

April 2021

To the Good People of Ss. Peter and John,

As I write this, we are moving into the sacred last days of Lent and Holy Week. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. I am so grateful we are able to celebrate in person as we could not last year.

I'm also glad to hear that people are being vaccinated. Some of us are fully vaccinated and some have received our first dose. (My wife and I received our first dose last week.) The more of us that are vaccinated the closer we can get to some kind of normalcy. And, as always, we will wait on further direction from the Bishop.

And through all of this the church has never stopped being the church. We've maintained rich worship and a variety of formation and mid-week activities. As I always say, the church has not been closed, we moved online. As some of you have heard me say, we give thanks to God for the gift of this technology. Even when we are fully and completely worshipping normally, we will continue to maintain a virtual presence, it's here to stay.

I also give thanks to God for the arrival of Easter. I think we need resurrection more than ever right now. We need to be reminded, in the best way, that darkness and death never have the last word. And let's remember that Easter lasts for 50 days!

Grace and Peace,

John +

Father John †

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

In person indoor gatherings have now resumed. There will be an in-person worship service at 8:00 am and 10:00 am. Please call the office to register per COVID guidelines.

We will now have Sunday Zoom service at 9:00 am. The Zoom information is below.

Sundays - 9am Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97774056978?pwd=ZytJSVZjWmt3MUdSMk13U1JaaGNLZz09>

Meeting ID: 982 7706 2680

Passcode: 435902

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Other Zoom Worship Schedule and Numbers

Tuesdays – 10am Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94333886777?pwd=WnNKSncyQkkzS1g0Yjc3ZGIVbk1PQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 3388 6777

Passcode: 577455

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Wednesdays – 12pm Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95528786615?pwd=Z01DVGdvcG5XeVBIUVRMKzFFVVBjZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 2878 6615

Passcode: 634665

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Thursdays – 10am Coffee and Conversation

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97366952412?pwd=WUtQVFMyWlFKWmRBT1UyTHQ2Rm5Rdz09>

Meeting ID: 973 6695 2412

Passcode: 120228

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday – Friday

MORNING PRAYER – RITE II

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/john.rohde.16/>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92662278952>

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ac4XCk34Dn>

Vestry Voice

The March Vestry meeting began with an opening devotional and a prayer on the anniversary of the start of the pandemic. The February minutes and financials were approved.

The decision was made to move our banking from Key Bank to M&T Bank as Key Bank has not been very helpful during a recent problem with our account. It was approved to add Charles Hausman and William Abdallah as signers on the account. Currently there is only Terry Beyor and John Komarisky.

The Parochial Report is complete and needs Vestry approval before it can be sent to the Diocese. There was discussion about the report and some corrections need to be made. Father John will make the correction. Vestry members will be sent the corrected report and will send their approval (or not) to Father John.

The Vestry has approved Patrice Henry's request to use our kitchen every Thursday. She will be preparing food that she will then sell. She will give 10% of what she makes to the church.

George Burdick has passed away and left a small insurance policy with the church as beneficiary.

The Soup Kitchen has received a grant from the Emerson Foundation and has sent a grant request to the Masonic Service Bureau of Rochester.

There has been a request to hold AA meeting at 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday. As there is not someone at the Parish Hall at this time, Father John will talk with them about possibly a different time.

It was discovered that we could not hold 2 Zoom meetings at the same time unless we purchase an additional license. The cost was not worth doing this.

John McLane has passed away. He was not a member of Saints Peter & John but did a lot of pro bono work for the church. It was suggested that we order a plaque to acknowledge his contributions to the church and to let his family know that we appreciated all the work he did for the church.

The meeting closed with Compline. Next Vestry meeting April 14, 2021.

Pledge Envelopes

The pledge envelopes for 2021 are available in the church office and will be available on Sundays in the church. Please plan to stop by and pick up yours and maybe someone else's you know who is unable to come in themselves. The cost is very high to mail these if they are not picked up (close to \$5.00 apiece).

Heavenly Heritage Cookbook

We still have cookbooks available! Stop by the church office on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 8:00 am to Noon to pick yours up! The cost is \$15.00 each. They are filled with helpful hints, substitution suggestions and of course recipes from your church friends and family.

FUNDRAISING

We are planning a fundraiser event at Panera Bread in May 2021. They will supply us with flyers and when the flyer is presented on the day of the fundraiser the church will receive 20% of the order before taxes. They will also supply us with a code for on-line orders. The fundraiser will run from 4 pm to 8 pm. We do not have a confirmed date in May at this time. Look for more information in the May Newsletter and in church bulletins.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of acolytes and readers for in-person worship services. We are only talking about 1 Sunday a month. Right now, our readers are doing at least 2 Sundays a month and the acolytes at 8:00 am are doing 2-3 Sundays a month. As the summer months approach, members will be planning vacations away and our readers and acolytes will be asked to do even more. Please think about this and if this is something that you might be interested in doing, please contact Father John for more information.

The following is the text of the Presiding Bishop's Easter 2021 Message:

Easter 2021 Message

When I get to heaven — and I know it may sound presumptuous for me to say it, but I live by grace and believe in amazing grace — when I get to heaven, I certainly want to see the Lord. But I want to see dear members of family and friends, those who have gone on before, the many people I want to sit down and have some conversation with. Of all the biblical people, aside from the Lord himself, when I get to heaven, I want to meet Mary Magdalene. Mary Magdalene, who was one of the people, one of the women, who followed the way and teachings of Jesus and who probably provided much of the funding for his movement. Mary Magdalene, who with some of the other women and only one of the male disciples, stood with his mother, Mary, at the cross as he died. Mary Magdalene, who, even after he died, on that Easter morning, got up with some of the other women early in the morning, before the day had begun, in the dark, got up to perform the rituals of love to anoint the body of Jesus in his grave.

I want to ask her, “Mary, tell me what got you up that day. Tell me what got you to go to the tomb early in the morning when it was dark, and you could barely see. Why did you get up and go to anoint his body? Mark’s Gospel says that you and the other women said to each other, you knew that Jesus had been buried in that tomb that had been provided by Joseph of Arimathea, with Nicodemus’ help, but a large stone had been rolled in front of the doorway, into the tomb. And one of the women said to the other, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us?’ You knew the stone was there. You knew you couldn’t move it. And yet you got up and you went anyway. Mary, tell me your secret.”

I suspect she probably will say, “Well, we didn’t know how we were going to roll away the stone, but we loved him, and we got up and went anyway. It was hard because it was dark, but we loved him, and we got up and we went anyway. Those roads could be dangerous at night, but we love Jesus, and we got up and we went anyway. Who will roll away the stone for us? We did not know, but we loved him, and we got up and we went anyway. And let me tell you what love can do for you. When we got to the tomb, the stone had already been rolled away. And we shouted our hallelujahs, and shouted our hallelujahs. He is risen.”

Last year in March, on March 13th to be precise, another Mary Magdalene, her name, Barbara, Barbara Clementine Harris, bishop of the church, a voice of love, and justice, and compassion, a voice of deep and profound faith, first woman to be consecrated a bishop in Anglican Christianity, died and entered eternal life. This was early in the pandemic. Fortunately for us, Dean Kelly Brown Douglas had worked with Bishop Barbara to make sure that her memoir was completed, and they completed it. She gave it the title from the words of a gospel song that says, and I quote:

*Hallelujah anyhow
Never let your troubles get you down
Whenever troubles come your way
Hold your hands up high and say
Hallelujah anyhow!*

Those words characterize the life of Bishop Barbara: hallelujah anyhow. In spite of hardship and difficulty, hallelujah anyhow. In spite of injustice and bigotry, hallelujah anyhow. In spite of war and violence, hallelujah anyhow. And that, my friends, is the spirit of Mary Magdalene. That, my friends, is the tenacity of those who would follow in the footsteps of Jesus and his way of love. In spite of hardship and toil, hallelujah anyhow. In spite of the fact that this Easter is the anniversary of the assassination and the martyrdom of Martin Luther King, Jr., hallelujah anyhow. In spite of the fact that these are hard times, hallelujah anyhow.

Our work goes on. Our labor for love continues. We will not cease, and we will not give up until this world reflects less our nightmare and more God’s dream where there’s plenty good room for all God’s children.

Hallelujah anyhow.

When I get to heaven, I can’t wait to hear Mary Magdalene and Bishop Barbara tell me he’s risen.

Hallelujah anyhow. Amen.

And now for some humor to brighten your day

The Fifteen Funniest Church Bulletin Bloopers!

1. The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00. Please use the back door.
2. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
3. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
4. Ushers will eat latecomers.
5. Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.
6. Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
7. The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
8. Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to the church secretary.
9. Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow.
10. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
11. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
12. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
13. The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.
14. Announcement in a church bulletin for a National Prayer & Fasting Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer conference includes meals."
15. Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM . All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.