
Saints Alive!: News & Announcements for the week of March 31, 2019

All Saints' Episcopal Church <allsaints@allsaintspontiac.org>
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Saints' Alive!

News & Events for the week of March 31, 2019

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 3/31

8:00a Celtic Holy
Eucharist
10:30a Holy Eucharist

Monday 4/1

Rummage Set Up
7:00p AA

Tuesday 4/2

Rummage Set Up
6:00p Spirituality Group

Wednesday 4/3

Rummage Set Up
5:00p Rummage
Preview
7:30p Choir

Thursday 4/4

Rummage Sale

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Readings for this Week:

Joshua 5:9-12
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Psalm 32

Presider and Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Chris Johnson

Friday 4/5

Rummage Sale
11:00a AA

Saturday 4/6

8:00a Community
Breakfast
Rummage Sale

Future Events

—
Apr 8 Movie Group
Apr 14 Palm Sunday
Apr 19 Good Friday
Apr 20 Great Vigil
Apr 21 Easter Day

Congregations thrive when the people who make up the congregation thrive. Paradoxically, faith doesn't call attention to the practitioner of faith, it directs its attention to the object of its faith. So here's the dilemma. We seek to love and serve God through our devotion to the teachings of Jesus. In doing so, we learn that the more we seek relationship with Jesus the more we come to understand that we must empty ourselves of personal ambition in favor of practicing sacrificial living as the means of discovering abundant living.

What?

Jesus applied his Jewish learning to teach us that we are "to love God with all our heart, all our strength, all our soul and all our mind." Essentially, to love God with everything we are. If we are doing that, then we have nothing else to give because we are already loving God with it. But if by chanced there is anything else to offer, then he taught us further to "love our neighbor as we love ourselves." You just can't give God everything and then your neighbor whatever you held back for yourself to then be able to indulge yourself yet further. Why? Because Jesus knows that real abundant living grows out of giving, not out of accumulating. And it takes real faith to put that to practice.

While we can't out give God, we can practice giving. Many of us were taught that we needed to give something up for Lent...and to be honest, those sacrifices were about sweets, not substance. This is not about giving something up. It is about the practice of simply giving.

Back to the original thought of this article. Thriving!

Giving of ourselves, sacrificial giving, for the sake of serving God and neighbor is an act of personal faith. It isn't really reasonable, but it is what we are asked to do never-the-less. When we practice sacrificial giving in service of faith, God reveals aspects of who we are that we might not have recognized without actually experiencing letting go of something we valued. In such moments we know ourselves as better people for having done so. And that knowledge about ourselves unleashes real lasting satisfaction about who we really are. That momentary awareness is an encounter with abundant living. And that encounter allows us to thrive and imagine other ways we can strengthen the bonds of relationship we have with God and neighbor.

The more we thrive, the more our congregation thrives. All because we discovered that in giving we receive, in dying we are born. Eternal life doesn't need to begin after you run out of breath. It can begin now, while you let God breathe through you.

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

There will be no Adult Forum on March 31.

The Adult Forum offering for April 7th:

Journaling as a Spiritual Practice
By Michelle Lane

The topic of journaling often triggers very mixed reactions. Those of us who develop this practice in our lives can attest to its deep value, but many people feel a sense of resistance, often because of the perception of past "failures". In this session, I will provide encouragement and share suggestions that can support you and lead you toward a personal practice of journaling for spiritual growth. I invite you to come and open to the possibility of discovering an approach that may be fruitful. If you are already a journal writer, you may have your own unique strategies to add and I hope that you will feel affirmed in your practice through our discussion.

(Rescheduled from March 10)

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 31st No Meeting
April 07th Spiritual Growth
April 14th Contemplative Practice

Monday evenings.

7:00-9:00pm 2nd Mondays Movie Group. Contact is
Lisa Uchno at uchnolj@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 May 6th book study will discuss, The Ninth Hour by
Alice McDermott.

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
jcborg5301@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

Set up continues through Wednesday. Everyone is
invited to participate and any help will be greatly
appreciated. Please consider joining us!

The Preview is April 3 starting at 5:00p.m.

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

On 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!e. The shop has to be emptied in order to reopen with new and seasonal merchandise once the rummage sale is completed.

Resale Shop H E L P!

HELP, YOU KNOW WE NEED SOMEBODY(S)
NO, NOT JUST ANY BODY(S)
WON'T YOU PLEASE, PLEASE HELP US!!!!

The resale shop has been given some beautiful furniture that will look fabulous in displaying our merchandise to our customers. But we need to pick it up and bring it to the shop and then carry it into the shop.

The furniture is in Livonia. We need a few strong and able bodies that could pick up and move the furniture,(I don't believe it's very heavy): a truck or van to haul it in; or a truck or car that could pull Jack Hunger's flat bed trailer. (Jack's suburban is finally too old to do this).

If you are able to help us with this or know of anyone, say a neighbor, friend, family member, PLEASE contact the office or Mary Beth Tygielski. I'll make time and arrangements to pick the items up whenever YOU are available, day or night or weekend. It would be ideal to do this when the shop is vacant next week during the spring rummage sale, but we'll be forever grateful whenever we could get these items.

On behalf of the resale shop-Thank you so very much!!!!
Mary Beth
248-790-5167

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, Becky, Bob, Bruce, Charles, Chris and Lisa, Chris and Margie, Connie, Cory, David, Delphine, Ernie, Glenden, Gordie, Greg, Harry, Jan, Janet, Jean, John, Larry, Lenora, Lewis, Linda, Lisa, Lori, Micah, Michelle, Paul, Reatha, Sarah, Shari, Shirley, Steven, Susy, Sydney, Tim, Twyla, and Warren.

Birthdays:

April 4 Angela Gilchrist, Karen Lee

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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