

St. John's Announcements

April 28, 2024

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Hello Spring!



Several of you have asked me about the office of Presiding Bishop and the upcoming election this summer at General Convention. I thought I would take a moment to write about this office. The Episcopal Church does not have the office of Archbishop. This was an intentional decision by the founding generation of the Episcopal Church's first generation as an independent church from our English cousins. This founding generation wrote our Episcopal Constitutions and Canons. They were some of the same people who wrote the American Articles of Confederation, the predecessor document to the U.S. Constitution. That document, written by those who had experienced the Revolutionary War, did not want a central authority, or ruler, with too much power. They preferred to stress local control. The primary center of authority in the Episcopal Church lies within the diocese. The diocese also has rules and canons as to how the diocese interacts with congregations. Without an archbishop, there exists no central figure that speaks for the whole church. Nothing the presiding bishop declares necessarily means the rest of the church must follow. The office of Presiding Bishop is one of persuasion. The current office holder is Bishop Michael Curry. He is well respected around the Church, and he has brought great energy and knowledge of the Gospel to our communion. He is also a talented preacher. He is finishing his nine-year term this year. We will certainly miss him, but we will elect a new presiding bishop with a single nine-year term this summer at convention. The House of Bishops (the upper house) of convention will vote on the nominees, and the House of Deputies (the lower house) will approve the candidate-elect. Here are the nominees.

Rt. Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe, Central New York

Rt. Rev. J. Scott Barker, Nebraska

Rt. Rev. Daniel G.P. Gutierrez, Northwestern Pennsylvania

Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Western New York

Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Atlanta

Blessings,

Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

5/1 - Eucharist @
10:30am

5/1 - Bible Study @
12:30pm

5/2 - Lunch Bunch @
12 noon

Happy Anniversary!

James & Nancy Simon

Happy Birthday!

Cindy Harding

Margaret Wright

Gretchen Eames



LUNCH BUNCH IS BACK! - Lunch Bunch is starting Thursday, May 2nd! Barring snow, earthquake or eclipse, lol. Bring your favorite dish (homemade or store bought) and join us at 12:00pm for a potluck luncheon. Dessert and drinks will be provided. This is a pet free gathering, so please be respectful of your fellow parishioners and leave your 4- legged friends at home. Any questions may be directed to Chris Emery at 860-593-3176.

New Bible Study Starting

On Wednesday, May 1st at 12:30pm in St. Mary's Hall, we will continue with the Acts of the Apostles. The book tells the story of the Apostolic Age of the early church. We are introduced to Paul and James, the brother of our Lord, as well as hearing how those former fishermen became great leaders of the church. I hope you can join us in-person or through Zoom. You may get a zoom link by contacting the Rev. Marc.

Rogation Day - Rogation Day is May 5th. The latin word *rogare* – “to ask” gives the observance its name. We are encouraged to ask God for what we need. There are few things we need more than quality food and water, so Rogation Day quickly became associated with praying for farms, gardens, wells, and rivers. It is a time to give thanks for the beauty and fruitfulness of the earth. Parishioners are encouraged to bring in a cup of dirt from their garden and place it in a wheelbarrow we will have in the narthex. We will bless the dirt at the end of the liturgy, and you are invited to bring that blessed dirt home. We will also say prayers over the organic garden and the memorial garden. While Rogation Day has a focus on the land, we also take a moment to give thanks for all of the holy work we do. God blesses us through accountants, doctors, and teachers, as well as religious workers and farmers. Rogation Day is a good time to pray for meaningful labor.
