



March 2025



# ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

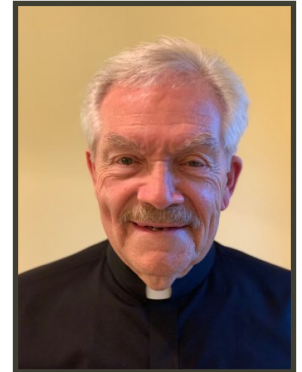
Pastor's Corner	1
Vestry Notes	2
Jason's Confirmation	3
Announcements	4
Recipe	5
Shrove Sunday Potluck	7
2024 Pictures in Review	8
Financial Re-	9-10
Ministry Schedule	12

Dear People of St. John's,

Lent will be officially here on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. I pray that you all will practice a Holy Lent and take time to examine your baptismal vows and make the necessary changes wherever needed.

The way we prepare to receive the mystery of the resurrection, is by observing a period of penitence. Penitence is an opportunity to reflect on how far we have wandered from grace, how much we stand in need of God's forgiveness, and then how we might live a life more closely aligned with God's desires for us. The danger of Lenten penitence is that, if not carefully observed, this season can quickly become a competition of works-righteousness. Grace must remain at the heart of our Lenten practices and devotion. It is the grace of God, which leads us to return to God once we have wandered away.

After Jesus' baptism, Jesus fasted and was tempted in the desert for forty days and nights. In the Bible, forty is always the time from the necessary happening, to the gracious conclusion. It could be forty hours, forty days, or forty years - It is always forty something; Noah's flood, Moses on Mt. Sinai, Israel in the wilderness, Israel in the hands of the Philistines, the reigns of Saul, David and Solomon, and Jesus' appearance after Easter. For us, it is the forty days until the celebration of the mystery of the resurrection.



We are tempted every day and we say, "if only..." We wish for just one more chance, one more shift, one more thing done or left undone, which could be righted, then we could be at peace. But these are false solutions. They are about solving

*(Continued on page 2)*

St John's Episcopal Church  
4074 S. Mill St.  
PO Box 86  
Dryden, MI 48428

Website: [www.stjohnschurchdryden.org](http://www.stjohnschurchdryden.org)  
Email: [stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com)  
Find us on Facebook!



**Editor: Beth Ann  
Tesluk**

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 April is March 28th.



**Birthdays**

**Dianne Bishop**

**Darlene Hernden**

**Evelyn Sunich**

**Mark Wagner**

Dear Friends,

Have you done your taxes yet? Do you look forward to doing them? Well, that's about what I've been doing this last month for St. John's. The national church and the diocese each have an annual report that each parish must complete. And they are about as much fun as completing a 1040. However, there were a few items that you might find interesting.

- Our average Sunday attendance for 2024 was 19.
- Our average Sunday online attendance was 18!
- Attendance at Easter was 24
- Attendance at Christmas was 32
- The average weekly impact of St. John's (based on the number of people reached with Sunday services, weekly gathering at the Bells and online participation) was 103!

That's pretty impressive! And a surprise. But Fr. Harold has been doing great work in outreach both at the Bells and with people he meets in other settings. We've had some new folks visit and comment that they will return. It would be so good to see our

congregation grow. Let's pray that next year's report shows answered prayers.



I'd like to thank Beth Ann Tesluk for taking on the responsibility of creating the newsletter content. She's now the contact point for pictures or any items you would like to contribute to the newsletter. She is so talented, I just know we'll all enjoy the finished product. Let her know what you think.

Lent is approaching and there are some announcements and information regarding services and our Lenten study. We have one Sunday in March that is NOT Lent – so we'll be celebrating with a Shrove Tuesday style coffee hour. So think french toast, sausages, maple syrup and sweet rolls...it will make giving up sweets during Lent even easier.

And remember that Daylight Savings Time begins on March 9<sup>th</sup>. If you turn up at church late that Sunday, we'll know what happened.

May March be kind to all of us!

Becky Foster

*Continued from page 1...things right now, not about the peace God can give. Even in the worst of times, in a desert, after a fast, Jesus tells us to be trusting. Don't use the "if only" solutions. Allow God to help solve your problems, even in your suffering. The earth moves and shifts in seasons. Some follow a regular schedule, but some take too long and others pass by quickly. Lent is a season of turning, reorienting, and centering our lives back to Jesus. Occasionally the turning is easy, other times it can be difficult and require several tries. The Holy Spirit is in all of this and offers salvation to all who ask. In God's Love,*

**Rev. Harold**

# Jason's Confirmation

Contributed by Sr. Warden Becky Foster



On Saturday, February 22nd, parishioner Jason Foltz was confirmed by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie Perry, 11th bishop of Michigan! Many from St. John's were there to support Jason in the next step of his faith journey - in fact, we won the prize for most "family and friends" to come forward during the moment of confirmation. When Bishop Bonnie asked all connected to the confirmand to come forward and lay on hands, there were nearly a dozen, including Fr. Harold, Sr. Warden Becky Foster, Jack & Ida Lynn Dodd, Kathy & Wes

Wagester, Sherry & Mark Wagner, Connie Ogg, Ina Dockham, and of course Jason.

Bishop Bonnie was wonderful. During the rehearsal, she recalled that as a teen, her confirmation service was BORING! And she found it ironic that she was now officiating over that same service - but she promised to keep it as interesting as possible.



She talked about how sometime in her teens, she realized that God really loved her as is. She said, "God has the biggest crush on you". Then she invited all to think about the quote from Ephesians that is often used in weddings - " Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the



*(Continued on page 4)*



truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." She said that if we replace the word Love with our names, we'll have a good picture of how God sees us; the person we were born to be.




The choir and the organist were superb, with at least 20 people in the choir and professional cantors. A little humbling for some of our choir members...

Jason has recently discerned that he would like to take steps towards becoming a Deacon, and Canon Tracey Little reassured Jason that the prep time to enter the Academy will be well spent. This will be a lengthy process, and we look forward to supporting Jason as he moves through it.



Blessings, Jason!

Get Me to the  
 ♦ Church On Time! ♦



DAYLIGHT SAVING  
 TIME ENDS  
 March 9th

THE GARDEN SLEEPS  
 BUT THE  
 GARDENER PLANS



CLEAN UP DAYS  
 COMING IN APRIL...

Save the Date!



**Northbound 23**  
 May 3rd, 7 pm  
 Bluegrass, New Grass, and then some!



Join us for  
 Ash Wednesday Service  
 March 5th  
 6:00 pm

## Lenten Studies

### “Embracing the Uncertain”

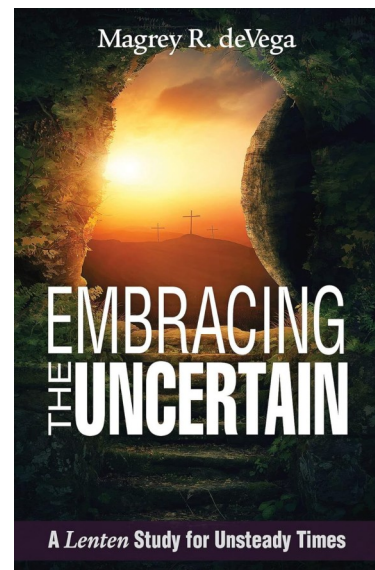
By Margrey R. deVega

Wednesdays

March 12, March 26, and April 9th

*Facebook Livestream available!*

Studies will begin with a Simple Supper  
 Potluck, with Soup, bread and desserts



## Blueberry Lemon Ricotta Pancakes (from the Spruce Eats)

- 1 large egg
- 1 3/4 cups plus 1 tablespoon milk, divided
- 1/2 cup ricotta cheese
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted, plus more for the pan
- 1 lemon, zested and juiced, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup blueberries, fresh or frozen
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar

Gather the ingredients.

Heat up a cast-iron griddle or pan on medium heat before you begin. Make sure it gets nice and hot before you start cooking the pancakes.

Beat together the egg, milk, ricotta cheese, melted butter, lemon zest, and vanilla in a large measuring cup.

Whisk the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a separate bowl.

Gradually add the wet mixture into the dry mixture. The dough will be a little lumpy. Let it sit for about 5 minutes. It

will puff up. If it is too thick, add a little more milk.

Add a generous amount of butter to the griddle, then lower the heat to a medium-low temperature. Spoon large circles of batter onto the griddle. Cook on the griddle for a few minutes.

Add blueberries to each pancake and flip, cooking a few more minutes on the other side. (A good rule of thumb is to wait until the bubbles stop popping and reforming on the raw side of the dough before flipping.) Keep the pancakes warm in a 200 F oven while cooking the remaining cakes.

Whisk together the lemon juice, powdered sugar, and 1 tablespoon milk in a small bowl. If it is too thin, add a little more powdered sugar. If it is too thick, add a little more milk. Heat slightly if desired.

Drizzle the syrup over the pancakes and serve warm.



### Shrove Sunday Potluck

When: **Sunday March 2nd**

### After Service

Let's have a chance to share sweet things with each other before Lent begins. If you're feeling like pancakes, go for it! This will be our last chance until April 20th (Easter)!

January 2025	Monthly Actual	YTD Actual
Income	\$7,207	\$7,207
Expenses	\$6,088	\$6,088
Net Surplus	\$1,118	\$1,118

## Financial Summary

### January, 2025

November is the last full month the Vestry reviewed.

You may notice a new format. Someone suggested that it is easier to understand where we are if I just share the Actual Income and Expenses with you without comparing it to our Budget. Let me know if you prefer this or the other way. Thanks.

The Monthly and YTD figures are the same for this month only.

#### Income:

This is a good start for the year.

#### Expenses:

Not bad for the first month. I'm most worried about Utilities during this very cold winter. And our snow plowing bills will be higher than in years past.

I expect the Telephone & Computer account will go over budget for February. We had some computer issues and an attempted printer repair that required an expert. We now need a new printer. Looking at what leasing a printer might cost.

February's numbers may show Income lower than usual since we cancelled a service due to the snow storm. If you missed your normal donation, please try to catch up in the coming month. It will be much appreciated.

<u>Ministry Schedule</u>							
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Video</u>	<u>Counting Member 1</u>	<u>Counting Member 2</u>
03/02/2025	Ina			Neil	Becky	Neil	Russ
03/09/2025	Jack	Neil	John	Fr. Schneider	Sherry	Connie	Mary
03/16/2025	Beth Ann			Kitty	Wes	Russ	Jack
03/23/2025	Wes	Mary	Jason	Fr. Schneider	Ida Lynn	Mary	Becky
03/30/2025	Neil			Becky	Sherry	Jack	Neil
04/06/2025	Tammy			Neil	Sherry	Becky	Connie
04/13/2025	Wes	Jack	Neil	Fr. Schneider	Ina	Neil	Russ
04/17/2025	Mary	Neil	John	Fr. Schneider	Ida Lynn	Connie	Mary

St. John's Episcopal Church  
PO Box 86  
4074 S Mill St.  
Dryden, MI 48428

