



# The Tower

## March 2025

Beloved,

Last year Easter came pretty early falling on March 31st , almost as early as it can be. This year Easter is not quite as late as it can be, but still pretty late, falling on April 20th. This means that Ash Wednesday is also a bit later than we normally experience it, falling this year on March 5th .

This day holds one of my favorite liturgical moments as a priest. No, it's not standing out in our parking lot in the blistering cold for a couple of hours administering ashes through car windows, even though I have come to enjoy all those little holy moments during the morning commute. I'm talking about a piece from our Ash Wednesday liturgy. Early in that service the celebrant offers the invitation to a holy Lent.

This invitation ends with the following words:

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

While Lent may not be everyone's favorite part of our church year there is something very special about the intentionality and focus of this season. Our thoughts and actions throughout our days are more purposefully drawn to matters of our faith, are focused more on repentance and drawing closer to our God. The invitation to the observance of a holy Lent names and frames that intentionality, and that is why it is one of my favorite liturgical moments of the whole year. It reminds us that Lent isn't about sacrifice and fasting to punish ourselves, but rather we undertake these disciplines to draw closer to our God, to enrichen our relationship with God.

This Ash Wednesday we continue again the schedule we set last year. Drive-Thru Ashes will take place from 7-9 in the parking lot. We will have a spoken service of Holy Eucharist with the imposition of ashes at 9:30am. At 5pm we will have a service of Holy Eucharist with the imposition of ashes that will be oriented for our families with young children, although anyone is welcome to attend. Our final service of the day will be a service of Holy Eucharist with the imposition of ashes accompanied by our choir and organist at 7pm.

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Matthew Heffner  
Anne Massa  
Pixie Medeiros  
Carl Seadale

401-245-4065

www.stjohnsbarrington.org

# STEP DOWN TO ENCORE

## Hours

*Tuesday & Thursday*  
10:00am—4:00pm

*Saturday*  
1st & 3rd Saturday  
of the month



## Encore

Encore will open on Saturday, March 1st  
and March 15th.  
Stop by every Tuesday and Thursday and the  
1st and 3rd Saturday of the month and check  
out our fabulous finds.  
If you would like to consign any items please  
call 401-245-7380 to make an appointment.

## Transitions

### *March Anniversaries ~ Congratulations!*

George & Joan Crocker ~ March 16, 2005 ~ 20 years

### *The Life Eternal*

Virginia Baxter ~ February 12, 2025



## ST. JOHN'S TOWER

Please consider writing for The Tower.  
Personal reflections, articles, poetry,  
essays and commentary are always welcome!  
**Next Tower Deadline: March 14th..**  
**The April Tower will be mailed on**  
**March 27th**

Please send articles, announcements and  
"Letters to the Tower" to [dale@stjohnsbarrington.org](mailto:dale@stjohnsbarrington.org)

# COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S FORMATION

## Children Ministries News

March Tower

Church School will meet each Sunday in March at 10am. Our schedule is as follows:

March 2nd- 10am

March 9th- 10am

March 16th- 10am

March 23rd- 10am

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The church school children are invited to bake king cakes during the 11am coffee hour on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be making cakes to serve at our Pancake Supper on Tuesday evening.



Join us at 6pm on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Enjoy breakfast for dinner before we head into the season of Lent. The supper is open to the whole St. John's community.

## COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

### St. John's Movie Night

St. John's is hosting its second Movie and Discussion night on Friday March 7th starting at 6pm. We'll be watching *My Neighbor Totoro*, the endearing animated tale by director Hayao Miyazaki. It's a magical journey into the universe and imagination of two young girls who have moved, with their father, to the countryside as they wait for their mother to recover in a local hospital. Its a true treat that shouldn't be missed.

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### Ancient Practice Series

Over the coming months you are invited to join Fr. Patrick in reading and discussing the books from the Ancient Practice Series. Once a month we will gather on a Sunday evening at 6:30 for one hour to discuss that month's book. In December we will discuss, *The Sacred Journey* written by Charles Foster. This series looks at seven practices common to the Abrahamic religions and examines them in light of Christian faith and practice. We will meet according to the following schedule:

We will meet according to the following schedule:

Sunday, March 9th – Fasting, Scot McKnight

Sunday, April 13th – The Sacred Meal, Nora Gallagher

If anyone is interested in taking part in this please talk to Fr. Patrick. There are a few copies of each book available to borrow.

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### Lenten Series

Throughout Lent we are once again holding our Lenten Program on Wednesday evenings. We gather for a service of Holy Eucharist at 5:30pm. Following this service we will have a light soup and salad supper, beginning around 6pm, and this will be followed by our program. This year we will be using a program called, *Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent*. During his tenure as Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry put forward the Way of Love as a way of life for the Episcopal Church. *Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent* will look at the seven practices that make up the Way of Love and how these seven practices shape and transform our lives. As there are more practices in the Way of Love than there are weeks in Lent our final two sessions will take place during the Easter Season, please note that we will not meet during Holy Week.

We will meet along the following schedule:

3/12- "Turn"    3/19- "Pray"    3/26- "Learn"

4/2- "Bless"    4/9- "Rest"    4/23- "Worship"    4/30- "Go"

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### Silver Spoons

Silver Spoons is a monthly gathering with lunch for any of our parishioners over the age of sixty. Each month lunch will be prepared and served by Fr. Patrick. This month's lunch will take place on Thursday, March 13th and will be Southwestern Chicken Stew. If you would like to attend we ask you to RSVP to [patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org](mailto:patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org) by Tuesday, March 11th.

## COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

### Lenten Quiet Day

You are invited to join us for a day of quiet reflection and prayer on Saturday, March 22nd from 9am-1pm. Fr. Patrick will offer a few reflections throughout the day, materials such as journals, prayer bead kits, and coloring books will be provided to aid in quiet reflection and prayer. A light lunch of soup and bread will also be provided. We are asking for a suggested donation of ten dollars to take part. Please let Fr. Patrick know if you plan on attending by Tuesday, March 18th.

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### St. John's Youth Group

Our March schedule for Youth Group will be very different than usual. We will not be meeting on the first Sunday of the month and the third Sunday of the month will be our annual corned beef dinner. If any of our youth group members are looking for community service hours, or just feeling particularly helpful, they are invited to help out with the corned beef dinner. If anyone is interested in doing so please be in touch with Fr. Patrick.

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### Coffee Connections

Nearly every Wednesday you can find Fr. Patrick holding "office hours" at Madrid Bakery from 11-12:30. If you're around on a Wednesday stop by and say hello.

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### Compline on Zoom

Every Wednesday you can find a group of us gathering on Zoom at 8pm to close our day together in prayer with a service of Compline. If you're unfamiliar with this service I cannot recommend it to you enough, it is one of the most beautiful services we offer.

## COMMISSION ON OUTREACH

### A Wee Bit O' the Irish

Our St. Patrick's Day Celtic celebration is coming again! Join us on Sunday, March 16th, at 6:00pm when we gather in Field Hall to enjoy a Celtic feast with traditional Irish food. If you would like to donate a corned beef, potatoes or carrots please contact Dale. There is no cost, (donations are gladly accepted) but please make your reservation by calling Dale in the church office; 245-4065 or email [dale@stjohnsbarrington.org](mailto:dale@stjohnsbarrington.org)



## COMMISSION ON OUTREACH

### **The St. John's Book Club**

The St. John's book club continues to meet and read some great books. Over the past 9 months or so, we've read about a young blind women in France during WWII (All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr); a fictionalized portrait of the real life Belle da Costa Greene, the Librarian to J.P Morgan at the Pierpont Morgan Library in NYC

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murphy); And a young women's life as a chemist, mom, and cooking show star, in the early 1960s when women didn't routinely achieve in the sciences because of prejudice (Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus); to name just a few.

Our current book is about a time during the great depression and the "dust bowl" that occurred in the southwest (The Four Winds by Kristen Hannah). It depicts the struggles of a family in Texas who were affected by the drought and great dust storms that hammered that portion of the country. When they fled to California for relief and work they were met with additional struggles. We will meet on March 11th at 6:30pm in person or via Zoom to discuss the final chapters of this book.

We will soon choose our next book and would love to have you join us. You don't have to be a voracious reader to participate, we often break the books into shorter sections to allow everyone to keep pace. Some of our members use audio books to join us in our discussions. Books can be found in the library, on-line, on your tablet, your favorite bookstore or through Barrington Books (we get a book club discount). If you're interested in being placed on our email list and help us choose our next book, or join us when you can, please send an email to [wjacsmith@gmail.com](mailto:wjacsmith@gmail.com) and we'll make sure to include you.

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### **Loaves & Fishes RI**

Mobile Loaves and Fishes- As you may know St. John's supports the mission of Loaves and Fishes RI ([www.LFRI.org](http://www.LFRI.org)), which is an outreach program to serve the homeless and needy throughout our state by providing food, clothing, personal hygiene items, and other basic necessities. Currently St. John's mans the silver food truck on the fifth Sunday of the month in months which have five Sundays. Our next trip out will be Sunday, March 30th. If you are interested in helping there are many ways to be involved. Donations of personal hygiene items (can be sample size) are always welcome, clothing, especially socks, sweatshirts, and mens boxers are needed, and at this time of year, hats and gloves are always appreciated. Snacks, like protein bars, individual packets of nuts and seasonal fruit (apples, bananas and oranges) are also appreciated but keep in mind we need 80 of each. Donations can be made by dropping items off to the church office in the week to two leading up to our trip out. We can also use extra hands in preparing the 80 meals that we distribute. On Sunday, March 30th immediately after the 10am service we will prepare the bagged lunches, load the truck with water, lunches, and any clothing or personal items we've collected and then we set off to Providence to distribute. A special request for our trip out... those served by this mission are often looking for a bag to collect the items they receive from the truck. If you have any paper bags with handles and would like to donate them, please also drop those off to the office. We've got a routine crew that mans the truck, but if you're interested in joining that group of volunteers, please send a note to [wjacsmith@gmail.com](mailto:wjacsmith@gmail.com) and we'll rotate volunteers.

# EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN ~ ECW

## ECW March 2025

Spring is on the way so let's all *spring into action* to join Episcopal Church Women at our next ECW gathering at St. John's Field Hall on March 18 at 5:30. Refreshments will kick off the evening offering a time to socialize with old & new friends. A speaker from the Episcopal Charities will then present an informative talk explaining how the charity works with churches to support ministries and agencies that provide basic human needs of food, shelter, and healthcare to those who go without them. As always, we encourage members to share ideas for future 2025 programs for upcoming June, September and December meetings. See you there!



March 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church - Red Living Room - Blue Choir Room - Purple Church School Wing - Green Field Hall - Brown Encore - Pink Off Site - Orange Outside - Turquoise On Line - Aqua						<b>1</b> 8:30pm John's Meals 10:00am Encore Open
<b>2</b> 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School	<b>3</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study 5:30pm Flower Guild Meeting	<b>4</b> Shrove Tuesday 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Pan cake Supper	<b>5</b> Ash Wednesday 7:00am Ashes to Go 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 5:00pm Family Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm Holy Eucharist	<b>6</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>7</b> 6:00pm STJ Movie & Discussion	<b>8</b> 8:30pm John's Meals
<b>9</b> Daylight Savings Begins 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School 6:30pm Ancient Practices Series	<b>10</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study 6:00pm Finance Meeting	<b>11</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm STJ Book Club	<b>12</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 5:30 Lenten Program 8:00pm Compline	<b>13</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>14</b>       TOWER DEADLINE	<b>15</b> 8:30pm John's Meals 10:00am Encore Open
<b>16</b> 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School 6:00pm Celtic Dinner	<b>17</b> St. Patricks Day 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study	<b>18</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm ECW Meeting	<b>19</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 5:30 Lenten Program 8:00pm Compline	<b>20</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 8:30pm John's Meals 9:00am Lenten Quiet Day
<b>23</b> 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School	<b>24</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study 7:00pm Vestry Meeting	<b>25</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	<b>26</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 5:30 Lenten Program 8:00pm Compline	<b>27</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School	<b>31</b> 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study	<b>MAIL TOWER</b>				

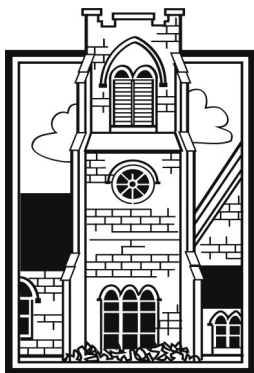
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However you observe this Lent, I hope to you take advantage of this holy season and find a way to deepen your faith and draw closer to Jesus.

Yours in Christ,



Patrick+



*The mission of  
St. John's Church  
is to be a community of  
Christians committed to  
the care, nourishment and  
spiritual growth of all.*

### **March 2025**

The Reverend Patrick Greene, Rector  
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Parish Office Hours  
Monday – Thursday 8:00am - 4:00pm  
Friday - 8:00am - Noon

Worship Services  
Sunday ~ 8:00am Holy Eucharist  
          10:00am Holy Eucharist  
          5:30pm Holy Eucharist  
Wednesday ~ 9:30am Holy Eucharist