

# The Guardian

MARCH 2024



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

### **PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24**

8 am Holy Eucharist  
 9–10 am Coffee Hour  
 10 am Gather outside for our Palm Sunday Parade  
 10:15 am Holy Eucharist & Procession with Palms

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27**

12 pm Holy Eucharist  
 7:00 pm Tenebre Service

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28**

5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service (beginning with Dinner in the Undercroft)  
 8 pm Nightwatch

### **GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

12 noon Proper liturgy for Good Friday (no music or veneration of the cross)  
 7:00 pm Proper liturgy for Good Friday with veneration of the cross

### **HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30**

9–9:30 am Holy Saturday  
 7:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter followed by a celebratory reception

### **SUNDAY, EASTER DAY, MARCH 31**

8 am Holy Eucharist  
 10:15 am Festival Holy Eucharist

## HOLY WEEK &amp; EASTER

## YOUR HOLY WEEK TRAVEL ITINERARY

HOLY WEEK DAY & TIME	WHAT HAPPENS?	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
<b>Palm Sunday, March 24, 8 am &amp; 10:15 am</b>	<p><b>8 am</b> — We celebrate Palm Sunday during the service.</p> <p><b>9–10 am</b> ” We hold a special “between the services” Coffee Hour.</p> <p><b>10 am</b> — We gather outside to get ready for our Palm Sunday parade.</p> <p><b>10:15 am</b> — We process around the neighborhood, led by the cross, for our Palm Sunday Parade, that brings us up into the church to sing “All Glory, Laud and Honor” and celebrate the Palm Sunday Service.</p>	<p>We begin Holy Week with our bodies moving through the streets of our neighborhood with palms, in connection to Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We shout, “Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”</p>
<b>Wednesday, 7 pm, Tenebrae Service</b>	<p>A meditative service with poetry, music, scripture and the slow diminishment of light as we extinguish candles slowly as we hear parts of the Passion story.</p>	<p>Our first approach to Christ’s arrest and death through this service of “shadows” (i.e. Tenebrae).</p>
<b>Maundy Thursday, 5:30 pm</b> beginning with supper in the Undercroft	<p>We begin with a simple dinner together in the Undercroft during which we discuss the scripture appointed for this day. As we sing chants, we go upstairs to enter the candlelit sanctuary. There we will offer footwashing for those who wish, followed by Holy Communion, the stripping of the altar and the beginning of Night Watch for those who wish to stay and pray.</p>	<p>The word Maundy is derived from the Latin word <i>mandatum</i> (commandment) and refers to Jesus giving the “new commandment” to “love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34) to his disciples at the Last Supper. The Maundy Thursday service commemorates the Last Supper and often focuses on two things Jesus did at the Last Supper: washing of the disciples’ feet and the institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion. The service ends in complete silence with the stripping of the altar in recognition of Jesus’ prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane and the despair and death to come.</p>
<b>Night Watch, 8 pm–6 am</b>	<p>Silent prayer in the church and chapel for those who wish to pray for part (or all) of the night.</p>	<p>We imitate Christ by staying awake and spending the night in prayer as did Christ on the night of his betrayal.</p>
<b>Good Friday, 12 pm &amp; 7 pm</b>	<p>We hear the Passion story, pray the ancient Solemn Collects, venerate the cross and leave in silence.</p>	<p>On Good Friday we join Mary and John at the foot of the cross as we contemplate the death of Jesus.</p>
<b>Holy Saturday, 9–9:30 am</b>	<p>A brief, informal service of scripture and prayers in the church.</p>	<p>“Holy Saturday is the day in which God has died into our very own death, and sanctified it, in all its stark, immovable threat.” (James Farwell)</p>

## YOUR HOLY WEEK TRAVEL ITINERARY (CONT.)

HOLY WEEK DAY & TIME	WHAT HAPPENS?	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
<b>Easter Vigil, Saturday, 7:30 pm</b>	We gather outside in the darkness to light the new fire, come into the dark church and light our own candles. We hear ancient stories of God's people from our Hebrew scripture, witness the first Sunrise of Easter, renew our Baptismal Covenant and celebrate Holy Communion.	We go to the tomb in darkness with Mary, only to find it empty and to discover the mystery of resurrection, the new life given by God through Christ.
<b>Easter Day, 8 am &amp; 10:15 am</b>	We celebrate Easter a lot like we celebrate every Sunday (indeed, every Sunday liturgy is technically an Easter liturgy), except with added joy and alleluias!	Easter is the most important day of celebration in the Christian Year. On this day we celebrate how Christ overcame death to rise to new life, offering his redemption and love to all.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

### ADULT FORUMS IN MARCH 9–10 AM, MEETING ROOM

**“SPEAKING CHRISTIAN: Sin? Forgiveness? Salvation? What do we mean?”** In our worship we speak our own language and it is called “Christian.” It is steeped in history and has changed meanings down through time. We often speak words without being sure what they mean. People can use the same words but mean something very different. Yet, these words have carried the message of Christianity and formed the language we use since the very beginning.

This series of three Adult Forms in Lent takes some of the most fundamental Christian words and invites us to explore what they have meant down through time and what they mean and do not mean to us today.

**Sunday, March 3: “SIN”** Led by Annamarie Pluhar

**Sunday, March 10: “FORGIVENESS”** Led by Carolyn Taylor-Olson

**Sunday, March 17: “SALVATION”** Led by Phillip Wilson

### “BAPTISM & COLLABORATION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST”: A DIOCESAN LENTEN STUDY

On Thursday evenings in Lent and the beginning of Easter (February 15–April 4) from 5:45–7:45, the Green Mountain Online Abbey is hosting adult formation conversations based on our devotional “Baptism and Collaboration in the Body of Christ.” You can join the conversations on Zoom or by dialing in on a phone.

Each week focuses on a different question in the baptismal covenant as we engage with the writings of lay and ordained authors from both Vermont and Massachusetts. It is a wonderful time to explore our own baptisms and to be in fellowship with people from across our province.

The devotional is available on the diocesan website at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83603971808?pwd=0s1PoNTPWabMRDZdzvmUJ2iZoeBCka.1>.

**The Zoom link** for the Thursday conversations: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86549194913?pwd=ijobHOCaKbihmUfbWXNQnf19jH8e7K.1#success>

**OR dial in** from any phone: 646-876-9923, code 86549194913#. If you are asked for a password, it is **RockPoint**.



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## A FAREWELL FOR JEAN SMITH



On Sunday, February 11, we came together with a festive Coffee Hour to give thanks for Jean Smith and her tremendous ministry at St. Michael's. As a token of our gratitude, St. Michael's gave Jean a year subscription to Audible and the pledge

that we would plant a flowering cherry tree in her honor on St. Michael's front lawn. One of Jean's passions is gardening, and we thought that this tree and its fruit will continue to remind us of Jean's deep roots and her fruitful ministry that we are sure will continue in Connecticut.

For this occasion, Chris Triebert created a mock-up of what the tree will look like once grown AND Chris wrote a lovely poem which we have included below. Many thanks to all who spoke, wrote cards and helped with the planning, music, decoration, food and clean-up, especially Megan Buchanan, Dianne Clouet, Judy Davidson, Steve Guerriero, Jenny Karstad, Margery McCrum, Linda Rice, Christopher Wesolowski, Phillip Wilson and Cliff & Wylene Wood.

**NEW MAILING ADDRESS  
FOR JEAN & PETER SMITH**

400 Seabury Drive, Apt 2133  
Bloomfield CT 06002



**IN HONOR OF JEAN SMITH**

*by Chris Triebert*

*This is not a Goodbye — but our deepest well wishes  
To our beloved Jean Smith, whom we'll so greatly miss  
As she takes her leave of us and St. Michael's  
To embark with Peter on their life's next cycle.*

*But neither distance nor time will break the connection  
Between Jean and the people of this congregation.  
For 15 years we relished her presence,  
Of wisdom and grace — she is the very essence.  
In kindness and clarity and love beyond measure  
She gave of herself, her talents and treasure.*

*And let's not forget her inimitable style,  
Whether preaching or teaching, sporting shoes that beguile.  
Though small in stature, her presence is mighty,  
She can light up a room, commanding and feisty,  
With honesty and insight she inspires us to see  
A vision of love through our shared humanity.*

*So we pledge on this day with heartfelt words spoken  
To remain rooted together in friendship unbroken,  
By planting a tree on the church lawn this May  
That will grow and flourish and proudly display  
Our gratitude for Jean and our time spent together  
At St. Michael's where our hearts are entwined forever.*

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**INVITATION:  
DIOCESAN TOWN HALL, MARCH 10, AT ST. MICHAEL'S  
DIOCESAN TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION EUCHARIST,  
MARCH 16, RUTLAND**

*adwoa Wilson*

At the 2023 Diocesan Convention, the Mission Leadership Review that was part of the bishop's letter of agreement was presented in brief. Such a review helps the bishop and the diocese periodically renew their covenants together. The review involved interviews by an outside consultant with Bishop Shannon, diocesan staff, clergy, and lay leaders of the diocese. Much was positive. However, it was also revealed that tensions have arisen in the diocese about leadership, racism, resources, and governance. Of particular concern to many, there has been unresolved conflict between the bishop and standing committee that has impacted trust and ministry in the diocese. The full report can be read [HERE](#). A one-page matrix of its finding can be found [HERE](#).

The diocese has scheduled three town halls for people to hear more and ask questions. St. Michael's will host the last one, which will be on **March 10 from 3:00–5:00 in the undercroft**. All from St. Michael's are invited to attend.

At the moment, the last scheduled gathering to address what was opened at diocesan convention is a Truth and Reconciliation Eucharist to be held on **Saturday, March 16 from 10:00–4:00 at Trinity Episcopal Church 85 West Street Rutland, Vermont 05701**. The day will involve naming facts, impact, and experience within a container of prayer and communion. It will be facilitated by Kaleidoscope Institute and all are invited.

At St. Michael's, we know that it is hard and sometimes confusing work to engage in becoming Beloved Community. Here, finding the picture of Bishop Hopkins initiated preaching, three months in small groups, and ultimately the common room remodeling, on top of the Sacred Ground and social justice book groups already underway.

These upcoming meetings on March 10 and 16 are important opportunities for us to practice our commitments to becoming Beloved Community. You can learn more about the town hall at St. Michael's [HERE](#) and the Eucharist at Trinity [HERE](#). Please follow the respective links to register.





## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The first meeting of the 2024 Vestry began February 10 with an all-day retreat. We were happy to welcome newly elected members Margery McCrum, Chris Meyer, and John Spooner. It was moving and inspiring to listen to members share distinct moments in their spiritual lives. Other highlights included reflecting on mission and vision and discussing focus and priorities for the year ahead. When discussing the role of the Vestry to newcomers, one distinction that stood out was that the Vestry differs from the board of other organizations as meetings are focused on prayer and devotions as well as on business. We pray that the Vestry is led by the Spirit to truly represent our community to do the work of the Church.

The February 18 meeting began with contemplation of three readings including the prayer Jean Smith had left with us (see below.) Business was largely devoted to organizational matters, as the budget was reviewed and voted on as presented by treasurer Gwen Mousin on two occasions at congregational meetings and as proposed at the Annual Meeting. Another huge business matter was the completion of the Parochial Report, an annual summary of the work of each parish required by the Diocese of Vermont and the National Episcopal Church. Besides comprehensive fiscal summaries, the report required a description of our various missions and ways of participating.

*On Saturday, February 10, St. Michael's Vestry (including three new members) gathered for a day-long retreat. All are shown here, except for Cary Gaunt. From left to right standing: John Spooner, David Treadwell, Margery McCrum, Christine Hart (Sr. Warden), Paul Gallagher, Susan Heimer (Jr. Warden) Seated: Juniper (not on the Vestry!), Mary Lindquist, Chris Meyer, Rosie Wojcik.*

The Rector's Report centered around Lenten updates, offerings, and trainings.

The Warden's report by Christine Hart, our new Senior Warden, included handing out a rota of assignments for "vestry greeters" after services, and "vestry listeners" at coffee hour. A representative was also assigned as a "vestry liaison" for each ministry of the church. We hope the congregation will take advantage of these opportunities to build community, communicate interests, and express thoughts or concerns.

**Committee highlights:** We are generating solar power from the active panels, while still waiting for an inverter to be made and delivered for other panels. The Vestry agreed to share our story with a new Episcopal initiative "Episcopal Path to Creation Justice" in MA and VT, creating a framework that will help other churches do basically what we have done in our "Hope for the Earth" initiative. The Refugee Ministry will welcome a new family next week — from Eritrea.

Thank you notes went out to several organizers and helpers who put together the beautiful Farewell Coffee Hour for our dear Jean Smith. Jean's Blessing:

*Friends, we are simply called\*  
To make gentle this bruised world,  
To tame its savageness,\*  
To be compassionate of all\*  
Including ourselves.  
Then, in the time left over, \*  
From these ministries of justice and care,  
To tell the ancient tale \*  
And to go the way of God's foolish ones.*

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

To see all the readings for each Sunday,  
go to <http://www.lectionarypage.net/#march>.  
You will find there the collects, lessons and psalms  
for each Sunday and feast day.

## MARCH 2024 CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

March 2	Susan Kochinskas
March 3	Christine Hart, Kiersten McKenney, Callan McDowell
March 5	Joshua Fritz
March 7	Ladd Osborne, John Linscheid
March 10	Gabe Reynolds
March 11	Teri Robinson, Marie Lawrence
March 15	Benson Bobrick, Jeffrey Hiam, Michael Tolaro
March 16	Chris Chapman
March 19	Karen Guthrie
March 20	Bob Walker
March 22	Bruce Lawrence
March 24	James Wilmott, Joan Pinilla, Margery McCrum, Sherill Wilson
March 25	Kate LeBlanc
March 28	Tom Woodbury, Elizabeth Moore
March 30	Craig Newbert
March 31	Jan Bennett

## ANNIVERSARIES

March 7	Elizabeth Vick & Craig Hammond
March 16	Greg Lesch & Brian Bannon
March 23	Kate & Dana McGinn



## LEADERSHIP

## VESTRY

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# The Guardian

a Christ-centered community of practice awakening to the abiding presence of God



## OUR WORSHIP TOGETHER

SUNDAYS	8:00 am	Quiet service of prayer and Eucharist
	10:15 am	Prayer, music and Eucharist. (in-person and online)
WEEKDAYS	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (online) and Tues.–Thurs. in Chapel
WEDNESDAYS	11:30 am	Centering Prayer (in-person)
	12:00	Eucharist (in-person)
THURSDAYS	5:30 pm	Contemplative service (in-person and online)
SATURDAYS	8:00 am	Centering Prayer (in-person)