

SMC Newsletter April 2022

We have a busy but hopefully Holy month of April. The newsletter is long this month, so try to read through it. I am sorry if it isn't in any sort of order. Please send me any information you would like included for next month. Many blessings, Patty



May Baskets

There will be a meeting on Thursday, April 28 at 10:30am for assembling of May Baskets. If you know of anyone that might like to receive a May Basket, there is a signup sheet in the back of the church. **If you would like to donate to, shop for, or contribute to the May Baskets please contact Ruth Merkle, Barbara LaMere or Paula Hughes.** They are thinking of including flower or cross shaped chocolates, flowers, note pads & pens, and Mark's crosses. They will be decorating with springy colored crepe paper, Easter grass, pipe cleaners, glue sticks, and mini staplers. A regularly scheduled ECW meeting will be in May.



Lenten Lunches in Hadley-Luzerne

The theme of the lunches is **Lament for Uncertain Times**. Lunch is from **12 - 1pm on Mondays**. A Lenten Lunch consists of soup, bread, cookies, coffee and tea. The lunches are free but donations will be accepted for the Maxfield Community Food Pantry. Please join us for lunch!

April 4 – Bethany Guild at the Hadley-Luzerne Wesleyan Church



National Day of Prayer

National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 5th. The DOK is thinking of sponsoring an ecumenical event for that day. The theme is “Exalt the Lord, who has established us”, based on Colossians 2:6-7 NASB. The National Day of Prayer was signed into law in 1952, and it is a day when people of all faiths are asked to pray for our nation. If you would like to help plan this event, please contact Barbara Breen.

An Update from Meryl on Birthdays and Anniversaries.

The birthdays for April are:

Brenda Bala April 7th, Meryl Dawes April 7th, Marjorie Hobday April 8th, Valerie Malkus April 9th, Joyce Lyng April 13th, and Kathy Crannell April 24th.

There are no anniversaries for April.

Please give Meryl your birthdate so we don't forget anyone's birthday! You do not need to give the year! Please notify Meryl of any upcoming anniversaries. Photos are also welcome from these occasions.



Maple In April Festival

The Maple in April Festival is April 30th from 9-4pm in Hadley, which is sponsored by the Hadley Business Association. They are raising money through a Scholarship Breakfast which includes French toast, sausage, OJ, coffee, tea, and real maple syrup for \$9. Fr. Lou and the other ministers will be helping with the breakfast, so it should be heavenly. The Wesleyan Church is doing daycare and children activities. The Presbyterian Church is dressing up in character, and our church will be offering bottled water, baked goods, SMC pens, some bibles, ALPHA promotional materials, and prayer. **Volunteers are needed to make maple baked goods** so talk to Patty or Barbara Breen if you are interested. **Assembly of the gift bags will be Friday, April 29 at 10:30am if you would like to volunteer.** If you have any questions, please talk to Fr. Lou.



SMC Studies, Services and Holy Week Events

Fr. Lou will continue his Facebook morning prayer on Thursday mornings at 8:30am. About 10-15 people attend per week.

The **Lenten Study is *Lent for Everyone* by N.T. Wright on Wednesdays until Easter** in the Parish Hall. The **Wednesday morning study** will have Eucharist with the study at **10am**. The **Wednesday evening study** will have a shortened **Eucharist at 5:30pm** and the **study** will begin at **6pm**.

The liturgical color for Palm Sunday is red or purple. During Holy Week purple is used until the church is stripped bare on Maundy Thursday. The church remains stripped bare on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, though black might be used.

Holy Week Services – April 10-17th

April 10, **Palm Sunday Service** at 9:30am

Daily M-F Mid-Week **Morning Prayer** at 9am

Wednesday Eucharist and Lenten Service at 10am and 5:30pm

Maundy Thursday Foot-Washing Service at 7pm

Thursday Altar of Repose Prayer Vigil – Thursday 8:30pm until Friday at 11:30am

Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 11:30am and **Service** at 12pm

Saturday Easter Egg Hunt and Activities – 9am – 12pm

Saturday Tenebrae Service at 2pm

Ecumenical Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at the Lake Luzerne Beach at 6:30am

April 17, **St. Mary's Easter Sunday Morning Service** at 9:30am



Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter egg hunt is back! The event starts at **9am on Saturday, April 16th**. The children hunt for plastic eggs by age group, so they will do Easter crafts while they wait for their turn. The annual Easter piñata will again make an appearance, so get ready for the extra excitement!

We will need donations of individually wrapped candy that will fit in Easter eggs. Oversized candy will end up in the piñata. Candy can be chocolate, jellybeans, or caramels. No peanuts please! Please drop off the candy before the packing date.

We will need volunteers to pack the eggs on Tuesday, April 12th at 6pm. We will be packing 1000 of them.

We will need volunteers to hide eggs and help at the craft stations. The crafts at the tables are beading, coloring eggs, cookie decorating, felt and foam crafts, and activity books. We already have supplies for the beading and felt craft tables. **We will need hard boiled eggs, cookies, cookie decorating supplies, and a few activity books.**

DOK

The meeting for the DOK on Friday, April 8th at 10:30am in the Parish Hall has to be cancelled. We will meet in May.

The DOK class for new or rededicating members will have their last meeting on April 18th at 10:00am. The induction will be in August!

The DOK is helping with setting up for the Altar of Repose Prayer Vigil in the Parish Hall. If you would like to drop off plants for the altar of repose, please drop them off by **Sunday, April 10th**. Volunteers are needed to set up the altar of repose on **Wednesday, April 13th at 1pm**, after the Easter flowers will have been picked up.



Altar of Repose

The **altar of repose** is a temporary altar where the Communion hosts consecrated on Maundy Thursday during the Mass of the Lord's Supper are placed, or "reserved" for use on the following day, Good Friday.

On the night that Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist (Maundy Thursday), He explained to His disciples that He was about to undertake one of the most difficult trials in His earthly existence. After Supper was ended, He went to the Garden and prayed to the Father for strength to accept what was going to happen. This Garden was called Gethsemane.

Taking His apostles with Him, Jesus asked them to sit, pray and watch with Him, and to offer support as His difficult hour approached: My soul is very sorrowful, said Jesus, even to death; remain here and watch. After the Altar and Church are stripped on Maundy Thursday, the Sacrament is brought in procession to the Parish Hall and laid to rest there in a peaceful setting, symbolic of the Gethsemane Garden. This peaceful, restful setting is called the Altar of Repose.

It has been the historical and traditional practice of the People of God to keep watch from the end of the Maundy Thursday Service, commemorating the Last Supper, through the night, to the beginning of the Good Friday Liturgy, the point in history when the soldiers came to take Christ away to be crucified. We will observe this ancient tradition by offering you the opportunity to keep watch, in one-hour intervals, through the quiet time of the night, from Maundy Thursday evening, through the hours of Good Friday, until 11:30am. This will be a time when you can come and pray, meditate, watch, or do whatever you wish in quiet adoration of the Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Father Lou will provide psalms for those who want them. **Signup Sheets for the Prayer Vigil are in the back of the church, and they are in one-hour increments starting at 8:30pm.** For more information call Fr. Lou.



Tenebrae Service

Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness" or "shadows") is a religious service held during Holy Week. It has psalms, readings, responsories, with music and meditations. It is characterized by gradual extinguishing of candles, symbolizing the scattering of the disciples and other followers of Jesus during his Passion until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains.

The last candle is left lighted, but it is carried away to be hidden, which signifies the apparent victory of the forces of evil. A sudden loud noise is made at the end of the service, symbolizing the earthquake at Christ's death. The lighted candle is then restored to its place, suggesting Christ's eventual triumph. The music of Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa will be featured at our service. The service should be an hour long. If you have questions, call Erich Kaminsky or Fr. Lou.

Coffee Hour Update.

Coffee hour is every Sunday after church. **People are self-organizing coffee hour so this will no longer be listed.**

Prayer Requests

***Please Pray for:** We pray against all evil. The situation in Ukraine, and all people in harm's way as a result of war, Frank & Lynn L., Mary & Mike S., Linda & Mason, Amy H. & Maddie, Sylvia C., Meaghan and baby Cole, Sharon K., Jeff R., Carol, MaryCarol and Alan, Jennifer, Judy, Kailee and Dante, Claudette, Bob and Schuyler, Michelle, Paul B., Mary W. and family, Vanessa, Mark M., Marissa, Shaunna, Marika J., Eduard & Mariana, Joyce L, Jack G., Sonia, Carole, Greta H., Peter & Nancy W. and their family, the Bennett family, Sue Ellen R., our community's youth, the men and women in law enforcement and in the armed forces of our country, the victims and families of the COVID-19 pandemic. All those whose needs are known only to our Lord.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for Bishop Smith, the Standing Committee, the Profile and Search committee, and for Holiness of life in every Episcopalian. Additionally, please see: <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/prayer/jnml>

****It is time to update the prayer list. Please contact Erich Kaminsky by email at erichkaminsky@yahoo.com or by phone or text at 518.502.4075 with updates.**



Sock Ministry

One of our St Mary's church ministries, for the Lenten season, will be to provide socks for the children at Hadley/Luzerne Elementary school. This ministry will be otherwise known as "Socks to put a spring in our school kid's steps".

Cathy Littlejohn did a wonderful puppet promotion urging people to donate socks as we get near to the end of this sock drive. **Sunday, April 3rd will be the last day to collect the socks.**

Please see the beautiful note sent by a donor that mailed socks to us, which is at the end of the newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact Cathy at 518-480-2465, or email her at rcil@twcny.rr.com or talk to her at church.



Karen Love - Bible Study

If you are interested, our next ecumenical women's Bible study is **One in a Million: Journey to Your Promised Land with Priscilla Shirer, April 19th – May 31st on Tuesdays from 4-5:30pm. The workbook is \$19.** Please order by April 11. Please pray about joining us. Please let your friends and church family know as well. All ladies are most welcome!

God bless, Karen Cell 518.260.2391

Choir

All are welcome to join the choir. Choir practice is every Friday at 3:30pm in the Sanctuary. Please show up a few minutes early. Come make a joyful noise to the lord. No experience necessary! Please see Fr. Lou if you are interested.



Ukraine Care

Noel and Meryl have given us the link to the update from Jeff Jernigan, The Executive Director of Olive Branch International (OBI) and a personal friend of 28 years standing.

Have a look at these two websites for more information:

US website: <https://www.olivebranchintl.com/>

Ukraine website: <http://olivebranch.org.ua/en/>

The “en” at the end access the English version of this Ukrainian language website. FYI, if anyone clicks on the link that says “Ukraine Military Christian Fellowship” they will get a hacked page relating to gambling. I doubt this will be put right given the circumstances in Ukraine.

There is a lengthy testimony by the Director of Olive Branch Ukraine under the heading "Valentin Korenevich and the Pastoral Chaplaincy Program" on the Olive Branch Ukraine site. It is well worth reading and tells Valentin's story from complete atheism to being director of the Baptist Bachelor's degree Pastoral Chaplains' program at the Kyiv Theological Seminary. It's quite a story.

Extracts from the attached ministry update will help our congregation understand where their donation is going and who is going to use it and how. I know that Valentin and another of our friends, Mikola (Nikolai) Dudko, are continuing as far as is possible, even today, to visit and minister to those in hospital in Cherkasy.

Below is a picture of Valentyn and Mykola.

With Jesus' love and blessings, Noel



Odds and Ends.

As the Ukraine war continues, Meryl sent me this poem that is listed below. It is called “I No Longer Pray for Peace” by Ann Weems

Shrove Tuesday was well attended, and pictures are shown below.

A wonderful photo from after Ash Wednesday services. See below.

Barbara Brewer LaMere shared a poem from Ash Wednesday called “Blessing the Dust” by Jan Richardson.

Erich Kaminsky wrote a moving poem about Ukraine, Wars and Rumors of War. See below.

The Assistant Bishop, Michael G. Smith, visited in Warrensburg recently to discuss the direction of the Diocese. Several parishioners attended. His picture is below.

People have asked that I distribute the directory listing. If anyone would not like their phone number or email shared with our St Mary's Church Community, please contact Patty. Valerie will be calling members who do not have email and may not receive this newsletter.

Holy Mother & Child Church is having a tag sale Saturday, April 2 from 9am – 2pm. Everything must go in the church, the Parish Center, Rectory, and garage. You must be able to pay cash and carry it home. It is priced to sell. Dishes, furniture, piano, dining room table, dresser, two desks, book shelves, microwave, large toaster oven, lamps, pictures, fans, small appliances, music items, hymnals, and outdoor items.

By request we will be adding one recipe a month from a popular coffee hour item. This month it is Barbara Breen's Creamiest Rice Pudding. See below.

Parishioners have suggested we discuss disaster or emergency planning. Next month I will try to address this.

A Note from Ruth:

THE SEQUENCE OF NATURE, AS IT CYCLES AND SHIFTS
WITH THE VOW OF SPRING, NATURE'S GREATEST OF GIFTS;
A TIME OF CREATION, A TIME OF NEW BIRTH;
WHEN LIFE ARISES FROM MOTHER EARTH.
NEW BEGINNINGS; AN EAGER FRESH START;
A CHANCE ONCE AGAIN TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART;
REJOICE IN THE PROMISE THE NEW SEASON BRINGS;
AND MAY YOU FIND BALANCE AND PEACE WITH ALL LIVING THINGS!!!!
A LAKOTA SIOUX CHIEF







“I No Longer Pray for Peace” by Ann Weems

On the edge of war, one foot already in,

I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

I pray that stone hearts will turn
to tenderheartedness,
and evil intentions will turn
to mercifulness,
and all the soldiers already deployed
will be snatched out of harm’s way,
and the whole world will be
astounded onto its knees.

I pray that all the “God talk”
will take bones,
and stand up and shed
its cloak of faithlessness,
and walk again in its powerful truth.

I pray that the whole world might
sit down together and share
its bread and its wine.

Some say there is no hope,
but then I’ve always applauded the holy fools
who never seem to give up on
the scandalousness of our faith:
that we are loved by God.....
that we can truly love one another.

I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

Poem by Ann Weems



Blessing the Dust *For Ash Wednesday*

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—

did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

—Jan Richardson



A note from a donor that mailed socks to us.

Hello, these socks are for the children of Hadley-Luzerne. I saw a call for socks in the paper. It broke my heart to think about children going without socks, or going without anything, really. I also bought hats I found on clearance and thought they might be useful next winter. Please give away as needed. Thank you for taking care of people. I like the idea of kids running around in new socks.

Love, D.L. (initials used instead of her name for privacy issues)



Wars and Rumors of War, By Eric Kaminsky

There are no bombs dropping here
No smoke billowing on the horizon
No tanks or armored cars driving by
No screams of the wounded and dying

Yet the pall of death surrounds us
From the warring in Ukraine
From the insanity of the selfish
The enemies exist just not along our street

I can watch the horror unfolding
Any TV will show it all
Children packed into trenches
No funerals or relief for the families are found

Millions have been displaced
Escaping any way they can
With only 4 weeks of the pounding
How they survive is a miracle

So we aide as we are able
Sending money, equipment and prayers
For the children who lay dying
From this hellish war laid there

So can we cast our vote and rally
Bring troops and weapons to bear
This ugly terror filled incursion
Must stop, must end, we must care



Barbara Breen's CREAMIEST RICE PUDDING

INGREDIENTS:

3/4 cup uncooked white rice (I use medium grain or basmati rice.)
1 and 1/2 cups water
1/2 tsp salt
1 cup half and half
1 and 1/2 cups milk
4 tbs granulated sugar
2 tbs light brown sugar
1 whole egg and one egg yolk
1 tbs unsalted butter
1/2 tsp vanilla, or a little more if you like
About 2/3 cup regular or golden raisins
Cinnamon to taste

INSTRUCTIONS:

Cook rice with salt and water according to package directions. When done, whisk together granulated sugar, half and half + 1 cup milk and add to rice. Simmer on low for 20 minutes, stirring every few minutes until thick and creamy. (It may look like it's too much milk and it will never thicken, but it will.)

In a small bowl whisk egg, egg yolk, brown sugar and remaining 1/2 cup milk. Spoon 3 big spoonfuls of the thickened pudding mixture in with the egg mixture and whisk rapidly to temper and prevent scrambling. Once egg mixture is warm, add into pudding mixture. Cook for 3-5 minutes more until thickened up again. Once thickened, remove from heat and add in butter and vanilla. (I also add a little more milk or half and half if it seems too thick.) Fold in raisins and stir in cinnamon or sprinkle on top.