

## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends in Christ,

As you know by now, on March 29, our beloved Deacon, Alex Dyakiw, will turn 72 years old. Church canons (laws) dictate that upon reaching the age of 72, all clergy must resign from “all positions of active service in this Church.” As I have shared before, it is impossible to see Alex “close shop” and move to Florida, either figuratively or literally. *However*, in order for Alex to continue serving as a Deacon at Saint John's, we have formally approached the Bishop. The canons allow for a one-year dispensation permitting clergy to continue to serve on a yearly basis after they reach the age of 72. **I'm happy to share with you that the Bishop has approved Alex to continue serving at Saint John's for the coming year . . . please keep reading.**



As part of this process, the Bishop asked Alex and me to explore a new rhythm and schedule for Alex's ministry at Saint John's. After all, the one-year dispensation Alex has been granted is not meant for clergy to continue with business as usual, but to continue serving the Church in their “post-retirement” life.

Further, the Bishop has asked of Alex and me “that the congregation be briefed in writing about the continuing ministry of Alex in the parish (and with the noted outreach efforts) so that it is very clear what he will and will not be doing.”

With this direct mandate, I want to share with you the new outline of Alex's ministry at Saint John's as approved by the Bishop:

### Liturgical Service

#### **Sunday, April 16 | Final Date of Deacon Alex's “full-time” service at Saint John's**

- A festive reception will follow both Sunday liturgies.
- Alex has asked to preach, and permission has been granted.

#### **Monday, April 17 – Thursday, June 15 | Medical leave for knee surgery and recovery**

#### **Thursday, June 15 – Friday, September 15 | Sabbatical period**

- Alex will spend time away from the parish, visit other local churches and family, and sit on his boat.

#### **Sunday, September 24: First Sunday back serving at Saint John's**

- Alex will serve on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, which will allow him to sit in the pews or spend time away.
- Assist as needed in weekday liturgies.
- Assist as needed on major feast days and other events.

## Community Engagement and Local Mission

### Centre Care

- Alex will pass his monthly ecumenical prayer service at Centre Care to the Rev. Eileen Weglarz.

### CPI (Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology)

- Alex will continue offering one-on-one counsel and ministerial presence to staff and nursing students at CPI.

### Bellefonte Food Bank and other food ministries

- Alex will pass this ministry to a nascent outreach guild at Saint John's.

### Men's Group

- Alex will continue to lead this ecumenical offering at his home, since it has long been a personal ministry.

### Out of the Cold and other ministries to the homeless

- Alex will continue to be directly involved and to be a bridge for seasonal campaigns.

### Prison Ministry

- Alex will discontinue serving at the local prison to focus on other areas of ministry, as listed above.

As you will note, Alex will no longer be serving at the Altar every Sunday. This will create a new liturgical rhythm which allows him to take a step back and sit in the pews. Of course, this will leave a void and create a need for more help at the Altar. Availing himself of one Sunday off per month that every deacon is entitled to in the Episcopal Church is one that Alex seldom embraced. I, our seminarian, and

our altar servers will have to adjust with one person down. However, I know that we will be fine . . . and please be open to being 'nudged' to serve at the Altar in the next few months. If you have ever been curious about serving at the Altar or had questions about what this ministry entails, please reach out to me any time.

Equally important, Alex will no longer lead many of our outreach ministries. In order to continue our outreach work—serving those in need and connecting with community partners—Alex and I invite you to take part in a meeting to shape our future work. This meeting is open to everyone who is interested in exploring how we can continue, foster, and sustain our outreach and community work. The goal is for all of us to continue the great work Alex has led for us all these years. This will also mean nurturing, pruning, and letting go of certain aspects of ministry. **There will be two dates for you to join the conversation: Sunday, March 12, and Sunday, March 19, from 9:50-10:20 a.m.** These 30-minute sessions will cover the same topics: outline the needs we'll have after Alex's retirement and begin brainstorming future possible partnerships and projects.

All of this may seem like a lot to process, accept, and manage; Alex has been a pillar of the church for many years. I know that I am going to have to reconfigure and plan accordingly this summer and fall. While change is always

daunting, there is no better season to embark on change than during Lent. This holy season invites us to ask ourselves what we need to nurture, prune, and let go, not only as individuals but as a whole church. Like Lent, this new horizon is not driven by gloom or despair, but by hope and joy for new opportunities.

Lenten Blessings, ~*Father Carlos* †



**FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH**

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.” ~Psalm 51:10-12

We began our Lenten season on February 22 with the administering of ashes on our foreheads as a symbol and reminder that it is a season of prayer, alms giving, and fasting. I’ve often wondered why we don’t just continue all year round in prayer, providing for the less fortunate, and offering a meal so that others may eat.

As I write this, I reflect on all the wonderful ministry support we have at St. John’s for the many programs in which we are involved. To mention a few, we serve Centre Care, Bellefonte Food Bank, Penns Valley Christmas Program, Youth Center,

and Out of the Cold (120 meals provided in February).

We are associated with national disaster response, participating with the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund, PAWS, Mount Nittany Hospital (providing much-needed clothing and shoes), CPI, and recently, Fr. Carlos’s involvement with the Faith Centre in helping with fuel bills. We

always give to anyone who asks for



help. Your donations to the deacon’s discretionary fund make reaching many of these requests a reality, so thank you.

How much more could we do outside the church if we did more inside work on ourselves? Daily prayer and reading devotions at various times of day can be very fulfilling to spiritual growth. Try attending an extra service during Lent (we have Evening Prayer at 5:15 on Tuesday and Thursday). During Lent we offer Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 5:30,

followed by fellowship with a simple soup and salad dinner.

Satan didn't wait to tempt Jesus right away in the desert; he waited until Jesus was tired, hungry, and cold on the 40th day. The Tempter still works against us today. We work long hours and have many distractions on our plate and are simply too tired to do anything else. Psalm 51 says, "restore me to the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit." I realize that for many, going to church each Sunday is hard, but how many athletes enjoy strenuous workouts as they push to their limits to achieve physical stamina? The spirit needs the same workout as the body. To strengthen the spiritual life, we need to practice devotion, mantras, prayer, reflection, and church community, where we celebrate Christ, pray for others, and reflect on God. I am always available to help with prayer practice or even to discuss ways to obtain a more spiritual life for yourself. Why? Because that's what deacons do.

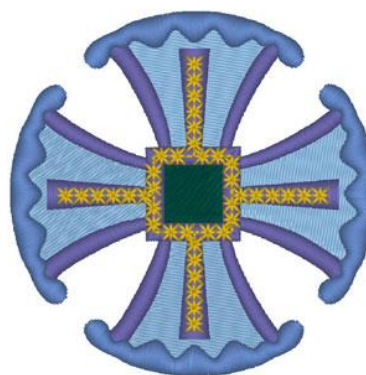
May the blessing and peace of Christ be with you all. ~*Dcn. Alex*

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** **Fridays at 5:30 p.m.** **March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31**



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 at Saint John's each Friday in Lent at 5:30 p.m., followed by a vegetarian soup, salad, and bread supper in the Rectory. If you would like to contribute soup after Stations, please use the sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

## **THE ANGLICAN SPIRIT** **New Sunday Adult Learning Program**



Fr. Carlos and Kevin Lowe have launched a new in-person adult learning series: The Anglican Spirit. The objective is to

help ground ourselves in the Anglican tradition of The Episcopal Church and to claim the unique gifts and perspective(s) within this part of the Body of Christ. Our series began by looking at essential

elements of the Christian faith and then will merge into a study of the rituals and practices of Lent. New and long-term parishioners alike are encouraged to attend.

**March 5 - The Rituals of Lent**

Chapter in Lent: The Season of Repentance and Renewal

**March 12 - The Prayers and Scriptures of Lent**

Chapter in Lent: The Season of Repentance and Renewal

**March 19 - Holy Week: He Loved Us to the End**

Chapter in Lent: The Season of Repentance and Renewal

**CORNER BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER**

**FUNDRAISER**

**Saturday, March 18 | 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**



Save the date and spread the word for our annual Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner. This much beloved and savored meal will be take-out only this year. Meals include a soft drink and dessert – \$20 for a full dinner; \$15 for a pound of corned beef. 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**

**Saturday, March 25 & Saturday, April 4**



Each year our Altar Guild pulls out all the stops to prepare our church for Easter, led by the talent and creative vision of Jim Blik. This year we have two opportunities for you to lend them a hand. On Saturday, March 25, beginning at 9:30 a.m., the Altar Guild will be hard at work polishing brass items (candlesticks, stands, pulpit, lectern, and more). No special skills are required to help – just some good old elbow grease and quality brass cleaner. On the following Saturday, April 4, the Altar Guild will apply final touches for the Easter Vigil later that day. An exact time and a to-do list will be announced in church later this month.

***BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US: A SAINT JOHN'S  
FAMILY DAY FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER***  
**Saturday, April 1, at 10:00 a.m.**



Families with young children; grandparents and grandchildren; and parishioners with little ones in their lives are *all* invited to our Holy Week & Easter Family Day. We will take part in a “mini” Holy Week throughout the church: we will begin by entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, learn about our Lord’s institution of the Eucharist and his command to love one another, walk the way of the cross on Good Friday, and receive the light of Christ on Easter. Afterwards, children will work on an instructive Holy Week & Easter project to take home. Snacks and lunch will be provided for the entire family. We hope to see you there! Please confirm your attendance by contacting Ellen Dyakiw:

[setinsun@aol.com](mailto:setinsun@aol.com)

***NEW COLUMBARIUM NICHES  
NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE***



We have completed our columbarium expansion. Long-term parishioners may remember that the original columbarium was built in 1999, with 42 niches. All of those niches have been claimed/purchased. You will soon receive a brochure and letter about the columbarium as well as a form expressing intent to purchase and payment details. Contact Fr. Carlos with any questions about the columbarium or the procedure for reserving a niche. We trust that you will appreciate this new enhancement to our church and will take advantage of its offerings as part of your estate plans.



Saint John's will host a series of poetry readings organized by local authors, including our own Julia Kasdorf. Save the dates below as we open our doors to our neighbors. Readings will take place on Fridays in the Fellowship Hall, starting at 7:00 p.m.

### **March 24**

Launch new books by Leah Poole Osowski and Lee Peterson.

### **April 14**

Jerry Wemple, Bloomsburg, & Margie Maddox, Lock Haven

Pennsylvania poets and editors of two anthologies of poems about Pennsylvania read from their own work and discuss ways the Commonwealth is represented in contemporary poetry.

### **COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** **Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. Mass**



**Please consider volunteering for coffee hour.** Drinks and food items are provided by the church. 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. Many thanks to everyone who has helped with coffee hour; thank you for supporting this vital ministry of fellowship and hospitality!

## AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



Our talented musicians are very busy with the upcoming State College Area High School musical theater production of

“Hello, Dolly.” **Erik**

**Clayton** is the director, **Rebecca Clayton** is playing piano in the orchestra, **Madeleine Christopher** plays the leading role of Dolly, and **Genavieve Clayton** is in the role of Ermingarde. The show runs March 30–April 1 at the high school.



**Rebecca Clayton** recently accepted a job at Park Forest Middle School, where she is the 8<sup>th</sup> grade music and choir teacher. She also teaches keyboarding skills and music history lessons from the Romantic Period (1820-1900) and the 20th Century.

**Genavieve Clayton** qualified for participation in the PA Music Educators Association Conference All-State Choir. The festival will be held in April in the Poconos and features vocal and instrumental ensembles comprised of the best high-school student musicians from all over the state. Students audition for placement, and the top four in each voice part move on to the All-State festival. Seven students from Erik’s high school choir were chosen.



**Emily Sterk** successfully defended her dissertation on Feb. 24. She will graduate in May with a doctoral degree in Spanish. Congratulations, **DOCTOR** Sterk!

**Mary K. Jones** turns 101 years old this month. Wow!



## FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

During our Sunday school classes, children enjoy art, music, and games that complement weekly scripture readings.

Here children are experimenting with sound after hearing a story that encouraged them to listen to the teachings of Jesus.



## VESTRY NEWS

The vestry met via Zoom on February 15. They were joined by Bishop Audrey Scanlan.

### Rector's Report:

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.
- Evensong on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Shrove Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> – Homemade buttermilk pancakes. Thank you, Jeff Wilson, who is spearheading this event. Proceeds will go to YSB.
- Fridays will be Stations of the Cross @5:30 followed by a soup dinner.
- Floor repairs will begin March 27.
- We won't need to go into the hall for any services.
- Columbarium – work is complete.
- Met with D. Cree, P. Jackson, and L. Roberson regarding this.
- D. Cree will write the letter and P. Jackson will work on back-end issues.
- By early Lent – send out mass mailer.
- Corned Beef dinner will be Saturday, March 18.
- Jim Bliak and David Frego will be moving to Ohio in the next few months and will be donating furniture to the Rectory. Thank you, Jim, for all your work on the decorations for Easter and Christmas and for your work on Altar Guild.

### Bishop's Report:

- Important for me to gather with the parish leadership to discuss how we are guiding and directing the parish.
- Thank you for allowing me to come to this meeting. Thank you, each of you, for your willingness to say yes for running a church.
- Thank you for hosting us in June for the Presiding Bishop meeting. You have such a beautiful jewel of a church. So proud that Bishop Curry could visit St. John's and one of our brightest priests, Father Carlos.
- T. Quigley – what is going on in diocese that you think we should know?
  - Bishop – we have a great online formation, Stephens School of Ministry, which is not just for central PA.
  - Second Phase of Shaped by Faith – work collaboratively with other parishes within the community. This will help about 1/3 of churches financially that are not in the best shape.
- Father Carlos asked Bishop Scanlan about reunification with the Diocese of Bethlehem.
  - Passed a resolution to spend time on collecting data on shape of our future. Used to be one diocese now there are five. In 1904 our diocese split from Bethlehem; now we are spending a year studying culture and finances. Data will be collected and might be presented using several models. No final vote though. Based on how that goes, may meet in June to have joint diocese to perhaps consider a reunification of two dioceses. This is happening across Episcopal churches. Bishop stated that she is retiring in four years.
- A. Germano asked if there was a book defining our mission or organizing our service.
  - Father Carlos – Missional Network
  - Bishop – Outreach – we are going to reach out more to Missional Network about coming together.
  - Father Carlos – approach is to have a forward dimensional mission. How do we reach out further in everything that we do?

- Bishop – each of us participate in God’s mission without it being formal—a Christian way of being in everyday activities. Worship is at the center of this.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

- Being January – no surprises. One parish member paid half their pledge.
- Gas bill is still incredibly high.
- Question was asked about the miscellaneous \$9K – this was the second payment for the Columbarium. This will be offset in February by the \$7K pulled from other account – Allspring (a subsidiary of Wells Fargo). Once we start to receive Columbarium payments, those funds will go back into Allspring.

**Jr. Warden:**

Tree in front of church is pushing up the sidewalk because of the root system. Tree will be taken down and the stump ground next month. Worked with the Borough to make arrangements.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

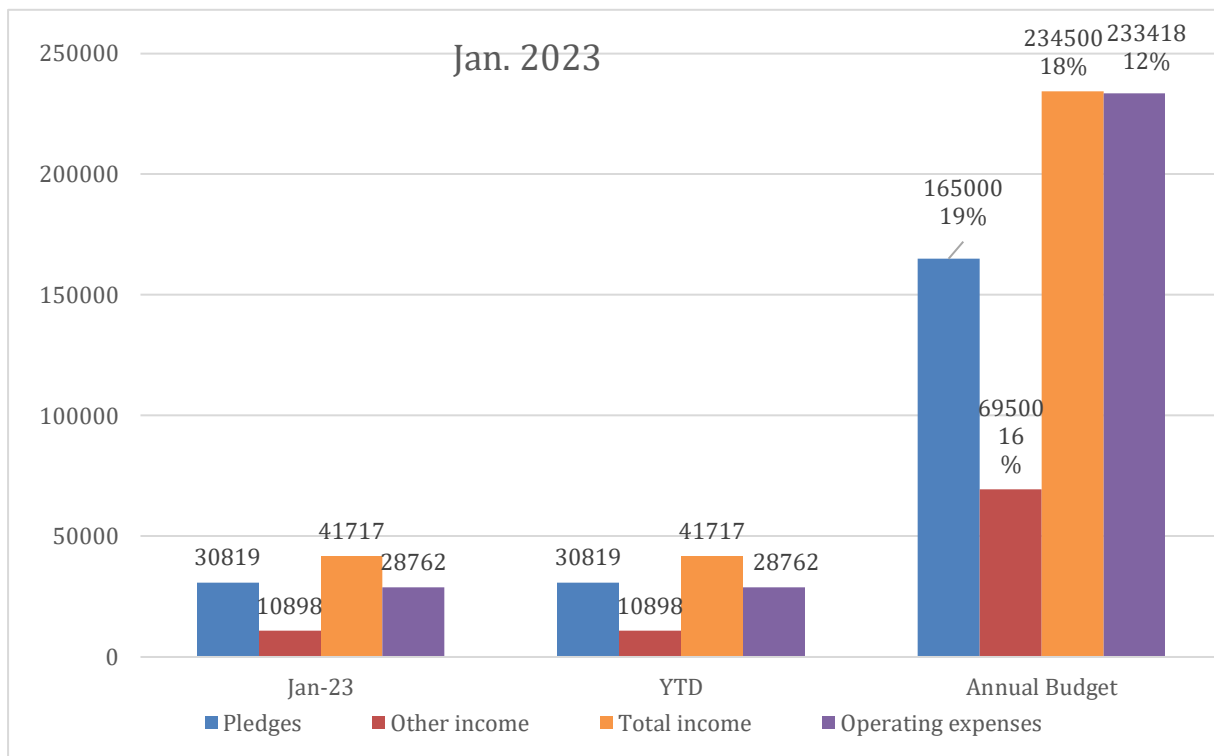
- March 9 Kay McClellan
- March 10 Mary K. Jones (101!)
- March 13 Rebecca Clayton
- March 29 Alex Dyakiw



**FINANCIAL (JANUARY 2023)**

	Jan-23	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	30819	30819	165000	19%
Other income	10898	10898	69500	16%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>41717</b>	<b>41717</b>	<b>234500</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>28762</b>	<b>28762</b>	233418	12%
<b>Net</b>	<b>12955</b>	<b>12955</b>		

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



Vestry members: Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Scott Mauger (Jr. Warden), Debra Cree, Liz Helms, Thomas Quigley, David King, Peggy Jackson, Carol Fyfe, Alex Germano, Charlotte Zmyslo



# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

## PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2 | 9:00 & 10:30AM

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 6 | 6:30PM

## GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 7 | 12:00PM

## HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 8 | 8:00PM

## EASTER DAY

APRIL 9 | 9:00 & 10:30AM



# 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 22</b> <b>Rest</b> How do you incorporate rest into your life? Jer. 6:16</p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>Worship</b> How does community help or hinder your growing in Christ? Jn. 1:12-13</p>	<p><b>24</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>25</b> <b>Rest</b> How might you connect with others in the spirit of renewal? 1 Kings 19:11-12</p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>27</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>28</b> <b>Pray</b> Go for a walk today and pray with your feet, each step with intention. Is. 2:3a</p>	<p><b>Mar 1</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>2</b> <b>Worship</b> What is most meaningful to you in worship? BCP, pg. 281</p>	<p><b>3</b> <b>Go</b> Where can you go and intentionally provide kindness? Matt. 5:4</p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>Bless</b> Notice the pattern of your breathing. Pray for awareness of blessings. Gen. 2:7</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>6</b> <b>Go</b> Where are you being encouraged to "show up"? Matt. 25:44-45</p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>Rest</b> How do your creative outlets impact on taking rest? Gen. 1:1-24</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>Learn</b> What passage of scripture is important to you? Why? Is. 40:8</p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>Pray</b> Take 20 minutes in contemplative prayer today. Matt. 4:18-22</p>	<p><b>10</b> <b>Bless</b> Intentionally smile at least ten times today. Phil. 4:4</p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>Turn</b> Today, intentionally listen devoutly to another. Mark 4:23</p>	<p><b>12</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>13</b> <b>Go</b> Where can you seek and serve Christ in someone unlike you? Jer. 30:22, 31:4-5</p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>Learn</b> How is the Jesus who walked the earth beckoning you to meet him? Mk. 10:46-52</p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>Rest</b> How can you incorporate rest from technology today? Matt. 11:28</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>Pray</b> Try praying with Anglican prayer beads. Luk 18:1</p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>Worship</b> In your prayers today, what new words or thoughts touch you? Phil. 4:6</p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>Turn</b> How might you share what brings you great joy with others? Rom. 12:6-8</p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>4th Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>20</b> <b>Bless</b> What challenges are you facing today? Job 11:18</p>	<p><b>21</b> <b>Turn</b> Where do you find joy and passion? Luke 24:32</p>	<p><b>22</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>23</b> <b>Learn</b> Practice lectio divina with this scripture. Luke 15:17-24</p>	<p><b>24</b> <b>Go</b> Create a prayer representing how you seek to serve God and follow Jesus. Matt. 5:15</p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>Rule of Life</b> How do others experience the love of Christ through you? Gal. 5:22-23</p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>5th Sunday of Lent</b></p>
<p><b>27</b> <b>Worship</b> What seminal moments have informed a need to return to Christ? Ps. 51:10</p>	<p><b>28</b> <b>Rule of Life</b> How has this Way with God impacted your experience of God? John 7:38</p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>Learn</b> Slowly read this passage aloud. How does this speak to the world today? Matt. 4:18-22</p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>Turn</b> What relationships do you need to mend? Is. 55:6-8</p>	<p><b>31</b> <b>Go</b> Where might God be asking you to take your great love into the world? Isa. 48: 6b</p>	<p><b>Apr 1</b> <b>Pray</b> What are you thankful for? 1 Chron. 29:15</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b></p>
<p><b>3</b> <b>Pray</b> Listen to the daily office today at <a href="http://missionstclaire.com">missionstclaire.com</a> Ps. 55:17</p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>Worship</b> How do you want to prepare people to remember you? 2 Cor. 1:3-4</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>Bless</b> When you reflect on financial giving, are your palms open? Matt. 12:43-44</p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>Learn</b> Who might you have a conversation with to learn about God? Ps. 119:105</p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>Turn</b> How did you turn back towards God's love when you made a big mistake? Luke 15:18</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>Rule of Life</b> Who can support you in living a Jesus-centered life? 2 Cor. 3:6</p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>Easter Day</b></p>