



ST. JAMES BASILICA *of Jamestown*

Parish Newsletter

APRIL 2015



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Offering Hospitality and Christ's Love in Times of Need **St. James Basilica Funeral Ministry**

When we face the loss of a loved one, the simplest acts of kindness from strangers often leave the deepest marks on our hearts. It is through these simple acts of service that we see light in the darkness of our grief, and the love of Christ shines through. The Funeral Ministry here at St. James Basilica seeks to provide that selfless love to our parishioners during what may be the most difficult times in their lives.

"The purpose of the Funeral Ministry is to make it as comfortable and as easy as we can for the family that is grieving," says Margie Karn, Funeral Ministry Coordinator. "I've been through loss, and when you've lost someone you love very much, it's really hard to think, so we try to do that for them if we can."

The Funeral Ministry team consists of five core teams of eight or nine volunteers.



Margie Karn (left) and Marge Kainz

Each team has a team leader who coordinates the meals and communicates with the other members to make sure each meal service runs smoothly. The main dish for the funeral meals is catered, while baked goods are lovingly prepared and donated by the Tabernacle members.

"Some can't serve the meal because of age or health, but they can bake," Margie

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Cultivate Your Personal Garden for Christ this Spring

Everyone loves springtime. The weather is warmer and beautiful flowers are blooming all around us.

But anyone with a beautiful garden will attest that the flowers do not magically appear as if the season change itself miraculously makes them bloom. Beautiful flowers and lush gardens are the result of the gardener's hard work.

Imagine that a man is given some flower seeds. The man then buries the seeds in the ground and leaves them on their own. As the months pass and rain falls, some seeds may receive enough nourishment to bloom. But simply burying seeds in the ground will hardly make for a gorgeous garden. Rather, if the man truly wants to enjoy many beautiful flowers, there is much care and work ahead. Recognizing the hidden beauty within these simple seeds, he must cultivate the ground, plant the seeds in a solid foundation, then water and fertilize them throughout the year. Only then

will he see the proper fruit these seeds were made to bear.

This simple illustration speaks to the heart of us this season – not only as we look around at the flowers, but more importantly as we reflect on the springtime of the Church. We are celebrating the great feast of Easter when, through His death and resurrection, Christ offers us the greatest gift of all – eternal life with Him forever. This celebration leads us to reflect on the many gifts God has given us in this life and the fruit they will bear, especially as we look to life eternal.

He has given each of us a multitude of gifts so that we can better serve Him and bring others to Him. Do we notice the hidden potential of our gifts? Do we see them, like the seed, as seemingly small yet so full of fruit? Everything we have – our time, talents and treasure – is a gift from the Lord. Do we accept gifts in gratitude, then put them to use by

cultivating and nourishing them so they will bear the proper fruit?

Just like springtime flowers that we enjoy, our time, talents and treasure need to be cared for. Our gifts need to be cultivated and nourished. Only then will we see them for what they are – wonderful gifts given by God meant for His greater glory.

Like the seeds, if we use our gifts flippantly, we may see some fruits here and there. But we are called to so much more – we are called to build a beautiful garden. We are called to offer God the most beautiful flowers of all.

This season, as we look at all the beautiful flowers around us and enjoy God's creation, let us think about the seeds in our own lives. Ask yourself if you have accepted the gifts God has given you – your time, talents and treasure – and have cultivated and cared for them properly. Or, do they just sit dormant within you yearning to bloom?

Just like springtime flowers we now enjoy, our time, talents and treasure need to be cared for. Our gifts need to be cultivated and nourished. Only then will we see them for what they are – wonderful gifts given by God meant for His greater glory.

A Letter from Our Pastor

The Joy of Lent

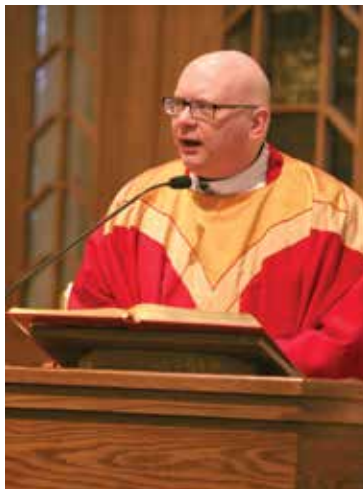
Dear Parishioners,

Have you ever thought about the joy in sacrifice that Lent provides? Most of us don't delight in sacrifice; in fact, in our daily lives we often do our best to avoid challenges and practices that push us outside of our comfort zones.

In Christianity, there is a beautiful irony between joy and sacrifice, and we are presented with a wonderful opportunity to embrace this in a unique way during Lent. In his 2014 Lenten message, Pope Francis shared, "Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty."

While giving up sweets in favor of healthy snacks for Lent is a common and noble endeavor, the goal of Lent should not only be a spiritual excuse to lose weight! In choosing acts of self-denial, we are saying "no" to things in order to get into the practice of saying "no" when inclined towards sin, ultimately deepening our faith and our relationship with the Lord. Victory can be found when we deny ourselves and pick up our crosses and hardships in order to grow closer to Christ!

Therein lies the joy. When we grow closer to God by denying our will, we say "yes" to a life of abundance with Him. Our God is a benevolent God; He will not hold back His grace from those who honor Him and choose challenging things to grow and give Him glory. Christ



even tells us Himself, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Without question, Lent is a time for conscious penitence and for spiritual preparation for Easter. And, it is important to remember that God loves us whether we make Lenten changes or not. At the same time, Lent provides us an opportunity to make God a greater part of our life, and to take our faith to new levels. Stewardship is a God-centered way of life — a spiritual way of living that, above all, acknowledges

God's presence in all we do.

Lent is a time for each and every one of us to do more than simply deny ourselves; we need to welcome God into our lives in greater ways, so that when we get to Holy Week and Easter, we have an even greater appreciation for the sacrifice the Lord made for us. Talk about pure joy!

May you and your loved ones enjoy a holy and joyous Lenten journey, and a blessed Easter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Jeffrey L. Wald
Pastor

Lent is a time for each and every one of us to do more than simply deny ourselves; we need to welcome God into our lives in greater ways, so that when we get to Holy Week and Easter, we have an even greater appreciation for the sacrifice the Lord made for us.



“The First Faces of the Parish” THE USHERS OF ST. JAMES



Kent Haas



Jim Hamm



John Balster

At the tender age of 4, a member of our parish family serves as an usher and offers us a telling example — we are all called to serve and to see the face of Christ in others!

“Ushers have a role in hospitality because we are some of the first faces of the parish that people see when they come to Mass,” says Dean Haas, Lead Usher. “We are there. We welcome them, and we contribute to the parish.”

Dean first became an usher over 15 years ago when he sought a way to help out and give back to parish life. He found that being an usher doesn’t require an additional time commitment, and there is only one main prerequisite.

“A smile is about all the ushers need!” Dean says. “I think it is one of the easiest ways to give back to the church. You are in front of people, but you don’t have to speak.”

The ushers help create a welcoming atmosphere for longtime parishioners, as well as visitors and new parishioners. These liturgical ministers are honored to assist the members of the Body of Christ and the celebrants of the Mass.

“There is an order to the Mass and a way that things are done,” Dean says. “We are there to make sure everything goes smoothly and to assist Monsignor and the priests.”

No formal training is needed to become an usher. They are asked to arrive 15 to 20 minutes early and to wear dress attire, though not necessarily suits.

Scheduling is done in advance, and while several generous parishioners volunteer for the busy 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses, there is a true need for ushers at the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass.

In fact, many parishioners including some of our youngest members have stepped forward before Mass to fill this need for the parish. Serving as an usher is one ministry that welcomes young children and establishes a foundation of service in their lives.

“Our ushers range from 4 years old to over 70 years old,” Dean says. “We have little ones helping us usher, and then they’ll move to taking up the offering, and then they go on to be altar servers. It is important to get children involved young!”

We are all called to see the face of Christ in others. One way to be an active part in creating and sustaining the welcoming atmosphere of St. James is to join our ushers in their hospitality ministry!

“I want to thank the current ushers because we need them, and they are there every single week,” Dean says. “We get so many last-minute volunteers, so I really want to thank the whole community for stepping forward.”

If you are between the ages of 4 and 70 and you are seeking a simple way to give back at St. James, please contact Dean Haas at 701-320-1007 or deanhaas@yahoo.com for further information about becoming an usher.

2014 Stewardship Report

Listed below are some of the many ways in which we are living the Stewardship way of life:

1230 Registered Households	29 Proclaimers
803 St James Basilica Masses (including nursing home, state prison and school masses)	98 Eucharistic Ministers
110 Outlying Parish Masses	47 Servers
24 Infant Baptisms	40 Teens participating in Youth & Parish Ministry
8 Baptized & received into full communion	118 Faith Formation Students
44 Children celebrating First Communion	43 Catechists
40 Confirmation Candidates	24 Prayers Shawl Recipients
20 Weddings	28 Ushers
33 Funerals	12 Cantors
	11 Accompanists

Income Statement

For July 1, 2014 - January 31, 2015

<u>Operating Revenue</u>	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	Annual Budget
Church Offerings:	\$420,428	\$498,527	(\$78,099)	\$831,704
Church Other Income	\$63,954	\$49,259	\$14,695	\$91,559
St. John's Academy Income	\$577,992	\$612,478	(\$34,486)	\$1,101,198
Total Operating Revenue	\$1,062,374	\$1,160,264	(\$97,890)	\$2,024,461
<u>Operating Expense</u>				
Church Salary and Benefits:	\$260,611	\$292,206	(\$31,595)	\$509,648
Church Other Expenses:	\$134,989	\$128,308	\$6,681	\$239,470
St. John's Academy Salary and Benefits	\$571,262	\$590,009	(\$18,747)	\$1,019,307
St. John's Academy Other Expenses	\$107,285	\$115,526	(\$8,241)	\$256,036
Total Operating Expense	\$1,074,147	\$1,126,049	(\$51,902)	\$2,024,461
Net Revenue	(\$11,773)	\$34,215	(\$45,987)	\$0



ST. MARK: *Spreading Christ's Message*

The shortest and oldest of the four Gospels, Mark draws from oral tradition and a document named “Q,” which contains many of Christ’s sayings. Likely written 25 to 30 years after the Ascension, Mark’s Gospel serves as a source for those of Matthew and Luke. Setting this Gospel apart from the others, women play an integral role in Mark’s Gospel, often understanding with clarity aspects of Christ’s message that the apostles had difficulty comprehending.

Furthermore, Mark portrays Christ’s persecution as a result of His radical challenge to established orders of religion, economy and politics.

While the history of Mark’s Gospel is fairly accessible, many legends have arisen around him that cause difficulty when attempting to explore this saint’s historical persona. Some associate Mark with Simon Peter after the Ascension, and others identify Mark as the young man who ran naked from the Garden of Gethsemane when Christ was arrested. Despite attempts to place Mark in Christ’s physical proximity, the most significant depictions recall his activity as a

disciple in the early Church. Some scholars say that Mark was a companion of Peter’s and was the first Bishop of Alexandria — thus, the first pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria. Mark is also said to be “John Mark” of the Acts of the Apostles, a cousin of Barnabas who accompanied Paul on his journeys. However, most do agree on Mark’s martyrdom. Tradition has it that he was dragged through the city streets due to his attempts to turn Alexandrians away from Egyptian gods.

Although Mark’s extraordinary achievements may not seem to align with the lives of the ordinary faithful, his story reminds all Christians of their responsibility to spread the Gospel message. Each believer is summoned to live a life of radical mission — one that, like Christ’s in Mark’s Gospel, defies the status quo in search of greater good and justice. By following Mark’s example, Catholics are empowered to continue their presence as a powerful political and social force, always attempting to mirror the kingdom of God on earth. We celebrate Mark’s feast day on April 25.

APRIL 25

SAINT
MARK



2015 Lent/Holy Week Activities

Simple Suppers

Fridays at 6 p.m. following Stations of the Cross

Free will offering – after costs of the meal, the rest of offering will go to Jamestown's Daily Bread

March 20, Cheese Pizza and Breadsticks, hosted by Liturgy/Human Concerns

March 27, Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup, hosted by Faith Formation

Parish Rosary and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays in Lent

Exposition following 12:10 p.m. Daily Mass

5 p.m. **Rosary** for Marriage and Family

5:30 p.m. Benediction

First Friday Adoration 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. (March 6)

Praise and Worship Band during Adoration at 8:15 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Stations of the Cross – Fridays at 5:30 p.m.

Area Penance Services

St. James Basilica – March 22, 7:15 p.m.

Sanborn-Sacred Heart – March 26, 7 p.m.

Valley City-St. Catherine's – March 29, 7 p.m.

Education for Adults and/or Young Adults

Faith Reflections, Mondays – Morning session meets in the Adult Education Office of the Zebedee Center at 8:45 a.m. Evening session meets in the Conference Room of the Zebedee Center at 7 p.m. Contact Claudia at 252-0478 for more information.

Christian Mimes Schedule

March 25, 7 p.m. – Oakes

April 2, 2 p.m. – St. John's Academy

April 3, noon – Steele

April 3, 7 p.m. – Lutheran Church-Sanborn

April 6, 3 p.m. – Ave Maria Village
TBA – Catholic Church, Sanborn

Palm Sunday Mass, March 29

4:30 p.m. (Saturday, March 28)

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Holy Week Daily Masses – 12:10 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday

Holy Week Confession Schedule

Sunday, March 29 – 3 to 4 p.m.

Monday, March 30 – 11 a.m. to noon, 4 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 31 – 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 1 – 11 a.m. to noon, 4 to 5 p.m., and 7 to 8 p.m.

Holy Thursday, April 2 – 11 a.m. to noon

Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, March 31

11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

(No 12:10 p.m. Mass at St. James Basilica)

At this Mass, Bishop Folda will bless the Sacred Oils that will be used throughout the diocese and the priests renew their vows. All are welcome to attend.

Holy Thursday, April 2

7 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper (no other Masses this day), Basilica Eucharistic Adoration following Mass until midnight (in Community Room) *There WILL be incense at this Mass* 7 p.m. at St. Mathias, Windsor

Good Friday, April 3

5 p.m., Passion of the Lord, Basilica
3 p.m., St. Mathias, Windsor

Holy Saturday, April 4

9 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass (no other Masses, no confessions), Basilica *This Mass fulfills your Sunday Obligation*

There WILL be incense at this Mass

Easter Sunday Mass, April 5

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. ONLY, Basilica

There WILL be incense at 10:30 a.m. Mass

8:30 a.m., St. Mathias, Windsor
10:30 a.m., St. Michael, Pingree



ST. JAMES BASILICA OF JAMESTOWN

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Weekend Mass

Saturday Vigil

4:30 p.m. Mass

Sunday

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Mass

Daily Mass

Monday thru Friday - 12:10 p.m. Mass

Saturday - 8:00 a.m. Mass

Reconciliation

Monday thru Friday - 11:40 a.m. - 12 noon

Saturday - 3:30 p.m.

Address Service Requested

Funeral Ministry *continued from front cover*

says. "We certainly appreciate anything they can do, be it serving, or baking, or some of us do both. We have a good group of volunteers. All the ladies have such good ideas and good ways of doing things and it all just falls into place. Whatever they can contribute is so important!"

Margie began coordinating this ministry seven years ago, and she has been surprised at the many blessings she has received in her time with the group. Her assistant, Marge Kainz, has become one of her dearest and closest friends through this ministry.

"I can't begin to tell you how many nice ladies I have met through this ministry who I wouldn't have met otherwise," Margie says. "They've just become dear friends and I didn't know these ladies before. Meeting people in the parish and working with these ladies gives you the feeling that you belong to the Church. You just know that there are people who care about you and what's going on in your

life, be it good or sad at the moment or whatever. I also feel a special closeness to God because of this ministry."

Although the main purpose of the Funeral Ministry is to offer hospitality and peace of mind to parish families who have recently lost a loved one, Margie hopes that she and her team are able to be the hands and feet of Jesus to parishioners and visitors to the parish.

"Our work is so simple, but I would hope it makes an impact on people who visit the church and that how we do our job reflects the love of the Church," Margie says. "I hope they remember it and think about it after things have settled down. We do have people who have left the Church or aren't Catholic come to the funeral meals, and I think it's so very important that we do our very best to show Jesus to them."

For more information on the Funeral Ministry, please contact Margie Karn at 701-952-0430.

"The purpose of the Funeral Ministry is to make it as comfortable and as easy as we can for the family that is grieving. I've been through loss, and when you've lost someone you love very much, it's really hard to think, so we try to do that for them if we can." — Margie Karn, Funeral Ministry Coordinator