



## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Christ:

As I write this on the afternoon of the Fourth Sunday in Lent, having bid a fond farewell to the third and final contributor to our Lenten Guest Preacher series, the church undercroft is strangely silent: there are no space heaters whirring, and no air handlers blowing. The arrival of spring earlier this week seems to have actually taken hold, and the 14 inches of snow we received has faded from our thoughts as quickly as it melted into the ground. But such is life in Central Pennsylvania, as the daffodils emerging from the ground in our front garden can attest.

Of course, the weather is not the only thing in transition. The Fourth Sunday in Lent has many names – Refreshment Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Rose Sunday, *Laetare* Sunday – all of which suggest, either directly or indirectly, that something is different. For our purposes, the difference is that Lent is now more than half over.

An evaluation is called for at this juncture. In her sermon at the 8:00 service last Sunday, the Very Rev. Canon Robyn Szoke-Coolidge asked us, “How’s your Lent going?” That question came at the perfect point in the season. Are we keeping up with the promises we made on Ash Wednesday? Did we overreach? Can we adjust and still feel like we’re making a reasonable sacrifice?

With just two more Sundays in Lent to go, our thoughts unavoidably turn to the future. While the Thursday evening class meets once more – on April 6 – Holy Week itself will be full of activity. Keep in mind that the services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are the ones that spell out our faith for us – the ones which remind us who we are, where we come from, and where we’re going. They are beautiful, emotional, and jarring – they prompt us to be awake, alert and aware of our identity, our story, as followers of Jesus. I hope very much that you will make every effort to be present for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, in addition to Easter Day, so that, together, we can walk from the upper room, to the foot of the cross, to the empty tomb.

May God bless you richly during the remaining days our season in the wilderness. I look forward to seeing you in church.

Faithfully yours,

(The Rev.) Christopher V. Pyles

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Easter is on the late side this year – April 16. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 9, with a regular service schedule. Low Mass will be celebrated Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week at 7:30 p.m. at the Lady Altar in the back of the church.



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Solemn Mass, Washing of the Feet, Stripping of the Altar, Translation of the Sacrament, and Watch at the Altar of Repose begins at 7:30 p.m. on Maundy Thursday. Good Friday service is at 7:30 p.m., and the Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter begins at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 15. Regular Sunday schedule on Easter Day. As the saying goes, “no cross, no crown” – in other words, we can’t know the true joy of Easter without having first known the agony of the cross, which we experience most fully during the *Triduum Sacrum*, or the Three Sacred Days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday). Please be present for as many services as you can during this most holy week of the Christian year.

## JESUS ASKED PETER, “COULD YE NOT WATCH WITH ME ONE HOUR?” – *Matthew 26:40*



Once again this year, we will keep watch on Maundy Thursday evening and Good Friday morning. As in years past, the Lady Altar in the back of the church will be transformed into an Altar of Repose – meant to bring to mind the Garden of Gethsemane – where the Sacrament will be tenanted at the end of the Mass on Maundy Thursday. The Sacrament will be brought back to the high altar during the service on Good Friday and then distributed to the congregation, since a celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday is prohibited (BCP p. 275).

The Altar of Repose – with its lavish, fragrant floral arrangements, mingled with palm trees, potted plants, flickering candles and other decorations – is supposed to be a place of contemplation, respite and silent prayer. The traditional length of a “watch” is one hour. Many who have watched in the past expressed reluctance to try it a first time, believing there was no real benefit to it. But after keeping watch for just an hour, they came to share in the blessings that always result from this sacred devotion.

All are encouraged to sign up, and experience, perhaps for the first time, the gift of being in Our Lord’s presence in this

special way. While only one person is essential to watch each hour, as many chairs as are needed may be set up to accommodate however many may be present.

**FUNDRAISING DINNERS OFF TO A STRONG START**

We owe a great deal of thanks to the organizational efforts of our own Deacon Alex and to Junior Warden Charlie Hilderbrand. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a great success: We raised \$750 that evening and served a record number of meals.



Little did we know just a few weeks later we would shatter another record: On March 18, the Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner made \$2,750, having sold over 125 meals – nothing short of extraordinary. We thank Deacon Alex and Ellen Dyakiw and a whole host of indefatigable kitchen volunteers for tirelessly toiling for hours on end. The day couldn't have gone better, and many people worked very hard to make that possible. Well done!

**FROM THE DYAKIWS**

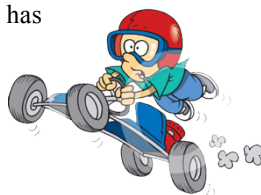
Dear Parish Family:

We would like to thank all of you, and Father Chris, for the cards, dinners, phone calls, and other support you gave us after the recent deaths in our family. Our community at St. John's was our consolation in our time of need. We are so grateful to you all.

*Deacon Alex & Ellen Dyakiw*

**SOAP BOX DERBY RETURNING TO ALLEGHENY STREET  
APRIL 22-23**

We have been informed that the borough has approved a Soap Box Derby on Allegheny Street, between Linn and Howard, the weekend of April 22-23. Longtime Bellefonte residents will recall these events in years past. Their



provisional return this year is a test to determine how disruptive they will be to us and to others whose home or business fronts on Allegheny Street.

More information will be forthcoming, but for now, know that access to the church via Locust Lane will not be compromised; our understanding also is that worshipers may pass from East Lamb Street to West Lamb Street across Allegheny for 10 or 15 minutes prior to the beginning of each service.

Stay tuned for additional information, which will be passed along to you as soon as we have it.



**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS**

April 2 Billie Jo North  
 April 9 No Coffee Hour –  
 Palm Sunday  
 April 16 No Coffee Hour –  
 Easter Day  
 April 23 Kay McClellan  
 April 30 Barbara Roberson

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**APRIL COLLECTION COUNTERS**

Charles Hilderbrand, Jr., & Larry Roberson

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

8 A.M. 10 A.M.

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April 2 Dcn Dyakiw Dcn Dyakiw  
 Lent V K. Grossman

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April 9 Dcn Dyakiw Dcn Dyakiw  
 Palm Sunday D. Cree

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April 13 7:30 P.M.  
 Maundy Dcn Dyakiw  
 Thursday T. Quigley

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April 14 7:30 P.M.  
 Dcn Dyakiw  
 Good Friday D. Cree

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8 P.M.  
 April 15 Dcn Dyakiw  
 Easter Vigil J. Hilderbrand

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April 16 Dcn Dyakiw Dcn Dyakiw  
 Easter Day C. Fyfe

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April 23 Dcn Dyakiw Dcn Dyakiw  
 Easter II S. Witmer

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April 30 S. Mauger Dcn Dyakiw  
 Easter III C.Hilderbrand

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**ALTAR SERVERS' ROTA - 10 A.M. MASSES**

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April 2 Book/Server T. Scott  
 Lent V Crucifer P.Hilderbrand  
 Torchbearers C. Holt  
 G.Hilderbrand

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April 9 Book/Server S. Dillon  
 Palm Sunday Crucifer T. Scott  
 Torchbearers G.Hilderbrand  
 M.Perkins  
 Thurifer C.Hilderbrand

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April 13 Book Server T. Scott  
 Maundy Crucifer S. Dillon  
 Thursday Torchbearers G.Hilderbrand  
 P.Hilderbrand  
 Thurifer C.Hilderbrand

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April 14 Book/Server S. Dillon  
 Good Friday Crucifer T. Scott  
 Torchbearers P.Hilderbrand  
 G.Hilderbrand  
 Thurifer C.Hilderbrand

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April 15 Book Server T. Scott  
 Easter Crucifer S. Dillon  
 Vigil Torchbearer P.Hilderbrand  
 G.Hilderbrand  
 Thurifer C.Hilderbrand

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April 16 Book/Server T. Scott  
 Easter Day Crucifer S. Dillon  
 Torchbearers P.Hilderbrand  
 G.Hilderbrand  
 Thurifer C.Hilderbrand

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April 23 Book/Server T. Scott  
 Easter II Crucifer C.Hilderbrand  
 Torchbearers G.Hilderbrand  
 C. Holt

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April 30 Book/Server S. Dillon  
 Easter III Crucifer D. Cree  
 Torchbearers C. Holt  
 G.Hilderbrand

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**BIRTHDAYS**

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April 4 Sara Witmer  
 James McKelvey

April 9 Steve Dillon  
 Mitchell Holland

April 20 Susan Christy

April 23 Finnegan Quigley

April 29 Daniel McGinley

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**EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM**

St. John's Altar Guild is receiving contributions to support the decorating of the church for Easter. Please use this form in making your donation. All donations should be returned to the parish office no later than **Monday, April 10**. Checks should be made payable to **St. John's Episcopal Church** and should be clearly marked **EASTER FLOWERS** on the memo line. You may also paper clip this form to a check, and drop it in the collection plate. Thank you for helping our church look its best for the Queen of Feasts!

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<b>2 Lent V</b> MP 7:45 Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 Coffee Hour	3  Easter Candy arrives  7 p.m. Men's Group	4	5 Low Mass with healing in the Chapel, 9:30	6 Breakfast Feeding Ministry, 7-9 a.m. Parish Hall  6 p.m. Lenten Program	7 Community Lunch at the Presbyterian Church, 10:30 a.m.	8
<b>9 Palm Sunday</b> MP 7:45 Mass 8 Sung Mass 10-beginning in the Fellowship Hall.	10 Monday in Holy Week  7:30 p.m. – Mass – Mary Altar	11 Tuesday in Holy Week  7:30 p.m. – Mass – Mary Altar	12 Wednesday in Holy Week; Low Mass with healing in the Chapel, 9:30; 7:30 p.m. – Mass – Mary Altar	<b>13 Maundy Thursday</b>  Breakfast Program, 7-9 a.m., parish hall  7:30 p.m. – Solemn Mass	<b>14 Good Friday</b>  7:30 p.m. – Good Friday Liturgy	<b>15 Holy Saturday</b>  8 p.m. – The Great Vigil of Easter. Solemn Mass, followed by Vigil Party in the parish hall
<b>16 Easter Sunday</b> MP 7:45 Mass 8 Sung Mass 10	17  <b>Easter Monday.</b> Parish office closed.  7 p.m. Men's Group	18	19 Low Mass with healing in the Chapel, 9:30  Vestry Meeting, 7:30, rectory	20 Breakfast Ministry, 7-9 a.m., Parish Hall	21	22  **Soap Box Derby**
<b>23 Easter II</b> MP 7:45 Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 Coffee Hour  **Soap Box Derby**	24  7 p.m. Men's Group	25	26 Low Mass with healing in the Chapel, 9:30	27 Breakfast Ministry, 7-9 a.m., Parish Hall	28  Supper Club outing to Finelli's in Altoona, 7 p.m.	29  Wedding of Aaron Covalt & Lindsay Foster in the church, 2 p.m.
<b>30 Easter III</b> Same as above						