



The Correspondent

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, New York

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Issue 4

April 2021

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WEEKEND SERVICES

((In Person and Online))

- Saturday 5:00 PM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
- Sunday 8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
- Sunday 10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
(Online Only)
- Nightly 8:00 PM--Compline

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

- Maundy Thursday—April 1
- Good Friday—April 2
- Easter Sunday—April 4



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ in thought, word, and deed to our community and the world.



The Easter morning 10:00 service is just the beginning!

Starting April 11th, we can again worship in person inside the church building. It will still not be “back to normal” but it will be back to last fall. Attendees will need to register on Signup Genius, and seating will be socially distanced. Masks, of course, will still be required.

So many of us have missed worshipping inside and seeing our church friends every week. Now we can do it again!

If you're not ready to sit in a pew again, the service will still be available to view online from the comfort of your living room.



We hope to provide the best worship experience possible for all of St. Ann's parishioners, and we hope it won't be too long before everyone will be back in church!



So often in these days of plague and heightened politicization, we hear the charges from one group or another that another group is “fearmongering” or trying to get people to do what you want by making them afraid. The more afraid people get, the worse the situation seems to get. Fear brings panic.

I read recently about a group in Canada which, at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, began a group which is essentially the opposite of fearmongering. They call it a “caremongering” group. It’s a mutual aid-movement which has spread quickly throughout Canada. The group launched 35 Facebook groups where people could request and offer assistance.

“We wanted to switch the fearmongering around and get people to connect on a positive level,” says Mita Hans, who helped set up the first group. The movement, she adds, “spread the opposite of panic in people, brought out community and camaraderie, and allowed us to tackle the needs of those who are at-risk all the time—and now more than ever.”

One disabled man in Halifax who received aid through a caremongering group said that it felt “like a hug.” That’s intentional, says participant Valentina Harper. “I think it is really showing people there is still hope for humanity.” When the pandemic is finally history, we would do well to promote more caremongering in our own communities! **–Rodney Dudley**

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2019 Saint Ann’s Episcopal Church

May Deadline

Thursday, April 22

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A Word from the Rector Father Jeffrey Stevenson



And Let Us Not Grow Weary of Doing Good

Dear Members of St Ann's,

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ([Galatians 6: 9](#))

Easter arrives this year on 4 April, and it certainly feels like a long Lenten year since it's been here. We have spent so much time since last Easter struggling to stay connected in our secluded lives: living without seeing our neighbors, without being able to hug our friends, without being able to break bread with anyone who did not live in our homes. It has been a season of isolation, a long season of Lent. We have been separated and lonely but there is light at the end of the tunnel if we can just hold on a bit longer. But an Easter is coming.

This month, we are returning to in-person worship. We will have many of the same restrictions that were in place before Christmas that allow us to come back together. I will be asking everyone to wear a mask while you are on the church campus. I will be asking that we continue to do temperature checks at the door and that if you feel unwell, please stay home and enjoy the service online. For now, we will continue with the online registration through Sign-up Genius (See link at: www.saint-anns.org). There will be additional guidance in the coming weeks as we work through the details. The church will strive to keep everyone safe by following guidelines from the CDC.

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. (James 5: 7-8)

We celebrate Easter on 4 April this year, but another Easter is still coming. We are in the homestretch of this year-long slog of "Covid-Tide." Let's pull together to assure we get over the finish line together as a family, let us be patient and not weary of doing good.

Blessings,

Fr. Jeff+

Vestry Visions

The Past Meets the Future

We all remember “A Christmas Carol” and Ebenezer Scrooge, with his dreamed visions of the past and future, of things that were, and are, and will to be. For many of us the Covid crisis is not unlike this. We all remember St. Ann’s of the past, but what of St Ann’s of the future? How do you perceive it? Sitting at home watching a TV or a computer screen, dialing up your Christianity? Masked and distanced from one another in the pews of the church?

For the first three months of this year, we have continued to stay home and have had no “in-person” services—we have become somewhat used to viewing church online. The Vestry has a vision of the future with all of us gathering together again, and has been preparing the physical building for your return: new paint, cleaned ceilings and dusted rafters, steam cleaned carpets etc. – a sort of “if you clean it they will come” approach!

But the new way of worshipping at home appeals to some. Sitting in the comfort of your living room enjoying a remote but healthy service needs to continue for those people. The Vestry and Father Jeff are planning to provide both versions and pray that both will find a place in your worship future.

Hopefully, as Covid is more under control, you’ll feel more comfortable to attend in person. We are starting our in-person worship with Easter. But, until you are ready, we pray that you will continue participating on a remote basis. When the words “where two or three are gathered together,” were uttered, the concept of online services was inconceivable! But now you know it is a reality, and we hope it will help until regular in-person services become the norm once again. And, no matter how you worship, remember the words of Tiny Tim, “God bless us every one!”

The Vestry does need your feedback! That’s why we have been calling all of you in the congregation, and we really appreciate your comments on how you feel about OUR church. It goes without saying that your continual financial support is also appreciated to maintain the brick and mortar and the staffing. As we get back to a more normal state, the needs will grow for your volunteering, for the Thrift Shop, food pantries, and pulling a few weeds in the flowerbeds etc. Can we count on your help? I pray that we can.

Don Hester for the Vestry

VESTRY ROSTER

	Wardens:	2022 Nancy Koinoglou	2023 Thomas Honey
	Vestry:	2022 Greg Domoff	Paddy Hennessey
		Jill Hughes	Nicole LaFontaine
		2023 Donald Hester	Diane Miller-Magnani
		Patricia Osarchuk	Carole Sheppard
		2024 Wendy Schmittzeh	Carol Ann St. Lawrence
		John Smith	Rich Acierno

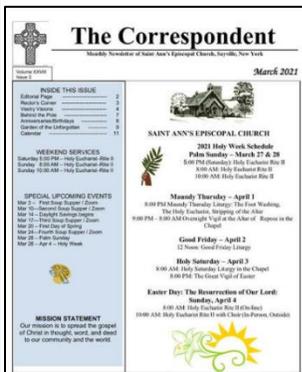
VOLUNTEER GARDENERS NEEDED

Spring is here and it's time to start maintaining our gardens. If you are able to tend a small area by the church or across the street, please contact Pat Osarchuk at 631-567-2203. Whether it's for a few weeks, a month, or the growing season, your help will be greatly appreciated.



CORRESPONDENT NEWS

Would you like to have a paper copy of *The Correspondent* mailed to your home?



For the past year the only way you could read *The Correspondent* was online. The copies that used to be available in the Parish Hall were no longer available as we stayed in our homes, and had coffee hour only on Zoom.

Sometimes it's easier to remember to read something if it shows up on your doorstep in paper form than it is when you have to look for it online.

If you or someone you know would like to have a copy of *The Correspondent* delivered by mail, please contact the church office at Office@saint-anns.org or call 631-589-6522.

Palm Sunday



Thanks to Fr. Jeff, the Vestry and Wardens who prepared the Palm Sunday packages and delivering them and/or manning the tables and handing them out in the church parking lot the Saturday before.

Thanks, Fr. Jeff for personally writing all those "Happy Easter" tags. And thanks to the Vestry for including flower seeds! What better way to celebrate Easter after we've put our palms away?

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY



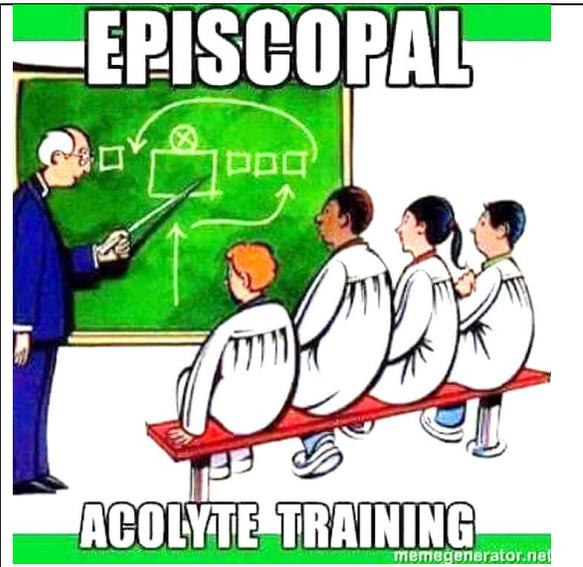
Holy hilarity! More churches lately have been resurrecting (pardon the pun!) the early-church tradition of celebrating the second Sunday of Easter as Holy Humor Sunday, affirming the season's joy. Need some jokes for April 11? Try these:

- Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.
- Knock knock. *Who's there?* Hatch. *Hatch who?* God bless you!
- What should you do after eating so many Easter treats? *Eggs-ercise!*
- Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? *It might crack up!*
- An irate subscriber called the newspaper, demanding to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper isn't delivered until Sunday." After a brief pause, the caller spoke with a ray of recognition: "So *that's* why no one was in church today."

A church sign with a sense of humor!



Note: Girl rabbits don't lay eggs either!



Cross-Eyed Bear



"Mommy," said little Heather,
"did you ever see a cross-eyed bear?"
"Why no, Heather," chuckled her mother, "but why do you ask?"
"Well, in church this morning,
we sang about the consecrated cross-eyed bear."
-Treasury of Church Jokes



Catch up with Lent Madness at LentMadness.org

Starting with 32 saints, we painstakingly worked our way through voting for 16 of them, and then voting them down to eight saints. During Holy Week, we have an exciting contest between Benedict the Moor vs. Ives of Kenmartin on Monday; and Catherine of Genoa vs. Absalom Jones on Tuesday. The two winners will vie for the Golden Halo on Spy Wednesday! (Wednesday during Holy Week is said to be called Spy Wednesday because that was the day Judas betrayed Jesus by acting as a spy for the Roman government).

Following are excerpts from biographical information about Benedict and Absalom Jones collected by David Hansen and Miriam McKinney for Lent Madness.

BENEDICT THE MOOR



Italians brought Benedict's parents as slaves from Africa to Sicily, where he was born. Because of his parents' obedient servitude, Benedict was granted his freedom at birth.

Growing up, he endured hardship, mocking, and discrimination because he did not look like the people around him. And yet, he found his way. As a young adult, Benedict joined a community of Franciscan hermits living in the hills of Sicily. He quickly grew in reputation, becoming one of the community's leaders.

Later, Benedict went with other monks to a nearby Franciscan monastery where he worked as a cook. His food was otherworldly! Angels were seen assisting Benedict in the kitchen as the food was

multiplied to provide not only for the Franciscans but also for any visitors.

Benedict became known as a healer with the ability to read minds. So many people came for healing that Benedict got in trouble; he continued his ministry but hid in the bushes and healed visitors before they got into the monastery. The Franciscans admired Benedict's humility and spiritual discipline, and they elevated the uneducated and unordained monk first to the position of Master of Novices and then Guardian of the Community, both positions usually reserved for priests at that time.

As the world debated the humanity and belovedness of persons of African descent, Benedict's legacy shone brightly as a refutation of those who would deny the humanity of enslaved Africans. Here stood Benedict – intelligent and compassionate, capable and insightful – the opposite of every 19th century white/European depiction of Africans. In our world today we need Benedict's way to remind us of the folly and error of denying the full humanity of our siblings.

--David Hansen at LentMadness.org

ABSALOM JONES

Absalom Jones was born on a farm in Sussex, Delaware, in 1746. When Absalom was 16 years old, the landowner died and his eldest son and heir sold the plantation, along with Absalom's mother and the rest of his family to another slaveholder, but he took Absalom with him to Philadelphia. Absalom's owner was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, and when Absalom met and married his wife Mary, the priest of Christ Church married them in 1770.

In 1787, Jones and Allen founded the Free African Society, an organization created to provide the African American community's social, economic, educational, and spiritual needs in Philadelphia. The Free African Society established a strict code, including dues paid by all members to benefit those in need, mainly widows and orphans. The first African American church grew out of this organization's commitment to Christian community and ethics. When the yellow fever epidemic hit the Philadelphia area in 1793, twenty times more Blacks than Whites helped those afflicted, thanks to The Free African Society. When the Society began to establish The African Church in 1792, Jones founded the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.



Ordained a deacon in 1795 and a priest in 1802, Absalom Jones was the first African American priest in the Episcopal Church. No matter your race or ethnicity, we've all been blessed by his relentless pursuit to diversify the Episcopal Church."

Byron Rushing says: "Overcoming 38 years of enslavement by Episcopal slave owners, Jones and Richard Allen organized freed and enslaved Africans in Philadelphia to establish a congregation and lead those Black Christians in sacrificial acts of service to all Philadelphians, especially during the devastating 1793 yellow fever epidemic."

When the Yellow Fever outbreak hit Philadelphia, Jones and Allen organized people to help. When faced with negative press, Jones and Allen wrote *A Narrative of the Proceedings of the Black People During the Late Awful Calamity in Philadelphia, in the Year 1793: and a Refutation of some Censures, thrown upon them in some late Publications*.

Absalom Jones and Richard Allen gave us an incredible gift with this small manuscript: they told the story. When you read it, you'll discover stories of courage, heartbreak, faithfulness, and continued inequities, such as stories of black people who helped the sick with no compensation. When they got sick and died, no one helped their families. Jones and Allen remind us that no matter how we've been harmed, we must remember that God calls us to forgive. We have so much to learn from our brother Absalom.

-Miriam McKinney at Lent Madness

WHICH ONE WILL WEAR THE GOLDEN HALO?

WHO IS YOUR CHOICE?





VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE

HOLY WEEK

The Choir was absent from Holy Week this year, but we were represented by various members of the choir and some guest musicians. Cathy and Don Baker were the duet for Palm Sunday. For Maundy Thursday Deb Schaarschmidt was the guest violinist. Rick Magnani will be the soloist at the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening, and one of our former choral scholars, Meghan Gunther will solo at 8:00 AM on Easter. At the 10:00 AM outdoor service, six masked and socially distanced choir members will sing traditional Easter hymns. Guest trumpeters Ryan Mattimore and Jimmy Bott will provide the brass accompaniment, and Rick Magnani will play the flute. Of course, Kathy Senese will oversee everything while playing the piano. We are looking forward to Easter Sunday, to help us ring in the joy of Easter and of being together to worship in person after such a long time away. Thank you to all who participated!

We also want to give a shout out to the Altar Guild who keeps busy in the background setting up for each service, cleaning up afterwards, and putting things in the right places so that the service runs smoothly! Even though church has been streaming online, the Altar Guild has continued to prepare the altar for its closeup.

MUSIC QUIZ

Here's a little refresher quiz about music theory. How many Choir members can get 100% ?



1. In a melody, what determines how high or low a note sounds?
a) Rhythm; b) Pitch; c) Fermata; d) Beat

2. What is the opposite of "crescendo"?
a) Dimenuendo; b) Tenuto; c) Subito; d) Prestissio

3. In musical notation, what is the first symbol on the staff?
a) The notes; b) The song title; c) The clef; d) The lyrics

4. What does "*poco a poco*" mean to a musician?
a) Little by little; b) Vigorously; c) Light & quick; d) From the beginning

5. On a musical note, what is the purpose of the "flag"? 
a) Shortens the note; b) Indicates which note to play; c) Indicates the pitch
d) Lengthens the note



Answers:

1.(b); 2.(a); 3.(c); 4.(a); 5.(a)

It's About Us

Matuor Dot Alier is a social worker in North Dakota. A long, difficult journey — and the memory of his grandfather's words — brought him from a childhood in Africa to his life today.

Alier fled with his brother and thousands of other youths when Sudanese soldiers attacked South Sudan. The children walked hundreds of miles with little food or water to a refugee camp in Ethiopia. In 2006, Alier and his brother arrived in Philadelphia, where they were sponsored and supported by a Lutheran church. Upon moving to Fargo some years later, Alier helped start a church where people who had survived war, displacement and other traumas could find healing, joy and love.

"My grandfather used to say, 'I cannot be whole unless everyone is whole,'" Alier shares. "I use this saying a lot to help me stay in a close relationship with others. It means that we need each other's support to survive and thrive. I don't want to be the only one doing well if others aren't doing well. It's not just about me — it's about us."

—adapted from *Living Lutheran*

Cultivating Kindness



Kind hearts are the gardens.
Kind thoughts are the roots.
Kind words are the flowers.
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden
and keep out the weeds.
Fill it with sunshine,
kind words and kind deeds.

But the gospel doesn't need a coalition devoted to keeping the wrong people out. It needs a family of sinners, saved by grace, committed to tearing down the walls, throwing open the doors, and shouting, "Welcome! There's bread and wine. Come eat with us and talk." This isn't a kingdom for the worthy; it's a kingdom for the hungry.

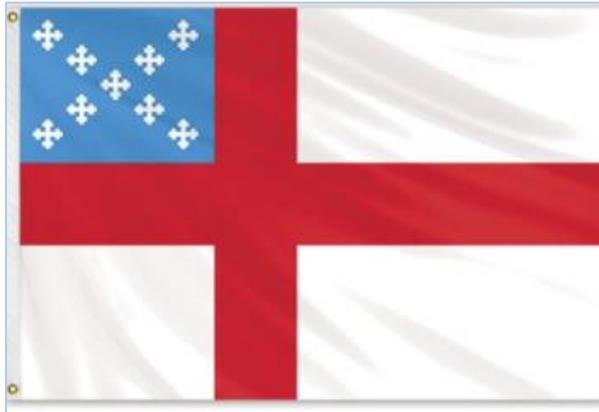
Rachel Held Evans

WWW.STOREMYPIC.COM

Time for a refresher course on the Episcopal flag! It's one of those things we see every week at the side of the altar but don't really think about. Here's a little information on the flag to remind us all.

History of the Episcopal Flag

The Episcopal Flag serves as an important symbol of the Episcopal Church, which is a Christian denomination founded in the United States in 1785, following the Revolutionary War. The design of the flag is comprised of a white background with a red St. George's Cross emblazoned upon it. The upper left portion of the cross is filled in with a blue background and a white x-shaped cross. The St. Georges Cross pays homage to the fact that St. George is the patron saint of England and the Episcopalian religion was descended from the Church of England (also known as the Anglican Church).



The x-shaped cross (also referred to as a Saltire or diagonal cross), located in the upper left canton of the flag, is a variant of the St. Andrews Cross, which is a national symbol of Scotland. St. Andrew was the Patron Saint of Scotland who was crucified on an x-shaped cross by the Roman Empire in the 1st Century. The inclusion of St. Andrews Cross pays homage to the first American Episcopal Bishop, Samuel Seabury's consecration in 1784 in Scotland.

The St. Andrews cross is comprised of 9 smaller crosses or crosslets, which represent the 9

original dioceses (Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, & Virginia) who united to form the first Episcopalian convention in Philadelphia in 1789. This flag was not officially adopted, however, until 1940.

The Episcopal flag is said to have been designed by William Baldwin who was a representative of the New York Diocese at the first Episcopalian convention. Prior to the convention, Baldwin designed and created the flag to serve as a symbol of the new denomination. Baldwin's original flag is on display at the Cathedral of the Incarnation Garden City in the Diocese of Long Island.

The design of the Episcopal features a predominant white background which is symbolic of Jesus' purity and also represents the concept of heaven. The red color is representative of the blood that Jesus sacrificed, while the light blue color signifies the sky and Jesus' faithfulness. The red, white, and blue colors used on the flag also reference the colors of the American Flag to honor the fact that the religion was founded in the United States and is practiced predominately in this country.

In modern times, the Episcopal church holds some very progressive opinions on social issues, especially compared to other denominations of Christianity which are usually very conservative. For example, the church officially opposes capital punishment, was supportive of the civil rights movement in the 1950s, and has been supportive of the LGBTQ community and gay rights including supporting gay marriage. Moreover, the Episcopal church has ordained both women and homosexuals. The flag serves as a reminder of the Church's roots, and its originality.

Today, the Episcopal Flag is flown in nine provinces across the world. Apart from the USA, there are Episcopal churches in the Caribbean, Europe, Central and South America, Micronesia, Navajoland, and Taiwan. An indoor flag presentation set is typically displayed on the stage of the congregation and some places of worship also include an in-ground or wall-mount flag which is flown in front of the building.



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES LIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 631-589-6522.



Anniversaries

16 Richard & Melanie Acierno

20 Wayne & Karen Tampellini



Birthdays



1	Vanessa Sanchez	6	Robert Costanzo	9	Christine Weeks	29	Reginald Elton
2	Cole Kraft	7	Samantha Rossi	12	Helen Houdek		Spencer Hayes
	Knox Johnson		Susan Verneer	15	Olivia Hynes	30	Elizabeth Shelton
	Ella Patrovich	8	Eileen Moran		June Schlock		Ellen Stoll
	Alexandra Reksten		Brayton Smyrk	18	Diane Lichtenberger		
	Edward Schmeider	9	Jeanne Monasterolo	19	Patricia Osarchuk		

These names are offered each month as an opportunity to extend to our brothers and sisters the love of Christ on these special days and to express our thanks for the gift of their presence in our midst. They are also offered as an opportunity to pray for each one of these individuals and couples on these significant days in their lives.

“Don’t start looking in the Bible for the answers it gives. Start by listening for the questions it asks.”

—Frederick Buechner

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Our Church History



❖ The Garden of the Unforgotten

Winona Shannon Andrews
1867-1954 1855-1917

Winona Shannon Andrews, wife of Albert G Andrews, and sister of Miss Effie Shannon, died suddenly on Tuesday at her home in Manhattan. Born in Boston 76 years ago, the daughter of Robert and Ellen Ferren Shannon, she began acting at the age of five years. She attained success and became a celebrated child actress, traveling all over the country playing Eva in "Uncle Toms Cabin". Later she played the ingénue lead in "Pinafore". She came to New York in 1890 and toured with Herbert Kelcey and her famous sister, Effie Shannon, in their company.

She also played in "The Moth and the Flame", "My Sister-in-Law", "The Bat" and was successful under Shubert, as "The Butterfly on the Wheel". She retired in 1922 and became the wife of Mr Albert G. Andrews, a famous British and American actor. For many years they had maintained a summer home in Bayport, with her famous sister, Miss Effie Shannon. Mrs Andrews was affectionately known throughout the vicinity as "Miss Winnie". Her husband and sister are the only survivors.



Funeral services were private with interment, conducted by the Rev Joseph H Bond, in the family plot in St Ann's Cemetery.

(Suffolk County News Oct 20, 1950)

Anticipating Life's Waves

Joni Eareckson Tada, who was paralyzed after a diving accident, described swimming in the ocean as a child. Because the waves looked so high, her first inclination was to swim away from them. That, however, just left her tossed about and sometimes held underwater. "The best thing," she discovered, "was to swim fast *toward* [the waves] and dive *under* them before they had a chance to break on top of you."

That's true with life's "waves of crisis or difficulty" too, says Tada. "The best way to beat those waves of trials and tough challenges is to *face* them. Head-on. Almost anticipating them. Sometimes I find myself literally diving into the middle of a problem before it has a chance to crash on top of me." When problems are about to break on top of you, what helps you face them and stand your ground?

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



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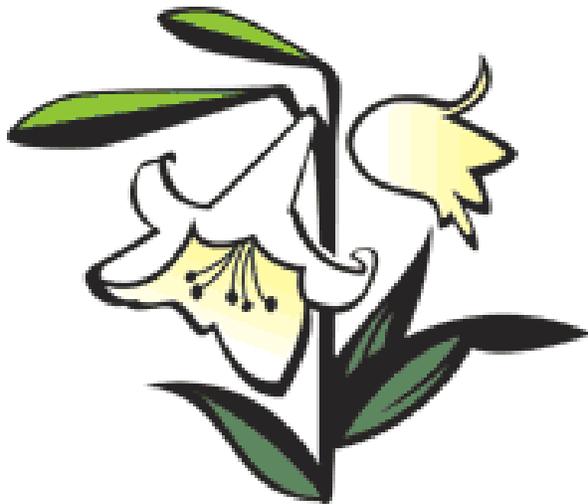
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+Christian Symbol+



The Lily

The lily that blooms around Easter is a symbol of Christ's resurrection because it rises from a seemingly lifeless bulb decaying in the ground. It is also used as a symbol of Christ himself. The lily, a symbol of purity, is often used to represent the Virgin Mary.

**AROUND SAINT ANN'S
Monthly Schedule**

See Correspondent pages and Bulletin for changes/cancellations.

Check out the website at: www.saint-anns.org

Sundays

8:00 AM—Holy Eucharist
9:00 AM---Sunday School – Temporarily suspended
10:00 AM—Holy Eucharist
7:30 PM—AA Meeting

Mondays

10:00AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry
6:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—April 12
6:00 PM—Mission & Outreach – Temporarily suspended
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

Tuesdays

8:00 AM—Men's Group - Temporarily suspended
6:00 PM—Children's Choir - Temporarily suspended
7:00 PM—Adult Choir - Temporarily suspended

Wednesdays

9:30 AM—12:00 PM Operation Hope
10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop – Temporarily closed

Thursdays

10:00 AM—AA Meeting
10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop - Temporarily closed
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

Fridays

12:00-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop -- Temporarily closed

Saturday

10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop - Temporarily closed
5:00 PM—Holy Eucharist



WHEN YOU NEED US MOST,
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The Correspondent

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From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.



**Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have died.**

1 Corinthians 15:20, NRSV