



## FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

*Jesus answered, "You do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand."  
~John 13:7*

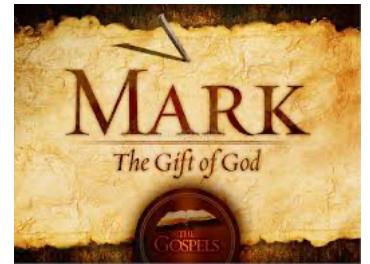
As we journey into our second week of Lent, I tried to fit all three liturgical seasons—Lent, Eastertide, Pentecost—into this newsletter, but emotionally, I cannot do it. Lent is very special to me, for it is a time for a reflective journey during these 40 days of our time in the desert and for introspection, forgiveness, and acceptance of God's love despite all our shortcomings. I feel undeserving of his own sacrifice and love. But that is part of this season—to look at where we may have faulted ourselves or others. This why we confess and read the Penitential Order Rite Two (on page 351 of our Prayer Book) and the Decalogue (on page 350). God does not want us to feel ashamed or guilty when we put ourselves at the foot of Christ to acknowledge that we are not all that we pretend to be and that we need God's grace and love.

There are many ways during and after Lent to help us to build our spiritual lives. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we gather at the Mary Altar for Evening Prayer and Low

Mass. On Fridays, confession with Fr. Kevin is offered from 4:30 to 5:30, followed by the Stations of the Cross.

Many prayer apps are available for download, including the *Venite*, *Daily Office*, and *Give us This Day*. I always suggest that you try a few and see which one fits. Because God has many ways of speaking to us, there is certainly one for you.

On the Church ministry side of things, there is much going on at St. John's. We just completed our Bible study on Amy Jill Levine's book of the Gospel of Mark. The excellent study, including video, was led by Father Kevin, Deacon Kevin, and me.



Special thanks for our Seminarian, Kevin Lowe, who prepares all our church bulletins, priest binders, and the weekly e-news. He also helps me and keeps the office functioning.



The Food Bank has been very grateful for all that we donate, delivered each week by Scott Mauger, so please continue your generous giving. Ellen and I have been cooking meals



dinner raised \$600, and all the money



was donated to the Bellefonte Youth Center.

for Out in the Cold 2-4 times each month when funds are available. I thank all who support the Deacon's Discretionary Fund to make that possible.

While we have been preparing materials for the search for a rector, all of you have been active in holding our church together. In seeing all that has been done, I cannot state enough how proud I am of our church family. See the prayer for discernment later in this newsletter.

Ellen and I held a prayer bead workshop recently, and all the proceeds from the event went to St. Andrews and the Episcopal Café.



They cook a dinner for about 150-200 people each Thursday, so funds from us are always appreciated.

We need to thank our senior warden, Larry Roberson, for all that he has been doing, from maintenance to media production each Sunday, as well as heading the vestry and search committee. I see him more at church than anyone else in that building. Let's pray for Larry and for all the people who put their time and energy into keeping the fabric of our family together.

We held our Shrove Tuesday pancake and sausage dinner on February 13.



Thanks to all the servers and especially to Jeff

Wilson and his friend Brian Bonner, who cooked for this event. Hats off to Scott Mauger for cleaning all the dishes. The

A celebration is in order: Josh Tuttle and Karlin Anderson successfully defended their dissertations from Penn State University and will graduate with their degrees in May. We are happy for their accomplishments and for the time that they spent with us in Bellefonte.

*~Dcn. Alex*

## THE SEMINARIAN'S SPACE REFLECTIONS ON THE GREAT LITANY



One of the gifts of our *Book of Common Prayer* is that, even though it has undergone many revisions over the years, much of our worship still adheres to the

shape and style of the first *Book of Common Prayer* from 1549. On the first Sunday in



Lent, at 10:30 a.m., we sang the Great Litany, which remains in our prayer book almost untouched from the earliest days of the Church of England. This prayer was written by Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer at the request of King Henry VIII in 1544. It is the first liturgical prayer originally written in English that survives to this day. When Cranmer put together the first *Book of Common Prayer* in 1549, he included the Great Litany and intended that it be said after Morning Prayer at least three times a week. Today we generally pray it only on the first Sunday in Lent, but the words are still essentially Cranmer's, with only a few minor revisions.



Thomas Cranmer had a gift for collecting and combining texts and prayers. When he was writing the Litany, he used a variety of existing prayers and traditions from around the global church. Included are local Roman Catholic litanies from England, a German litany that had been constructed by Martin Luther, and Greek litanies from the Orthodox Church. By putting them all together, Cranmer shaped them into a beautiful and unified prayer that speaks to all kinds of conditions in the world.

If you weren't in church on Sunday, or even if you were, I invite you to take some time to read over the text of [the Great Litany](#), and see how in it we are praying not only for ourselves but for the whole church and for the whole world. And when we pray these words, we are praying in company not only with other Episcopalians, but also with Anglicans who have used these same words since 1544, and with all of the other believers whose words Cranmer drew upon. Prayers like these transcend time and space. ~Dcn. Kevin

## FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday school children are learning to follow Jesus in many ways. Each week, we talk about living a Christian life through prayer, learning the Bible, and serving our community. On the Sunday before Valentine's Day, our Sunday school class



hosted coffee hour. I am amazed by their enthusiasm. Let the children lead us.

St. John's continues our fellowship with the

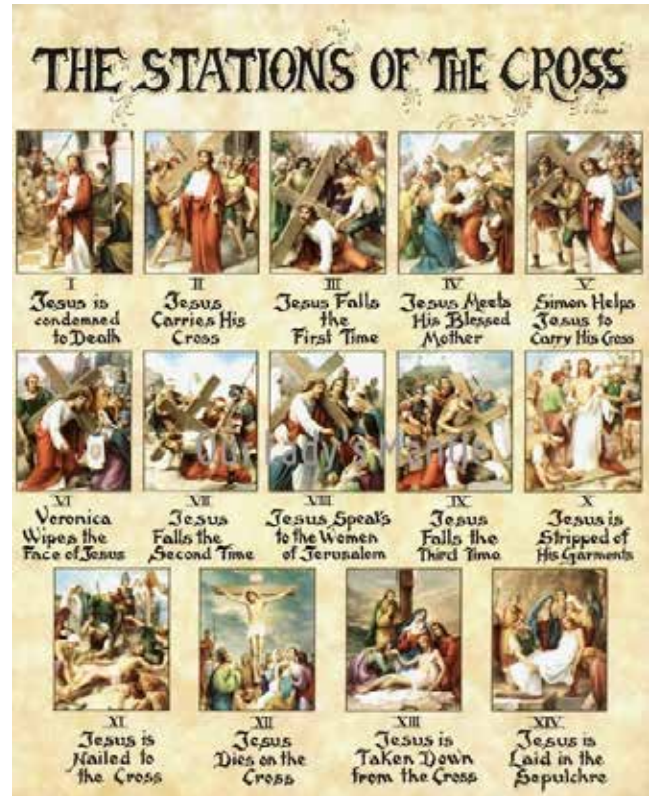


Bellefonte Youth Center through semi-monthly dinners and craft activities. We visit the center every other Tuesday with crafts and a warm dinner. If you are interested in

cooking for the youth group (approximately 15 people), please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church. Your help is greatly appreciated.

*~Miss Ellen*

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS Fridays at 5:30 p.m.



The devotion known as Stations of the Cross is an adaptation to local usage of a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem. We offer Stations of the Cross, led by Fr. Kevin Barron, at Saint John's each Friday in Lent at 5:30 p.m.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY FUNDRAISER**  
**Saturday, March 16 | 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**



Save the date and spread the word for Deacon Alex's famous Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner, featuring beef personally delivered by Alex from Brooklyn. This much beloved meal will again be take-out only this year. Although beef prices have substantially increased, we will hold the price at \$20 (\$15 for kids) for a full dinner. Meals include vegetables, a soft drink, and a dessert. All proceeds go to fund and sustain our church's operating budget for the year. In the coming weeks, a sign-up sheet for volunteers and dessert donations will be posted in the back of the church. Thank you for your support!

**HELP THE ALTAR GUILD PREPARE FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

**March 23-29, 2024**



Altar Guild will once again polish and decorate in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. If you can lend a hand on any of these dates, we would greatly appreciate it! Contact Peggy Jackson ([jimpegjacks@gmail.com](mailto:jimpegjacks@gmail.com)) with questions or to assist.

Sat 3/23, 10 am: polish most brass, decorate with palms, put veils on crosses.

Sun 3/24, after 10:30 mass: polish silver.

Wed 3/27, afternoon or evening: decorate Altar of Repose.

Fri 3/29, after the Good Friday Mass: move flowers, finish decorating, change candles.

A form can be found at the end of this newsletter for you to contribute to our Easter decorations and to honor or remember loved ones.

## PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY



It's time to update our parish photo directory.

If you did not have your picture taken in the fall or if you began attending Saint John's *after* our last update to the photo directory, now is the time. Following the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. masses, Deb Cree and Peggy Jackson will be taking pictures at the back of the church on **Sunday, April 14 and 21**. The current directory can be accessed at <http://stjohnsepiscopealbellefonte.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/St-Johns-Directory.pdf>. If your picture isn't included, find our photographers and say cheese!

## WELCOME, NEW READERS



We recently put out a call for volunteers to read lessons at the weekly masses. We are delighted to welcome three new members to the cadre: [Adela](#)

[Germano](#), [Andy Youstic](#), and [Barbara Roberson](#). They join our core group of faithful readers: [Scott Mauger](#), [Charity Holland](#), [David King](#), [David Cree](#), [Julia Kasdorf](#), [Kathryn Grossman](#), [Charlotte Zmyslo](#), [Tim Robinson](#), and [Bill Donovan](#). Thank you all for your willingness to serve in this important function.

## COLUMBARIUM NICHES REMINDER



Our new columbarium niches are awaiting reservations. A traditional funeral and burial plot typically cost around \$15,000 in this area. The columbarium niche price is \$1525 and includes the urn and the services of a priest. Contact [office@stjohnsepiscopealbellefonte.org](mailto:office@stjohnsepiscopealbellefonte.org) for information on purchasing.

## A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness. Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger envy, or self-pity.

Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and stronger compassion.

Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me.

In your sacred name, I pray. Amen.

[www.ShareCatholic.com](http://www.ShareCatholic.com)

## COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. Mass



**We are always seeking coffee hour hosts.** Coffee is provided by the church; you are asked to provide cold drinks and *simple* snacks (cookies/crackers, etc.). No need to prepare special foods. To sign up for a slot, please visit our sign-up link:

<https://bit.ly/3um2fBp>; or use the sign-up sheet on the lectern in the back of the church. Coffee hour will be held only on those Sundays when someone signs up to host.

You can download the guidelines from <https://stjohnsepiscopebellefonte.org/coffee-hour-instructions>.

If you need further help with the logistics, speak to Trish Weidemann. Many thanks to everyone who has helped with coffee hour; this is a vital ministry of fellowship and hospitality and a weekly opportunity to renew our church family friendships.

## AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



**Josh Tuttle** and **Karlin Anderson** recently defended their doctoral dissertations at Penn

State. Josh defended his dissertation on a history of Gothic literature, and Karlin's was on a history of five Christian women's magazines. They look forward to celebrating their graduation in May.



**Rick Yoder** was awarded a Fulbright Open Study/Research Grant for France, which will allow him to conduct roughly eight months of archival research in Paris, starting in September, 2024. Archives include the Bibliothèque de Port-Royal, the Archives Nationales, and the Bibliothèque de l'Académie Nationale de Médecine. This work will contribute to his dissertation on the Jansenist convulsionnaire movement of the eighteenth century, "Unorthodox Flesh: Gender, Religious Convulsions, and Charismatic Knowledge in Early Modern France." Rick says, "*I am extremely grateful for the support and prayers of the clergy and parish community of St. John's, Bellefonte, which surely helped me in this difficult process.*"

**David Cree** will be guest conductor of the Lakeland (FL) community band in its March concert. The band is comprised of 60 instrumental musicians, many of whom are retired band directors and music educators. They rehearse weekly and present monthly free concerts on the campus of Florida Southern College.



**Mary K. Jones** turns **102 years old** this month while staying at her



winter residence in Port Charlotte, Florida. Her daughter, Susan Christy, reports that Mary “still is lovely and funny and enjoying life every day (*no wonder; look at that view!*). She is our family treasure for sure.” We look forward to welcoming them back to Bellefonte in May.



## FOOD BANK COLLECTION



We have been asked to collect sugar, flour, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, salt, and pepper for March. In addition, they can always use cereal, tampons, dog and cat food, shampoo, and deodorant no matter what other goods we are targeting. Please drop your donations next to the St. Lawrence altar in the back of the church. Thanks to Charlotte and Scott for keeping this going each month.

## SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Our search committee has been hard at work compiling the survey results and refining the parish profile. They hope to present it to the bishop in April. Keep them in your prayers as we continue this process. Members are Larry Roberson (chair), Melanie Allen, Tom Bathgate, Rebecca Clayton, Alex Germano, Mitch Holland, Christine Holt, Peggy Jackson, Julia Kasdorf, and Erin Trouba.



## BIRTHDAYS

Kay	McClellan	March 09
Mary K.	Jones	March 10
Rebecca	Clayton	March 13
Alex	Dyakiw	March 29
Sara	Witmer	April 04
Myrna	Alterio	April 09
Steve	Dillon	April 09
Mitchell	Holland	April 09
Susan	Christy	April 20
Finnegan	Quigley	April 23
Avery	North	May 01
Genavieve	Clayton	May 03
Bette	Shugert	May 03
Elizabeth	Helms	May 07
Erik	Clayton	May 28
Jeffery	Wilson	May 30



### PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE AS WE SEARCH FOR A RECTOR

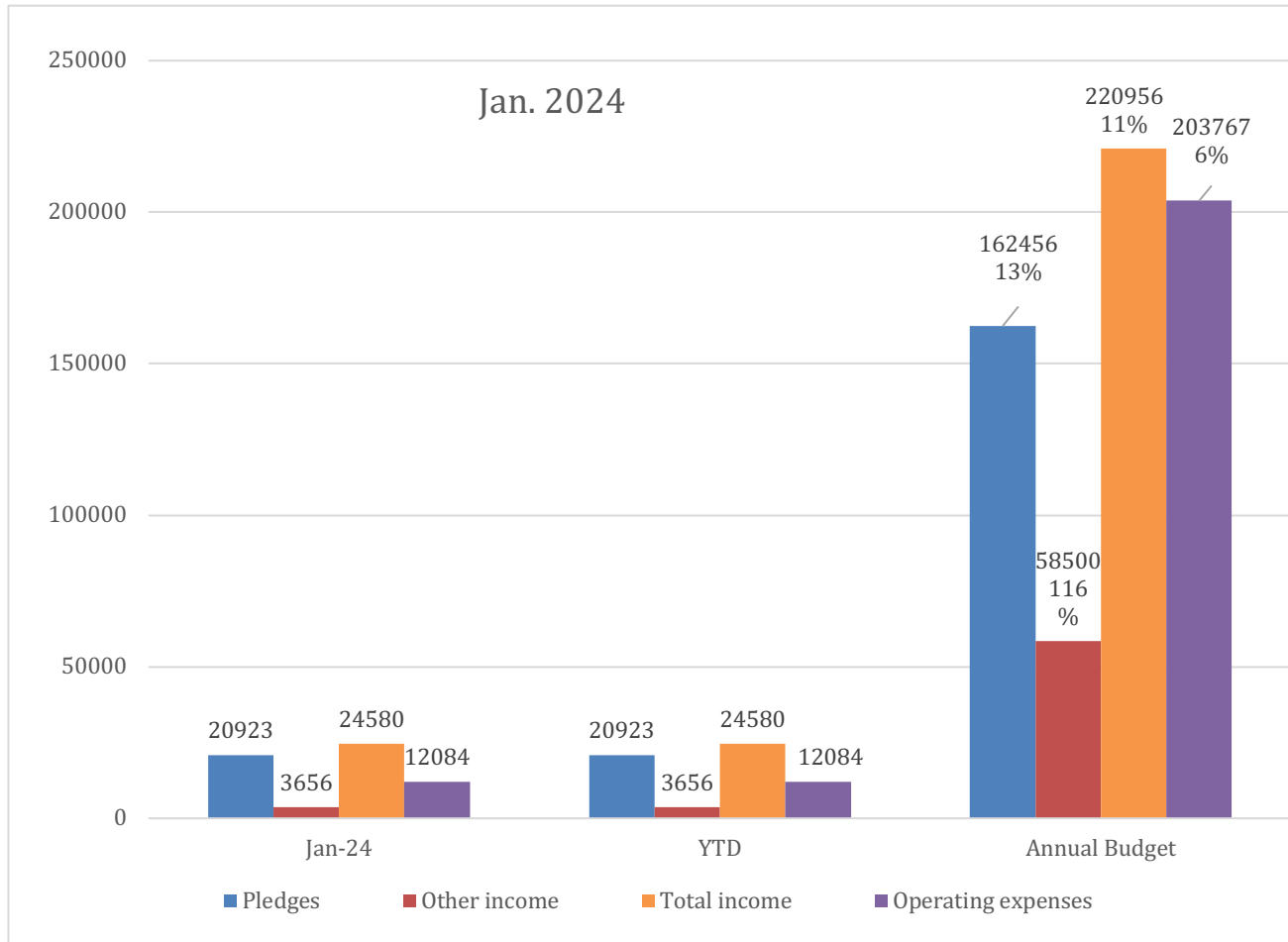
Creator of all good things, you have blessed our parish with the gifts of loving community, devotion, and discernment. Grant that we may deepen our commitment to you, to each other, and to the future of our congregation during this search process. May we grow together in grace so that we may be fully prepared to support the ministry of our new rector; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN



**FINANCIAL (JANUARY 2024)**

	<b>Jan-24</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>YTD % of Budget</b>
Pledges	20923	20923	162456	13%
Other income	3656	3656	58500	6%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>24580</b>	<b>24580</b>	<b>220956</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>12084</b>	<b>12084</b>	<b>203767</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>12496</b>	<b>12496</b>		

*Numbers do not include investments, savings, or checking acct balance.*



Vestry members: Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Scott Mauger (Jr. Warden), Debra Cree, Steve Dillon, Alex Germano, Kathryn Grossman, Liz Helms, Peggy Jackson, Charlotte Zmyslo

## EASTER FLOWERS & DECORATIONS



Saint John's Altar Guild is receiving contributions to assist in decorating the church for Easter. Please use this form for making your donations. All forms and donations should be returned to the parish office no later than **March 22**. Checks should be made payable to St. John's Episcopal Church and should be clearly marked "*Easter Decorations*" on the memo line.

You can also make a donation online by visiting our giving page and selecting "Easter Flowers" from the drop-down menu. You may type your dedication in the message box, or email the Parish Office with your dedication, which will appear in our Easter order of service.

**YOUR NAME(S):**

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**IN MEMORY OF:**

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**IN THANKSGIVING FOR:**

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# HOLYWEEK & EASTER

## PALM SUNDAY

March 24 | 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28 | 7:00 p.m.

## GOOD FRIDAY

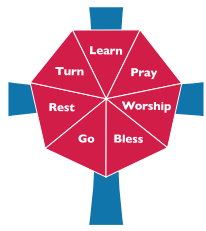
March 29 | 12:00 noon

## THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

March 30 | 8:00 p.m.

## EASTER DAY

March 31 | 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.



# Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><b>Reflections from "Living the Way of Love"</b> by Mary Bea Sullivan (Church Publishing, 2019). Used with permission.</p>		<p><b>Feb 14</b> <b>Pray</b> Take 20 minutes in contemplative prayer today. Matt. 4:18-22</p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>Turn</b> Today, intentionally listen devoutly to another person. Mk. 4:23</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>Go</b> Where can you go and intentionally provide kindness? Matt. 5:4</p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>Worship</b> How does community help or hinder your growing in Christ? Jn. 1:12-13</p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>19</b> <b>Bless</b> Who has taught you to live a Jesus-filled life? Who have you taught? 2 Cor. 4:16</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Rest</b> How do you incorporate rest into your life? Jer. 6:16</p>	<p><b>21</b> <b>Pray</b> Go for a walk today and pray with your feet, each step with intention. Is. 2:3a</p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>Rule of Life</b> How do others experience the love of Christ you bring? Gal. 5:22-23</p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>Go</b> Where are you being encouraged to "show up"? Matt. 25:44-45</p>	<p><b>24</b> <b>Worship</b> What is most meaningful to you in worship? BCP, pg. 281</p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> <b>Bless</b> Notice the pattern of your breathing. Pray for awareness of blessings. Gen. 2:7</p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>Learn</b> What passage of scripture is important to you? Why? Is. 40:8</p>	<p><b>28</b> <b>Pray</b> Listen to the Daily Office today at <a href="http://missionstclare.com">missionstclare.com</a>. Ps. 55:17</p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>Turn</b> How did you turn back toward God's love when you made a big mistake? Lk. 15:18</p>	<p><b>Mar 1</b> <b>Go</b> Where can you seek and serve Christ in someone unlike you? Jer. 30:22, 31:4-5</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Worship</b> In your prayers today, what new words or thoughts touch you? Phil. 4:6</p>	<p><b>3</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>4</b> <b>Bless</b> Intentionally smile at least ten times today. Phil. 4:4</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>Rest</b> How might you connect with others in the spirit of renewal? 1 Kings 19:11-12</p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>Rule of Life</b> How can you build pauses into the day to reflect on the work of the Spirit? Jn. 15:5</p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>Turn</b> What relationships do you need to mend? Is. 55:6-8</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>Go</b> Create a prayer representing how you seek to serve God and follow Jesus. Matt. 5:15</p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>Worship</b> What seminal moments have informed a need to return to Christ? Ps. 51:10</p>	<p><b>10</b> <b>4th Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>11</b> <b>Bless</b> What challenges are you facing today? Job 11:18</p>	<p><b>12</b> <b>Learn</b> How is the Jesus who walked the earth beckoning you to meet him? Mk. 10:46-52</p>	<p><b>13</b> <b>Pray</b> Try praying with Anglican prayer beads. Lk. 18:1</p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>Turn</b> Where do you find joy and passion? Lk. 24:32</p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>Go</b> Where might God be asking you to take your great love into the world? Is. 48:6b</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>Worship</b> How do you want to prepare people to remember you? 2 Cor. 1:3-4</p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>5th Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>18</b> <b>Bless</b> When you reflect on financial giving, are your palms open? Matt. 12:43-44</p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>Learn</b> Who might you have a conversation with to learn about God? Ps. 119:105</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Pray</b> What are you thankful for? 1 Chron. 29:15</p>	<p><b>21</b> <b>Way of Love</b> Where do you see the seven practices of the Way of Love in this story? Lk. 5:19</p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>Rest</b> How do your creative outlets impact on taking rest? Gen. 1:1-24</p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>Learn</b> Practice lectio divina with this scripture: Lk. 15:17-24</p>	<p><b>24</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b></p>
<p><b>25</b> <b>Rest</b> What can you say "no" to so you can say "yes" to prayer, rest, and joy? Lev. 23:3</p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>Learn</b> Slowly read this passage aloud. How does this passage speak to the world today? Matt. 4:8-22</p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>Rule of Life</b> Who can support you in living a Jesus-centered life? 2 Cor. 3:6</p>	<p><b>28</b> <b>Turn</b> How might you share what brings you great joy with others? Rom. 12:6-8</p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>Rest</b> How can you incorporate rest from technology today? Matt. 11:28</p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>Rule of Life</b> How has this Way with God impacted your experience of God? Jn. 7:38</p>	<p><b>31</b> <b>Easter Day</b></p>