

ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY



St. Anne's
Episcopal Church

APRIL

2021

Newsletter

Parish of St. Anne's,,

As hope for a return to our pre-Covid world surges once again, I am reminded of those saints who have lived in spite of enduring losses. Sometimes, the losses are small but significant, and sometimes the losses are major and life-altering. But I think that all human beings suffer loss, whether we can describe it or not.

Please reach into your storehouse of wisdom learned from your own losses as you contemplate the arrival of vaccinations and health, yet remaining danger from contagion.

St. Anne's traditional service for Good Friday with its wonderful drama depends on our all being in the same room

together. Across a screen, it would not have the same effect. This is true about all our previous experiences of Holy Week. But since the coronavirus pandemic infects easily and unpredictably, the state made decisions for us about our needing to stay home and isolated for the protection of life. While physical distancing is *never* my choice, and I repeat that loudly and clearly! it is easier to accept this self-discipline than it is to continue fighting it. I wish we could all accept loving each other by staying home.

Because we cannot predict the timeline of the variants, please continue to make peace with protecting others by staying home and getting your vaccinations. This is not easy for any single one of us, me especially. When will I

get to start meeting my new congregation? You all feel like you know me from the filmed services. But, I don't know you! Please help us all.

Realm Connect is coming to our church, and I eagerly anticipate its making greater connections between us through organizing our parish member lists.

Your contributions to our parish life together are most welcome. Are you thinking of something you can do to enliven us all? Join us!

With gratitude, faith, and hope because Easter comes.

Mother Jennifer

Contact information!

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
PO Box 134, 14 Treble Cove Rd.
No. Billerica, MA 01862
Office Ph: 978-663-4073
Thrift Shop Ph: 978-667-6268

Email: stannesbillerica@gmail.com
Website: stannes-billerica.org

Vestry:

Ed Giroux – Warden
Michael Hopkins – Warden
Sue Geen – Treasurer
Marguerite Massey, – Clerk
Brenda Komarinski – 2022
Bob Peck - 2022
Rosemary Kinser – 2022
Jose Torres – 2022

Russell Brent - 2022
Linda Kusnierz – 2023
Dorothy Callihan – 2023
Janet Lyna - 2023
Marie Figenbaun - 2024

Worship:

9:30 am Sunday
YouTube, Facebook and BATV

Mother Jennifer's **office hours** are generally.

Tuesdays 11-4 or later

Wednesdays possibly 11-4

Thursdays 2-5 or later PLEASE call or email her with any kind of pastoral concern.

If any pastoral concern arises, please do not hesitate for a second to contact your Priest.



From the Wardens

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter a number of people have been extremely busy working to establish a Realm database and new accounting software for St. Anne's. Getting these new systems in place will allow us to be more efficient providing a managed and updated parish list and financial reporting required by auditors and strongly recommended by the diocese. Our thanks to all of those that have been participating in the numerous (3 this week!) Zoom meetings and their associated emails and text messages.

I know that everyone's pretty as anxious to get back to regular church services as I am, but we need to be careful and keep everyone safe. I am cautiously optimistic that things will be turning around but both the CDC and the diocese are urging us not to open things up too soon. The Regathering Committee will be meeting again in early May and we will have more information by then. I'm sure we'll all be praying for positive improvements in the battle with Covid-19.

As mentioned in last month's wardens' section of the newsletter, we had a water leak in a hot water heater and I'm happy to report no new water leaks or frozen pipes in March!

Get Vaccinated!

The Wardens

Mike Hopkins

Ed Giroux

March visits

I know the separation has been tough on everyone; but let's find a silver lining.

March has given St Anne's a gift (or two). Not only did we have our Suffragan Bishop Gayle Harris on March 7th. She was able to participate in a socially distant Service, a Children's Sunday School Service with Brenda Komarinski and Zoom Coffee Hour.



Just prior to March 29th St Anne's learned The Rev, Cannon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa TH.D, Cannon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries needed to find church to record his Easter Sermon.... What an opportunity! Of course, the Virtual worship group jumped at the opportunity....Meaning Diocesan Easter Day Service would be done from little old St Anne's in North Billerica. It also gave us a way to say Thank you to the Diocese, since they did give us a grant for the cameras.



After many laughs, taping was completed and better yet smiles on everyone's face. Files uploaded prior to the deadlines and notes of Thanks received from Tracy Sukraw Communications Director for the Diocese.

Our little church is making its mark on a big stage. The link will be shared with all once available. We hope we did his sermon justice.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME

by Brenda Komarinski

The March Take-Home Sunday packets went out March 14. If you would like one, please email me at bkomarinski@gmail.com and I will get it to you. We met Daniel. The next person from the Bible that we will meet is Mary.

We've met Abraham who trusted God, then Moses who brought us the rules from God. Joshua and Rahab kept promises, then Ruth and Naomi were all about family. David had us looking in our hearts, and Solomon showed us wisdom. Daniel taught us about courage in doing what is right. What will Mary teach us?

The packets will be ready April 11.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd lessons shared at our prayer table can be seen on St. Anne's YouTube page and on our website.

<http://stannes-billerica.org/sunday-school-videos/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh0faV8iieCG7h42EBrDE0Q>

Please give them a watch.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Safe Church

Our recently approved Safe Church policy can be found on our website (<http://stannes-billerica.org/safe-church/>). We recommend everyone take the time to read it.

If you are interested in further Safe Church training, please email safechurch@stannes-billerica.org to get your username and password and then go to: www.safeguardingonline.org.

If you have any questions about Safe Church, our Safe Church Policy, or the Safe Church training, please contact Brenda Komarinski (bkomarinski@gmail.com)



a note on music...

Very busy right now practicing a lot for the Holy Week & Easter services. Many thanks to Maria and Michele for offering their beautiful singing.

Wishing St. Anne's a blessed Easter.

Sincerely, Peter Morelli

Cursillo Update: by Rosemary Kinser

Day of Reflection on Hope – Hosted by the Secretariat on March 13, 2021!

It was a time to share scripture, music, prayer, and discussions of Hope:

“Hope in a year of Job” – a talk given by Kathy Doller

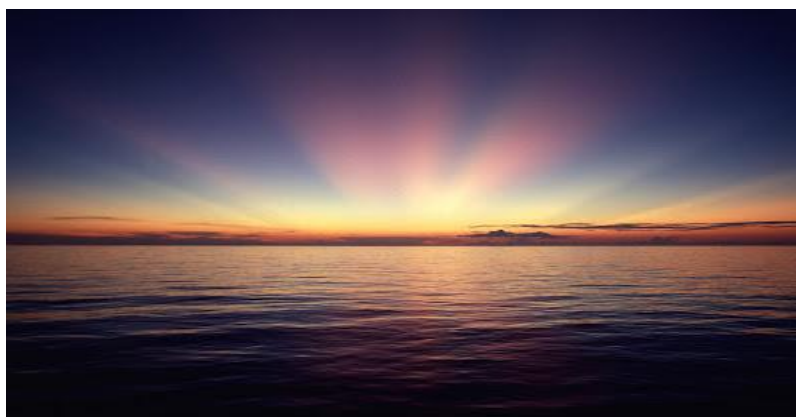
Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Biblical definition of Hope: *The foundation of biblical **Hope** is the confident expectation of what God has promised to His people, and its’ strength is in **His** faithfulness.*

“Lay Down your Burdens” – a talk given by Rosemary Kinser

Scripture: Matthew 11:28-29 - Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

The focus of the talk was on the pandemic. It incorporated Dr. Kubler-Ross’s model “Five stages of grief” (Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, Acceptance).



Zoom Ultreya – Hosted by Karen and Lee Conley from Dade City, Florida on March 20, 2021

The Theme was “Will you come and follow me”. A time to share and communicate our common Christian faith.

Our Zoom Ultreyas have allowed many to participate from all over our country. We have had people from 5 different states which is extremely exciting.

Peace, Hope and Love to all.....

Rosemary

A few words from the Re-Gathering Team

Re-gathering Team: Linda Kusnierz, Ken Kinser, Marguerite Massey, Kathy Brewster

The Re-Gathering Team met recently to discuss the March 4 Bishops Pastoral Letter with renewed Covid – 19 Guidelines as well as the follow up Zoom meetings with Clergy, Wardens and Parishioners. While St Anne's continues with remote worship indefinitely, we too are "cautiously hopeful" yet unable to determine at this time when it will be safe for all to resume in person worship. There remain many factors that are cause for concern and guidance from various sources that prevent us to recommend a safe re gathering at this time. We will meet again in early May to discuss and determine the conditions that need to be in place to recommend re-gathering in safety for all.

Also want to bring to your attention, the State has established a Home Bound Vaccination Program. The one shot J&J vaccine will be brought to and administered to the home bound resident. The program begins Monday March 29, should you know of anyone for whom this would be helpful the number to contact to schedule an appointment is: 1-844-771-1628 Monday – Friday 9 - 5.

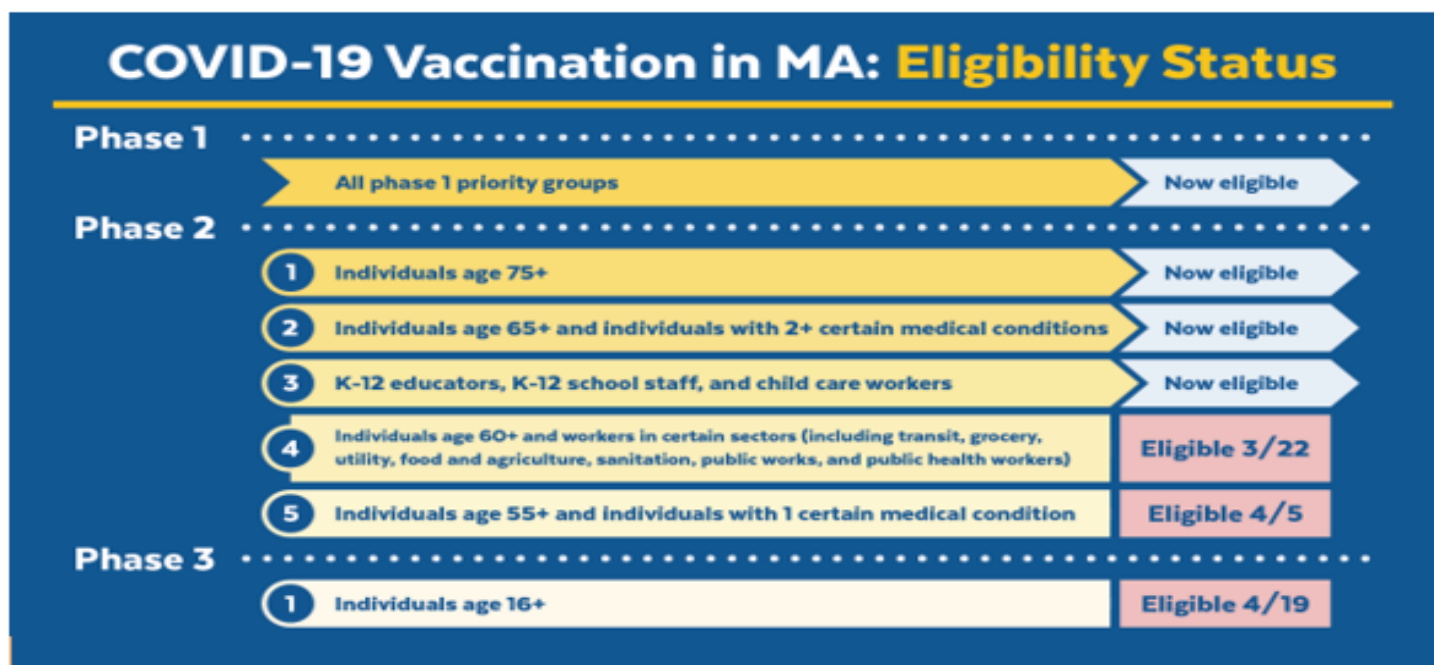
Stay safe, continue to practice physical distancing, wash your hands frequently and wear your mask.

Peace be with you.

Your Re-Gathering Team



Have you received your vaccination? Interested in an appointment? Need help making an appointment? Need a ride to your appointment? Contact Linda Kusnierz or Marguerite Massey. Supply is on the increase; appointment availability is on the rise. Register now. See the recent Eligibility Status issued by the State. (Mass.gov Steps to get your Vaccination)



There are different ways to find a vaccine appointment:

- Preregister at VaccineSignUp.mass.gov to be notified when it's your turn to schedule an appointment at one of **7 mass vaccination locations**: Fenway Park, Gillette Stadium, Reggie Lewis Center, DoubleTree Hotel in Danvers, Eastfield Mall in Springfield, Natick Mall and former Circuit City in Dartmouth.
- Use VaxFinder.mass.gov to search for appointments at pharmacies, health care providers, and other community locations.

Massachusetts' preregistration system makes it easier to request and schedule an appointment at one of the 7 mass vaccination locations. People can preregister for a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at mass vaccination locations only. More locations will be added to the system in April.

Once you sign up for preregistration, you'll receive weekly status updates. You can opt out at any time if you find an appointment elsewhere. Once an appointment is available, you'll be contacted with the opportunity to book the appointment and have 24 hours to accept it.

Massachusetts receives a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine doses from the federal government each week. **Due to high demand and extremely limited supply, it may take several weeks to schedule an appointment or to be notified that an appointment is available at mass vaccination locations.**

Community Outreach

The Billerica Community Pantry is so appreciative of your Time, Talent and Treasure. Not only do you allow the Pantry to use space for storage, John & Sue, Lisa, Brenda & Mark and Ed volunteer time driving to Market Basket and bring back to St Anne's for storage. It is wonderful to be able to text out "the bins are full can some one stop by" and I get YES.... I know their lives are busy, but they make time. And Linda who is at the Pantry helping stock and sort. These are just a few of the St Anne's family that helps, there are many who just make items on our wish lists appear.

Any Billerica Resident who is Food insecure may receive, we all need a helping hand once in a while. Please register if you are in need, we are here for you. If you DON'T live in Billerica, we can help you find solutions, you are not alone.

For those wish to help with our wish list – we are looking for 300 sets.
We are looking for a variety of sizes since families come in all shapes and sizes.
Each family will 3- or 4-piece sets.



Drop off Locations
 21 Horman Road
 Billerica Library, Circulation Desk
 Lobby of the Police Department
 Treble Cove Market Basket
 Center Market Basket
 Salem 5 Bank, Billerica
 66 Dudley Road
 45 Sachem Street
 20 Oxford Road

Items Needed Every Friday

Laundry Supplies Drive

Bleach



Laundry Detergent



Fabric Softener



Stain Remover



Please have items delivered to your preferred location by 5pm



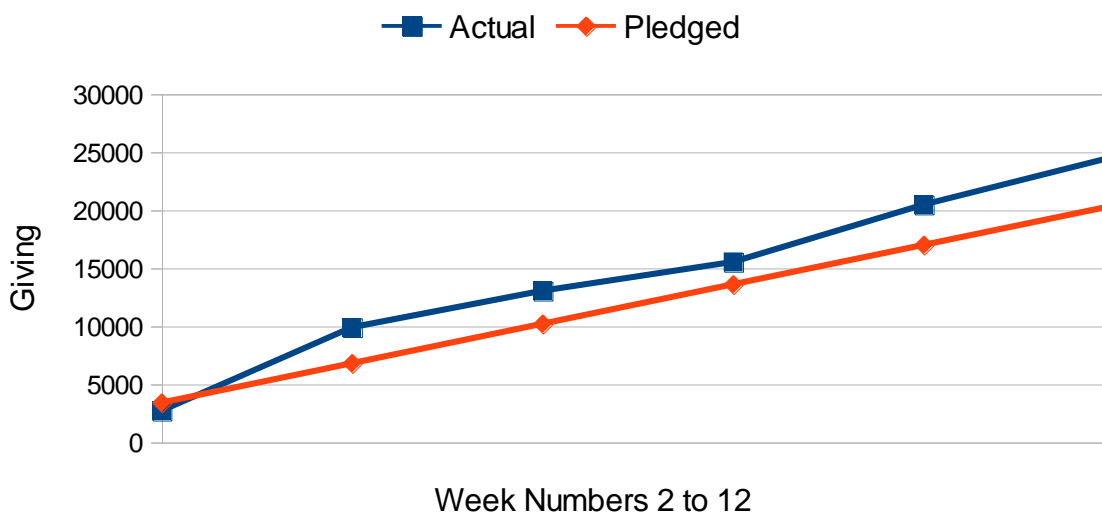
If you have a special event you would like mentioned
please send the information to SandraForStAnnes@yahoo.com

Deadline is the 25th of each month

Pledging BY John Geen

There are, so far 52 pledge card returns totaling \$88,365 for this year. Four of those pledges are fully paid-up already which accounts for the giving for the first 12 weeks being about \$4,000 ahead of that promised on the pledge cards. This can be seen on the graph below.

St. Anne's 2021 Pledge Status



As always, St. Anne's is blessed with parishioners who give generously.



Thrift Shop by Kathy Brewster and Marguerite Massey

St. Anne's Thrift Shop is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10AM until 12PM. As of April 7 the shop will be open from 10AM until 2PM. The shop is also open on the third Saturday in April and May. When you have time please stop by and say hello to our volunteers.

Submitted by Kathy Brewster and Marguerite Massey, co-coordinators of the Thrift Shop



Spring is here - A time for new beginnings!

St. Anne's has identified the need for a comprehensive data-base system that will organize, maintain, and update the records of the Parish. Currently, our information has been stored on various computers, paper files, and personally owned computers. After much research and comparisons of information obtained from the Diocese and other parishes, St. Anne's has subscribed to Realm Connect. A monthly fee allows us to use the system, work with a dedicated Realm staff member to assist in the implementation, obtain unlimited technical support, and automatically update the software when available.

What is Realm? – Realm is an online ministry tool designed for real time connection. It helps our church connect with you and you connect with us. Realm allows you to manage your personal information and who is allowed to see it, control your giving, if you choose, and keep in touch with the groups that matter to you.

Why use Realm? – Realm helps us serve you better and leads this church well between Sundays. Everyone can be connected from anywhere at any time. It engages everyone in the life of our church by supporting relationships that are essential to our church's mission. We stay organized, and you will stay informed.

What about my privacy? Realm is safe, private, and secure. Your privacy is one of our greatest concerns. St. Anne's Realm is only made up of the people in our church; it is not like a social network that is open to everyone. Realm keeps your data safe and gives you control over what information you share and who can see it.

We will provide periodic updates as the implementation of Realm progresses. Hopefully, we will soon benefit from improvements and reliability in Parish communication.

Meet the Implementation Team: Dotty Callihan, Ron Desmarais, Ed Giroux, Mike Hopkins, Ken & Rosemary Kinser, Brenda & Mark Komarinski, Linda Kusnierz and our pastoral advisor, Mother Jennifer!

We are excited about this new connection!



Final Resolution from the 235th Diocesan Convention

The 235th Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts had several resolutions. In previous newsletters I addressed the Declaration of a Climate Emergency from Bishop Curry. I also reviewed the approval of the 2021 Diocesan Budget. The resolution that I want to address in this newsletter is the creation of a Racial Justice Commission. Parishes are called to take a look at this broad topic and how this impacts each parish. Some churches were built with funds that benefited from the slave trade. Some of the oldest churches in our Diocese may have been built by slaves. Some churches may have old or new art work that is inappropriate to our racial views of today.

The vestry at St. Anne's is starting a discussion on the broad topic of racial injustice and what this means for us by viewing a video by Presiding Bishop Curry. We will also be reading and discussing a prayer that was written and distributed on the Diocese website. I will be writing more about this topic in the future. Russell Bent and I will be suggesting how to explore this topic within the vestry and how we may extend this discussion to interested members of the congregation. If you have any ideas on how to broaden this discussion please contact either Russell or Marguerite.

Submitted by Marguerite delegate to 2020 convention and clerk of the vestry



Jennifer's Journal

Prayer about the recent mass shootings

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we your children have once again caused great harm and grief.

We ask comfort and solace for all those who mourn.

We ask courage and bravery for all who continue to seek understanding and justice.

For those with Asian connection, we stand in solidarity.

For women and men in difficult jobs, we ask more protection.

And, for those who are tempted to use guns as solutions,

we cry for more care and more boundaries.

Dear God, look with compassion on this your human family. Make us mindful of each other. And fill us with strength to walk with each other closer to You.

For Christ's sake, we pray. **AMEN**

Questions I was asked about imagining our future in a recent clergy meeting:

1. What have we discovered during the Pandemic that is essential to us?
2. Where is the Spirit moving us to go?
3. What have we gotten really good at and want to keep doing.

I don't know your answers! Please think about this and then talk with a Vestry member. One answer I have gotten: "That we really love our church. We've gotten good at organizing." By our next meeting on April 15th, we hope to collect your answers.

Vestry: Marie Figenbaum, Bob Peck, Brenda Komarinski, Janet Lyna, José Torres, Russell Bent, Rosemary Kinser, Linda Kusnierz, Marguerite Massey, Sue Geen, Mike Hopkins, Ed Giroux

Two Covid-related items from the Diocesan newsletter FYI in March

Vaccination Toolkit

The Office of Government Relations has developed a **COVID-19 vaccination information toolkit** to facilitate and promote COVID-19 vaccine distribution in the United States. This toolkit offers ways that communities can help U.S.-based Episcopalians to facilitate vaccination, overcome vaccine hesitancy and find information from state and local officials. Churches and church leaders can serve as an important trusted bridge between public health officials and communities. Find the toolkit, in English and Spanish, [here](#).

Names for Diocesan Memorial Book

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston has dedicated a memorial book into which names will be inscribed of those who have died of COVID-19. All are invited to send names for remembrance in the book. They can be e-mailed to cathedral@diomass.org or submitted via the cathedral church's COVID-19 resource webpage, [here](#). Read more about the memorial book project [here](#).

Stimulus checks

Think creatively, securely, impactfully, charitably. These are lots of ways to stimulate our economy now.

PLAN AHEAD!

Lenten, Holy Week and Easter Services, all on-line

Keep an eye on our Sunday bulletin Announcements for updates.

4.1.21	7pm	Maundy Thursday, without Holy Eucharist, with stripping of the Altar
4.2.21	7pm	Good Friday Prayerbook service with reading of the Passion Gospel according. to John
4.3.21		Easter Vigil at the Cathedral
4.4.21	9:30am	Easter service, with spiritual communion
4.11.21		Sermon by a Bishop

From the Desk of the Parish Administrator – by Jayleigh

It has been a little over a month since I started at St. Anne's. The bulletin board in the office has been pinned with useful information (and up-to-date calendars!). The desk has been arranged with the most important supplies ready at hand. The closet and cabinets have begun to be inventoried, as well as the files in the drawers. I have had the unusual but fascinating pleasure of getting to know this parish primarily through numbers, names, and archived records, rather than through visits to the office for conversation and in-person business (although there has been some of that, too, and hopefully more to come!).

As I made new labels to affix to the office mailboxes, naming the principal ministries—both fellowship and outreach—of this church, I wondered about the people behind the names. Same for the names I added to this year's parish leadership list (an all-in-one reference document that lets us know who to call on for what), and for the nearly 130 individuals and families for whom I prepared this month's mailings. As I took care to ensure that personal information was correct, matched labels with envelopes, and put the finishing touches on the Google Doc, I realized that even though I don't yet know all of the faces behind the names, the very act of naming is a form of witnessing your presence. I am holding space for you, in the many ways you belong to St. Anne's, even while you are not here physically. It is an honor to do this, and I look forward to what my second month will bring!



St. Anne's Prayer List:

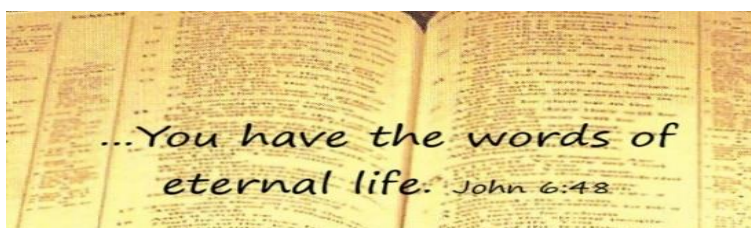
Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend to your loving care this child (Name). Relieve their pain, guard them from all danger, restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise them up to a life of service to you. Hear us, we pray, for _____. Amen.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others:

Donald Sutton, Sr., Elaine McLaughlin, Greg D., Elaine Howland, Dianne Brown, John Phillips,
Norm & MJ Zarella, Janet Lyna, Barbara Rogers, Pat McCleave & family, Cyndi,
Patricia Mobley, Susan Fader, Fred Brown, Debbie King, Cathie and Greg Harper,
Irene Mouradian, Linda E., Mary Hyatt, Jose Torres Sr., Sarah Komarinski, Joseph Pelva

For those in nursing homes or with ongoing illnesses:

Marie Horgan, Joshua Young, Kathy Jeffrey, Christine Lander



We commend you, **Kenneth** to almighty God, and entrust you to your Creator. May you rest in the arms of the Lord who formed you from the dust of the earth. May holy Mary, the angels, and all the saints welcome you now that you have gone forth from this life.

Kenneth Mouradian ~ brother to Roxie Chopourian, friend to many

Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

O God our times are in your hand; Look with favor we pray, on your servant _____, as he/she begins another year. Grant that he/she may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen his/her trust in your goodness all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PAST PRESENT & FUTURE BIRTHDAYS (& ANNIVERSARIES)

		Ed & Sandra Giroux	5/5
Rosemary Kinser	4/2	Maria Martin	5/9
Rose Packard Crotty	4/6	Ken MacPherson	5/22
Ron Desmarais	4/25	Marie Figenbaum	5/25
Doreen Knowles	4/26	Lisa Lavoie	5/28
		Doris Hamner	5/28

Psalm 127:3

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Congratulations to Cindy & Dave Fawcett on the addition of two more Granddaughters.
Danny had a baby girl 6 weeks ago and Amy had a baby girl 2 weeks ago.

If you or a loved one are celebrating a birthday and want in the following newsletter please let me know SandraForStAnnes@yahoo.com. We had to start somewhere, please let me know name and dates

Announcements

Coffee Hour (virtually) Sundays at 11am.

Come join your friends! Come SEE them!

Come chat about anything you want

Bring your favorite beverage with you.

Come before or after you have watched our service.

To join the Zoom Meeting please use the link listed in the weekly bulletin.

Please let us know if you need assistance.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88459398371?pwd=UHZyVmNSK3cxR1hQT25ZcmdUUUVExdz09>

Meeting ID: 884 5939 8371

Passcode: 734459

Weekly announcements will continue to be listed in the bulletin.



Question: "Where does the saying 'He is risen; He is risen, indeed' come from?"

Answer: A traditional [Easter](#) greeting in the Western church is the exclamation "He is risen!" and the traditional response is "He is risen, indeed!" The words are sometimes accompanied by the exchange of three kisses on alternate cheeks, depending on the church. In the Orthodox and Catholic churches, the greeting is called the "Paschal greeting" and is a very old custom.

The greeting is ultimately based on [Luke 24:34](#). Translations throughout church history, from the [Latin Vulgate](#) (c. AD 400) to the [ESV](#) (2001) have translated this verse nearly identically: "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" (ESV). Exactly how the saying became a standard greeting in the church is not known, although there are various theories regarding how it came into common usage.

We do know that, at first, the greeting was more common in Eastern and Byzantine liturgies than in the Western church. There is a tradition in the [Eastern Orthodox Church](#) that the saying was made popular by [Mary Magdalene](#) when she supposedly addressed Emperor Tiberius in Rome with the words "Christ is risen."

Using this address should be more than an empty tradition. The words "He is risen!" remind us of the joyous news we celebrate at Easter, that Jesus' death was not in vain, and that He has the power to overcome death. Saying "He is risen!" allows us to share this incredible truth with each other. The resurrection of Christ gives us hope for salvation and for our own resurrection and eternal life.

Source: Got Questions – Get Biblical answers

www.gotquestions.org/He-is-risen.html



If you need help finding our Channel (YouTube) and Page (Facebook) please let us know.

We can set it up with you, so you receive alerts when new content is posted.