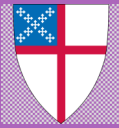




May, 2024



# ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE

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## Pastor's Corner

Dear people of St. John's,

Summer is fast approaching! We have experienced some hints of the glorious summer heat, but it soon disappears to those cooler than we want shades of snow and cooler temperatures prevail. Oh well, we choose to reside in Michigan. We know what to expect.

Summer is also the time to lay back and enjoy all that it brings to us; Fun in the sun, vacations, travel, reunions, grilling outside, baseball, and don't forget church. I believe you all will listen with your hearts and souls to hear God's voice. Sometimes it is difficult to just let go of control and simply allow God to work through us. As we come to the end of Easter season, we are called to do just that. God calls us through Jesus Christ to volunteer to serve God's people in God's name, however that may happen.

The church has traveled through the seasons of the church year; Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. We have walked through the defining moments in the life of Christ to find meaning and spiritual nourishment. In the long season which follows Pentecost (often referred

to as Ordinary Time), we apply these teachings to our presence in the world, trying to live the values of God's Kingdom in comparison to what we have experienced in the preceding months. This is a wonderful time to emphasize Jesus' teachings in a practical way as we live out the mysteries we have recently celebrated.



While the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the six months which follow Pentecost can become somewhat repetitive, there is something to be said about its rhythm. Unlike Christmas and Easter, those who attend worship during this part of the year, represent those who are most disposed to the further development of their spiritual life. There are many ways different congregations choose to break up what may be seen as the monotony of Ordinary Time. We may experiment with some variations of the celebration.

Christianity is not just about the big events in the life and the ministry of Jesus. It is also about the teaching which helps us understand how to live compassionately and justly in the world. The Spirit calls us to follow in the way, *Continued on Page 2*

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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 June is May



### Happy Birthday!

Richard Buszek  
Liam Carr  
Neil Hargrave  
Margaret Smith

### Happy Anniversary

Kathleen & Richard Buszek

John & Yvonne Malinich

Mark & Sherry Wagner

## Vestry Notes

Dear Friends,

Happy Spring! It always seems to take forever and then it just bursts on the scene. It's easier to smile and walk with a bounce in your step. It is always such a blessing to see flowers bloom and trees leaf out. New life. New energy. Blessings for all.

This issue has loads of pictures from our Easter celebrations as well as info on upcoming events in May. I think we need to get all our yard work done in April so we can take time in May to participate. We'll have a community garage sale, the Music Concert, Mother's Day, Pentecost and Memorial Day to celebrate – maybe we should rest up ahead of time.

Things are happening at the national church level too. The General Conven-

tion in June will elect a new Provisional Bishop to succeed Bishop Michael Curry. You'll find an overview of the candidates and a chance to look at



videos for each. The Provisional Bishop sets a tone for the whole church AND is often the face of the Episcopal Church for the media. Let us all pray that our delegates are guided by God's vision for the church and the world.

I'm writing this in early April because I'm going to be out of town for 3 weeks on a trip to Portugal & Spain! I'm looking forward to the trip but I know I'll be glad to return to all of you. I hope you had a great month and I'll try to bring back some good stories to share at our next coffee hour.

Peace & Blessings,

*Becky*

### Dryden Community Garage Sale – St. John's Style

Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

From 9AM to 3PM

**What to donate:** household items and other small items but no clothing, please

**When to deliver:** Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4PM (Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> can be used but only if absolutely necessary)

How to help: Look for sign-up sheets in Parish Hall



pattern and shape of the life of Jesus. The slow, steady growth of faith should be the central focus of Ordinary Time, empowering the faithful to be agents and bearers of the Good News.

May the Spirit of truth lead you, giving you grace to confess Jesus Christ as Lord, and proclaim the wonderful works of God; and may

the blessing God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you as we commence our journey through Ordinary Time, and remain with you always.

In God's Love,

*Rev. Harold*



## Who will be the next Presiding Bishop?

This June at the General Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, they will vote on our desire to merge the Eastern & Western Diocese AND on a new Presiding Bishop to follow our current presiding bishop, Bishop Michael Curry, for a 9-year term. The slate includes a good variety of backgrounds and geographic experiences. The Episcopal News Service provided a short background for each.

### **Nebraska Bishop J. Scott Barker**

Barker, 60, has [led the Omaha-based Diocese of Nebraska since 2011](#). The diocese's 53 worshipping communities span the full state, where Barker was born and raised. A graduate of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, Barker was ordained to the priesthood in 1992 and served for 10 years in Omaha and 10 more years in the Diocese of New York before returning to Nebraska as bishop.

### **Pennsylvania Bishop Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez**

Gutiérrez, 59, has [led the Philadelphia-based Diocese of Pennsylvania since 2016](#). It is one of five dioceses in the state. A native of New Mexico, Gutiérrez earned a diocesan certificate in Anglican Studies through the Trinity School for Ministry and has a master's degree in theological studies from St. Norbert College. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2008 in the Albuquerque-based Diocese of the Rio Grande and served there as canon to the ordinary, chief operating officer and chief of staff before he was elected bishop of Pennsylvania.

### **Northwestern Pennsylvania Bishop Sean Rowe**

Rowe, 49, has [led the Erie-based Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania since 2007](#), and he also serves as bishop provisional of the Diocese of Western New York through a partnership the dioceses established in 2019. He previously served as bishop provisional of the Diocese of Bethlehem from 2014 to 2018. Originally from western Pennsylvania, Rowe is a Virginia Theological Seminary graduate and was ordained to the priesthood in 2000 in Northwestern Pennsylvania, where he served in congregational ministry until his election as bishop. He currently serves as parliamentarian of the House of Bishops and Executive Council.

### **Atlanta Bishop Robert Wright**

Wright, 60, has [led the Diocese of Atlanta since 2012](#). The diocese, based in Georgia's capital city, has 120 worshipping communities across the northern half of the state. A Navy veteran and graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, Wright was ordained to the priesthood in 1999 in the Diocese of New York. At the time of his election as bishop, he had served the previous 10 years as rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Atlanta. Since 2020, he also has hosted the popular podcast "For People" on faith and life.

You can see video presentations from each candidate at this web address: <https://generalconvention.org/nominees-for-the-28th-presiding-bishop/>

These videos are worth watching – not only to get acquainted with each bishop, but they offer short sermons that are very good. Let us pray for those who are considering their votes – our church needs the right person for these challenging times.

## From the A chance to Support LGBTQ friends and look good to boot!

We just launched our bi-diocesan 2024 Pride Month t-shirt! Each shirt contributes about \$5 to help our sponsorships for local congregations to participate in local Pride Festivals throughout the summer. And look good while you're at it! This year's shirt features a common quote from our outgoing presiding bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry: "If it's not about love, it's not about God!"

Order yours here: <https://buff.ly/3JaNnxW>



## Spring Music Concert

St. John's Music Concert Series presents **Rev. Robert Jones** – gospel/blues musician and storyteller. This is going to be special! Mark your calendars and spread the word!

**Saturday, May 11 @ 7PM at St. John's**

Look for sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall for opportunities to help with refreshments and opportunities to help on the day of the concert.



Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

Happy Mother's Day!



# March Financial Report

March 2024	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	Better or Worse than Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Better or Worse than Budget
Income	\$5,520	\$19,232	\$13,712	\$16,500	\$32,860	\$16,360
Expenses	\$5,388	\$6,726	\$1,338	\$16,162	\$18,273	\$2,111
Net Profit	\$132	\$12,506	\$12,374	\$388	\$14,587	\$14,199

March is the last month available for Vestry review.

**Income:** It looks like a few members contributed most if not all of their annual pledge this last month. That's great! We just need to remember that in the coming months, it will look like we're ahead of schedule even though it may not be so. But this gives us a great cushion for any bumps that show up in the next few months. We are so blessed with a generous congregation.

**Expenses:** March had 5 Saturdays and Sundays which means that some bills that come every 4 weeks came two times in March. That includes:

- Telephone & Computers
- Utilities
- Lawn/Snow/Trash

Also, we repaired Fr. Harold's laptop for \$200 which also helped put Telephone and Computers over budget for this month.

Other over budget accounts generally relate to time and materials associated with Holy Week and Easter.

**YTD Income:** Looking VERY good due to strong donation figures for March

**YTD Expenses:** Over budget due to some of the items mentioned above.

**Net Profit:** Looks wonderful! Again, due to high level of donations.

### Vanguard Funds:

Total Stock Fund Balance as of 03/31/2024 - \$76,531 – over \$11,000 increase above our initial investment of \$65,000

CD of \$22,000 Matures 02/28/2025 at 5.41% interest

### CD at Oxford Bank –

\$10,000 CD at 5.65% maturing in August 2024

\$10,000 CD at 5.27% maturing in May of 2024.



## Pentecost

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10AM

Be sure to wear **RED!!!**



# Maundy Thursday – Washing of the Feet

“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done”



## Stations of the Cross on Good Friday

We prayed our first Stations of the Cross with the figures donated from St. Bart's Mio on Good Friday. There were quite a few people and Fr. Harold gave us an opportunity to actively participate by volunteering to read a section at each station. It was a moving experience. More than one of us felt choked up at different moments. We are grateful to St. Bart's and to Fr. Harold for adding this service to our Holy Week observance already have some ideas for making it even better next year. We hope to see you then.



## Holy Saturday – a Day of Preparation

Here is an idea of SOME of the work that went in to preparing the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Flowers for the pews, the windows and the altar, preparing the cross for flowers on Sunday, changing the frontal and hangings to reflect Easter joy. And then we had an extra deep cleaning of all the woodwork by Ida Lynn to make sure everything was at its best for our liturgy and the baptism. Love was a cheerful presence and with so many helpers it took no more than an hour. Many thanks to all who helped out. But I wonder if we had some extra help?



*We couldn't forgo having a cake –  
and with multiple events to celebrate, we needed two!*



# Easter Morning – Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!



We celebrated the Resurrection. We celebrated Jason Foltz's Baptism. We celebrated the start of a new chapter for Deacon Beckett and his family. It was quite a day.

Everyone is ready and waiting for the bell....



Our last Sunday with Deacon Beck – we'll miss the whole family



Jason is presented as a Baptismal candidate by his sponsor, Jack Dodd. A moment as they walk to the baptismal font...

Such resolution on both of their faces!





The water of baptism. Jason received a bible from St. John's with the following inscription:

*"To Jason Foltz on the day of his baptism  
Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024*

*Today you are touched by grace,*

*Blessed with faith,*

*And embraced by God.*

*Happy Baptism!*

*The Congregation of St. John's Episcopal  
church*

*Dryden, Michigan"*



**May 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Memorial Day**

### **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."

**Ministry  
Schedule**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Lector</u></b>	<b><u>Eucharistic Minister</u></b>	<b><u>Crucifer</u></b>	<b><u>Worship Leader</u></b>	<b><u>Video</u></b>	<b><u>Counting Member 1</u></b>	<b><u>Counting Member 2</u></b>
05/05/2024	Ina			Kitty	Ina	Russ	Jack
05/12/2024	Jack	Tammy	Neil	Fr. Schneider	Ida Lynn	Mary	Becky
05/19/2024	Tammy			Neil	Sherry	Jack	Neil
05/26/2024	Neil	Mary	Jason	Fr Schneider	Wes	Becky	Connie
06/02/2024				Kitty	Ina	Neil	Russ

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