
Saints Alive!: News & Announcements for the week of March 24, 2019

All Saints' Episcopal Church <allsaints@allsaintspontiac.org>
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Fri, Mar 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM



Saints' Alive!

News & Events for the week of March 24, 2019

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 3/24

8:00a Celtic Holy Eucharist
9:15a Adult Forum
10:30a Holy Eucharist

Monday 3/25

Rummage Set Up
4:00p BT Cooking
7:00p AA
7:00p Book Group

Tuesday 3/26

Rummage Set Up
4:00p Bound Together
6:00p Spirituality Group

Wednesday 3/27

Rummage Set Up
4:00 Bound Together
7:00p Lenten Program

The Third Sunday in Lent

Readings for this Week:

Exodus 3:1-15
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8

Presider and Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Chris Johnson

7:30p Choir

Thursday 3/28

Rummage Set Up
4:00p Bound Together

Friday 3/29

Rummage Set Up
11:00a AA

Saturday 3/30

8:00a Community
Breakfast
10:00a
Resale/Produce/Book
Shop

Future Events

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Apr 3-6 Rummage Sale
Apr 8 Movie Group
Apr 14 Palm Sunday
Apr 19 Good Friday
Apr 20 Great Vigil
Apr 21 Easter Day

... from the Rector

After his baptism, Jesus went out in the wilderness to pray.

Getting a perspective on our vocation...our ministry...is part of our discernment about how God is working through our lives. Undoubtedly, Jesus wanted to cooperate with God as a willing participant, much as did Mary when the angel of God announced to her that she would bear a child who would be the awaited Messiah.

After Paul's baptism he spent three years in Arabia making sense of how God was calling him to serve before joining up with the disciples in Jerusalem. How could God call him, who was previously terrorizing the followers of Jesus, to become his messenger and advocate?

Each of us have spent the substance of our lifetimes living into our own understandings of an ideal of faithful citizenship we believed would be our best self. Each believing, no doubt, that the fulfillment of their ambitions was God's greatest joy. The question I invite you to consider is this: Do you really believe that God is presiding over the populating of this earth with more than 8 billion people solely to satiate your ambitions? Paul's reflection was that each of us were given gifts for the common good, for the building up of our community. He argued that our joy would be made complete when we were of one spirit and mind rooted in God's love.

In other words, pausing to pray means taking time to invite God to reveal to you a way of satiating your ambitions that you may never have considered while you were following your own ambition. Any sacrifice that grows out of your time at prayer listening to God is a sacrifice that may become the source of blessing for which you are longing. Mary's soul proclaimed the greatness of God. Paul grew to understand that nothing could separate him from the love of God. There's no time like the present to pray friends. And just think, when you do, you may even find what you have spent a lifetime searching for...with God's help.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

The 1979 Book of Common Prayer put its emphasis on the ministry of all the baptized. This emphasis marked a decided shift away from clergy centric ministry. Liturgies

instituting new priests as rectors today even reflect that shift as they incorporate echoes of the baptismal liturgy right from the beginning with the familiar words:

	There is one Body and one Spirit;
People	There is one hope in God's call to us;
Bishop	One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People	One God, Creator of all.

And even more directly the bishop later asked of us during my institution as rector:

Chris; people of All Saints': in Holy Baptism we receive full adoption through God's grace and full empowerment for ministry through the Holy Spirit. Will you work together as partners in the mission of the Church, to reconcile all people to God through Christ?

To which we replied together

We will with God's help.

Today, in 2019, we continue the long, sometimes fast changing, while at other times the slow shift, towards a fully developed ministry of all the baptized. As rector of All Saints', I believe that intended shift is reflective of a wider cultural shift away from a directive culture of autocratic institutional leadership towards a more inclusive collaborative culture of shared leadership.

As one more step towards the reinforcement of that intended shift, I would like to draw attention to the Episcopal Church's provision for Lay Eucharistic Visitors. LEVs as they are frequently referred to, are baptized members of the congregation who visit and bring the Sunday Eucharist into the homes of shut-in congregants. This ministry not only allows the shut-in parishioner to hear parts of that day's worship service and to receive the consecrated elements of bread and wine, but it also reminds us as members of the congregation that we are with each other spiritually even in our physical absence. That connection itself strengthens our community. The 2016 Parish Profile reported that All Saints' had six Lay Eucharistic Visitors, though I only know of two today. I would like to ask us to consider changing that reality as an intentional act of pastoral ministry that is committed to both empowering our lay leadership and to strengthening the bonds of love that bind us to each other as a congregation.

Please pray about Lay Eucharistic Visitor ministry as it might be here at All Saints'. If you believe someone you know would serve our community well in that capacity, please ask them if they would consider this as an opportunity to discern that possible call further. I will seek training for our members through the resources of

the diocese and plan to commission those ministers during our Pentecost worship, June 09th.

As always, feel free to ask questions.

Chris Johnson

Adult Forum

Adult Forum session, March 24:

The Gospels describe Jesus as welcoming and healing people whom present-day society might describe as mentally ill. Those suffering from mental illness in our own society are often given labels which stigmatize and separate them from the larger community. We will discuss the Christian response to the issue of mental illness in today's America.

There will be no Adult Forum on March 31.

Lenten Programs

Study Opportunities during Lent

Sunday morning.

Adult Forum from 9:15-10:15 Topics vary weekly.

Contacts are Jim Lewis at jameswmlewis@earthlink.net and Michelle Lane at michelle.lane@roeper.org.

March 24th Christian Response to Contemporary Issues

March 31st TBA

April 07th Spiritual Growth

April 14th Contemplative Practice

Monday evenings.

7:00-9:00pm 2nd Mondays Movie Group. Contact is Lisa Uchno at uchno1j@yahoo.com.

The April 8th movie choice will be "Finding Vivian Maier".

7:00-9:00pm (usually) 3rd Mondays Book Group. Contact is Ginny Meyer at jpmeyer9194@comcast.net. The March 25th book study will discuss, [The Bucolic Plague: How Two Manhattanites Became Gentlemen Farmers: An Unconventional Memoir](#), written by Josh Kilmer-Purcell.

The April 22nd (4th Monday due to Holy Week) book study will be determined during the March 25th

gathering.

Tuesday evenings.

6:00-8:30pm Exploring Spirituality group (includes a light dinner). Contact is Mary Beth Tygielski at tally_mb@yahoo.com. This group will be discussing the book, The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem, written by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

Wednesday evenings.

7:00-8:00pm An Introduction to the Episcopal Church. Contacts are Chris Johnson rector@allsaintspontiac.org and Chris Berg jcberg5301@comcast.net. The Revs. Chris Berg and Chris Johnson will enter into a discussion based on their experiences of the Episcopal Church and inspired by conversation in the recently released book, Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices, written by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe.

Rummage Set Up

Saturday, March 23, is "WWAM" day. Additional help will be required to direct and assist with this group's participation.

Everyone is invited to participate and any help will be greatly appreciated. Please consider joining us!

Sign-up sheets are posted. Please take a moment to mark those day(s) on which you will be available. Evening hours are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Resale Shop Blow-Out Sale Continues

Children's clothing 4/\$1.00
White tagged clothing \$1.00
All jeans 2/\$1.00
All other items are 50% off
Jewelry is NOT discounted

Also, NEXT Sunday, March 31st we will be purging the shop of all merchandise, and there is a huge need for people to help with this. We meet at the shop after the 10:30 service, and the more hands that help, the quicker the job. The shop has to be emptied in order to reopen with new and seasonal merchandise once the rummage sale is completed.

Name Tags

If you would like to have a new or replacement name tag prepared, please email the office at allsaints@allsaintspontiac.org with your request. You may also drop a note in the offering plate.

We have a little project that involves you....

Many of us have doctors or other healthcare professionals who have gone above and beyond expectations to maintain and improve our health. In this they are instruments of God the creator, and in this, each of us has probably thanked them for their work. That expression of gratitude is generally sincere and appreciated. However, it is the nature of medical practice now that so many of those who care for us are highly specialized. Their best efforts notwithstanding, it is almost impossible for them to know more about us beyond general impressions and specific sets of symptoms.

We propose to help those who help us so much by recognizing them by name on the Sundays closest to St. Luke's Day. St. Luke is the patron of physicians, and this is an appropriate time to express our appreciation for the medical professionals who mean so much to so many of us. St. Luke's Day is October 18. You will be receiving a letter during the first part of April which explains in detail what is being proposed. In summary it is this: All Saints' Church, the community which values you, will express its gratitude to the healthcare professional whom you nominate. This will occur in a carefully crafted letter which mentions you by name. We will also let the doctor, nurse or physician's assistant whom you nominate know that they will be named along with other medical colleagues in the Prayers of the People on October 20 when we acknowledge St. Luke the Patron of Healers.

This little project moves us toward several goals. First, it adds a dimension of gratitude many of us feel for those who minister the healing arts to us. It is one thing to receive a thank you from an individual. It is another thing entirely to be thanked by a whole community who recognizes the larger contribution you make to us all in caring for one of our beloved brothers or sisters. Second, it helps the healthcare provider in seeing you

more fully as a person with an array of social connections, a lively community of support, and a faith which supports the healing work of one's doctor. Third, it is another step in elevating the profile of All Saints' Church in the wider communities of which we are a part. We are the best kept secret in Pontiac, and anything we can do to break down that anonymity and present All Saints' as an engaged and caring community is all to the good.

So, please be looking for the letter which explains more fully this little project. Give it careful consideration and use the form attached to it to make your nomination if you choose to do so.

Chris Berg and Mary Beth Tygielski

P. S. In this period of tight budgets and financial constraints, please be aware that the modest cost of this project is being paid for by private donations for this purpose. It has no impact on the parish budget.

Pastoral Care, Notes & Birthdays

Prayers

For those who have asked for our prayers: Ali, Alicia, Annamary, Bruce, Charles, Chris and Lisa, Chris and Margie, Connie, Cory, David, Delphine, Ernie, Glenden, Gordie, Greg, Harry, Jan, Janet, Jean, John, Larry, Lenora, Lewis, Lisa, Lori, Micah, Michelle, Paul, Reatha, Sarah, Shari, Shirley, Steven, Susy, Sydney, Tim, and Twyla.

Birthdays:

March 25 Darlene Donaldson, Libby Maxwell
March 29 Diane Donaldson

Notes

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Church e-mail Contacts

Chris Johnson - rector@allsaintspontiac.org
revchristopherjohnson@msn.com
Ken Dyker - dy50ker@gmail.com
Robert Senseney - treasurer@allsaintspontiac.org

Norma Warner - allsaints@allsaintspontiac.org

Bound Together

Jane Porter - director@boundtogetherpontiac.org

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