



St. John's Episcopal Church

The Saint

*The Mission of St. John's Parish is to glorify God
by growing in Christ's love and sharing that love with others
through worship, fellowship, and service .*

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—
“a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” Mark 1:2-3

From the Pastor

Yes, it seems like it was just Christmas a few days ago. Well, it was just Christmas a few weeks ago! Now we're about to begin the Season of Lent. Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday, February 14th this year – St. Valentine's Day. Oh my, whatever will we do? The Church calls for a day of fasting and repentance – the culture calls for eating as many sweets and as much chocolate as you can. Hmmmm – I must say I'm more drawn to the cultural customs for February 14th than the idea of soup and bread and ashes on my forehead. I have grandchildren who attend a Catholic High School. It will be interesting to see what happens there. I am watching for special dispensations from church hierarchies allowing exceptions to the usual rules in order for Valentine's gifts to be exchanged.

For our part – that is, for St. John's, Youngstown – Fr. Dan Pinti will be distributing “Ashes to Go” during the noon hour in front of Melloni's Market at 200 Lockport St. in the Village. St. Paul's, Lewiston will have a traditional Ash Wednesday service on February 14th at 7 pm in the Chapel. There will be the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. I hope that many of you will be able to participate at one of these times and locations to mark the beginning of the Season of Lent.

Thereafter, we will be offering a special program at St. John's, Youngstown during the day every Wednesday during Lent. We will begin with a prayer service at 11:30 am followed by a bag lunch with one hour program. In the evening, the same program will be offered at St. Paul's, Lewiston beginning with Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm, followed by a one hour program. The topics will vary from week to week, so if you are unable to attend one week, you can come the next without feeling as if you've missed something. With both of these options, I'm hoping that many people from each parish will be able to attend at a time and place that is convenient for them.

Additionally, we will have special daily meditation booklets from Episcopal Relief and Development to guide us in our thoughts and prayers for others throughout the Lenten Season. These will be available at St. John's beginning on Sunday, February 4th.

Lent is a time when faithful folk do something ‘different’ than they do the rest of the Church year. Traditionally, this has been called a Lenten discipline, which sounds rather dreary. I would frame it more as an invitation to something joy-filled. Lent is a time to say “yes” to the Spirit's invitation to come closer. Often, we keep the Spirit waiting. We say, metaphorically, “yes, but later,” “I'm really busy right now,” and so on. By so doing, we miss the joy of the Spirit that God longs to give us; the joy of being together. We miss the joy of prayer and good

conversation with friends, the joy of accomplishing something for ourselves that deepens our faith in God.

Let's think of Lent as an opportunity to rejoice in God and in one another. Let's think of Lent as an adventure in faith. Let's think of Lent as a time to be really good to ourselves by allowing the Spirit to nourish us more than we usually do. Does that sound like "discipline" or does that sound like fun? I hope we can travel this Lenten journey together. I know that would be fun for me. ☺ In Christ, Mother Barbara

Priest's Schedule

2/4 - Dan
2/11 - Barbara
Ash Wednesday 2/14 - Dan
2/18 - Barbara
2/25 - Dan
3/4 - Dan
3/11 - Barbara (staying through Coffee Hour)
3/18 - Barbara
3/25 - Dan
3/29 - Maundy Thursday combined service at SJY 7 pm - Dan
3/30 - Good Friday combined service at SPL 7 pm - Barbara
4/1 - Easter - Barbara

Vestry Report

At the January 19th Vestry meeting Fr. Wayne and Mother Barbara brought us up to date on their many activities. They work very hard for us. They have decided not to follow the Diocesan plan to study Luke during Lent as our readings are from Mark. Instead they will offer independent program each week with a Prayer Service prior to the program.

Prayer Service: 11:30 am SJY, 6:30 pm SPL

Program: Noon SJY (bag lunch), 7:00 pm SPL

We have to get a new chasuble as ours is worn past repair. We will be giving the old one to St. Peter's in Westfield who will remove the braid and reuse it. Recycling at its best!

Our copier is also beyond repair as the parts are no longer being made. We will be buying a new one that is smaller. If you need to use the copier please see Karran, Mary, Shawn or Chris who will be trained to learn how it works.

The Belfry has sustained some damage to one of the slats on the South side. Because of this, the leaks and birds that we have had in the church we will be contacting Ingersol to check the steeple and also see if additional lighting is possible in the church.

Planning & Visioning Committee – Joint Meeting

St. Paul's and St. John's committees met together for the first time. It was a very positive meeting. As a result, Ash Wednesday services will be: 11 am St. John's, Noon-1pm Ashes to Go at Melloni's, and 7 pm at St. Paul. For Lent, we will do a mixed study that our priests will determine. This way if you miss one week, it will not affect your coming to the next. At St. John's at 11:30 am there will be prayer service followed by a bag lunch and a one hour

program each Wed. during lent. St. Paul's will host the same program with Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm and the same one hour program.

We discussed joining together in a spiritual covenant relationship as this 6 month trial which ends March 1st has been a great success and feels very natural. Starting March 1st we will enter a one year spiritual covenant with St. Paul's continuing as we have with shared priests, activities together and some shared services like we are doing for Ash Wednesday. A joint Covenant Committee will be formed to carry us forward.

One Diocese, One Season, One Book – Lenten Study

We have decided to do our own program for lent. See the Rector's report.

Listening Sessions Scheduled

What do you think about the proposed partnership between the Diocese of Western New York and the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania? Between now and mid-March, all members of both dioceses are invited to share their ideas, hopes and concerns at one of eight listening sessions:

- January 31, 7 p.m.: [St. Luke's, Jamestown](#) (WNY Cattaraugus/Chataqua region)
 - February 1, 7 p.m.: [St. Andrews, Buffalo](#) (WNY Central Erie region)
 - February 7, 7 p.m.: [St. Marks, North Tonawanda](#) (WNY Northern Erie region)
- Mary Wieland & Karran Swayze will be attending this session on Feb. 7th. If you would like to ride with them, please give them a call.
- February 8, 7 p.m.: [St. Matthias, East Aurora](#)

- (WNY Southern Erie region)
- February 28, 7 p.m.: [St. James, Batavia](#) (WNY Genesee region)
- March 1, 7 p.m.: [Calvary, Williamsville](#) (WNY Eastern Erie region)
- March 19, 6:30 p.m.: [St. John's, Franklin](#) (NWPA)
- March 20, 6:30 p.m.: [St. John's, Kane](#) (NWPA)

Bishop Sean will open the listening sessions in Western New York with brief remarks and time for questions, and then he will depart and members of the Diocese of Western New York's Standing Committee will lead the conversation.

At the listening sessions in the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, both Bishop Sean and Bishop Bill Franklin will open the meetings, and then they will depart and leave time for participants to talk with members of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania's Standing Committee.

Questions? Please email rustbeltepiscopal@gmail.com.

Valentines for Veterans

The Youngstown Free Library is accepting valentines for veterans through **February 5th**. A nice homemade valentine from your children with a kind message would be a terrific activity to engage in. Or, you can send one just from you! You can drop them off in an envelope, we have special box for them across from the checkout counter. Please have the children write their first name only and their ages, no other personal information such as address, last name or phone number should be on the valentine. We'll take them to the Vet Center or VA Hospital in time to distribute for Valentines Day. Let's support our veterans and share a little love to let them know they aren't forgotten and that we're thinking of them this Valentine's Day!

Line Dancing

Line Dancing will be continuing at the Church from January 23rd to March 27th on Tuesday nights except for the third week of the month when they will meet on

Wednesdays. Contact:

Dancing.With.Suzanne.Diez@gmail.com

If you are interested in attending.

Being God's Hands and Feet!

This year our Cabaret Night will be February 24th from 3:30pm-7 pm. We will be hosting the Cabaret Night with St. Paul's. St. John's with St. Paul's help will prepare the salad and desserts for dinner, serve the meal and we will provide desserts for the cabaret. This year St. Paul's will be providing the entertainment while we support them there.

Please plan on helping that night. There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church.



Chili Cook-Off!!!

Sunday, February 4th –

This is SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!! St. Paul's is hosting a Chili Cook-Off for St. John's and St. Paul's. We'll be having a sign-up sheet at both places for folks who plan on attending and what they're bringing, especially the "chili competitors." We're also asking for donations of cans of soup based on the Super Bowl. Supporters of the AFC team

should bring a soup with meat. Supporters of the NFC team should bring a soup with chicken. Folks who could care less about the Super Bowl are asked to bring a can of vegetable soup.

There will be prizes!! This is a pot luck so feel free to bring something else to share.

We are going to have a Souper time!!

Backpacks for Casey House

This year, instead of Valentine's Baskets, we are putting together backpacks for 3 teenage girls and 3 teenage boys who go to Casey House for help. We are looking for: toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, little bottles of no alcohol mouthwash, colored pencils or crayons, snack bars, nail clippers, combs, small notebooks and pens.

February Birthdays

- 3 John Gerlach
- 8 Jerry Freischlag
- 11 Jean Gerlach
- 12 Sandy Hays Mies
- 19 Carole Harris
- 22 Ed Tormay
- 25 Sabra Whipple

Annual Statements

Your annual statements of your donations have been sent out. If you didn't receive one or if you have any questions about yours, please call or email us. Thank you.

Tax Changes

Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRA's- The recently passed Federal Tax law

significantly increases the standard deduction. One result of this change is that many will no longer be able to deduct gifts to charities on their Federal Income Taxes. However, if you are over 70 ½ you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA that is nontaxable. QCD's also count toward meeting your Required Minimum Distribution. Contact your Financial Advisor or IRA Custodian for details. Jim Poole

Free Tax Preparation

Free Tax Preparation Service Available- Starting **February 1st** trained AARP Volunteer Tax Aides will be available at the Lewiston Library, Lewiston Senior Center and the Youngstown Presbyterian Church to help prepare and file both federal and state tax returns. Although primarily focused on assisting seniors, this free service is open to all. You do not need to be an AARP member.

To get your taxes done you will need to make an appointment. Here is the weekly schedule and the number to call to set up your appointment:

Mondays- Lewiston Senior Center- Call 754-2071. 11:30 AM – 2:30PM

Tuesdays and Thursdays- Lewiston Library. Call- 754-4720. 11:30AM-2:30PM

Alternating Fridays starting February 2nd. Youngstown Presbyterian Church. Call 745-7067. 11:30AM- 1:30PM

To process your returns you must bring the following documents:

- You must bring some form of **photo ID** such as a driver's license, passport or some other form of government issued photo ID. This requirement is to protect against identity theft. To file a New York State return you must bring your driver's license and if a joint return your spouse's driver's license.
- A copy of your **2016 tax returns**. This will help the preparer to identify any carryover credits.
- **Written proof of the Social Security numbers** for any person that will be listed on the return. You, your spouse, your dependents. The best proof is the actual Social Security Cards.
- **All of your 2017 tax documents**. W-2s, 1099s, broker statements, etc.
- Your **check book** or your bank book that shows the routing number and account numbers of your bank accounts. These are required if you wish to have your refund/amount owed credited or debited directly to your bank account.

There are certain complex returns such as those involving rental property and businesses with income in excess of \$25,000 that are beyond the scope of this program.

Jim Poole

Let Us Pray

The Parish Rota: This is a list of the members of the parish. It allows us to pray for everybody each month.



1. Betty Ames, Allan Aureli, Mary Ellen Aureli
2. Michael Banks, Valerie Banks, Shawn D'Luhy
3. Kay Collard, Tony Collard, Heidi Dent
4. Brandon Comerford, Debra Comerford, Ryan Comerford
5. Stu Comerford, John Eodice, Priscilla Eodice
6. Joseph Fabian, Kathy Fabian,
7. Doreen Enman, Donald Finkle, Heather Finkle
8. Christine Foster, Mark Foster,
9. Jerry Freischlag, Mary Lou Freischlag, Angela Gebauer
10. Jean Gerlach, John Gerlach, Annie Given, Carl Gonder
11. Art Hannah, Judy Hannah, Esther Hardison
12. Don Henry, Donna Huggins, Col. Jack James,
13. Donna Jeffs, Harold Jeffs, Kelsey Jeffs, Shannon Jeffs
14. Dolores Jones, Greg Jordan, Kris Jordan,
15. Casey Jordan, Lisa Leffler, Mark Leffler,
16. Pat Lloyd, Carla Lynch, Connor Lynch,
17. John Lynch Sr., John Lynch Jr. Alison Martin,
18. Brittany Machmer John Mies, Sandy Mies
19. Lark Mattoon, Ed McGreevy, Ed Tormay
20. Irene Myers, Marie Oblamski
21. Karen Oddy , Deborah Pauline,
22. Shirley Oldfield,, Helene Pavlock,
23. James Poole, Nancy Poole
24. Linda Reynolds, Raleigh Reynolds, Carol Reinbird,
25. Jane Richardson, Mickey Sutor, Deacon Vickie Sutor
26. Karran Swayze, Randy Walck, Larry Walck

27. Sabre Whipple, Deb White, Michael White
28. Marie Stephens, Ken Wieland, Mary Wieland
29. Kit Williams, Dr. Michael Wilson, Michael Wilson
30. Kristen Wilson, Luke Wilson, Barbara Yandian.

Diocese of Western New York

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin
716-881-0660

Team Coordinator/Priest in Charge

Rev. Canon Barbara Price

Associate Priest

Rev. Canon Dan Pinti

Associate Priest/Pastoral Care

Fr. Wayne Knockle

All other church concerns, contact the

Wardens

Deacon

Vickie Sutor

Wardens

Mary Wieland

Shawn D'Luhy,

Vestry

Mike Banks

Don Henry

Lark Mattoon,

Treasurer

Mike Banks

See us on Facebook at:

**St. John's Episcopal,
Youngstown NY**



February 14, 2018

11:30 am Service

St. John's Episcopal Church
Main & Chestnut Streets Youngstown, NY



12 noon – 1 pm

Melloni's Market Place
200 Lockport St., Youngstown, NY

7 pm Service

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
400 Ridge St., Lewiston, NY

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone/Fax: 716-745-3369

stjohnsytown@verizon.net

www.stjohnsyongstown.org

If you would like more information about St. John's, have a prayer request or would like to talk to the clergy, please call or e-mail the office.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

P.O. BOX 366

MAIN & CHESTNUT STREETS

YOUNGSTOWN, NY 14174-0366

Change Service Requested