

March 2024



*St. Mary's Episcopal Church:
Serving with JOY!*

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday, March 24, begins with the Holy Eucharist Rite 1 at 8am. Breakfast will be served in Moseley Hall at 9am, and throughout the morning, palm crosses will be made. At 10:30, we'll gather outdoors near the playground for the Liturgy of the Palms and a procession into the church that recalls Jesus' entry into Jerusalem before his Passion. In the event of inclement weather, we will begin our procession in Moseley Hall.

MONDAY AND TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

There will be liturgies offered on **Monday, March 25 at 5:30pm** and **Tuesday, March 26 at 6:30pm**. On Monday, our worship will be a "Teaching Eucharist" during which there will be instruction about the different parts of our Eucharistic liturgies. This service will be in the Nave. Tuesday's liturgy will be held in the All Saints' Chapel.

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

On **Wednesday, March 27**, we will begin with a community meal at **6:30pm** followed by a service of Tenebrae (Latin for "Darkness" or "Shadows"). At **7:30pm**. Tenebrae features music from Taize & readings from the Psalms and other passages that foretell Jesus' Passion. This beautiful service, held in the Nave, offers a meditation upon, and a prelude to, the events of our Lord's life between the Last Supper and His Resurrection.

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM (Maundy Thursday - Easter Sunday)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

On **Thursday, March 28, at 7:30pm**, our Maundy Thursday liturgy held in the Nave will recall the institution of the Last Supper and Jesus' humble act of washing His disciples' feet. It ends with the stripping of the altar and the beginning of a vigil throughout the night in the Chapel. Join us for a special time of prayer and meditation, inspired by the question asked of all of us by Jesus - "Could you not watch with me one hour?" The Chapel prayer vigil begins at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday liturgy and ends with communion at the Good Friday liturgy. All are invited to sign up for a 1-hour time slot during the vigil on the door to the Chapel.

GOOD FRIDAY

This service in the Nave, on **Friday, March 29, at noon**, includes a homily, Solemn Collects, Veneration of the Cross, and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament. The Way of the Cross (Stations) will also be offered in the Nave at 5:45pm, ending the Good Friday observance.

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Taking place in the Nave, the Lenten observance officially ends and Easter celebration begins on **Saturday evening at 7:30pm** with this liturgy, one of the most ancient and exciting of the Christian Church - the celebration of the transition from the darkness of Holy Saturday into the light of Christ's Easter Victory. The liturgy lasts about an hour. It begins with the lighting of the New Fire at the entrance to the church and includes hymns & spiritual songs, accompanied by City Lights Jazz, renewal of baptismal vows, and the first Eucharist of Easter!

EASTER DAY

On **Sunday, March 31**, the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord will begin with the Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at 8am. The 10:30am service is a Festal Holy Eucharist with full choir, flowering of the cross, and all the glory of Easter Morning! There is also an Easter Egg Hunt for children following the service, so be sure to bring their Easter baskets!

From the Rector

AN INVITATION TO THIS HOLY TIME

A season of reflection.



Let us come together and renew our faith as we journey through the Lenten season.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. For Christians around the world, and throughout millennia, this time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter brings opportunity for renewal and deepening of life whenever the season's practices are approached as offerings and gifts of devotion to God. I pray that this season has been a blessing you thus far. And, even though it has already begun, it is never too late to offer to God your time, energy, or any other gifts. In particular, there are many areas of devotion to which the Church invites our renewed attention in Lent: self-examination and repentance; prayer, fasting, and self-denial; reading and meditating on God's holy Word. It is, of course, a matter of each individual's personal piety and sense of call that drives that person's approach to the observance of a "Holy Lent."

I'm writing to invite you, fully, into the most important time of the church year: Holy Week. There is no doubt in my mind that the Lord's Good News for your life will reach you whenever you accept the invitation to join in offering your life and presence in worship with the community of the faithful - praise God! So, if you come to Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday only, and that will be a categorically GOOD thing. But my hope for you also is that you will take this year's entire Holy Week (*see page 1*) as an opportunity to walk closely with Jesus, day by day through worship, song, prayer, teaching, humble acts of service, and unique acts of devotion, to appreciate the power of Jesus' resurrection in many ways. Each movement along this Holy Week journey offers a distinct perspective on God's love for you and all of creation. Our observance of the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday, March 30 at 7:30pm, with music by our choir and the City Lights Jazz ensemble will be very special indeed! The Easter Vigil is the pinnacle liturgy of the Prayer Book. It concludes the 3-day Holy Triduum service (beginning with Maundy Thursday and including Good Friday) and ushers Easter joy and Christian hope in beautiful and special ways. I pray that you will dive, fully, into this sacred time. May the grace of God's endless love for you, and the joy of Jesus' resurrection, fill your heart this season and always.

Yours in the Risen Christ,

RISE with JOY Capital Campaign



Capital Campaign Kickoff Event

Come for a cookout after church on **Sunday, March 17th**, as we kick off the start of our "RISE with JOY" capital campaign. Leaders of our vestry and Long Range Planning Committee projects will be present to share information about the campaign and answer your questions, as well as enjoy good food and fellowship!

The Episcopal Church

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In the Anglican Communion

A global community of 80 million Anglicans in 38 member provinces/churches.

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In the United States

A community of 1.9 million members in 118 dioceses in the Americas and abroad.

Established in 1788.

Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

Episcopal Church Center

815 2nd Avenue

New York, N.Y. 10017 212-716-6000

www.episcopalchurch.org

α

In the Diocese of East Carolina

A community of more than 15,000 communicants in 70 churches.

Founded in 1883.

The Rt. Rev. Robert S. Skirving

Diocesan Office, 705 Doctors Dr.

P.O. Box 1336, Kinston, NC 28503

Tel: 252-522-0885

Fax: 252-523-5272

www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church

"Serving with JOY!!"

Jesus First,

Others Second,

Yourself Last"

800 Rountree Street

Kinston, NC 28501-3655

Tel: 252-523-6146

Fax: 252-523-5134

www.stmaryskinston.com

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Rector | The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren |
| Sr. Warden | Mr. Jess Edwards |
| Jr. Warden | Mr. Jim Purnell |
| Parish Administrator | Mrs. Lori Kelly |
| Family Ministry Coordinator | Mrs. Liz Hengst |
| Interim Organist & Choirmaster | Ms Sylvia Wall |
| Communications Director | Mrs. Sherry Tanner |
| Mary's Kitchen Executive Director | Mr. Jim Godfrey |

News at St. Mary's

From the Parish Register

Burial:

Pat Patrick

February 21, 2024

Confirmation:

Ann, Blake, and Celia Ann Rouse

February 25, 2024 at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church (Kinston, NC)



We offer our prayers to the Patrick & Edwards families as they mourn the loss of Mrs. Pat Patrick, our oldest member who passed away at 98 years and nearly 5 months old on Friday, February 18th. As we pray for the repose of Mrs. Pat's soul, please hold in your prayers her family, especially her sons and their wives: Rick & Hilda and Loren & Beth.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, before whom live all who die in the Lord: Receive our sister Pat into the courts of your heavenly dwelling place. Let her heart and soul now ring out in joy to you, O Lord, the living God, and the God of those who live. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Cherished Members' Luncheon!

This special ministry celebrates our Senior members of St. Mary's and their friends with a luncheon in Moseley Hall at 11:30am on the first Thursday of each month. The next luncheon will be held on **Thursday, March 7th**. It's a great time to get together with friends and enjoy a delicious meal lovingly prepared and served by members of St. Mary's. Sign up in the Narthex or call the parish office!



News at St. Mary's

Congratulations to Our Team in the Lenoir County Education Foundation 2024 Adult Spelling Bee



In late February, a team representing St. Mary's Episcopal Church placed 3rd in the annual spelling bee fundraiser for Lenoir County Education, earning a contribution that will go to Northwest Elementary School, our Hand in Hand Partnered School! Congratulations to Lee Albritton, Kathy Hyler, Laura Jackson, and Tyler Nutel!

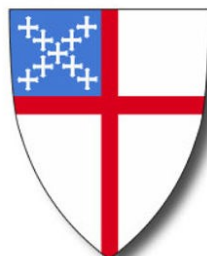
Backpack BUDDIES

Because hunger doesn't end on Friday.

Live Lent with Love & Give Generously

Each Lent, our parish Outreach Committee selects an almsgiving effort for us to support as a church family. Almsgiving is the act of giving of one's wealth for the benefit of others, and is an integral part of a traditional observance of Lent. For years, the St. Mary's community has chosen a single focus to pour into together each Lent. This year, we are collecting funds for Backpack Buddies of Lenoir County which provides food for students to take home on Fridays to sustain them until then next Monday's school meal. [You may give online](#) or by check. Be sure to note "Lenten Almsgiving" in the memo. God bless you!

The Episcopal Church



Welcomes You

Life with St. Mary's: A Newcomer Gathering

St. Mary's has been blessed to welcome many to the parish family in recent months! If you consider yourself new, or would otherwise appreciate a conversation about the life of faith at St. Mary's, please join

us for a 3-session series on **March 10th, March 24th, & April 14th**. We'll meet after the 10:30am liturgy, and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by the Friday before each gathering to Fr. Tom at tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com. Welcome!!

FRIDAY, MARCH 15TH, 2024 | 6:00PM | MOSELEY HALL

GAMES | PRIZES | FUNDRAISING

For reservations or questions
Contact Jim Godfrey, Executive Director of Mary's Kitchen
by phone at 252-523-6146



(Fr. David Sibley with host Ken Jennings)

Be sure to tune in to one of America's favorite game shows, Jeopardy!, on **Friday, March 8th** as David Sibley, an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Spokane, returns to compete in the Tournament of Champions! Read more about Fr. David and his exciting time on Jeopardy!

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2024/02/28/episcopal-priest-returns-to-jeopardy-to-compete-in-tournament-of-champions/>.

News at St. Mary's



Our young members of St. Mary's have exciting worship news also! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!! Parents, it is never too early to mark

your calendars and make sure your child gets to learn about and celebrate their love for Jesus at VBS! Our friends at Westminster will host this year on **June 23-26th from 5-7:30pm** (dinner will be provided). Access the link below to sign up your child or to sign up as an adult volunteer:

<https://communityfriendsvbs.mycokesburyvbs.com/>.



Rector Discretionary Funds

What are "Rector Discretionary Funds?" How are they collected? For what are they used?

On the second Sunday of each month, you may have noticed in the bulletin or the weekly email an announcement stating the "loose plate offering will go towards the Rector Discretionary Funds." *But what exactly does that mean?* These funds allow your clergy to respond in a timely manner to needs that arise within and outside the St. Mary's community. Here are **just a few** of the needs and ministries that St. Mary's has been able to respond to in recent months: utility, grocery, medical, and short-term lodging assistance for individuals in crisis within Lenoir County; scholarship assistance for youth camps and activities as well as adult participation in Education for Ministry; SAFE in Lenoir County; the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; and the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry. The ability to use the Rector Discretionary Funds in these ways are an active, tangible, Christian response to an individual or community need. May God bless you and your giving!

ECW

Each Wednesday during Lent, there will be Lenten programming with a simple meal of soup and sandwiches. Each week we will need: *two soups, one with meat and one without (a large pot or crock pot of each); two kinds of sandwiches, one with meat and one without (30 of each cut in halves); 2 people to set up; and 2 people to clean up.* A BIG thank you to those who have offered help with our Lenten Hospitality thus far! There are still available slots, and we invite you to sign up to help provide and/or prepare some of these meals by emailing Audra at 5haddad@suddenlink.net or by accessing this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090945ADA62EA2FE3-47913027-lenten#/>



Adult Christian Formation

Sunday Mornings at 9:30am
in the Parlor

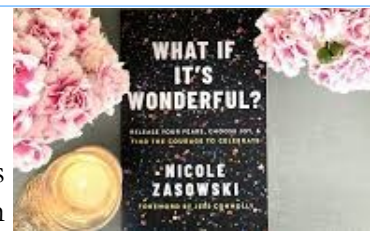


WISDOM FROM THE DESERT FATHERS & MOTHERS

A Christian Formation Offering
for Sunday Mornings in Lent

New Year Book Reading: What If It's Wonderful?

Get your copy of this book and read it through Lent and Easter, then join us to discuss it **on Sunday, April 14th at 3pm** in the church Parlor. Copies can be purchased through Amazon. Please reach out to Audra Haddad with any questions.



Worship



St. Mary's offers the Way of the Cross in the Nave of the Church **each Friday evening at 5:45 pm during Lent, concluding on Good Friday.** Sometimes called the Stations of the Cross, this short devotional experience, usually about 20 minutes, is both tactile and meditative. As we move to each of the fourteen markers throughout the church, a different event of Jesus' Passion is remembered. Please consider making a commitment to walk the Way of the Cross at least once this Lent.



Easter Lilies on the Altar

Each year, contributions in honor or memory of someone are used by the Altar Guild to decorate the church with lilies for Easter Sunday. You may make a contribution online (indicating the special purpose in the memo section), by sending a check by mail, or using the envelopes available in the Narthex and placing in the offering plate. Remember to send in the names in honor or memory of that are to be included in the bulletin. Please email Sherry Tanner at stanner@stmaryskinston.com with any questions. The deadline for contributions is **Wednesday, March 27th by 4:30pm.**



LENTEN
FAST FOR
CREATION

As you may have noticed, our bulletins have changed this season. For several years, we have taken on a Lenten Fast by intentionally cutting back on our paper use and opening up our Prayer Books during the liturgy. Feel free to bring your own Book of Common Prayer or use the books in the pews!

Children, Youth, & Families @ St. Mary's



EYC Coffee

Thursdays in March 7 ~ 4-5pm

Join us at Daily Grind for coffee, a fun game, & fellowship.

Please Note: Stay tuned for more coffee dates this month to be announced.

Common Ground Garden Service Date

Sunday, March 10th ~ 3:30-5pm

Any age is invited to help us prep the garden for planting, rebuilt the grape arbor, plant a few plants, and do regular garden maintenance.

Bring a water bottle.

EYC Movie Night "Cabrini"

Sunday, March 10th ~ 6pm

Join us at Kinston theater for a movie about the life of Francesca Cabrini who built an empire of hope for impoverished children in 1889 New York. Adults are welcome to join us. Please RSVP so we know how many seats to reserve. Cost is \$10 per person which includes the movie, popcorn, and a few movie snacks. If you would like a drink or other movie snacks please bring extra cash.

Common Ground Garden Service Date

Sunday, March 17th ~ 1-3pm

Any age is invited to help us prep the garden for planting, rebuilt the grape arbor, plant a few plants, and do regular garden maintenance.

Bring a water bottle.

EYC Sunday Dinner

Sunday, March 24th ~ Time TBD

More details to come!

EYC-led Holy Week Service

Tuesday, March 26th ~ 6:30pm

Join us for a thoughtful reflection on the Stations of the Cross. Students who are participating should arrive at 5:30pm to set-up and be ready.

FROM THE DESK OF LIZ ~

Hi Families!

We are almost mid-Lent now. Does Lent feel different from other seasons for you and your family? What are you going to focus on for the rest of Lent? Please look at all of our Holy Week and Easter offerings as well as weekly offerings at St. Mary's.

Weekly in March

Sundays:

- ◇ 9am Parish Breakfast
- ◇ 9:30am Christian Formation

Wednesdays:

- ◇ 6pm Parish Supper
- ◇ 6:30pm Programming

IN PEACE, LIZ



Follow us on
Social Media
for updates



Instagram



@stmaryskinstoneyc

@stmaryskinstonkids

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
800 Rountree Street
Kinston, NC 28501-3655



**Yoga
 at
 St. Mary's**

Join us **each Thursday in at 7pm** in Moseley Hall for Yoga! This **free** class will help to clear our minds and strengthen our bodies through a series of stretches and poses. Bring your mats, your water, and your friends and join us every Thursday for yoga, stretching, relaxation, and fellowship.



Camp Trinity Summer 2024

Camp Trinity provides a residential Christian camping experience on the banks of the Bogue Sound and has announced its 2024 Summer Camp dates! Brochures and information are available from their **w e b s i t e a t** <https://www.trinityctr.org/camp-trinity-forms/>.

SUNDAYS

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite 1 in the All Saints' Chapel
 9:00 am - Breakfasts for all in Moseley Hall
 9:30 am - Christian Formation for All Ages
 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 in the Church
 (livestreamed to [YouTube](#) and shared in [Facebook](#))
 Staffed nursery available 9am-Noon.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

8:30 am - Morning Prayer in the All Saints' Chapel

WEDNESDAYS

7:00 am - Men's Prayer & Bible Group in Moseley Hall
 6:00 pm - Wednesday Evening Meal & Programming for all ages. Staffed nursery available 6-8pm.

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

| 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Rob Bizzell | Andrew Dupstadt | Richard Crumbacker |
| Jess Edwards | Whitney Grady | Corey Fader |
| Jo Parrott | Anne Lindley | Randy Spaugh |
| Ginny Wade | Jim Purnell | Kay Turner |
| Senior Warden – Jess Edwards | Clerk – Andrew Dupstadt | |
| Junior Warden – Jim Purnell | Treasurer – Corey Fader | |