

# St. John's Announcements

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Spring is almost here!



## Bible Study

Our Bible Study during Lent is going to focus on the Book of Esther. Esther tells the story of the Jewish diaspora living in ancient Persia under King Ahasuerus (Xerxes). Xerxes is the Persian king best known in the west for fighting Athens and Sparta. Persia was the largest empire at the time stretching from India to Greece to Ethiopia. King Ahasuerus was famous for throwing large feasts. The story begins and ends with a lavish banquet. The story reveals the dangers of being a faithful Jew living in a country where they represent a small minority. There is an evil plot to destroy the Jewish people, but two clever Jews set out to foil the plans of the evil Haman. The title character, Queen Esther is one of those opponents of Haman. The victory of Queen Esther is remembered by the Jewish feast of Purim which occurs next month. Also next month, the Sunday School will be invited to learn about hamantaschen which is a cookie that has grown out of this story. The Bible Study meets at 12:30pm in St. Mary's Hall on Wednesdays. You can also participate via Zoom.

Blessings, *Marc*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Happy Birthday!

Russell Amende

Judith Taylor

Rich Harding

Max Toth

Orin Bartle

**Eucharistic Visitor Training** – Training will take place immediately following the 10am service on 2/25.

**St. Patrick's Corned Beef Dinner** – Save the Date! Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> in St. Mary's Hall. More details to follow!

**Join Episcopal Relief & Development on a Lenten Journey** - For 15 years, Episcopal Relief & Development has been blessed by the opportunity to join readers on their spiritual journeys with thought-provoking meditations. During Lent, we pray, "Create and make in us new and contrite hearts." Our 2024 meditations focus on embracing this new heart, this new life in Christ, and looking deep within ourselves and acting in ways that seek and serve Christ in others. Visit our website to subscribe to daily emails, download a PDF, read the meditations and access a Group Study Guide to reflect on the meditations and Scripture with others. Go to [episcopalrelief.org/Lent](https://episcopalrelief.org/Lent) or scan the QR code to read the daily meditations.



**Yoga classes** – There will be morning and evening sessions on 2/29. Morning sessions are located in the Undercroft at 10am. Evening sessions are located in St. Mary's Hall at 5:30pm.

**Lenten Series** - The Brothers at the Society of St. John the Evangelist will lead us through a video Lenten Series called "In the Midst" an exploration God's presence even in the hardest, messiest parts of life. Join us on Thursdays beginning on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm. We will begin our time with a soup supper, have conversation, and conclude with a brief Eucharist.

**2024 Stewardship** - Our 2024 Stewardship program will run from Ash Wednesday, February 14 through Palm Sunday, March 24. Throughout Lent we plan to again have a very active stewardship conversation with our parish family. We will be asking our parish to reflect on their many blessings and offer gifts of their treasure as a thanksgiving to God, who has made all things possible.

To that end, we are seeking parishioners to share your personal insights and testimonials regarding your own stewardship journeys during each Sunday service's Stewardship Moment. Please contact Skip Sutcliffe at 860-978-0091 or by e-mail at [jw9714@yahoo.com](mailto:jw9714@yahoo.com) to discuss or arrange the Sunday you can share your thoughts with the parish.