

# St. John's Announcements

## March 16, 2025



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### Blessing of the Tiffany Windows



The Ten Commandments, or the Decalogue, are the most famous of the laws that Moses brought down from Mount Sinai. They have always been an important part of our Judeo-Christian heritage. In the first century, Rabbis and scholars would challenge each other to create the most succinct and faithful summary. Jesus' Summary of the Law is "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." We regularly pray this during Lent. Liturgically, the Ten Commandments use during the liturgy does not have ancient origin. It began during the Protestant Reformation. Protestant Reformers attempted to break up the Mass in a way that Reformers felt was more faithful to scripture. The *Kyrie eleison*, (Lord, have mercy upon us) was dropped in Reformed liturgies and replaced with the Ten Commandments. Martin Luther, who appreciated music, did not wish to lose the great musical heritage of singing the *Kyrie*. He put the commandments to music and used the *Kyrie* as the congregation's response. Continental Reformer John Calvin did not approve of music in church, and his spoken liturgical version is the one sometimes used in churches to this day. The Commandments became a staple of Reformation liturgy for much of the next 400 years. It may seem unusual and very "low church" to say The Commandments in the liturgy, but it was still required until the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer* allowed them to be dropped. Even in the 1928 book, however, The Commandments were still supposed to have been said once a month in a church service. The 1979 book dropped the rubric, and since, it is very rarely done. We do it at St. John's a few times a year.

Blessings, **Marc**

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

St. Patrick's Dinner –  
3/15 @ 5:30pm

#### Happy Anniversary!

Marsha & Werner Hartlieb

#### Happy Birthday!

Scott Fields, Gretchen Shea  
Rev. Virginia Army

After dinner we will be discussing stewardship, led off by a greeting from Bishop Mello. Anyone interested in helping with cooking or decorating please contact Lois Valliere [lvalliere1@icloud.com](mailto:lvalliere1@icloud.com). Tickets will soon be available in the narthex after services.

**Dear Friends:** The standard practice in the Episcopal Church In Connecticut (ECCT) for parishes with a Priest-in-Charge is for the wardens, officers and vestry to undertake a mutual ministry and planning process after 3 years, with the assistance of a facilitator from ECCT and then decide to call the priest-in-charge as Rector. Given limited availability of qualified facilitators at this time, ECCT has advised St. John's (as well as other parishes within Connecticut) that we may instead proceed with this process using a detailed self-guided discernment document NOW WE DECIDE Guide for Vestry for PiC-to-Rector Call provided by ECCT. With consent by Bishop Mello, your wardens, officers and vestry will be meeting on **March 16, 2025**, to prayerfully review, discuss and move ahead at this important inflection point in our parish's life. After this meeting has concluded and we have notified Bishop Mello of the outcome, we will notify the parish of our decision by e-mail and letter. Yours in Christ, Skip Sutcliffe, Senior Warden and Bill Francis, Junior Warden