had to cancel our Ash Wednesday service because Mother Nature decided to bring the March lion in a little early. And we were going to have Ashes-to-Go for the first time in a very long time – maybe the first time ever! But I'm glad we told folks to stay home. If my driveway was any gauge, the roads were no place for anyone that day.

Let's hope we have better luck on March 11! That's our next Music Concert and it's a do-not-miss occasion. If you ever listened to Detroit Public Radio on Saturday afternoons, Matt hosted a 2-hour show of folk music – from all regions and all decades. Not only does he love this music, but he totally enjoys sharing it with his audiences, so be prepared to sing along from time to time. I can't wait. And I hope to see you there along with some of your friends and family. This is an evening you'll want to share.

We have some new faces in the congregation – and some of them like to color! Kay and Beckett LeClaire and their daughter, Audrey, have been sitting in the back pew with lots of toys and coloring books. Stop by and say hello. Ina's sister, Debbie, has been sitting on the "sermon" side of the church – thanks for helping us balance out seating with all those on the "lector" side of the church. Our old floor is grateful, and we're glad to have her in our gatherings. There are some other new folks showing up on occasion. Let's

hope they like what they see.

We have several Taste & See classes in March. Great eats and great conversations on a variety of topics. Fr. Tom always has something good to learn about and to consider on our faith journey.



You may notice lots of pictures in this issue. Many thanks to Sherry Wagner and Ida Lynn Dodd for doing the honors. And thanks to the Valentine's Day helpers who made sure everyone had a rose and some sweets to celebrate the day.

And finally, we have signed a contract to complete the Bell Tower renovation. This phase involves installing an electric bell ringing option. We'll still be able to pull the rope but now we should be able to push a button at the altar to ring the bell during the consecration. The actual work will probably take place this spring – around July. Thanks to everyone who has worked and contributed to this project. It's taken a while – but all good things take time, right?

Late winter teaches us to be patient. Lent teaches us faith and hope. Easter is coming.... May this season of waiting bring you peace.

**Becky**

**Taste and See Classes** Dates: Monday, March 6 @ 5:30

Monday, March 13 @ 5:30

**St. John's Parish Hall**

Course materials will be provided.

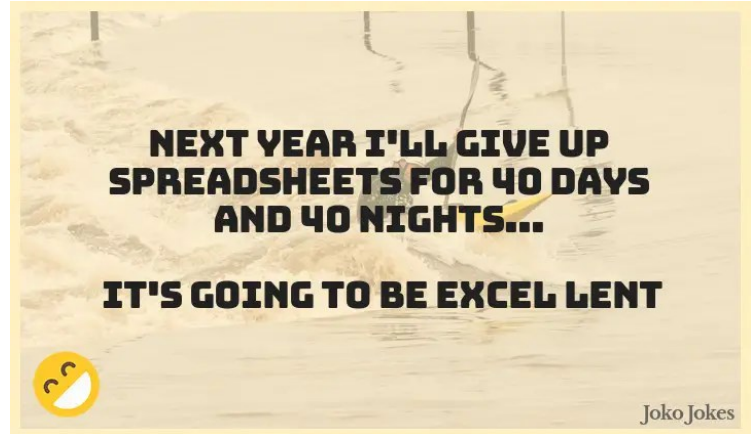


## Financial Updates

January is the most recent month reviewed by the Vestry. The basic figures (full numbers only, rounded up) are below:

January 2023	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	Better (+) or Worse (-) than Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Better (+) or Worse (-) than Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$4,933	\$6,597	<b>\$1,664</b>	\$4,933	\$6,597	<b>\$1,664</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	\$4,848	\$4,541	<b>\$307</b>	\$4,848	\$4,541	<b>\$307</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	\$86	\$2,057	<b>\$1,971</b>	\$86	\$2,057	<b>\$1,971</b>

Looks like a good start to the year! Pledges came in higher than budget – mainly due to several year end catch-up pledge donations being recorded in the new year. We had some of the same dynamic on the expense side – charges for advertisements for the Bazaar and Christmas were not paid until January. This will probably keep that account over budget for the rest of the year. We do not have a YTD P&L this month since there’s only been one month in the year so far. Remember that Quickbooks divides the annual budget into 12 monthly slices. Some accounts look like they’re over budget but will smooth out as the year progresses and the YTD budgeted numbers become larger.



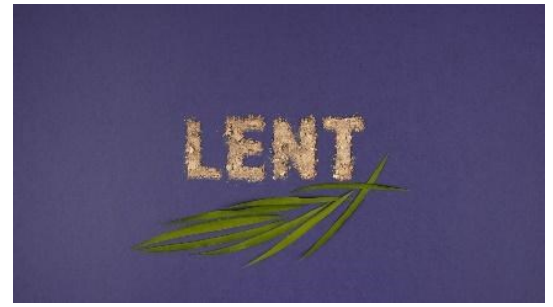
The Balance Sheet shows some new entries for Vanguard

Investments. The original investment is shown as Vanguard: Other. We have added \$21,000 to that sum as an investment in a CD with a 4.75% return in one year. The other entry, Revaluation, shows the difference between total funds invested and total current value of the account. A note: the ESG fund total, which started at \$65,000 and was as low as \$52,000 in 2022, is now over \$60,000, which is good to see.



## Five Things to Do During Lent

By David McMannes



Do you love Lent? I do, but a lot of folks don't have all that much affection for the season. Many Christians have come to think of it in negative terms; however, Lent is not about hair shirts, solemn countenances and the like. Rather, it is a positive, strengthening, lovely spiritual experience, and if you want to grow in your love of God and your neighbor, then Lent is for you! Here are five things to do with single-mindedness this Lent which, if you do them, will give you a clearer vision of the Risen Christ, come Easter.

### **FASTING & ABSTINENCE**

The biggest problem we moderns have with fasting and abstinence is one of confusion; that is, we don't really understand them. The priest gets up and talks about what they mean, and when he's done, people are more confused than they were when he started. So, here's a simplified elucidation of fasting and abstinence: Abstinence lowers the quality of food (usually by not eating meat) and fasting lowers the quantity, and usually means not more than a light breakfast, one full meal, and one half-meal daily each fast day.

Therefore, the rule is "keep it smaller and keep it simpler." Smaller portions of food, and simpler menus. Don't eat so much during Lent. Not because you necessarily have to lose weight, but because the practice will give you strength in your spiritual life by weakening the attractions of the sensate pleasures. Fasting makes the waistline shrink and the heart get larger, and abstinence makes the heart grow fonder.

Indulge in both fasting and abstinence during Lent, and you will have a clearer vision of the Risen Christ, come Easter.

### **PRAYING**

For the forty days of Lent, start and end each day with prayer. Read Morning and Evening Prayer and/or Family Prayer. Dust off that old grace you used to say before eating - spend some table time in quiet reflection and prayer instead of chattering and chomping. Pray daily, making sure you indulge in all the qualities of Christian prayer - adoration, thanksgiving, petition, penitence, and invocation.

Pray daily, and you will have a clearer vision of the Risen Christ, come Easter.

### **BIBLE READING**

Do this daily, also, and if you haven't availed yourself of reading the Daily Office of morning and evening prayer, you are missing out on the opportunity the Church has given you for daily study and reading of Holy Writ. There's solace, insight, encouragement, grace and a whole lot more in scripture, and that can't be said about any other book in your library. The Good Book is precisely that, and those who read it daily learn how to be good - godly - themselves.

Read Holy Writ daily, and you will have a clearer vision of the Risen Christ, come Easter.

### **CORPORATE WORSHIP**

Corporate worship is a basic Christian duty. Our prayer book puts it succinctly, telling us that part of our bounden duty is to worship God every Sunday in his Church. Doing so brings us understanding, strengthens our faith, gives us hope, fills us with encouragement, and gives us the first-hand experience of being loved by God - and that gives us the ability to love others more fully. There is nothing we can do on Sunday morning that is more important than being in God's House and being fed by His grace-filled presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

Make a commitment not to miss one single Sunday in God's House this Lenten season. Jesus told us



to this do, **(Luke 22:19; 1Cor 11:24-25)** so let's do it together, every single Sunday, and you will have a clearer vision of the Risen Christ, come Easter.

## WORKS OF MERCY

The final step is to, as the prayer says, do all such good works as ... [God]...has prepared for us to walk in. There are fourteen 'works' which enable us to put our faith in Christ into action in our life. They are both spiritual and temporal and are as follows:

### Spiritual Works of Mercy

(1) converting the sinner, (2) instructing the ignorant, (3) counseling the doubtful, (4) comforting the sorrowful, (5) bearing wrongs patiently, (6) forgiving injuries, (7) praying for the living and the dead.

### Corporal Works of Mercy

(1) feeding the hungry, (2) giving drink to the thirsty, (3) clothing the naked, (4) harboring the stranger, (5) visiting the sick, (6) ministering to prisoners, (7) burying the dead.

Finally, and no doubt most importantly, let your Lenten lapses and failures - whatever they may be serve only to increase your dependence upon God. None of us will do all we want to do during Lent. That's the human condition. The point is not to get a good grade; the point is to increase your capacity to love God and your neighbor.

After all, Lent is a time to learn how to love - God's way - once again. That's the whole point of the season!

## Ministry Schedule

Mar 5, 2023	Kathy	Jack	Neil	Rev Manney	Becky Foster		Jack
Mar 12, 2023	Tammy			Neil	Ina Dockham	Jack	
Mar 19, 2023	Wes	Mary	Jack	Rev Manney	Ida Lynn Dodd	Ina	Wes
Mar 26, 2023	Mary			Kitty	Sherry Wagner		Ina
Apr 2, 2022	Jack	Neil	John	Rev Manney	Wes Wagester	Wes	Russ
Apr 6, 2022	Neil	Tammy	Jack	Rev Manney	Becky Foster	Russ	
Apr 7, 2022	Margaret	Jack	Neil	Rev Manney	Ina Dockham		Jack
Apr 9, 2022	Ina	Mary	John	Rev Manney	Ida Lynn Dodd	Jack	
Apr 16, 2022	Wes	Neil	Jack	Rev Manney	Sherry Wagner	Ina	Wes
Apr 23, 2022	Kathy			Becky	Wes Wagester		Ina
Apr 30, 2022	Tammy			Neil	Becky Foster	Wes	Russ

Hi, Everybody!

I just wanted to thank you for the lovely card and rose that you gave me for Valentine's Day! What a wonderful surprise! I am blessed to be a part of such a wonderful and beautiful church family. God bless you! Love, Roxanne

## College for Congregational Development!

### Do we have a deal for you!

It's an All-Expense-Paid Vacation! It's a chance to go back to college! One week on the campus of Northwood University in beautiful Midland, Michigan. July 23 – 28. Rediscover the joys of dorm life, of cafeteria food. Sign up for the What's that? The Diocesan website says:

*“The College for Congregational Development (or CCD) is a comprehensive training program, rooted in the tradition, ethos, and character of The Episcopal Church, that seeks to nurture and develop congregational development practitioners from within the local community.*

*Originally begun in the Diocese of Olympia, CCD has grown and expanded, now supporting congregational development in over a dozen dioceses. This year, as announced by Bishop Singh at diocesan convention, Eastern and Western Michigan join the College, engaging our challenges and opportunities with new tools for progress, whether it be in church growth, formation, decision-making, worship, and gaining clarity in identity and mission.*



*The two-year program gathers in one-week sessions led by trainers from across the country. Participating congregations send 3-4 member teams who, together, will complete **both** years, engage in practical on-the-ground projects, required reading, and complete the final certification and graduation. Teams should include any parish clergy. For congregations for whom gathering a team of that size may be difficult, the formation of regional collaborations is encouraged.”*

In other words, this is a chance for you to help St. John's Dryden learn ways to improve and expand while having a bit of fun in the process. We can sponsor up to 3 people but if we can't find 3 folks, we might be able to

partner with another parish to fill the open spots. This is an opportunity to learn, experiment and create fresh approaches for community, communication and spiritual growth. It also means doing some work over two years to see what works, what doesn't work and how to adjust. So, yeah, it's not totally "free". But it's necessary. The world needs what we have to offer. Help us discover ways to connect and engage with others.

BTW – you don't have to climb on top of the sign unless you really want to.

See Fr. Tom if you are interested. And thank you.

### Remember St. John's in your will:

Please consider helping the mission and ministry of St. John's by remembering the church in your will. You can do so by using the following wording:

“I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to St. John's Episcopal Church, a non-profit church, with the current address of 4074 S. Mill St., Dryden, MI 48428, and its successor, the greater of \$\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_percentage of my gross estate, to be used in such manner as determined by its vestry.”

# HOMEMADE BAILEYS IRISH CREAM (COPYCAT)

PREP TIME: 1 MIN  
TOTAL TIME: 1 MIN

SERVINGS: 1 LITRE (4 CUPS)

Learn how to make a copycat version of Baileys with this quick and simple recipe.

## INGREDIENTS

1 cup (235 ml) heavy cream or half & half  
1 can (14 oz.-395 ml) sweetened condensed milk  
3 tablespoons chocolate syrup  
1 teaspoon instant coffee granules  
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
1 2/3 cup (400 ml) Irish whiskey *I used Jameson*

## INSTRUCTIONS

Place the cream, sweetened condensed milk, instant coffee granules, chocolate syrup, vanilla, and mix on **low speed** for 30 seconds.

Then add the whiskey with the blender going, at a very slow speed, give it a whirl for a few more seconds.

Transfer the Baileys Irish cream into sterilized glass bottles with tight-fitting lids and store in the refrigerator for up to 2 months.

Shake well before use.



and

## NOTES

**Curdle** – High speed will whip/curdle the mixture. We're aiming at just combining the ingredients – use the blender at low speed.

If it curdles, strain the liquid through a sieve, then scrape any excess off the top with a spoon.

**Nutrition Facts:** 1 serving = 1 glass / 37 ml. .

AUTHOR: ELENA TOMASI

COURSE: DRINKS

CUISINE: IRISH

Serving: 37 ml, Calories: 135 kcal, Carbohydrates: 12 g, Protein: 2 g, Fat: 5 g, Saturated

## Fun at St. John's in February



A sweetheart of a birthday girl! Congratulations, Connie!

Valentine roses, sweets and conversation hearts. What did yours say?

Kay LeClaire wins a Valentine's gift card! Sweet!



St. John's  
Episcopal Church  
Concert Series Presents:

# Matt Watroba

*Voice of folk music in Michigan  
On WDET-Detroit Public Radio*

**Saturday, March 11th  
at 7 pm**



St. John's Episcopal Church  
4074 S. Mill St  
Dryden, MI 48428

For more information, visit:  
[www.stjohnschurchdryden.org](http://www.stjohnschurchdryden.org)



No admission charge. A free will offering will help support our ministries in this community!  
This is a wonderful way to connect to folks in our community who may be seeking a new church family.

Last Sunday of Epiphany brought a lovely surprise. Proud mom, grandparents and the star of the show – the baby. And she didn't fuss at all during the service. I think she liked Tom's sermon.

The Fat-Sunday pot-luck was amazing! Breakfast casseroles, eggs & sausage, bread pudding, and **home-made Paczki's!** I think we should do this again next year!





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