



Views from the Mountain

From the Rector

The Reverend Susan R. Ironside

When we celebrate Holy Eucharist together, you may have noticed that an acolyte helps me wash my hands before we gather around the Lord's Table to pray. This ancient practice (sometimes referred to as "the lavabo") probably evolved in the first century, when people brought actual gifts at the offertory—money, food, medicine, goods to share with the poor—and these were offered to God and presented at the altar. It was wise for the priest to have clean hands after receiving such an assortment of gifts, and before touching bread and wine.

Over the years, some began to see this hand washing as an act of piety and humility, when the presider's hands and heart are cleansed before approaching the Lord's Table. As time passed, the practice became more symbolic, when a few drops of water were delicately poured over the hands of the priest, a decorous and subtle washing. Some priests offer silent or whispered prayers in that moment when water is poured over the hands, asking God to create a clean heart in the body that is about to open prayer.

For me, a few drops of water don't really cut it. I need my hands drenched with lots of water. When I am with you on Sunday mornings, I try to focus utterly on our shared worship, and put aside all other distractions that may have been swirling in my head on the drive to work. For that hour in time, my fixations about my laundry pile or the leak in the roof are shoved to the back of my mind, and I focus on hearing the readings declared to us, on singing and praying together, and on the task of preaching and presiding. God and God's gathered people have my undivided attention for that moment in time.

I will be honest. All of this makes my palms sweat. And that's not a metaphor.

So when the acolyte assists me at the altar, I don't want a few measly drips of water. I want water to pour and splash and drench my hands.

In our community, we have one acolyte who is the master of the lavabo: James McKeon. I have yet to experience his equal in any community anywhere. James dumps water on me like my hands are on fire, and water splashes out of the bowl and onto our shoes. It feels amazing! After pouring the water, he offers me a towel, and I surely need it. As he does this holy task, he watches me attentively. It occurred to me this week as I stood with James, that his work allows me to pray more fully. It's not just that my hands feel clean and ready to touch the food, although that is true. But it's more than that. James' care for me connects me to my own body, and to all of you who are the Body of Christ. Praying next to James is some of the best praying I do all week.

Soon we will be entering into our high holy days of the Paschal Triduum, when we allow ourselves to experience the mystery of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus. We can think of these days as acts of piety, and small decorous gestures. Or we can be like James, and allow the richness of these days to drench us and splash even on our feet.

In this life of ours, we are all distracted, and we all have our own version of leaky roofs and piles of laundry. And most of us have sweaty palms in one way or another. But for Three Days every year, we are invited to let the Church drench us fully.

So why choose a measly few drops when you can have a deluge?

Susan +

WORSHIP NEWS

*The Clergy and Wardens of St. John on the Mountain, Bernardsville
and St. Mark's Basking Ridge*

request the honor of your presence at the Paschal Triduum

*April 13, 14, and 15
7 PM each evening*

*Families are enthusiastically welcome at each service
Special Music each Evening by the combined choirs of St. Mark's and St. John's*

Maundy Thursday will be celebrated at St. Mark's in Basking Ridge. As a gathered community, we will enter into the Triduum by celebrating Holy Eucharist together, sharing in the foot washing, and setting Holy Food and Drink aside for Good Friday. We will be using an ancient form of worship from our ancestors. Early Christians celebrated Holy Communion with a meal, not just bread and wine. In the singing of prayers and sharing of food, Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Dinner will be incorporated in this service that follows a model of "Dinner Church" which is an adaptation of early Christians worship and is celebrated weekly by St. Lydia's Church in Brooklyn, NY.

Good Friday will be celebrated at St. John on the Mountain in Bernardsville, and we will gather to celebrate Jesus' triumph over sin and death, and mark the solemn day by hearing again the story of the passion and death of our Savior, and venerating the Lord's cross.

The Great Vigil of Easter will be celebrated at St. John on the Mountain. We will light the new fire, welcome three new babies into the Body of Christ through the waters of baptism, and celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter together. We will be joined in our Vigil celebration by The Rev. Dennis McNally SJ, a Jesuit priest and professor at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Fr. Dennis has offered our communities a painting to meditate on throughout Triduum, and he will be the homilist on Saturday evening.



EVENING PRAYER with POTLUCK SUPPER Wednesday, April 5

Our final Evening Prayer of this Lenten season is Wednesday, April 5. Join us for a Potluck Supper at 6:00 pm in Parish Hall. Bring a simple dish to share with members of our community. Afterwards, come at 7:00 pm for Evening Prayer in the Church. We will use a simple musical setting by Marty Haugen called the Holden Evening Prayer. Originally developed for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) it has widely become ecumenical in use. The service will last about 20 minutes.

2017 BAPTISM at St. John on the Mountain

We baptize primarily on those dates set aside for baptism, as listed in the Book of Common Prayer. Since the presence of the community of faith is essential for welcoming the newly baptized into the church, baptisms take place in the principal service on the appointed Sunday. Questions about baptism? Please contact the office 908-766-2282 or office@sjotm.org.

2017 Dates for Holy Baptism

Saturday, April 15	7 pm	The Great Vigil of Easter
Sunday, June 4	10 am	The Day of Pentecost
Sunday, Nov 5	10 am	All Saints' Sunday

PARISH REGISTER

We Pray God to Grant Eternal Rest

Sue Woods

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

VBS SUMMER CAMP

June 26th - 30th

SAVE THE DATE

June 26th – 30th

Children ages 3 through rising 4th graders are welcome to join us from 9:30 am – 12:00 noon. Kids will learn, create, and have fun at Hero Central! Join us for sports, games, music, snacks, Bible stories, and cool crafts! The cost is \$60 per child (with a \$150 cap per family). Registration forms are available in the children's library and at www.sjotm.org.



PLANTING SEEDS

April 2nd

During Sunday school on April 2nd in Parish Hall, kids will be planting vegetable seeds that will then be placed under our grow lights. Dress accordingly! On Sunday, May 21st at noon we hope to plant our seedlings at Ross Farms in Basking Ridge. The vegetables will eventually be donated to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County and God's Co-op Food Pantry of Bernardsville and Basking Ridge.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN CAMPAIGN

Sunday school children are supporting local Girl Scout Troop 60111 by collecting supplies for a children's play center to be built at Grace's Kitchen in Plainfield. The following items are still needed and can be dropped off in the chapel on Sunday mornings or in the church office during weekdays: coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, puzzles, simple crafts, books, dolls, and action figures. The last day to donate is Easter Sunday.

VBS SUMMER CAMP

Volunteers Needed

Youth and Parent Volunteers Are Needed for Camp

Rising 5th grade (and up) volunteers are needed to make camp a success! Credit for community service hours for school, scouts, and/or honor societies is available. Email Lynn Mitchell at lynnmitchell@sjotm.org if you are interested.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Children of all ages are invited to join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday morning, April 16th, immediately following the 10 am service. Weather permitting, we will hold the hunt outside.



SOUPER BOWL & PANCAKE SUPPER PROCEEDS

A total of \$389.50 from our Souper Bowl and Pancake Supper fund raisers was sent to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County.



Best Wishes as you celebrate your birthday in April

Daniel Daggett, Isabel Gibson, Sarah Lewis, Camille Chatwin, Sophie Ray, Sophia Gudgion, Caroline and Gabrielle Sullivan, Katie Vollmar, Benjamin Wiley, and William Gilmartin

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES



SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

April 9

8 am Holy Eucharist Rite I in the Chapel
10 am Holy Eucharist with choir in the Church,

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 13

7pm Holy Eucharist, at St. Mark's, Basking Ridge

GOOD FRIDAY

April 14

7 pm Good Friday in the Church

HOLY SATURDAY & EASTER EVE

April 15

7 pm The Great Vigil of Easter in the Church

The Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:

EASTER DAY

April 16

8 am Holy Eucharist with hymns in the chapel
10 am Festal Holy Eucharist with choir in the church,
Children's Message and childcare
11:15am Easter Egg Hunt, Outside

RECONCILIATION IN LENT AND HOLY WEEK

The Book of Common Prayer includes two forms for a private rite of Reconciliation, found on page 447. This is an ancient practice of the Church, and is available to all who desire it, and is particularly fitting in Lent. If you would like to reconcile yourself with God before Easter, please contact Mother Susan at rector@sjotm.org or 908-766-2282.

ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Spring from SJNS! April is busy with springtime activities, Easter parties, and Spring Parent-Teacher conferences.

Earth Day is noted with contributions of flowering plants from each of our students. Spring has sprung with the beauty of blooms in front of our classroom doors! "Otto the Auto", a talking car presented by AAA, takes a ride up the mountain to our nursery school this month. Of course the children find this fascinating while also learning auto safety.

The registration period is nearly complete for the next school year. Our two year-old class has available openings. Please contact the nursery school at 908-766-0374 or jwilliams@sjotm.org if interested in more information.

"REACH OUT" ~ AGAINST HUNGER

April is a busy month for Outreach at SJOTM and volunteers are needed for the following projects.

1. **Food for Fenn.** Our semi-annual drive for the **Somerset County Food Bank** and **Saturdays at the Food Pantry in Somerville**. Please bring non-perishable food items and leave them in the containers inside the church door. Paper goods (paper towels, toilet paper) are also valued by our guests. We serve at the Pantry each Saturday morning from 9.30 a.m. to about noon. Teens are welcome and will receive community service credits. To sign up please go to www.sjotm.org and follow the link, or call **Sally Hespe** on 908-696-1213. Or there is a sign-up sheet on the board outside the Parish Hall.
2. **Adopt-a-Family.** At Easter **we deliver uncooked meals to Food Bank patrons** who would not have a meal otherwise. This year we have ten families and **we need volunteers**. You will be given a family name and telephone number. You call them, find out how many need to be fed at Easter and discuss preferences (within reason). Ham is the usual choice. You add vegetables, sauces, dessert etc. You arrange a time to deliver the uncooked food to the home. The families are usually located in Somerville, Bound Brook, Manville and the surrounding area. They are usually easy to find with GPS. To sign up or ask questions, call **Sue Kennedy** on 908-234-0267 or email gdirak@aol.com.
3. **The Giving Garden.** Spring is time to start work in the **Giving Garden** at The Ross Farm that we tend with members of St Bernard's and St Mark's, Basking Ridge. The Sunday School will be starting seedlings under the grow light early in April. We have the seeds, some of which came from last year's crop. The soil preparation at the garden will be done in April and early May. **We need donations of shovels, hand tools, pitch forks, trellises and -especially- wheelbarrows.** If you have these that you could hand-on please let **Craig Johnston** (908-953-9225 or crjohnston57@yahoo.com) know. We can help with transport of larger items to the garden if needed.

The Garden will be blessed at Noon on Sunday, May 21st at a joint service of the churches. After the blessing the children will plant out the seedlings they have grown and adults may assist with other plantings. From May 21st until the end of October the **three churches will work a weekly roster** of responsibility for organizing volunteers, working the garden and delivering the crops to the Food Bank in Bound Brook and Food Pantry in Bernardsville. The sign-up roster will be available in early May. If you are interested in helping before that or have an item to donate please contact Craig Johnston. **Thank you for joining us in reaching-out to the hungry in our neighborhood.**

EASTER HAM COLLECTION

Help stock the Somerset County Food Bank with Easter hams. The Outreach Committee is gladly accepting hams every Sunday through April 9. All hams will be donated to the Food Bank in Somerville. Any questions? Contact Sue Kennedy at 908-234-0367.

GRACE SOUP KITCHEN

Friday, April 28th
600 Cleveland Avenue, Plainfield, NJ

Grace Soup Kitchen serves 1,000 hot nutritious meals the last five days of each month to the hungry of Plainfield. St. John on the Mountain parishioners help on the last Friday of each month. Join us one Friday as we prepare and serve lunch. The next day scheduled for St. John on the Mountain to serve is on Friday, April 28th from 10 am – 1 pm. For more info, email **Graham Argent-Belcher** at gabelcher@msn.com.

FOOD BANK STAFFING

Saturdays in April

SJOTM staffs the Food Pantry in Somerville each Saturday in April and November. This is an important outreach ministry to the needy in our community and is an excellent opportunity for families to serve together and for youth to earn community service hours. We need volunteers now for Saturday April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. Serving time is from 9:15 a.m. until about 11:30 p.m. The pantry is located in the rear of the United Reformed Church, 100 West Main Street, Somerville. There is municipal parking behind the church, near the entrance of the food pantry. Tasks involve bagging and distributing food and receiving and interviewing clients. If you would like to sign up or need further information please contact **Sally Hespe** at sallyhespe@aol.com or (908) 875-1518.

COMMUNITY/FELLOWSHIP NEWS**SAVE THE DATE!**

4th Annual
St. John Nursery School & SJOTM Fundraiser
Friday May 12th

Save the Date
4th Annual SJNS & SJOTM
Spring Fundraiser
Friday May 12th at Roxicticus Golf Club
7 pm-10 pm
Cocktails, Hor d'oeuvres
Music, Silent Auction
Invitation to Follow

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Thursdays at 10 am

All women are welcome to gather on Thursdays at 10 AM when we continue our exploration of women of the Old Testament. No previous knowledge of the Bible necessary and drop-ins are always welcome.

April Birthday Wishes to

*Sue Catlett, Greg Davidson, Eleanor Dean,
Kit Falcon, Stephanie Haueis,
Wood Huntley, Harry Jones, John Kean,
Peter Mercer, Sandy Millspaugh,
Julie Nelson, David Powell, Jane Putnam,
Michelle Ray, Lindley Scarlett,
and Jeff Vernimb*

**NEW SOUND SYSTEM**

We have a brand new sound system at church. It is a truly amazing piece of technology that was given to us by Sandy and Joan Millspaugh, and we are thrilled to have this tool for our worship. The quality of sound is remarkable! There is a basket of six headsets that are offered to those who are hearing-impaired. They are simple and sturdy devices that have individual volume control.



If you want to use a headset, ask an usher, or take one from the basket in the narthex.

MEN'S LUNCHEON
Thursday, April 6th

Please join us on Thursday, April 6th at 12:15 pm at the Morristown Club at 27 Elm Street in Morristown. The luncheons are open to members of the parish and their guests. The favor of a reply is requested in order that a place may be reserved for you at the table, but last minute drop-ins are always welcome. Hope to see you there. For more information please contact Alan Enos at 908-234-1321 or aenos4@verizon.net.

PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have someone added to the Prayer List, please call 908-766-2282 or email the Parish Office at office@sjotm.org.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Wednesdays at 8:15 am

Please join us every Wednesday in the Parish House Meeting Room from 8:15 am - 9:15 am.

Easter Plants, Flowers, and Special Music

St. John on the Mountain is now accepting contributions for Easter plants, flowers, and special music. Gifts may be given either as memorials or in thanksgiving. So that we can publish all names in the Easter bulletins, we ask that you send in your donations by Wednesday, April 5th. If you would like to contribute, please complete the form below and return it to the Parish Office, along with a check made payable to St. John on the Mountain, with a note in the memo section: Easter Flowers and Music. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office (908) 766-2282 or office@sjotm.org.



Cut along dotted line, fill-out and return to SJOTM at 379 Mount Harmony Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Please print clearly

In Memory of

Please print clearly

In Thanksgiving for

Your Name _____ email _____ Daytime phone _____

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

379 Mount Harmony Road
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908-766-2282

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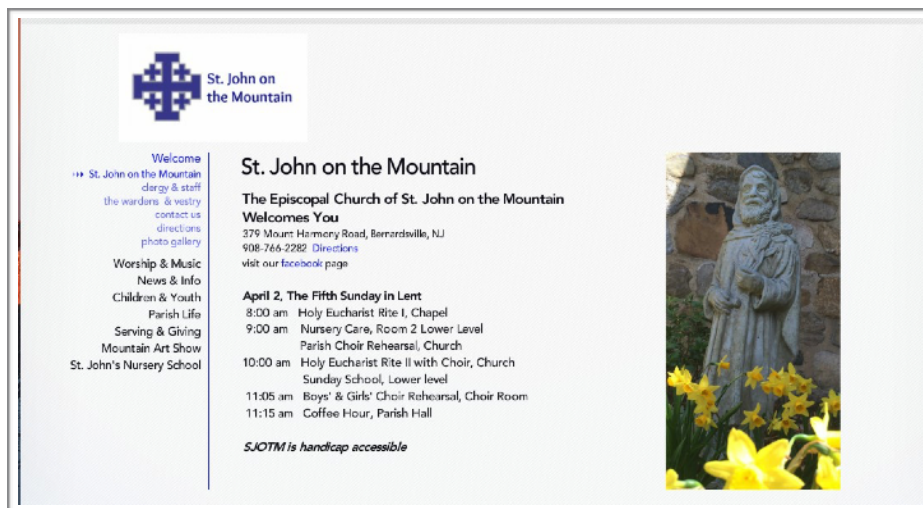
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FOR DAILY UPDATES AND INFORMATION,
DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.sjotm.org

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

