

St. John's Announcements

April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday



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Easter is the greatest of the church's high feasts. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, the Lord's messiah. It represents the defeat of death and the celebration of new life. While Spring in the northern hemisphere picks up on many of the same themes of new life, Easter is different than the Spring festivals. There is an acknowledgement in our Spring feasts that autumn and winter will come again. The life and abundance of Spring and Summer are but for a time. The great death of the fall will come again before we know it. The Feast of the Resurrection does not have that same sense. Christ's death and resurrection are once and for all. While we remember his death every year, it does not happen anew every year. Our salvation is available forever as we have been marked as Christ's own forever. Our baptisms are into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Just as Christ's death and resurrection are not repeated, our baptisms are also once and for all. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all. Easter asks us to remember and celebrate the resurrection. We also remember and celebrate our baptisms. For they are victories that have been assured. Yes, there is evil in the world, and, yes, there will be challenges in our lives, but our final place will be with God in Christ. We can celebrate that throughout the year.

Blessings, *Marc*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

5/6 @ 12noon – Lunch
Bunch

Lunch bunch will meet on **Tuesday, May 6th at 12:00pm** in St. Mary's Hall. Please bring a hot or cold dish to share. As this is a lunch gathering, please refrain from bringing dessert items. Dessert and beverages are provided by the lunch bunch hosts. Hope to see you there, Chris, Diane, and Marsha.

A five-week Bible Study on the beginning of Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians will begin on Wednesday, May 14th at 12:30 in St. Mary's Hall. The study can be attended in-person or through Zoom. Let Marc know if you would like to join through Zoom. This wide-ranging epistle covers disputes in the community and how to resolve them, marriage, worship, and resurrection. I hope you are able to join us.

Rogation Sunday – Rogation Sunday is when Christians ask for things. Traditionally, those things have focused on issues of vocation, fishing, and agriculture. **On Sunday May 25th**, we will pray for our gardens and hope to take a procession outside to bless them. It is also Memorial Day weekend, and we will mark our veterans' resting place with an American Flag.

The Feast of Pentecost is June 8th. We will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit this day. The Feast of St. Mary will be celebrated on Sunday, August 17th. On this holy day we will celebrate the life and continued importance of the mother of our Lord. We will flower the cross with blooms from our own gardens.

Parish Prayer Group - Parish prayer teams are an effective way for a large group of people to pray about the concerns of the parish. Mary Wilson administered a group of people who prayed for each other and their deepest concerns. We would like to continue this effort and enlarge it to include others who are interested in prayer. This group would be invited to meet in person, on occasion, but prayer concerns would primarily be spread through email. This group is welcome to include people who are homebound and/or not connected to the internet. I am fully aware that there are prayer groups that exist at St. John's. This is **not** an effort to push them all together. There are good reasons to have different groups praying for different things, but I want to make sure that everyone feels invited to participate in the prayer life of the church that goes beyond Sunday and Wednesday morning. If you have an interest in helping administer such a group by sending emails with prayer requests, please let me know. If you have an interest in serving on a prayer team (which means no more than promising to pray for the requests as part of your personal prayer life), please contact Christina cmorin@stjohnsvernonct.org or call the church office.