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**PRAYER CONCERNS FOR ST. JOHN'S**

**Those celebrating a birthday this week:** Cindy Ellenbogen, Thomas Peterson, Olivia Heyer, Thomas Neokleous, Christopher Bergman, Joel Snodgrass, Gail Edry, Susan Jacobs, Joy Russell-Moy, Wayne Kropp, Nancy Dunn, Preston Findlay, Lynn Hansen, Robert Lee, Christian Wolf, Derek Wolf, Frederick Hansen, Patrick Herr, Matthew Gorman, Arlene Harrison, Lawrence Leek

**Bless the children celebrating First Holy Communion today:** Colin Furlong, John Furlong, Giovanni Graham, Mason McLain, James Moy, Courtney Sasserath, Violet Vutrano, Camden White

**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.**

**For the sick:** Lorraine, Justin, Shannon, Patti, Roger Giacomini, Jean Giacomini, Thomasina Burnett

**We pray for the recently departed:** The Rev. Canon Lewellyn Murray

**We have started the prayer list anew in Easter. Please resubmit any names you would like prayers to continue for to the Parish Office. [To add someone to the birthday or prayer list, please email cfreas@stjohnshuntington.org.](mailto:cfreas@stjohnshuntington.org)**

**Last Sunday's Attendance: 393**

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**SUNDAY SERVICE**

	<u>April 8<sup>th</sup></u>		<u>April 15<sup>th</sup></u>	
	8:00 am	10:00 am	8:00 am	10:00 am
<b>MC</b>	Ken Quinn	Earl Matchett	Tony Chamorro	Al Szigethy
<b>LEM</b>	Nancy Feustel	Noelle DeLorenzo	Robert Boise	Linda Ehrenshaft
<b>Acolytes</b>	Karen Quinn	Chloe Findlay Anna Wickey Stephanie Wickey Timmy Kusterbeck Walter Kusterbeck James Conolly Kayla Andrews	Nancy Feustel	Wade Holden Pete Minichello Jennifer Low Emma Cahill Luke Cahill Colby Tracy Carleigh Tracy
<b>Lector I</b>	Crystal Roberts	Denise Hernandez	Jim Murray	Leslie Valentine
<b>Lector II</b>	Tony Marshall	Chloe Findlay	Ann Wenk	Carleigh Tracy

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**THE CHALICE**

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

**April 8, 2018**

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Twelve days ago I had my annual appointment with my tax accountant. At the end of our session, there is often the dreaded announcement, "This is what you owe." On occasion one's composure can be shaken; at other times not so much. However, this time was different. She and I often chat, swap family stories, talk theology, books, Oxford and Cambridge, but this time we ventured into Christian music and she asked whether I was familiar with the biggest selling Christian song of all time, a piece titled "*I Can Only Imagine*." "Nope," said I and in a nonce she had produced the piece of music on her phone as well as the lyrics and we listened together. I was hooked and in response I suggested Robin Marks's "*Revival*." Some 30 or 40 minutes later we actually began to get round to tax information and preparation. This is how serendipitous moments can yield insights and incubate the imagination, clarify one's often clouded sight, change the tenor of what could have been an all too carefully structured business only meeting.

In a previous piece in "*The Chalice*," I mentioned two types of seeing, seeing with the eye and seeing from within. Perhaps I should call this "Seeing: Part II." Or maybe "Blindness Cured: Clear Sight for Thomas (And for me)." The lyrics to "*I Can Only Imagine*" commence with two statements of joy, of anticipation, of an imagined glimpse of glory: what will it be like, Lord Jesus, when I walk by your side? What will my eyes behold when your face is before me? The two questions ought not to be taken for granted; after all, Thomas had been with Jesus for a long time and when told of the resurrection the best he can manage at first is "Unless..." It is possible to attend church, to partake of the sacraments, to sing the hymns and say the prayers, to be in the presence of the Lord, and still ask for proof. Unless... Yet if we can only imagine, only begin to behold truth become fact—in the incarnation—the transfiguration—the resurrection—the ascension—well, then a whole realm of responses opens to us.

Here I am, Lord, surrounded by your glory, and what will I see, feel, hear, do? Will I dance for you as David danced before the ark, unashamed, bursting with joy? Will I be silent, struck dumb, awed by the immensity of your love, the power of your sacrifice? Will I dare "stand in your presence" or "fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun," and sing "O Lord, have mercy on me"? In all my Thomistic doubt and weakness, Jesus stands before me and invites me. How will I respond? "Will I sing hallelujah?" Will I confess "My Lord and my God"? This is that moment of sight toward which all the Scriptures have pointed, toward which so much of the literature that I read has pointed, toward which all the events of my life have pointed in ways that I have not yet seen, have not yet known.

I can only imagine what power will be unleashed for our Lord's Church, for his Kingdom, for his glory if only the joy of that confession uttered by Thomas becomes mine, occupies and directs my life. What if I, what if you, can begin to imagine the new life that is born within us as we worship a risen, living, and ascended Lord? Behold what can be born within us all the way through death and out the other side into the eternal glory of the new heaven and the new earth? The gospel ends with a commission: "As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you." Can you and I begin only to imagine what would occur in this church, in this town, in this country, in this world if we directed our lives, no matter our ages, to the fulfillment of that commission? Answer this question and you and I will begin to grasp the key to Saint John's mission statement: "To know Christ and to make him known." Consider this prayer from Bishop N. T. Wright: "Lord Jesus, King and Master; overcome our fears with your love and our doubts with your life, so that we may take that love and life to the ends of the world." And all this from a trip to the accountant's. --Fr. John+

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## 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.

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## EASTER THANKS

On Easter, I was filled with such gratitude for all who came together to celebrate in the Lord's Resurrection, special thanks to:

Alex, St. John's Adult Choir, St. John's Youth Choir, our Soloists and Musicians;  
The Altar Guild, Jane and everyone that made the church so beautiful;  
Our MC's, LEM's, Acolytes, and Ushers;  
The Youth Group, the Breakfast Group and everyone who attended Easter Services;  
Chris, Fran and the ECW for the flowers in the garden;  
Father John and Deacon Anthony;  
Coral, and anyone I may have missed.

In Christ's love, Fr. Duncan

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## MORNING PRAYER

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

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## BIBLE STUDY

Please join us for Bible Study on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM in the Guild Room.

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## TAIZÉ PRAYER 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 prayer services is this evening, Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

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## CELTIC SERVICE

Our next Celtic Service will be on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Please join us for this contemplative mass with beautiful music.

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## ZINGO NIGHT

St. John's ECW & Youth Group presents Zingo Night on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> in the Great Hall. Pizza will be served at 6:30 pm. Games begin at 7:00 pm. Admission includes pizza, soda & dessert:

\$ 15.00 = Admission per person; \$5.00 = Child under 10

Tickets will be sold after Sunday services in the Great Hall (advance sale tickets include one extra regular Zingo card). **Many great prizes for all ages! All proceeds go to Family Service League to send needy children to Summer Camp.**

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## SJSG PRESENTS MOTHERS IN THE BIBLE

Please join us in the Church at 11:30 am today for *Mothers of the Bible*, a music-drama and message featuring Debra Valentin of Sight and Sound Theaters. A good will donation is suggested. Please contact Patti Aliperti for more information at silvermoon33@yahoo.com.

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## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Holy Communion will be celebrated today, Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at the 10:00 am service.

As the First Communion class finished their studies, they have prepared for their first Eucharist. They studied the meaning of Eucharist as thanksgiving for the Last Supper and Christ's gift to us.

The children learned the Lord's Prayer and the Creed. They baked Communion bread in our kitchen for their First Communion. We reviewed the meaning of words like miracle and sacred, "hallowed be thy name" and the offertory. Father Duncan showed them his vestments and they helped prepare the communion chalice and patten. The children learned that we kneel to pray and show respect. We sit to listen to the sermon and stand to sing and praise God.

They are delighted to join the congregation at the communion rail. **We invite these children and their parents to sit in the first ten rows of the church** on the piano side to pray and come forward for their first communion.

Our First Communion recipients are:

Colin Furlong	John Furlong
Giovanni Graham	Mason McLain
James Moy	Courtney Sasserath
Violet Vutrano	Camden White

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## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 4:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, 36 Cathedral Avenue, Garden City, New York. Please meet Fr. Duncan in the Cathedral before 3:30 pm. Space is limited, so please be sure to arrive early to secure parking and a good seat for yourself and your guests.

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## TODAY'S HYMNS

Processional Hymn 180	He is risen	<i>Unser Herrscher</i>
Sequence Hymn 460	Alleluia sing to Jesus	<i>Hyfrydol</i>
Gospel Acclamation Insert	Halle-halle-halle	
Psalm 133 Insert		
Communion Hymn LEVAS 151	One Bread, One Body	<i>John B. Foley</i>
Recessional Hymn 376	Joyful, joyful, we adore thee	<i>Hymn of Joy</i>

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