

Forerunner



Newsletter of the Episcopal Parish of St. John the Baptist June 2019

Where Tradition Welcomes Diversity

Dear Friends,

Letter from the Rector

The Day of Pentecost is one of the great feast days of the Church, marking the birth of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the followers of Jesus fifty days after Easter. This year's celebration of the day on June 9 will be very significant for me personally, in that it will be the Sunday after I mark thirty years as a priest. I must admit I am somewhat stunned that three decades have passed since I was ordained, but I only feel deep gratitude and honor to have been able to live into the vocation I first sensed when I was twelve years old.

The years have been filled with ups and downs, glorious celebrations and serious challenges, shared happiness and profound grief, but throughout it all I have been humbly aware of God's amazing love and grace surrounding me on all sides. Over half of my ordained ministry has been lived out in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, and what a blessing that has been. This parish has fed my soul, led me in directions I never would have guessed thirty years ago, and continues to make me ever so thankful for being able to do what I love to do, with people with whom I love sharing the journey.

As I give profound thanks on the Day of Pentecost, I hope you will join me in taking some time to see the many ways the Holy Spirit has been at work in your life over the decades. In addition to our quiet, but joyous 8:00 am Eucharist, we will celebrate the day with a Solemn High Mass at 10:00 am, with our amazing choir singing for the last time this academic year. They, with our Young Artists in Residence, will be presenting again the "*Fruit of The Spirit: a Pentecost Cantata*", which Music Director Scot Crandal and I wrote for last Pentecost. Parviz Samiee will be baptized into the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, and the Holy Spirit will infuse us as our fifty day Easter celebration draws to a close. Afterwards, we'll gather under the covered area outside the Upper School dining hall for a parish picnic. I'll provide the burgers and dogs, along with a keg of beer (you have to serve beer when you were ordained on the feast of St. Kevin, patron of Dublin!), and I invite you to round out the feast with other delectables. Oh, and don't forget to wear RED!



" And the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self -control."

May we always eat of this fruit, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Your servant in Christ,

Fr. Robert

Current Events

From the Counting Team . . .

. . . COMES THIS NOTE of grateful thanks to all who gift money to St John's.

Your gifts need to be recorded as accurately as possible.

RECORDING these gifts is made much easier if donations come with the donor's PARISH NUMBER attached to them in some way. That number is YOUR parish number, which our Parish bookkeeper uses to keep an accurate account of your donations.

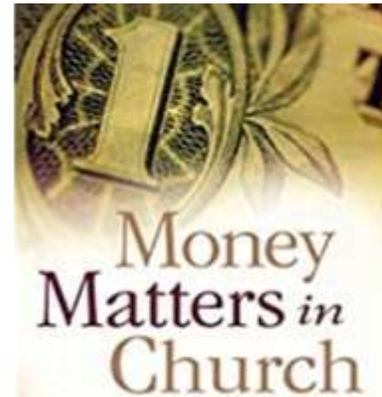
We especially thank all those (1): who use numbered envelopes and (2): who write their parish number on the Memo line of their checks or who have instructed their banks to use the **appropriate parish number on the checks sent directly to St John's.**

Make sure that the purpose for which you wish the check to be used is clearly indicated on the check memo line e.g. Pledge or Flowers or Music etc.

Loose checks should have the Parish number in the MEMO space, together with the intended purpose of the check (pledge, flowers, music etc.).

Plain envelopes containing cash should likewise have the donor's name, parish number and purpose on the envelope.

Please check (pun intended) with the Parish office to learn your Parish number (and, if interested, ask how to obtain a set of numbered envelopes.)



June Birthdays

2 Sharon Walker	20 Jocelyn Thomas
4 Katheryne King	21 Janet De Morgan
5 Chris Moran	21 Joseph Lambert
7 Madeleine Wenrick	23 Cynthia Hawkins
8 Jane Halling	25 Drew Crino
10 Pat O'Callaghan	26 Leslie Taylor
12 Dale Boss	27 Betty Bauer
14 Bob Hatfield	27 Patti Duthie
17 Jean Clem	27 Andrea Heldsinger



Sharing the Good News of God

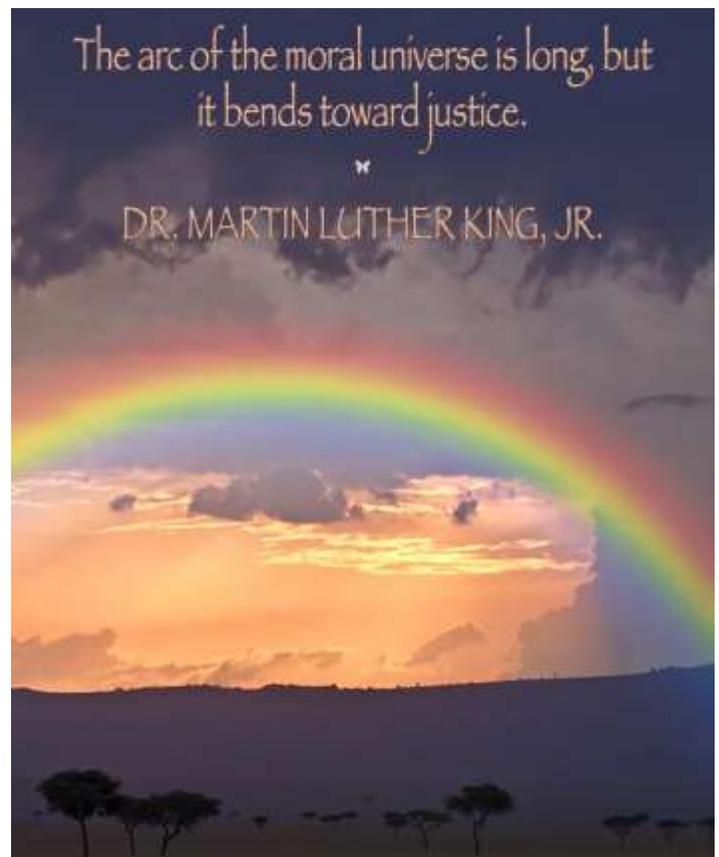
Patronal Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist June 23 - 10:00 AM

LET THE 'SON' SHINE IN: A LIBERATION MASS

Once again this year, St. John's will welcome returning OES alumni, as we celebrate our Patronal Feast on Sunday, June 23. This June marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York City, which is often recognized as the beginning of the Gay Rights Movement in this country. Growing out of the Civil Rights Movement, and spawning many other fights for equality, the remembrance of Stonewall is a perfect time to stop and celebrate the advancements of many constituencies over the past fifty years, while renewing our commitment to continue to work for the acceptance and love of all God's children.

To mark our Feast Day, and celebrate the sentiment that The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made famous, namely, that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," we will hear witnesses from various members of our parish family who have lived through great change in society and the Church in the last fifty years. Women, people of color, gays and lesbians, transgender folk, those living with disabilities, all have stories to tell, and dreams to share.

To add to the joy of the day, all the music at 10:00 am will come from the top 100 hits of 1969. "The Age of Aquarius/Let The Sunshine In," "He Ain't Heavy," "Put a Little Love in Your Heart," "The Games People Play," "Get Together," and music from Henry Mancini will all help lift our voices and spirits in thanksgiving to God. Let's all celebrate that arc of the moral universe, and let us continually do our part to help it bend toward justice! Don't miss Church on June 23!!



Growing as Christian Disciples



Are You Ready for Your Close-Up?

Saturday, August 10, 2019. Mark your calendar!

You won't want to miss the St. John's "Lights, Camera, Auction" dinner and fund-raising auction. Please plan on joining your parish community for an evening of festivities, fine dining and bidding from a host of donations (and don't forget to invite your friends!). Our goal for the auction is to raise funds to strengthen our mission to share the Good News of God, grow as Christian disciples, and to respond to the needs of the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

As well as an opportunity to bid on, and possibly win priceless treasures and opportunities, it's also the best opportunity to party with parishioners and introduce and meet new acquaintances. Many of St. John's members have committed to bringing friends and family Saturday evening, August 10.

It is time to start thinking about your donation. Do you cook, play Mahjong, or like to hike? Why not share your passion with others while you help support the mission of our church. You could join with someone else and put on a dinner, a brunch, or a picnic! You could ask your manicurist, your dry cleaner, or your favorite restaurant for a gift card. Or ask us to help with ideas

*NEXT AUCTION MEETING:
SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 9:30 AM*

Growing as Christian Disciples

Summer Camps for Children and Teens



Registration for Episcopal Summer Camp, July 22-27, at Suttle Lake Camp is still open. Located nearby Black Butte Ranch, the Methodist camping staff with Head Chaplain Phillip Craig designs programs. Students completing grades 1-4, Grades 5-8 and then students in High School engage a variety of activities in small groups. They sign up for archery, canoeing, swimming, hiking, preparing meals, campfire and more. Camp is a terrific opportunities to make new long-lasting friends. Child love this camp.

Contact: The Rev. Canon Carol Sedlacek at carols@diocese-oregon.org.

Worship in Spirit and in Truth

Parish Overnight Retreat

July 19, Friday - July 20, Saturday
Menucha Retreat Center
Participant deposit: \$50

To express your interest:

- Select RETURN EMAIL on your device;
- **Change SUBJECT to “Retreat”**
- SUBMIT

your name and those attending with you
Willingness to share accomodations
Need for scholarship funds

- SEND EMAIL

Responding to the Needs of the World

Mt. Hood Climb Service Day

On Wednesday, May 8, seven members of the Knitwits Prayer Shawl Ministry and other St. John the Baptist knitters participated in the annual Service Day by introducing knitting to a group of middle school and high school students. The young men and women who participated thoroughly enjoyed it, and the knitters enjoyed teaching them and hearing their stories.

Students worked on scarves to be distributed through the Red Scarf Project to young people leaving foster care. The Knitwits had such a good time that they are thinking of occasionally gathering in the Middle School Commons so that students on their lunch breaks can see what knitting and crocheting are all about. Overall it was a fun and meaningful day.

See related Story on PAGE 7 — a reflection by participating OES student, Mimi, 9th grade.

She presented it in the May 14th "9th Grade Belonging" Upper School Chapel.



(MIMI, continued from page 7)

Maya Angelou, an American poet, once said, “I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.”

I am thankful that I had the opportunity to liberate my soul last Wednesday and leave MHCS D with cramps in my fingers but also an overpowering feeling that I had my very own red scarf wrapped around my neck, basking me in a sense of belonging and immense appreciation for every member of this community.

Responding to the Needs of the World

Hi,

I'm Mimi and today I will be reflecting on *Mount Hood Climb Service Day* (MHCS D) because it was a powerful experience of belonging and connection for me.

Last Wednesday, I had the chance of leading, alongside with William and Cindy, the Foster Care to Youth – Red Scarf Project with Maria McIvor and Gisela Walitzki. For a little background to this project, Foster Youth are no longer enrolled in foster care after they turn 18 and graduate high school. However, most teens are not able to live an independent life at this young age without the proper support from a family. Less than 10 percent of foster youth graduate from university. However, with aid from the Foster Care to Success program, the graduation rate rises to 65 percent!

The Red Scarf Project is an amazing opportunity to help Foster Care to Success offer comfort, hope, and love to the youth in foster care. You can participate by knitting a red scarf with a handmade note attached to it. These scarves are sent to foster youth who are graduating from high school. This program has been running since 1981 and this is the second year Maria has encouraged students at OES to participate. When she was introducing the project to my MHCS D group she beautifully summarized that these scarves we were making were like a little prayer. They were tangible, soft items that someone could wrap themselves in and magically be transported to a mindful place of love and comfort.

Since many of us had not knitted before, a group of kind ladies from St. John's who are part of a knitting club came to teach us. A wonderful British lady named Brenda helped me learn to knit and purl. All the women were so impressed with how fast we were all learning! Brenda began to knit her own, much more complex scarf beside me and we started a conversation, that was interrupted every now and then when she needed to fix the mistakes I had made while creating my scarf. She never lost her patience, no matter how many times I forgot whether I was supposed to purl or knit the row I was on. She told me stories but her childhood, how she learned to knit, her sons who had gone to boarding school, and her predictions for the name of the new royal baby.



Brenda and Mimi

At the end of the session, the ladies reported that this had made their day and honestly, it had made mine too. I found it very touching that on this service day, all age groups came together; upper school students, middle school students, teachers and faculty, the kind knitting ladies who helped us, and circling back to the foster youth who would receive the scarves. I saw that when we take time to invite and welcome others into our space and start a simple conversation, we can build new and beautiful connections.

In the second part of the day, our group went to visit Friends of the Children. They discussed their program and its deep connections to the foster care program. This helped us connect our knitting with real stories of hope about foster youth and an amazing program in our own town.

The beauty of the red scarf project is that Wednesday was just the launch of a six-month effort to knit as many scarves as we can – so check in with me, Cindy, William, or Maria in the language office for more information if you'd like to participate.

(See MIMI on page 6)

Responding to the Needs of the World

Habitat for Humanity Project May 11, 2019

We had a beautiful day for our first group volunteer outing at the Denney Gardens Habitat for Humanity site. This project will be going on for some time since the ultimate goal is to build 16 homes and six are currently under construction with another two about to get underway. The work site is less than two miles from the church at the intersection of Denney Road and Scholls Ferry.

Since the units are in various phases we had our choice of work. Some of the team prepped interior walls with primer while others built framing with hammer and nails.

We'll have another outing soon so keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for announcements. Anyone can volunteer, you don't need experience in construction since we are always under supervision by knowledgeable and friendly project leaders.

