

# ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY UPDATE



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Priest  
 Tom Manney

Senior Warden  
 Becky Foster

Junior Warden  
 Jack Dodd



## A Note from Tom

In my Tuesday night Christian fellowship group (we meet on Zoom), we were recently discussing the conversion of St. Paul. I made a comment to the group about our own individual conversions. Then my friend Jim said, "The conversions [we experience] are ongoing. Our faith ebbs and flows all the time. We are in a constant state of conversion."

This, I thought, is definitely true. There have been times in my life when my enthusiasm for God has been high, and there have been times when I couldn't have possibly cared less. Times when I prayed, and times when I ignored God altogether. Times when I attended church obsessively, and times when church members forgot my name. Times when I read every religious book I could get my hands on, and times when I threw them away.

It pains me to think of the things I missed out on because of my religious apathy. Not only church experiences ("Oh, today is Graduation Sunday?"), but my personal relationship with God. A life lived without God is a life that misses out on God's love

and support. And the only way a person loses God's love is when they choose to not accept it. When I am with God I am healthier, happier, more thoughtful, and less selfish. But if God is not part of my life I am....alone.

And like St. Paul, when I am away from God I am blind. I do not (and did not) see what I was missing. I remember once when I bought a small house. It was a foreclosure that was in rough shape. I was going to fix it up and rent it for extra income. I became so obsessed with fixing up the house that I skipped church for about two months straight. I *had* to get the house ready to rent so that I could recoup the money I had invested. As I reflect on this period of my life, I realize that it was not the money I was missing out on. It was God. My life was never enriched by a house. It was enriched by God's love.

I think my friend Jim was spot-on when he said that we are in a constant state of conversion. And therefore, I can think of no better prayer than to ask God to remove the scales from our eyes so that we may fully see our own relationship with God. And when we see God, we can answer like Ananias, "Here I am, Lord."

Tom+

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**Editor: Becky Foster**

St. John's Journey is published monthly. We're looking for your photos and articles. Please email them to "stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com" with the word "Newsletter" in the subject line. Deadline for June is May 27th.



**Happy Birthday...**

- Richard Buszek
- Neil Hargrave
- Margaret Smith
- Happy Anniversary
- Richard & Kathleen Buszek
- Mark & Sherry Wagner

Dear Friends,

What a difference a few weeks can make! We've gone from gray winter gloom to daffodils, hyacinths and warm breezes, from somber Lenten moments to the joy of Easter. It's not unheard of, but it seems like a glorious time to me. Our sincere thanks to all who made our Holy Week observances so special. A lot of extra care goes in to the services that week not to mention the extra touches that make our Easter sanctuary so lovely. Kitty Underwood and her helpers did a wonderful job. And the community as a whole gave our Easter service joy and energy to suit the occasion. And our potluck was scrumptious. There were some new faces in the group that day. I hope we might see them back again soon.

This May we finish up our Winter/Spring Taste & See classes until next fall. If you haven't been to one, you should give it a try. They are informative and fun. No pre-reading, no tests (yet!) but lots of good discussion. June looks to be a busy month. June 5<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost and we want to take a congregation pic after service AND formally bless our new shed. We hoping that a) the weather is good that day and b) Jack Dodd will have recovered enough from his back surgery that he can be with us that day

(if we all promise to be good and not tempt him to try to work on anything). On June 11<sup>th</sup>, we're rebooting the St. John's Music Series with a performance by the Oxford Classic Chorale, a women's chorale group. It's been a long time since our sanctuary was filled with such a musically rich performance. This is an exciting event and we'll be asking for your help in making it such a pleasure for everyone who comes that they'll plan to come again. Stay tuned for further details.



We have a few folks heading for surgery this month – Jack Dodd and Corinne Fry are both having back surgery. Please keep them and their spouses in your prayers.

May we praise and thank our Lord as we all enjoy this much anticipated spring.

Blessings & Peace

Becky Foster



Even snow on our flowered cross can't diminish our Easter joy!

# Calico Beans

With Memorial Day approaching it seems like a good time to bring back one of the old picnic favorites with lots of updates!

Brown:

- 1/2 lb bacon (or 1 jar Hormel dried bacon - no need to brown this product as it is fully cooked)
- 1 lb ground beef (or 1lb chorizo sausage for more spice)
- 1 cup chopped onion

Combine in slow cooker with:

- 1/2 c brown sugar
- 1T dry mustard
- 2 cans of any type of pork and beans (Or substitute Bush's bourbon & brown sugar beans and skip the brown sugar and mustard!)
- 2 more cans of beans - just mix the colors! (butter beans, cannellini, kidney, lima, black)
- 1/2c ketchup
- 1t salt
- 1T vinegar
- 

Cook on low 3-5 hours. Good hot or room temp. Party on!

A graphic featuring several musical staves with notes and a large treble clef. The treble clef has a heart shape inside it. The background is light with some bokeh effects.

**The Classic Choral**  
Women's Ensemble presenting  
A Variety of Choral Music  
Saturday, June 11th at 7pm  
Free Will offering benefits the Ukraine  
Relief Fund of the Episcopal Church



(See John 20:1-18) 03-29-2002  
I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES, WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"







## Our Keyboard is Fixed!

There was a chance that the ordered part might not work – but all our prayers and God’s generosity did the trick. All is back in working order. The raffle basket to help pay for the repair netted \$95.00. Thanks all who helped with this project. Let us make some joyful music together!

## Lenten Box Donations to be sent for Ukraine Relief

Those little Lenten boxes were turned in Easter Sunday and the following Sunday. They generated a donation of \$314.26. Many did not specify a charity for their donation. Those who did so, asked to use the money for the Ukraine. The Episcopal Relief and Development organization has a fund specifically designated for Ukraine aid. Thanks to all who participated in this Lenten practice. We pray that it comforts those going through this time of trial.



## Taste and See Classes

Dates: Monday, May 2 - Tackling Theology

Monday, May 16 - Intro to Homeletics

Time: 5:30

Location: St. John’s Parish Hall



Course materials will be provided.

Please bring a dish to pass.

## Ministry Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Videographer</u>	<u>Counting Member 1</u>	<u>Counting Member 2</u>
May 1	Jim	Tammy	Rev Manney	Becky Foster	Jack	Becky
May 8	Mary	Corinne	Rev Cavin	Sherry Wagner	Ina	Neil
May 15	Neil	Mary	Rev Manney	Ina Dockham	Becky	Wes
May 22	Tammy		Neil	Wes Wagester	Neil	Jack
May 29	Ina		Becky	Ida Lynn Dodd	Wes	Ina



**Save this Date too! June 5<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost Picture Day and Much More!** Weather permitting, we want to celebrate Pentecost by taking a congregational picture in front of the building. So be sure to wear red and a bring big smile

Last year's picture

**ALSO**

You are invited to attend the official ribbon cutting for our new shed. This will require lots of food and fun. Be sure to clear your calendar!



Weather permitting, we want to celebrate Pentecost by taking a congregational picture in front of the building. So be sure to wear red and a bring big smile.



*Lent Madness is a tongue-in-cheek contest that mimics basketball's Sweet Sixteen spring series. Here the contestants are saints drawn from the broad history and scope of our Christian history. This year's finalists were St. Teresa of Avila and St. Jose Hernandez. The results were a surprise to many....*

In a year marked by razor-thin margins of victory, the championship round between Teresa of Avila and José Gregorio Hernández did not disappoint! In the end, José snuck past Teresa in a photo finish to win the 2022 Golden Halo. Both of these saints captured the imaginations of the Lent Madness global voting public and both are worthy of this ecclesiastical accolade. We are pleased to award Teresa the (rare) Silver Halo to mark this year's accomplishments.

Rest assured the result, while exceedingly close, is accurate. The Supreme Executive Committee spent the morning in the mezzanine-level review booth conducting a forensic analysis of the voting. There was some cheating involved on both sides and we eliminated those votes (come ON, people!).

José joins previous Golden Halo winners George Herbert (2010), C.S. Lewis (2011), Mary Magdalene (2012), Frances Perkins (2013), Charles Wesley (2014), Francis of Assisi (2015), Dietrich Bonhoeffer (2016), Florence Nightingale (2017), Anna Alexander (2018), Martha of Bethany (2019), Harriet Tubman (2020), and Absalom Jones (2021).

***Here's what the reviewer wrote about Dr. Hernandez and what drew his supporters....***

I had never heard of Dr. José Gregorio Hernández before the Lent Madness Assignments hit my inbox. Naturally, I was curious...what would the big famous story be?

I looked for milestone moments; what I discovered instead was humble, everyday holiness. Day in and day out, healing, teaching, and serving; José Hernández was a man for others. There was no one famous story, it turned out; but one million—one million quiet miracles of illnesses healed or debts paid, the kind of miracles that are famous in one house, not to history.

José was dedicated to his work, but it cost him other dreams. As a young man, and really throughout his life, he dreamed of becoming a priest. But that would mean turning his back on the rare education and opportunities he had been blessed with. In his heart, he knew his community needed a doctor more than they needed another priest.

*El santo medico* refused wealth and status, he said no to easier jobs because he wanted to serve the poor. He didn't spurn money as much as he truly understood its power, how people struggled to live with dignity. He saw how all too often, it was poverty that was the death sentence, not the diagnosis.

When people called him a miracle-worker, José insisted that it was God's grace. His strong faith helped people to know God, and to believe that God cared about them. I keep thinking about his funeral—the crowds filling the streets to follow his coffin, chanting "Dr. Hernández is ours!" It can be tricky to be a Latina blogger writing about a Latino saint. You want to do right by their story, clarifying traditions that have often been dismissed or misunderstood, while not be-



ing misunderstood yourself. It felt important to acknowledge other religious traditions also recognize José's holiness—not to say these religions are right, or equivalent, but for what this can teach us about the power of our own Christian witness to change people's lives.

I know some readers found this narrative choice distasteful, but it helped me understand myself. Santería and María Lionza would not exist if not for colonialism and the brutality of the slave trade—and neither would the vital witness of Latin American Christianity. For José to be a devout Catholic Venezuelan, for me to come from faithful Puerto Rican Christians, is to know that freedom in Christ has become ours through a terrible history of violence. To be a Latin American Christian is to live a complex faith—knowing injustice and evil brought Christianity to your people, but still trusting in Jesus. In Him, even the hard wood of the cross became a tree of life.

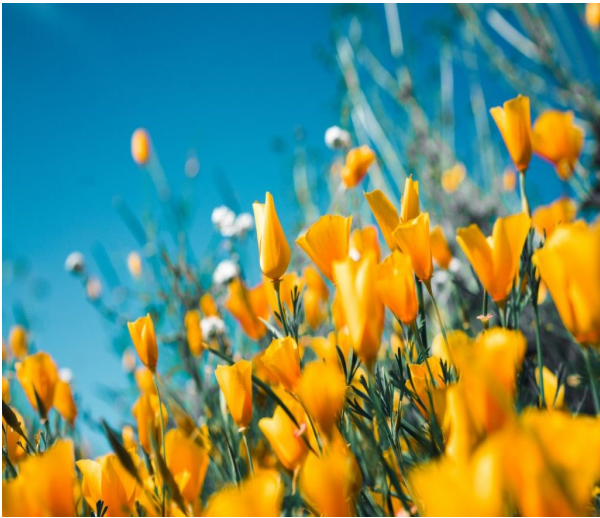
José lived the complexity with eyes wide open. He spent day after day with the sick and the dying, saw the randomness of poverty and suffering, and still got up each morning praising God. José Gregorio Hernández should win the Golden Halo because his life should inspire every single one of us to use the gifts that we have been given, to walk in love as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us. Our lives truly can be an offering to God and to the world.

Written by: [Eva Suarez](#)

## Another Lovely Seder Gathering at St. John's

The tables were carefully set and the guests were enthusiastic. Once more, St. John's remembered the Passover meal with prayer, community and fun. As always, Kitty Underwood did a masterful job of arranging the place settings in accordance to Seder customs. Becky Foster facilitated the readings. Rev. Tom Manney was a great conductor during the singing of Deyanu which included kazoo's! We may do that again next year. Sarah Underwood brought a friend to the meal – who bravely read the part of the “youngest boy” without any prep. Dave & Joyce Moss joined us for the evening – it was so good to see them. And the pot-luck that followed was totally up to St. John's standards. But most of all, we learned how important the Exodus story is to our Jewish brothers AND to us too. If you didn't attend this one, I hope you can come next year. Shalom!





## BISHOP SINGH'S 2022 EASTER MESSAGE

Greetings beloved friends,

We are gathering for Easter in the midst of so much loss. Two years of this pandemic has drained so much of our energy, individually and collectively. Globally, we have lost more than six million people. We are living in the midst of many wars including the war in Ukraine, where violence is seeming to have the last and sometimes the only word.

In the midst of so much that is broken in our human community we are reminded of this incredible story of resurrection where women, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, and other women, went to a tomb to care for a body. A dead body. Jesus' body. They ended up awakening

to a new world view that was not familiar to them. It is not familiar to us.

That is the real story of Easter, where God breaks through and gives us a new way to be. Providence is what we associate with the gift of God. When God invites us to a new way of being, that is providence. Jesus died and was raised from the dead: providence.

Second thing I noticed in the story is also the deep courage of women who went to a tomb when there was so much controversy, so much fear, so much to be depressed about. But they moved, even in and through their grief to claim a deep resilience and courage that we are given as a gift.

Finally, I think there is this deep sense of amazement that everyone is awakened to in the story of resurrection. Where people who were totally afraid were overcome with an unencumbered joy. The joy of knowing God is with us in a very real way. Not as a baby that is vulnerable anymore, but as the risen Christ giving us the strength to face our fears, our challenges, and overcome everything that stymies us, and release us to this grace of joy.

So, my beloved friends, as you gather for your celebration of Easter this year, I pray that you will be filled with the reassurance of providence, a deep assurance of the courage that we have as followers of Jesus, and live into your joy abundantly.

Nancy Jo Steele

Nancy will be missed dearly by those who knew her. She was a teacher, a quilter and a priest who gave 100% to everything she did.

She was a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, an aunt, a cousin, a God mother, and a friend.

Her life was full of joy and she would want us all to remember her for the good works she did in her time here with us.

As a final wish, she asked that we be kind to all. Love everyone and give with your heart.

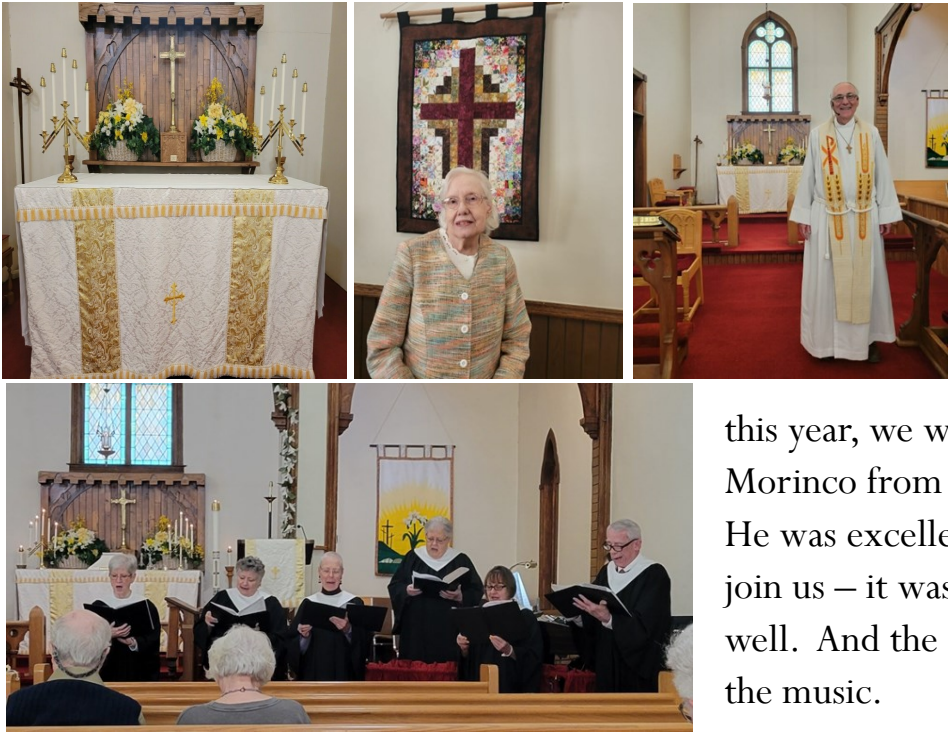
Memorials are requested to:  
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pastor Support  
4432 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw, MI 48603  
and  
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
1501 N Center Rd, Saginaw, MI 48638

Love,  
Jon Steele, husband  
Monica Sanderson, daughter  
Becky Mehregan, daughter

## Rest in Peace, Pastor Nancy

Several of us attended Pastor Nancy's Memorial Service on April 23 in Saginaw. The church was packed. Bishop Singh was the celebrant with Rev. John Soyster from Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church officiating. It was a lovely service on a beautiful day. Nancy's red tennies and her beautiful quilts were there to remind us all of her energy and her generous heart. We pray for Jon and the family as they grieve and comfort each other. And we thank the Lord that He gave us a chance to know her at St. John's





# He Is Risen! – Easter at St. John’s

The Easter altar was lovely – Kitty Underwood and her helpers should be proud. Since Fr. Tom celebrated Easter at St. Paul’s in Bad Ax

this year, we were blessed with Fr. Mike Morinco from Fenton to lead our worship. He was excellent! Evelyn Sunich was able to join us – it was so good to see her looking so well. And the choir did a masterful job with the music.

## Financial News

In order to provide parishioners with better financial information, data regarding the most recent month’s financials will be provided along with the January year-to-date (YTD) data. As of March’s month end, our results were:

	March Actual	March Budget	Above/Below Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Above/Below Budget
<b>Total Income</b>	\$6,933.59	\$5,028.33	+\$1,905.26 +37.9%	\$20,450.51	\$15,084.99	\$5,365.52 +35.6%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$4,716.87	\$4,994.91	-\$278.04 -5.6%	\$11,010.06	\$14,984.73	-\$3,974.67 -26.5%
<b>Net Income</b>	\$2,216.72	\$33.42	\$2,183.30 +6,533%	\$9,440.45	\$100.26	\$9,340.19 +93.16%



Income for March continues to be above expectations. Lower expenses for the month resulted in a Net Income that was substantially over budget. Even considering \$1,250 set aside for future costs of maintaining Rev. Manny after the Diocese support ceases, this Net Income was very good.

Year-to-Date Income is also above Budget. We are most thankful to all our Parishioners who are supporting the church. And Year-to-Date Net Income, also above expectations, helps us move more toward our objective of having sufficient funds to cover the costs of Rev. Tom Manney on a part time basis after the Diocese support finishes mid next year.

It is not unusual for first quarter numbers to vary to the budget by wide margins. In future months, these numbers will smooth out. The church’s financial situation continues strong. We are moving in the planned direction. Thank you all for your support and prayers.

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