



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE, UNITED IN FAITH, LED BY LOVE



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 Tom Manney

Senior Warden
 Becky Foster

Junior Warden
 Jack Dodd

A Note from Tom

At this year's diocesan convention, we will be hearing* a great deal about the proposed merger of our diocese—Eastern Michigan—with the much bigger and older diocese—Western Michigan. The merger was first proposed in 2018, and both dioceses agreed to a trial period. As a result, some diocesan employees began to be “shared” by both dioceses, along with our provisional bishop, the Right Reverend Prince Singh. So in some ways, we have begun already to act as a single diocese. However, the final merger is not likely to be voted on (by both dioceses, separately) until the 2023 convention.

When I first heard the idea of the merger, I thought, “how will this benefit our little church?” It seemed to me that belonging to a bigger diocese might not be what's best for us.

So, I wrestled with the idea of a larger diocese for a while. And I spoke to some other church leaders about it. I think I have now come up with a list of good reasons why the two dioceses should become one.

- Merging the dioceses will mean merging the resources that the two dioceses have, making for a stronger single diocese.
- A larger diocese (like a larger church) will

be able to offer a much greater variety of programs and services.

- A larger diocese will be more efficient (in theory) streamlining the administrative responsibilities of the two dioceses.
- A larger diocese means bringing together Episcopalians from across the state, and this increases the unity of our people.
- A larger diocese means that we can “dream great dreams” with greater possibilities for our mission and ministry



No doubt there are other good reasons for the merger, and perhaps some reasons not to merge. As we approach this, our third joint convention of the dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan, please consider the merger *yourself*. Is it in the best interests of our church? Why or why not?

With every blessing...

Tom+

*At the time of this writing, the convention has not yet occurred.

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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. Deadline for December is November 26th.



Happy Anniversary
Myron and Sherry
Petrie!

Senior Warden

Dear Friends,

Leaves are falling like rain. Any effort to clear the grass is quickly erased by a carpet of gold. I love this time of year. After summer fun and travels, it's time to join in our fall celebrations and reconnect with friends you've not seen in a while. We've already started reconnecting at St. John's. Just look at the pictures of the Don Smith Memorial Canadian Thanksgiving. I'm hoping to have pictures of our annual Halloween night with our neighbor's children for next month's newsletter. This month's edition includes several announcements about upcoming events and some interesting articles about our fall holy days. There's also a spiritual practice that I thought you might enjoy.

Part of planning for 2023 is our annual pledge drive. The materials were available at church and will be mailed to those who are home-bound. The information you provide will help us better plan for income and expenditures for the coming year. Financial information is confidential – only one person sees the name with the numbers and, as a professional income tax preparer, she's used to guarding that information. We're also asking you to consider volunteering to help with various church ministries. Whatever you offer, it is part of what makes St. John's the special community that we love. Bless you for your support.



Becky

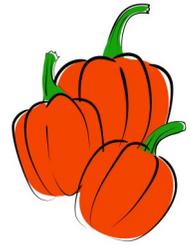
Financial Updates

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

September 2022	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	Over (+) or Under (-) Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Over (+) or Under (-) Budget
Income	\$5,270	\$4,786	-\$484	\$48,950	\$47,430	+ \$1,520
Expenses	\$5,179	\$4,590	-\$590	\$43,124	\$46,163	- \$3,471
Net Profit	\$91	\$197	+ \$106	\$817	\$5,808	+ \$4,991

Once more, the monthly pledge income fell below budget expectations. Thankfully, our monthly expenses were also lower than budget amounts. That kept us in the black for the month.

Don Smith Memorial Canadian Thanksgiving a Delicious Success



Once more, we gathered to celebrate Canadian Thanksgiving at St. John's. Don and Margaret Smith started this several years ago. Even though Don is no longer with us, Margaret was a wonderful speaker and gave us the background behind the timing of this feast as well as a few other enjoyable stories. Based on the happy faces and the empty plates, it's clear that this year's feast was lots of fun. Thanks to all who made this possible. Looking forward to next year!



Nicolai and Sydney's wedding – celebration of love for new and “experienced” couples

A Busy Year for the Wagner Family!



Lelia's Baby Shower – it won't be long before those little booties have little feet in them. Praying for a safe delivery

Look who Rev. Tom found in Fort Wayne!



So good to see them in their new location. Kathleen says there are still boxes to unpack but there's time to go to the grand-kids games. We miss them and hope that they find blessings and peace in their new home.



Christmas Bazaar – December 10th from 9:30 – 4PM, time to organize your plans to create and donate. Crafts, Baked Goods, gently used holiday items and maybe some gently used toys as well. Those who come early get the best stuff!

Bishop Singh will Visit St. John’s December 4th

Our provisional bishop will join us in worship on Sunday, December 4th. AND I’m sure he’ll stay to enjoy our coffee hour – which will be FABULOUS, right? We have a whole month to plan what to bring, what to wear, what to sing..... Be sure to join us – it will be very special.



December 11th – Rev. Barb’s Retirement Party

After the Bishop’s visit, we’ll have a retirement party for Rev. Barb on December 11th. That will also be a very special day. You won’t want to miss it!

Pledge Forms due by November 20th!

You can put them in the plate for collection on the 20th or earlier if you wish. Mail-ins also welcomed.



Ministry Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Videographer</u>	<u>Counting Member 1</u>	<u>Counting Member 2</u>
Nov 6			Neil	Sherry Wagner	Jack	Neil
Nov 13			Kitty	Becky Foster	Ina	Wes
Nov 20	Ina	Jack	Rev Manney	Wes Wagester	Becky	Jack
Nov 27	Margaret		Becky	Ina Dockham	Neil	Ina
Dec 4		Mary	Rev. Manney	Ida Lynn Dodd	Wes	Russ
Dec 11	Neil	Tammy	Rev Cavin	Becky Foster	Russ	Becky
Dec 18	Kathy	Neil	Rev Manney	Sherry Wagner	Jack	Neil
Dec 24	Wes	Neil	Rev Manney	Becky Foster	Ina	Wes
Dec 25	Neil		Neil	Wes Wagester	Becky	Jack



More than Trick-or-Treat

from Christianity.com

What Is the Difference between All Hallows' Eve, All Saints Day and All Souls Day?

Once Fall is the air across the U.S., department stores will entice consumers with discounts on costumes and candy. There will be carved pumpkins and bobbing for apples at holiday parties. There will be hayrides, hot apple cider, gathering around bonfires with friends. Then, on the 31st of October, kids dressed in costumes will go door-to-door to trick-or-treat for candy. Some churches also participate in what is known as "trunk-or-treat," where children visit the church parking lot in their costumes to get candy and perhaps learn about the church.

For some churches, the celebration doesn't stop there. October 31 actually begins a three-day observance and celebration of *Allhallowtide*, a combination of Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Where did these holidays come from? Is there a difference between them?

According to dictionary.com, the word "Halloween" is a "direct derivation of All Saints Day" with "All Hallows" in Old English meaning "the feast of the saints." To hallow is "to make holy or sacred, to sanctify or consecrate, to venerate." The adjective *hallowed*, as used in The Lord's Prayer, means holy, consecrated, sacred, or revered. The noun *hallow*, as used in Hallowtide, is a synonym of the word saint. So, there are some differences between Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day, however they are tied together.

It is important to keep in mind that All Saints Day is also known as All Hallows Day, Hallowmas or Feast of All Saints in the Christian Church. The day November 1 commemorates all the saints in the church both known and unknown who have attained heaven. So let's dive into the differences between All Hallow's Eve, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day.

What Is All Hallow's Eve?

Though the original roots of All Hallow's Eve aren't certain, it

has been traced back to the countries of Ireland, Britain, and France. The Celts of Ireland, Britain and France divided their year in halves: the light half and the dark half. The light half consisted of the Spring and Summer months when the days were longer and the nights were shorter. The dark half was the opposite. It consisted of the Fall and Winter months with longer, colder nights and shorter days. To mark the end of Summer, the Celts held a harvest festival known as *Samhain* steeped in superstition and fear of evil. It is celebrated on the 31st of October beginning at sunset and ending at sunset on November 1.

This ancient Celtic pagan harvest festival Samhain was also associated with human death. The Druids built bonfires in order for the people to make sacrifices of crops and animals. Those who participated in the festival would dance around a bonfire. Some of the dances were a representation of the circle of life and death. The Celts also believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the dead and living became blurred. It was believed that fairies and ghosts of the dead could freely return to earth. It was believed these spirits could hide livestock, haunt the living and destroy their crops. For this reason, they concealed their real identities from the spirits through the use of costumes made from animal skins and heads.

Following the Roman conquest of Britain, British Celts adopted the Julian calendar and fixed the date of Samhain's observance to November 1.

The holiday was Christianized as Halloween by the early church. Over time, it has evolved into a day of activities like making jack-o-lanterns from pumpkins, bobbing for apples, trick-or-treating and other festivities. In other countries as well as traditional Christian churches, one attends church services. Some Christians also abstain from meat, eating vegetarian foods including potato pancakes, apples and soul cakes.

What Is All Saints Day?

Around 609 A.D., Pope Boniface IV reconsecrated the Pantheon in Rome. He renamed it the Church of St. Mary and the Martyrs. He established the anniversary as a day of celebratory remembrance for all of the Church's martyrs. Later, Pope Gregory III changed the date to November 1 during the dedication of St. Peter's Basilica to "all saints," in an effort to combat pagan worship.

November 1 became All Saints Day, otherwise known as All Hallow's Day. Christians would come together on this day to ask for God's protection from evil in the world as well as blessings.

Patrons would dress up in costumes of evil spirits or saints in order to depict the battle between good and evil.

What Is All Souls Day?

All Souls Day commemorates the faithful departed. This day is observed in traditional Christian churches as well as the Eastern Orthodox churches. Catholics believe that the souls of the faithful who at death have not been cleansed from their sins and punishment could not attain heaven and are instead sent to purgatory. It was believed, based on certain books of the Catholic Bible, that these trapped souls could be helped by prayer. They could then be cleansed of their sins and receive full sanctification to gain entrance to heaven. Most Protestant churches have rejected the concept of Purgatory but continue to observe All Souls Day as a way to honor the Faithful Departed. The custom of setting apart this day for intercession was established by Saint Odilio of Cluny. This practice then spread throughout Europe and eventually to the Western Church.

As Christianity spread throughout the world, pagan holidays were either Christianized or forgotten. Samhain was absorbed into Halloween. Costumes and gifts and bobbing for apples were preserved, incorporated into the new holiday. They remain a celebrated part of Halloween to this day, many centuries later.

The Day of the Dead – A Celebration of Life *from* *dayofthedeatholiday.com*

What Is Day of the Dead

A culture that has created a unique and interesting way to face death and the deceased is Mexico. Mexico is colorful, noisy, and lots of fun. The people, the food, and the celebrations are bright, loud, and unequalled. So, when it comes to death, in true Mexican style, Mexicans celebrate with color, food, and

music.

Day of the Dead is a 2-day celebration where it is believed that the passageway between the real world and the spirit world is open so our deceased loved ones can come back to visit us.

What do we do when grandpa comes back from the land of the dead? We make his favorite meal and we offer him his favorite drink. We sing, dance, and rejoice before he heads back to the underworld for another year.

When Is Day of the Dead

Day of the Dead is celebrated on November 1st and 2nd. It is sometimes confused with Halloween because of the symbolic skulls but is not related at all.

Origins of Dia de Muertos

When the Spaniards came to Mexico and introduced Catholicism to the indigenous people they blended traditions and beliefs to create their own customs.

Dia de Muertos came to be from a mixture of the Aztec festival dedicated to the goddess, Mictecacihuatl, (the lady of the dead) with the Catholic influence. The church rejected the Aztec's beliefs and turned it into All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day making it on 2 days to fall into the catholic calendar. Mexicans have since transformed it into a truly unique holiday that they honor every year.

How It's Celebrated Today

Today's customs regarding Day of the Dead festivities have morphed over the years to become the distinct tradition it is now. Flowers, altars, food, and music are all integral parts of the holiday.

Families will gather during the night at the cemeteries (panteons), light candles, and place flowers on the burial sites of their lost loved ones. There is festive music and definitely no



Latino Ministry

By Neil Hargrave

On Saturday October 8, 2022, Rev. Tom and I met with Katie Forsyth and Rev. Jesus Reyes from the Diocese of Eastern Michigan at St. John's to discuss Ministries for Latino people. Katie suggested that we meet because locally there are two very large Latino populations - one in Imlay City and the other in Capac.

Primarily from Mexico, many people were drawn to these farm communities as migrant workers for planting and harvesting. Often while working here, they would have a baby which would be an American citizen. Or there might be the death of a male spouse, or a change of government at their country and they would choose not to return home. Each year one or two families would take up residence and with the help of a near-by farm family or a Catholic priest they would get their green cards and become legal aliens.

We were asked what St. John's was doing to attract Latinos to our church, and if not, what we might do and how to welcome them to our congregation. They wanted us to know there would be differences such as: family differences, holidays, saints, and personal needs. For instance: in Capac last year, the Catholic Youth organization at St Nicholas church held a parade to celebrate the Mexican holiday, The Day of the Dead, on the 30th of October. Additionally, their concept of family includes more than the nuclear family we usually assume. They include all relatives in their family gatherings - inviting large numbers of other family members to events like baptisms, birthdays, marriages, and funerals.

Today's big challenge is the erosion of the culture around the Catholic church that has been a strong

component of the Latino life for centuries. A growing number of families have children or grandchildren who marry people from different backgrounds who do not understand the culture of the Latino family. Major celebrations such as baptisms, weddings or funerals, if held in a Catholic church (which may not be permitted by the church), would not be acceptable to all involved. They need an alternative - that is where we can help. But we have to get the word out that we are here, they are welcome to join us and that this could be their new spiritual family.

So how can we do that? Maybe we could have a Latino band or singing group come to perform at a future concert with heavy advertising in Imlay City and Capac. I've asked some Latino friends and they suggested the Catholic Youth organization at St Nicholas. I have talked their group leader and she promised to get back to me after she talked to the kids. We might also consider offering some tutoring. I've talked Capac Schools School Superintendent's secretary as a representative of St. John's to determine where they need help. This is another way to get increase community awareness of our support.

These are initial thoughts. If any of you have other suggestions, please feel free to pass them along to either Rev. Tom or me.

Thank you.

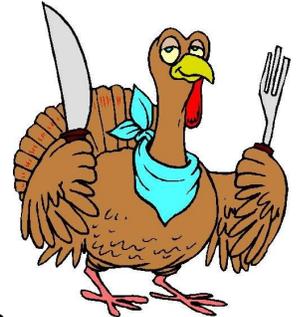


Queen Elizabeth Cake

Kitty Underwood brought this cake to coffee hour during the week of Queen Elizabeth's funeral. It is said it is the only cake that Queen Elizabeth insisted on making herself and she requested that the recipe be used by churches and non-profits to benefit the poor. Kitty's original recipe was a bit hard to read. Connie Ogg did the research and found this more legible version. Thanks to both and Enjoy!

Ingredients

- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 cup dates, pitted and chopped
- ¼ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- ⅔ cup packed brown sugar
- 6 tablespoons butter
- ¼ cup cream



Directions

1. Pour boiling water over dates in a small bowl, and let stand until cool.
2. Measure flour, baking powder, soda, salt, and nuts into a small bowl. Stir to mix.
3. Cream 1/4 cup butter or margarine and white sugar together in a mixing bowl; beat in egg and vanilla. Add flour mixture to creamed mixture in three parts alternately with date mixture in two parts, beginning and ending with dry mixture. Spread batter into a greased 9 x 13 inch pan.
4. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 30 to 40 minutes, or until an inserted wooden pick comes out clean.
5. To Make Topping: Mix coconut, brown sugar, 6 tablespoons butter and cream in a small saucepan over medium heat. Boil for three minutes. Spread over warm cake, and brown under broiler.

Angel Food Dump Cake

From Sherry Petrie

- 1 Box Angel Food Cake Mix
- 1 20 oz Can Crushed Pineapple with juice

Mix together and put in an ungreased 9x13" pan.
Bake at 350° for 25 minutes.
Top with Cool Whip when cool



Heart-based Spiritual Practice

Ignatian Examen

St. John's Spiritual Director, Anne Province, used this reflection during a recent discussion. Permission was granted to share it. This might be something to consider starting this fall or Advent.

The Examen is a very simple, very effective form of prayer. It was originally taught by St. Ignatius of Loyola over 400 years ago. It helps us to reflect on the events and emotions of our day, look for evidence of God's presence and guidance, and prepare with hope for the day to come. It is perhaps best to use this prayer at the end of the day or in the morning, reflecting on the previous day. It is suggested you allow at least 20 minutes, spending a few minutes on each step. The more time you put into expressing and listening, the more space you allow to get to the heart of the matter. There are several slightly different ways to pray the Examen, but they all have five basic steps. Below is a version using the acronym H.E.A.R.T. This prayer can take as long as you need it to take.



H	Here	Take a moment to breathe, become aware of God's presence and become present yourself.
E	Express	Gratitude Regardless of the unique circumstances of that particular day, give God thanks for the beautiful blessing that is life.
A	Actions	Think back on the events of the day. What happened? What emotions did you feel? Can you see where God was active, perhaps in a feeling, a conversation, a strange coincidence?
R	Responses	How did you respond to these events? Was it in a way that felt Christ-like? Or is there a way you hope you might respond differently next time?
T	Trust	What do you anticipate will happen tomorrow? What feelings does that bring up for you? Trust God to help guide and direct you, seeing life less as a lonely walk and more as a divine dance. following

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