

To the Good People of Ss. Peter and John,

It amazes me that April is moving into the rear-view mirror and we are greeting the month of May. The days are getting longer and the world is getting greener and for that we say “Thanks Be To God!”.

We have a very joyous occasion coming up soon. We’ll be welcoming two young boys into the Christian community on Mother’s Day, May 9 at 10 am. They’ll be my first baptisms and I’m really excited! I’m praying that we have a good showing of our community at the service to help these families feel welcomed.

As I wrote last month, I’m aware that more and more of us are fully vaccinated. This is a very good thing and I’m sure it will help us get back to something that looks more ‘normal’. So, if you or your loved ones have yet to be vaccinated, please do it. It’s for your own good and the good of the community.

With the better weather, we will be planning some Masses on the Grass, more news of that to follow.

We are still in the glorious, sacred season of Eastertide, one of my favorite seasons of the Church year. As I’ve said before, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is the Good News. The Good News that death and darkness never have the last word!

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 April Vestry meeting began with an opening devotional. The March minutes and financials were approved.

We have moved our banking from Key Bank to M&T Bank as Key Bank. Charles Hausman and William Abdallah are now signers on the account along with Terry Beyor and John Komarisky.

Electrical Contractors will be installing four LED recessed lights in the chancel ceiling. John and Barb Komarisky have graciously said they will cover the cost of this work.

Father John hopes to do 1 or 2 Mass on the Grass services and our Picnic in the Park. It will be decided at a later date if these will be possible.

There will be two baptisms in May on Mother's Day. These will be Father John's first baptisms.

Our on-line services are here to stay. There are no plans to discontinue our on-line presence.

The request to hold AA meetings Monday thru Friday has been tabled. Father John has reached out to them about possibly a different time when someone is already in the building. He has not heard back.

The Vestry has approved a plaque for John McLane. Bill Abdallah is looking into this.

We are planning a fundraising event at Panera Bread on May 19, 2021. The May Newsletter will have the details.

The meeting closed with Compline. Next Vestry meeting May 12, 2021.

### ***FUNDRAISING***

We are planning a fundraiser event at Panera Bread on May 19, 2021. The flyer included with this newsletter has all the information. The church will receive 20% of the orders before taxes. There is also a code for on-line orders. The fundraiser will run from 4 pm to 8 pm. There will be additional flyers in the church so feel free to take as many as you want. Tell your family and friends.

### **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.

## *Baptisms*

We will have two baptisms in May. On May 9<sup>th</sup> we will baptize Jaxon Phelps Thomas Blair and Richard Roman Weaver. These will be Father John's first baptisms.

### ***Emerging from pandemic: "Whatever you do, do it with love"***

*Article by Peter Koeppe, member of Trinity Memorial Church in Binghamton and the diocesan Stewardship Resources team.*

There may be no better time to remember [1 Corinthians 13](#): what we have done to protect others and ourselves, and what we need to do going forward, has been and should continue to be governed by love. We've worn masks to protect not just ourselves but those around us. We might be carrying and spreading the virus before we know we've caught it. As vaccinated and unvaccinated persons mix in the same spaces, we have to newly define what it means to act with love. What activities can vaccinated persons safely engage in? Is it necessary to continue to wear masks and keep our distance?

First of all, there are the [recommendations from the CDC](#). Their answers will evolve over time as the pandemic and vaccinations take their course. These experts have clear objectives: to stop this pandemic and keep as many of us as safe as humanly possible. Their recommendations, even if they change over time, are credible.

Second, for us as Christians, faith imposes an even stronger obligation to continue to be careful and considerate of all around us. This obligation is founded on the love we have for one another. Whatever you do, do it with love.

Once vaccinated, we may feel safer being out and about. When we hear a cough or a sneeze behind us, we may slowly unlearn to reflexively duck, hoping that the person coughing or sneezing wears a mask. We may find that patronizing neighborhood businesses, who are in a tight spot financially, becomes more important to us. Life will look brighter. We may even end up with "vaccine passports" to prove that we've been vaccinated, and find that doors open for us which remain closed to unvaccinated persons. Just remember, those are legal considerations, not Christian faith considerations. Our Christian faith is clear: if what we do is done without love, we're just empty vessels, clanging cymbals, nothing. We continue to behave safely, and we don't rub it in that we've been blessed by vaccination, while others may not have received the same yet.

Love also leaves us little leeway when wrestling with the question whether we should get vaccinated ourselves. If we don't do this for ourselves, shouldn't we do this for those around us? We all have a vital role in bringing this plague under control and in doing so, saving lives.

As we reshape what it means to live in the midst of this pandemic—yes, it's still raging around us, whether we're vaccinated or not—our faith commands us to shape our lives around lovingly protecting and supporting those we encounter. Yes, I think that includes engaging in economic activities, where we can, to support the businesses and communities around us. And it includes continuing to mask up and keep our distance, for the foreseeable future.

Being eligible to get vaccinated, or having been vaccinated, is a blessing, but it's not a blank check to behave uncaringly. If we have love, love won't let us!