



The Compass

... Pointing People toward Christ



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APRIL / MAY 2018



From the Rector

"Jesus asked her, 'Why are you weeping, and whom are you seeking?'" (John 20:15). On that first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene had just encountered the Risen Lord. However, she did not recognize Jesus, as she was still blinded by mourning His horrifying, unjust death.

In this season, preachers often compare the beauty and joy we find in the rebirth of Nature to the wonders of new life in Christ, granted to us through the miracle of His Resurrection. But this spring, southeastern Pennsylvania doesn't look much like spring right now. Few flowers are blooming, and newly green grass is rare. As of Palm Sunday, a week ago, there were still ragged piles of dirty snow along our roads, mud in our fields, bare branches, and low temperatures below freezing And it's really dragging us down.

After slogging through forty days of penitential self-examination, prayer, fasting, and charitable works (most of which, likely, we never got around to), we need those brightly-colored symbols of revival and renewal to soothe our wounded lives.

Why are *we* weeping, and whom do *we* seek? Like Mary Magdalene, our pain is real, our sorrow deep, and temptation is still too close at hand. Yet, Jesus is even closer.

I NEED
~~to get better~~
~~to do well~~
~~to be happier~~
~~to be loved~~
~~to get richer~~
JESUS

But, like Mary, we may not be able to see the Lord because we are still too focused on our griefs. (We cannot even cheer ourselves with burgeoning tulips.) And this is a good thing.

Because what we need isn't spring – as lovely and uplifting as it can be – what we need is the Risen Lord, who is there for us 365 days a year, 24/7, to redeem, restore, and revive us.

That is the great good news of Easter! Jesus Christ was raised from the dead so that He could be with us always – comforting, guiding, healing, and protecting us through His Holy Spirit that has been given to us (2 Cor. 1:21).

As St. Paul writes in Romans 5:5, "this hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." Alleluia, indeed!

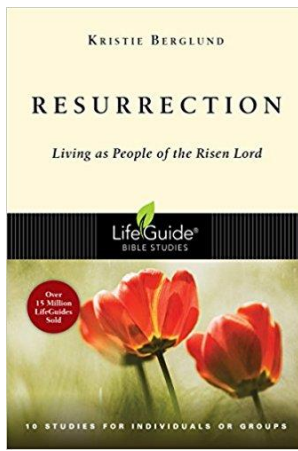
Yes, we need spring in all its glory. But even more, we need Jesus in all *His* glory. I pray that this Easter, Our Lord will be very present to you in His love, breathing new life and joy into your soul – and that you will share those blessings with others.

Yours in Christ's love and service, Mother Nina +



Adult Bible Study Resumes

Starting on **Wednesday, April 11, from 6:30 to 8 pm**, and on **Friday, April 13 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm**, we will begin an 8-week study using Kristie Berglund's *LifeGuide Bible Study*, "**Resurrection: Living as People of the Risen Lord.**"



This spring, we decided to add a shorter "lunch time" Bible Study class for those who are unable to attend the evening session. The studies and discussion will be the same. The evening class simply incorporates more fellowship time, devotions, and prayers.

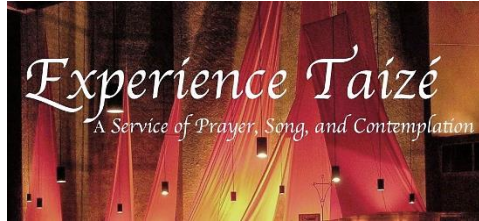
Anyone is welcome to attend either the evening or afternoon class on any given week—you don't have to stick with one or the other, if your schedule does not permit.



Workbooks are available from the Rector. Please see Mother Nina if you haven't picked one up, yet.



Join us for an **Eastertide Taizé-style service of Worship and Prayer on Saturday, April 21 at 7:00 pm.**



This informal, candlelit service features inspirational Scripture readings, easy-to-sing uplifting chants, prayer, and peaceful, meditative silence.

It's the perfect opportunity to invite an unchurched friend or neighbor.

VESTRY RETREAT, APRIL 28

Please keep in your prayers our **Vestry's Spiritual Retreat on Saturday, April 28, from 11 am to 6 pm.**

Father Frank Kaminski, SJ, will be our facilitator, as we gather at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville, Pennsylvania.



During this time apart, we'll share in worship, prayer, discernment and discussion, as we seek God's direction for our future as a parish.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." ~ Proverbs 29:18

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH Day

Sunday, April 22 is "Bring a Friend Sunday" at St. John's Church. That means, *every member should invite to church at least one friend, neighbor, or even a family member who does not attend another church.* Why?

Church growth expert Win Arn writes, "We've asked more than 50,000 people over the last 10 years why they came to church, and between **75 and 90 percent of respondents say,**

Most People will attend church **if invited.**



"I began attending because someone invited me."

In researching how people come to church, Arn reported these statistics:

- 2% by Advertisement
- 6% by the Pastoral Invitation
- 6% by organized evangelism campaign
- **86% by friends or relatives**

If you have a heart for growing our parish for Christ, *reach out and invite a friend.* But most important, *pray for that person before and after you extend the invitation.* After all, it's God who brings people to church—we can only ask them to come.



On *Saturday, May 5th*, at *4:00 pm*, we will celebrate Spring and women, with a *Ladies' "High Tea"* in St. John's Parish Hall.

Each guest is asked to bring her own a *tea cup and saucer*. Varieties of teas—regular and decaffeinated—as well as both “sweets” and “savories” will be provided.

Also, at the Tea, we will be collecting *gift cards for the mothers served by Bridge of Hope @ Good Samaritan Services*.

Look for a “clothes line” display that will be posted soon, inside St. John's front entrance. It will feature the cards needed.



For more information, contact Suzanne Turpin, Joan D'Aloisio, or Sharon Fremont.



Join us at St. John's on **Thursday, May 3rd at 7:00 pm** for our second annual **National Day of Prayer Service**.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for our Nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

The annual observance represents a Judeo-Christian expression of an understanding that our country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible. Worship services all across America offer an opportunity for every citizen to intercede for our national and local community leaders and their families.

This year's emphasis is on **prayer for unity** within our diversity. The Scripture verse is Ephesians 4:3, “making every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.”



For St. John's one-day **Vacation Bible School on Saturday, July 14**, from **10 am to 3 pm**, we'll be using Group Publishing's curriculum, “PandaMania!”—and it's loads of fun!

Our VBS Team met in February for an initial planning meeting, but we need to begin finalizing many ideas and task assignments in **April**. Check your Sunday bulletins and St. John's Facebook page for an announcement about an April meeting. Everyone who assisted last year is encouraged to attend; new people and ideas are always welcome.

PandaMania is for **kids ages 5 though 12**. Start now, telling your friends, family, and neighbors about how we're going to “go wild for God!” in summer 2018.





For 2018, St. John's Outreach Committee has elected to support the following ministries:

Bridge of Hope at Good Samaritan Services. Good Samaritan Services is based on Christian principles—Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us to love our neighbors through caring for their physical and emotional needs and helping them get back on their feet. As such, Good Sam provides safe, comfortable housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Lancaster and Chester Counties. In 2017 Bridge of Hope joined them because both organizations share the same goals and can now serve both counties.

We will be giving financial donations and gifts in kind:

- **May 13th** – Collection of gift cards for Mother's Day.
- **November** – Collection of gift cards for the mothers for the holiday season.

Octorara Area Food Cupboard.

Located in Parkesburg, the OAFIC serves clients in Atglen, Christiana, Cochranville, Compass, Parkesburg, Pomeroy, Sadsbury, and Wagon-town. OAFIC is supported by local businesses, churches, schools, civic groups and individuals, has its own 501c3 and also works the Chester County Food Bank.

We will be giving financial donations and:

- **May through July** – Collecting for their needs. For example, Children participating in our July 14th Vacation Bible School will be asked to bring canned or packaged fruit.

Steeple to People.

Beginning in 1982 as a faith-based ministry, STP is located in Honey Brook and services clients in the area. It operates a thrift store, and funds from the store are used to support their other ministries, including a short-term refugee house, a youth center, and a food bank.

We will be giving financial donations and:

- **November** – Once again, we will again be collecting Thanksgiving dinners for STP.

Eye Glasses for the Lions' Club. They



collect used eyeglasses and deliver them to regional Lions' Eyeglass Recycling Centers, where volunteers clean, sort by prescription strength, and package the glasses. Recycled glasses are distributed to people in need in low and middle-income communities for the greatest impact.

- **Now through September** – We're collecting eyeglasses, sunglasses, loose lenses and even broken glasses for this program. See the designated box near the Sanctuary stairs.

From the Outreach Budget, other organizations to whom we will be donating financial assistance include:

City Gates – Located in Coatesville, their mission is to help homeless men with shelter and meals. They also meet with prisoners on a Christian basis.

Parkesburg Point – This is a Christian Youth Center located in Parkesburg, that features programs such as Homework Club and Computer Center, to help students excel academically; a basketball team to help teach commitment and



teamwork; Bible Studies; and Christian camps.

The Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia – This



ministry of the Diocese of Pennsylvania in the ports of Philadelphia and New Jersey assists the merchant mariners at the terminals along the Delaware River. As these seafarers are at sea for months, they need help contacting family, shopping, and chaplaincy support if there are problems aboard ships.

Good Works – Based in Coatesville, this Christian nonprofit organization exists to improve the living conditions for low-income families in Chester County. They have volunteers who work on houses at no cost. Most of the homeowners they assist are elderly, single parents, and individuals with physical disabilities.



Advoz – Located in Lancaster City, this organization equips local residents to constructively handle conflicts, violence, and crime. With more than 30 years of experience serving approximately 750 residents, businesses, and organizations annually, Advoz facilitates communication, accountability, and mindfulness, empowering all parties in a conflict or crime—even offenders and victims—to mend broken relationships. They are building stronger, safer communities, by facilitating peaceful resolution and healing for youth and adults who have been harmed by violence or crime.

St. John's is very blessed to have so many caring parishioners! Thank you, and may God bless you.

On **March 17, 2018**, our Outreach Chair, Sharon Fremont, along with Debbie Martin, Nancy Miller, Pat Owens, and Mother Nina attended **Bridge of Hope @ Good Samaritan Services' 19th Annual Garden Luncheon** at the Desmond Great Valley Hotel, in Malvern.



Holding a Master's degree in Horticulture Science with an emphasis on Landscape Design and Urban Forestry, from Michigan State University, Mr. Ross' knowledge and expertise cover a wide range of gardening topics including Ornamental Horticulture, Landscape Design, Visual Arts and Floral Design.

He showed slides of, and spoke about, landscaping with decorative perennials and interesting tree barks to provide color and texture in winter, and about flowers that bloom before spring time.

Below, our table seen in mid-ground. From left (seated): Mother Nina (partially obscured), Pat Owens, Nancy Miller, Debbie Martin (partially obscured), and standing in green jacket at right, Sharon Fremont.

The event was a fundraiser for the newly merged charitable organization that our parish supports.



The day opened with a silent auction, featuring many elegant items on display. Both Sharon and Debbie won their bids!



A good time was had by all—and for a good cause!

The luncheon opened with prayer, followed by a video presentation about the BOH/GSS merger, “Together for Good”; a delicious gourmet meal; and a presentation by Matthew Ross, Director of Continuing Education at the famed Longwood Gardens.



For more information about the ministry of BOH/GS, go to goodsamaritanservices.bridgeofofhopeinc.org



- 4/1 Nina George-Hacker
- 4/6 Tina Zurcher
- 4/11 Terri Fant
- 4/13 Susan Gansauer
- 4/16 Willis Hoch
- 4/17 Ron Kelly
- 4/18 James Trofe
- 4/18 Betty Buchanan
- 4/24 Emilie Kirchhofer
- 4/26 April Wilkinson
- 4/24 Benjamin Baldwin

Hank & Terri Fant April 15

- 5/2 Joanne Cipollini
- 5/4 Giulianna DeMarco
- 5/6 Frances Gilfillan
- 5/10 Carole Burt
- 5/15 Debra Martin
- 5/18 Isabella Snyder
- 5/19 Joan D'Aloisio
- 5/20 Joan Lorenz
- 5/22 Lou D'Aloisio

- Tom & Nancy Rohrer May 6
- Rick Hacker & Nina George-Hacker May 14
- Barry & Linda Baldwin May 17
- Howard & Kaye Lee May 18

The Deadline for submissions to the next "Compass" (appearing in June, 2018) is Sunday, May 27.

St. John's Needs a Publicity Person

Do you have a knack for promoting events or a flair for creating announcements? Like to send emails? Are you organized and able to keep deadlines?



Our parish needs someone who could notify in a timely manner, on a regular basis, the local news media and the Diocese of Pennsylvania about upcoming events at St. John's. These would include worship services, social events, educational programs, special occasions, etc. It wouldn't be a lot of work but is an important outreach. If interested, please see the Rector.



Our Sunday School could use YOUR help. If you are able to volunteer even one Sunday a month, Nancy Miller would greatly appreciate it.

Or, if you know a young adult who loves kids and would like to serve as our youth minister, please contact any Vestry member or the Rector.

If nothing else, please PRAY for more children to come to St. John's, and for more caring and capable adults to teach and form them in the Christian faith.



Our hearts go out to those in our parish who have lost loved ones this year: The McKillips family in the death of **Denise M. McKillips** (66), on January 5 and **Mary Jane McKillips** (94) on January 13; the Baldwin family in the death of **Rose Anna Baldwin Cebular**, on February 19;



the Harper family in the death of **Almon Lewis Harper, Jr.** (93) on February 25;

and the Burt family in the death of **Arthur A. Burt** (93) on March 14.

