
PRESIDENTS' DAY

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents' Day.

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR ST. JOHN'S

For the sick: Lynn Hansen, Muriel DiGiorgio, Cheryl Hairr, Liz Scott, John Morowski, Regina Warnock, Louise Spellman, Don Nidrie, Phillip Wulfken, Jim Evans, Irene Evans, Arthur Goldbaum, Janet Campbell, Howard, Caroline, Bill, Amy, Kate, Catherine Perry, Theresa, John, Artie, Benjamin Owusu, Mark Bellissemo, Roger Giacomini, Jean Giacomini, Tom, Joseph Canga, George Nelson, Ian, Jen, Lucy, Ana Rodrigues, Laura, Giovanna LaPaglia, Lorainne, Justin, Daniel, David, Sue, Don McInnis, Thomasina Burnett, Merida Rivera, Dana, Tom, Pepe, Richard Walsh, Derick Bennett, Jennifer Cahoy, Joyce Glicker, Caroline S., Beverly

Altar Flowers are given this week in loving memory Bruce Burns by the Burns Family

We pray and give thanksgiving for all those celebrating a birthday this week: Andre Gilles, Jr., David Lasek, Mary White, Matthew Harbin, Cole Lima, Anna Wickey, Dorothy Szigethy, Courtney Sasserath.

We pray for all those affected by the opioid epidemic.

We pray for all our men and women serving in the armed services and all first responders. May God keep them safe and return them home to their loved ones.

To add someone to the **birthday** or **prayer list**, please email cfreas@stjohnshuntington.org.

Last Sunday's Attendance: 200

SUNDAY SERVICE

	February 18th		February 25th	
	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
MC	Tony Chamorro	Ken Quinn	Ken Quinn	Al Szigethy
LEM	Nancy Feustel	Linda Ehrenshaft	Robert Boise	Denise Hernandez
Acolytes	Nancy Feustel	Emma Cahill Stephanie Wickey Jennifer Low Jacob Goldbaum Luke Cahill Colby Tracy Carleigh Tracy	Tony Chamorro	Wade Holden Pete Minichello James Conolly Stephanie Wickey Reiko Masticiano Akiko Masticiano
Lector I	Jim Murray	Janice Burnett	Karen Quinn	Sue Hartman
Lector II	Ann Wenk	Carleigh Tracy	Tony Marshall	Stephanie Wickey

THE CHALICE

The weekly Sunday Bulletin of St. John's Episcopal Church

February 18, 2018

I have read all the Harry Potter books more than once; I enjoyed them, but I never annotated them. I even enjoyed the movies and I found The Deathly Hallows extraordinary. One scene stood out, the one in the library at Hogwarts, a room that houses more than just books, a room much more like a museum. As Harry, Ron, and Hermione search for a hidden horcrux, one of Draco Malfoy's friends misuses his wand and sets fire to the library and a rip roaring adventure ensues.

I didn't think about this the first few times I saw the movie. Then like lightning from a clear sky, I saw something I hadn't seen before. The fire that is set loose is not just a fire; it is a creature, demonic, jaws wide open as it seeks to consume utterly what is in its path, possessed of an insatiable appetite, always on the prowl for more. That raging monster is like sin. Perhaps that's why I missed it for so long. I didn't want to confront my own sins; I didn't want to follow Alan Shin's advice, which I had read so often, and dare to go "down to that inner dark place, my inner spiritual wilderness, where I hide and bury all my secrets, wishing that they could be forgotten or go away."

Do you see the connection between the fire and sin? Yes? No? Maybe? Sin is toxic; it is never satisfied; it opens its jaws wider and wider in an ever enlarging trajectory as it seeks to harm, maim, and ultimately consume. In his book The Dark Side of the Soul, Stephen Cherry cites this observation by the philosopher Gabriele Taylor: "The deadliness of sin consists in the harm done to the self; this is what makes the vices vicious." Taylor might easily have added that sin is like fire, moving outward from the self like a tiny ember that becomes a raging blaze as it seeks to devour the self, family, friends, whatever is in its path. In the 1930s, the dean of a divinity school wrote that the "doctrine of original sin was a theory of human behavior adequate to the scientific knowledge of Augustine's time, but overthrown by more recent research." He wrote this as the architects of the "final solution" were conceiving their demonic plan.

Several years ago I purchased Glittering Vices, a book on the seven deadly sins. Early on I discovered these observations: "the deadly sins barely jiggle the scales of justice," gluttony is nothing more than "scarfing down three extra jelly donuts," "Everything is all right," what is defined as sin is nothing more than "bad philosophy and ideology." Or as Dostoyevsky wrote, "If there is no God, all things are permissible." But there is a God and that God chose to become one of us so that we might become like him. Jesus calls us "o'er the tumult of our life's wild restless sea"; he calls to us in the midst of our disordered lives; he calls to us through the scriptures, through metaphor and image, in the hidden recesses of our lives; he calls to us across cultural divides and invites us into a oneness in and with him.

What am I doing for Lent to answer the call of Jesus, to turn to Jesus, to avoid being consumed by the fire of sin? Well, I continue to be obedient to a rule of life I have followed for more than forty years, to daily prayer with Fr. Duncan in the church. I have used Johnny Cash's Ring of Fire (with a change of one word) to remind me where sin leads: "Sin is a burning fire/ And it makes a fiery ring/Bound by wild desire/I fell in to a ring of fire/I fell in to a burning ring of fire/I went down, down, down/And the flames went higher/And it burns, burns, burns/The ring of fire/The ring of fire." I have committed myself every Wednesday and Friday to pray The Great Litany so that at last when Jesus calls me home that it may please him to grant that I "may attain to his heavenly kingdom." It is Jesus who calls me out of the darkness into his light, out of slavery to sin into the freedom of obedience, out of the deceptions I allow to take hold into the glory of truth in the one who is "the way, and the truth, and the life," out of the jaws of the fire that consumes into the fire that cleanses and renews.

With all blessings for the Lenten Journey, Fr. John+

VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS WELCOME!

We welcome you to **St. John's Episcopal Church**. Established in 1745, this historic church opens its doors to all who seek to deepen their faith and provides warm hospitality to all. We are blessed by your presence and invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card on the back table of the church.

MORNING PRAYER

Start your morning in prayer each weekday, Monday-Friday, at 9:00 AM. Please join us!

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us for Bible Study on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM. We will be studying Paul's letter to the Romans.

TAIZÉ SERVICE

Taizé chants or 'short songs' have a meditative character as they are repeated again and again." "Silence makes us ready for a new meeting with God." Join us in prayer, short song and silence as we find our way to an inner unity with God.

Our next Taizé Service will be on, Sunday, March 4th at 5:30 PM.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is always looking for new members. No experience necessary. We are even looking for people to just make tags. Another way to participate is to donate money for yarn and supplies. Please Call Lindsey Kertland for more info at (631) 651-2787. Blessings!

CONFIRMATION

NOTE: There is a time change. Confirmation will be on April 21st at 4:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City. Please see Fr. Duncan or contact the Parish Office with any questions.

Our next Confirmation class is, Sunday, February 25th at 5:30 PM in the Guild Room. Confirmands please bring your Bibles and a copy of The Magician's Nephew with you.

Also, each Confirmand is required to do two service projects. HIHI offers several opportunities in the coming weeks to complete this requirement: February 23rd, March 2nd and March 9th. Please meet at 4:30 PM in the kitchen.

HIHI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friday, February 23rd and March 9th. Volunteers are needed to help in St. John's kitchen at 4:30 PM to cook. Dinner will be served at the United Methodist Church, 180 West Neck Rd, Huntington at 6:30 PM.

Friday, March 2nd. Youth Service Day. Youth volunteers are needed beginning at 4:30 PM in St. John's kitchen. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM at St. John's.

ECW MEETING

The next ECW Meeting will be on Sunday, March 18th at 11:30 am in the Guild Room.

LENTEN SERIES

What Does It Mean to Be Made in the Image and Likeness of God? We explore this question in our Lenten Series. Each Tuesday in Lent join us at 5:30 PM for Stations of the Cross, 6:00 PM for Meditation & Evening Prayer, 6:30 PM for Supper, 7:15 PM for the Program with Q&A, and 8:15 PM for Closing Prayer. Each week we will have a different speaker. Please see our flyer at the back of the Church or our website for details.

Tuesday February 20th Lenten Program with Deacon Denise Galloway: Genesis 1: Humans Made in God's Image--Mark 15: Jesus' Cry of Dereliction from the Cross ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")--CAN YOU AND I ENTER INTO TODAY THE JOY OF ONE AND THE AGONY OF THE OTHER? Attend the Lenten Program on Tuesday evening and find out the answer.

LENTEN RETREAT

St. John's Spirituality Group will present a Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 17th. We will begin with Breakfast at 9:00 AM, followed by the Program, "**Turning Towards the Son: Conversion of Life As a Path Towards Wholeness,**" led by Rev. Charles "Charlie" McCarron. We will conclude with a Celtic Service at 12 NOON.

BREAKFAST—BAGELS—BRAINS: FIVE SUNDAYS IN LENT

Meet Fr. John in the Canterbury Corner between services next Sunday, Feb. 25th to discuss:

"It is well-known that Christ consistently used the expression 'follower.' He never asks for admirers, worshippers, or adherents. No, he calls disciples. It is not adherents of teaching but followers of a life Christ is looking for....And Christ's life makes it manifest, terrifyingly manifest, what dreadful untruth it is to admire the truth instead of following it."

Soren Kierkegaard, "*Followers, Not Admirers*" from *Provocations: Spiritual Writings of Kierkegaard*

"No matter how far you may wander, no matter how often you forget me, no matter how many crosses you may bear in this life, there is one thing I want you to remember always, one thing that will never change: I thirst for you just as you are. You don't need to change to believe in my love, for it will be your belief in my love that will change you. You forget me and yet I am seeking you every moment of the day—standing at the door of your heart and knocking."

Mother Teresa, "*I Thirst for You*" from *The Living Spirit: Prayers and Readings*

"George Macdonald represents God as saying to men, 'You must be strong with my strength and blessed with my blessedness, for I have no other to give you.' That is the conclusion of the whole matter. God gives what He has, not what He has not: He gives the happiness that there is, not the happiness that is not. To be God—to be like God and share His goodness in creaturely response—to be miserable—these are the only three alternatives. If we will not learn to eat the only food that the universe grows—the only food that any possible universe can ever grow—then we must starve eternally."

C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

