



The Compass

... Pointing People toward Christ



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WINTER 2019–2020



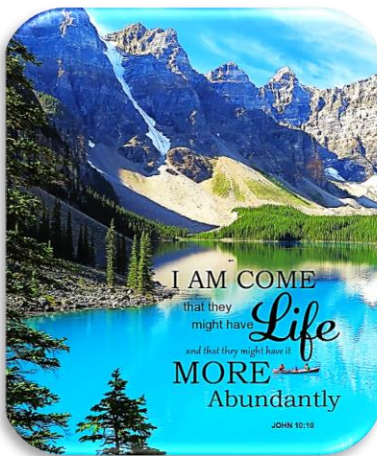
In his recent article, “A Better Kind of Abundance, Christian author Randy Alcorn writes:

“Attempting to experience the abundant life Jesus spoke of while burying ourselves in material abundance isn’t just difficult; it’s impossible. That’s not because material things are inherently bad. It’s because accumulated stuff suffocates us, crushes us, and blocks us from Jesus.

In moderate quantities, certain possessions might draw our attention to Him as our provider. For instance, when I buy a good book or my wife gives me a thermal mug, I am truly grateful to God. Other possessions, such as clothes I will never wear or the third version of a gadget I already own and don’t use, do nothing for me or God’s Kingdom. If it’s something that will sap hours of my time, it may even draw my attention away from God and His Word. Many things may be neutral or even fun, but it’s too

easy to end up trusting our stuff instead of our Savior.

In some circles, abundant life has been confused with material wealth. Prosperity theology says that God’s plan is always for us to be wealthy—and to spend our money primarily on ourselves.



Jesus, who didn’t even have a place to lay His head and who owned nothing but a robe and sandals (Matthew 8:20), clearly didn’t live a money and possessions-centered life. Surely that’s not what He wants for us either. ...

Jesus doesn’t want us to wait until we die to start living the abundant life. **The abundant life begins now!** ... Look no

further than Jesus. Know Him, delight in Him, serve Him, learn from His people, and do what He says. (Of course, you must study His Word to do this.) ...

Jesus said, ‘The one who believes in me ... will have streams of living water flow from deep within’ (John 7:38). There’s an unmistakable sign of an overflowing, abundant life that comes from knowing Jesus, the author of life: *generosity to others.* ...

In order to be faithful stewards and to love others, we must not only be recipients of God’s provision, but also outlets of it. Only then will we experience the true and abundant life He intends for us. ...

The more we give in Christ’s name, the more life He will put into us. And the more life we have flowing into us, the more that life will flow out of us to others. ... Generosity is just as contagious as materialism. However, it brings life instead of death.”

Jesus came into the world to give us life abundant, both now and in eternity. As you prepare to celebrate Christmas, may abundant life in Christ be yours! Mother Nina +

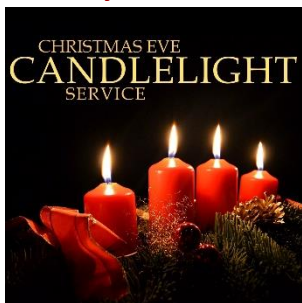
Join us for an **Advent Taizé-style service of Worship and Prayer** on **Saturday, December 7 at 7:00 pm**



This informal, candlelit service (without a sermon, offering, or Eucharist) includes 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—and to decompress from holiday stress!

Christmas Services

Tuesday, December 24



Special music by the Choir and soloists begins at **6:30 pm**. Festal high Mass starts at **7:00 pm**.

Wednesday, December 25 at 10:30 am



Sunday, December 29 at 10:30 am



Saturday, December 14 at 1:00 pm Wreaths Across America and the VFW will be decorating our Veterans' graves. The VFW will be confirming the number of Veterans' graves and providing flag holders as necessary. All are invited to attend. *If you would like to participate or lay your loved-one's wreath, please see Suzanne Turpin.*



The West Caln Historical Society has offered to assist with our cemetery restoration, and St. John's now has an account for donations to assist with this task. To ask questions or provide information, send an email to 1729cemetery@gmail.com.

Does anyone have any old photos showing St. John's Cemetery? These would be very useful to the Cemetery Restoration Group at this time. Also, all ideas, skills, and/or hands are needed. Please contact **Liz Palwick-Goebel, Don Faix, or Doug Skiles**. All are welcome to attend our first general meeting on **Sunday, February 16, 2020** during Coffee Hour.

The parish of St. John's, Compass will hold our **Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2020** after Mass. **All baptized members are encouraged to attend.**



After sharing a potluck luncheon, we will hear ministry reports from 2019; approve the 2020 budget; and elect new Vestry members and lay deputies to the 2020 Diocesan Convention.

Anyone interested in serving on the Vestry, please see Hank Fant, Sharon Fremont, or the Rector. We still need 3 more people to serve from 2020 to 2023.

Sunday, February 2, 2020

As part of the national "**Souper Bowl [of Caring]**" effort to feed the hungry, please bring **canned**



soups or non-perishable soup-making ingredients to be donated to the Octorara Area Food Cupboard. Also, for Coffee Hour, **make soups to share!**



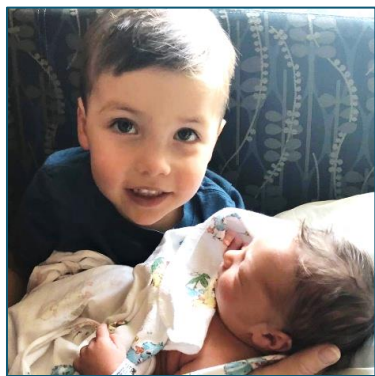
Vacation Bible School
“Noah’s Ark:
God Always Keeps His
Promises”
Coming June 20, 2020!

We'll hold our first organizational meeting for the coming year's VBS on **Sunday, February 9, 2020** during Coffee Hour. Anyone with ideas, suggestions, and willingness to help out is invited to attend!

Congratulations to
Andrew & Liz Baldwin



On the birth of
Werner Andrew Baldwin
November 23, 2019
7 lbs. 10 oz.



Here, with older brother “Benjy,” who clearly adores the new addition to the family.



The future of St. John's monthly “Lunch Bunch” depends on you.

Interested in continuing this social activity? If so, **please contact Terri Fant.**

Normally, “Lunch Bunch” doesn't meet in the winter months, but if enough people would like to take part, the group will resume in the Spring.

St. John's Logo Items
will be available for
purchase once again



Made by a U.S. company in North Carolina, these quality items (T-shirts, polos, sweat-shirts, fleece jackets, caps, etc.), embroidered with the “Compass Rose,” the seal of the worldwide



Anglican Communion, can once again be purchased for a reasonable cost. If you'd like to order a new one—or another--please contact the Rector.



The Outreach Committee is planning to meet sometime in January 2020. Date will be announced soon.

We wish to thank the congregation for all your generous donations to the needy throughout 2019.

May God richly bless you!



DECEMBER

Emily Miller	12/6
Jennifer Baldwin	12/7
Elizabeth Harper	12/8
Matilda Harrington	12/29
♥ Kurt & Susan Gansauer	12/29

JANUARY

Suzanne Turpin	1/1
Vicki Sylvester	1/7
Joan Fearheller	1/7
Bob Yarnall	1/16
Robert “Andrew” Baldwin	1/16
Hilda Baldwin	1/24
Nancy Lorenz	1/27
Nancy Miller	1/30

FEBRUARY

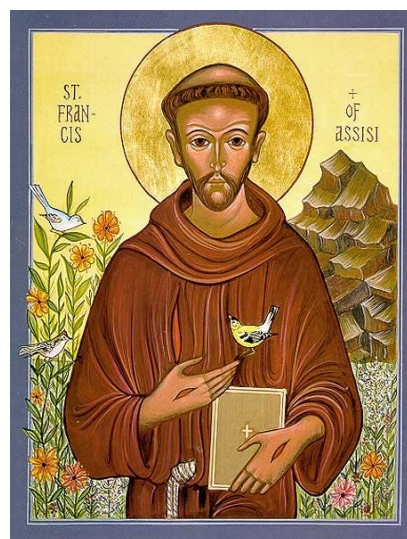
Mary Lou Weaver	2/1
James Lorenz	2/1
Faye Oberholser	2/2
Steven Armstrong	2/4
Corey Baldwin	2/7
Helen Esbenshade	2/13
Glenn Martin	2/14
Sabra Grimes	2/18
Bo Grimes	2/20
John Oberholser	2/21
Tracey Rohrer	2/23
Hank Fant	2/25
Shannon McLauchlan	2/27
♥ Ned & Jennifer Baldwin	2/26

If we don't have your birthday or anniversary listed, please inform the Church Office.

Have you felt the need for more spiritual discipline in your life, as you go deeper in your faith?

Yearning for greater simplicity?

Wanting to learn more about following Christ in humility, as you help those less fortunate?



God may be calling *you* to become a lay Franciscan! At St. John’s Church, Compass, we have an intentionally Franciscan spiritual community, **The Franciscans of the Risen Christ**. We seek to follow Jesus in the way of St. Francis of Assisi (1182–1226).

This saint’s life was characterized by a passion for the Gospel; devotion to the Holy Eucharist; simplicity; humility; care for the poor; and joy in all creation.

We try to live by a simple 3-point “rule” based on New Testament biblical passages; meet monthly for prayer, study, food, fellowship, and outreach. This Christmas, we will be “elves” for some very special people—but “Sssh! It’s a secret!”

We are not a religious order, just a committed spiritual community, and we are open to anyone who would like to know more about us, or attend one of our gatherings. If curious, please speak with **Tom Rohrer, Suzanne Turpin, or Mother Nina**.



From the Bishop

Five Sacred Days:

1 day, 1 idea, 5 churches

During this year’s Diocesan Convention, the Bishop discussed **living fearlessly in Christ**. In 2020, the Diocese will focus on

people and churches who are “going to the deep” to address the issue of poverty.

“We have the highest number of children in poverty. Poverty is not only an economic condition; there are sisters and brothers who are experiencing spiritual, physical, and mental poverty ... We must be a church that goes out into the world and meets the poor ... not from the top down, but the bottom up.”– Bishop Daniel Gutiérrez

The **5 Sacred Days** (see below) are a step towards increasing collaboration between churches and spreading the Gospel. The Bishop is asking churches to work together on at least one of the 5 days and incorporate a message of God into what you do. “We know that most of you are already doing work—that is a GREAT! Can you involve 5 other churches in to help you? We will provide all the marketing assistance you need (posts, posters, outreach to media, etc.)

“Your dean is aware of each of these days and may be planning something or looking for ideas. Please let your dean or us know which day you want to do. We have ideas for all of these if you need our assistance.”

1. **Day of Clothing in February**
2. **Day of Feeding in April**
3. **Day of Education in June**
4. **Day of Healing in September**
5. **Day of Service in October**

(just before November Convention)

Questions?

Here are some we have already answered. Let us know if you have more.

What if our church is already doing something? Can we do that for one of the days? We know that many churches are already engaged in outreach efforts. We ask that you recruit other churches to work alongside you. The goal is collaboration.

If one deanery is already doing one of the days (say, Day of Feeding) does that mean my deanery needs to find another day? Not at all. But we ask that you and the other deanery have your events on the same day for the most impact.

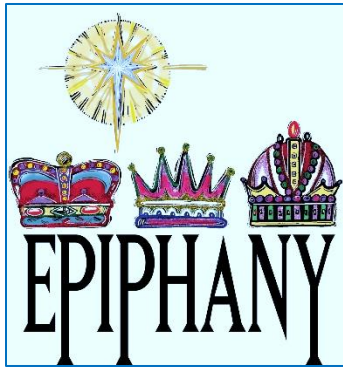
How will I know what other deaneries or churches are doing? If you have an idea for a day, contact us. We will start publicizing activities as soon as we know them so others can join.



Are you asking us to do all of the days? No, we are asking each church to commit to one of the days. However, if you want to do more, we couldn’t be happier.

Do the churches we work with need to be in our deanery? Not at all. We advise that you work with churches that are geographically near you so that the day can make a bigger impact on your community. In some cases, this may be churches in your deanery.

I have an idea but am not sure if my church wants or can do it. What should I do? Contact us! We will help find collaborators for your idea.



Join us **Sunday, January 5 at 10:30 a.m.** as we celebrate **The Epiphany:** The Manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.



Join us on the fourth Saturday after the Epiphany, **February 1 at 7:00 pm**, for an Epiphany-themed **Taizé Service of Worship & Prayer.**

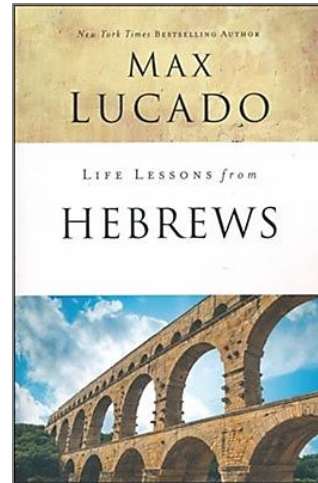


Our risen Lord continues His **ministry of Healing** through those who believe. At St. John's, Compass, we have had a tradition of

offering **anointing and prayer** for healing immediately after the Eucharist, but two of our Healing Prayer Ministers have left the church. If you believe in Christ's continuing power to heal through those whom He appoints for this ministry, and feel so called, brief training is available. *Please see the Rector.* It would be a great loss to have to discontinue this important work of our Lord and Savior to His faithful people.



SPRING 2020 BIBLE STUDY Wednesday Evenings April 22 through June 24



After tackling the Book of Revelation this past Fall, starting in April 2020, we will take up the study of another complex and interesting book of the New Testament: **The Letter to the Hebrews**, thought to have been written possibly by St. Paul.

We'll be using Max Lucado's "Life Lessons Series" workbook on Hebrews. The books are already in. If you're planning to be in the class and would like to get a head start, please see Mother Nina to get your copy.

Spring Bible Study will be held at church on **Wednesday evenings, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**, so that members who work in the daytime may be able to attend. Hopefully Choir members can attend before rehearsal. (There will be *no daytime Bible Study* in the Spring.)

Richard Gilfillan, a long-time member of St. John's parish, went to be with the Lord on Friday, November 29. He died peacefully and without pain. His Celebration of Life Service will be December 7th at 11:00 am at St. John's (visitation 10 – 11).

