



# St. John's Chapel Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 3

March 2026

## “Why Are We Doing This?”

It is now Lent! In fact, as of the publishing of this Newsletter, we have been in Lent for a week and a half already. The point of this time in the church year is to reflect personally upon our spiritual lives, and to repent of anything we find in or about us that is inhibiting our growth toward following Jesus. In a word, it is for preparing ourselves for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter, coming at the end of this month. Together, we are working toward the culmination of the “Greatest Story Ever Told”: The Good News of undefeatable joy in this life, and the promise of the everlasting joy to come.

It is amazing how many of us it really takes to get to and do Holy Week and Easter. Some of us are already looking to put in uncounted hours to ensure that we all have meaningful and uplifting liturgies and services, and a beautiful space in which to hold them. Each person's work is incredibly important to all of us. Yet so much is going on that it is possible to get lost in the activity and preparation, if we let ourselves forget why we are doing it.

The “Why?” of it all was brought back to me by an article in The Anglican Digest. Let me share some of it with you: “Easter cannot [just] be measured by programs, liturgy, the numbers in attendance, music or fellowship. Easter [must] be measured by the extent to which we will allow ourselves to be transformed by our



encounter with the Risen Christ. Jesus did not die on a cross so that we would worship him. He died that we may be freed from our sin and, in being freed, that we may come to know and reflect his grace and glory.”

“And in reflecting His grace and glory, we become a people of transformation: loving, forgiving, seeking justice, extending mercy and living a holy life...yes, there are many people in churches who help make Easter very meaningful, but the most important person is you, as you seek to encounter the Risen Lord.”

The author of the article is right. Easter and the resurrection of Jesus is about transformation – death being transformed into a totally different and new life. Easter is about our own transformation. Our lives can and will be transformed if we will open our hearts to Jesus. Just as the Risen Christ transformed a band of despairing disciples into a group of daring Apostles 2,000 years ago, so the Risen Christ can transform your life and mine: despair and helplessness gives way to hope, darkness gives way to light, hatred gives way to love. Easter is the good news that the Risen Jesus is with us, inviting us to a new life of faith, hope and love.

May you and I all continue to be transformed this Lent by the Risen Christ!

Fr. Rick

## 2026 Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday Service with Holy Communion @ **10 AM**

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion @ **1 PM**

Friday, April 3 Good Friday Solemn Liturgy with Holy Communion @ **1 PM**

Easter Day, April 5 Easter Feast Day Service with Holy Communion @ **10 AM**

## The Struggle for the Prayer Book



**Queen Elizabeth I**  
britannica.com

In the middle of Elizabeth I's reign, the zealous Puritan reformers made a determined attack upon the Church and her Prayer Book. They desired to see the presbyterian system of Calvinism take the place of bishops, priests and deacons and the service books of Geneva used in place of the Book of Common Prayer. With the help of Archbishops Parker and Whitgift, Elizabeth checked this revolution. Nor did the majority of her subjects desire the drastic changes. A whole generation had grown up, nurtured on the spirituality of the Prayer Book, and they found in Anglicanism something more than merely a half-way place between Rome and Geneva.

In the next century the Puritan assault was again made, this time momentarily successful when the religious reformers combined with the forces of

Cromwell in rebellion against the tyranny of the Stuart monarchs Charles I and Archbishop Laud. Both died on a Puritan scaffold for the Church and the Prayer Book quite as much as they died for the doctrine of the divine right of kings.

With the restoration of Charles II, England returned to her own unique Reformation settlement. The Restoration Prayer Book issued in 1662, with numerous small changes and revisions, remains the official Prayer Book of the Church of England today.

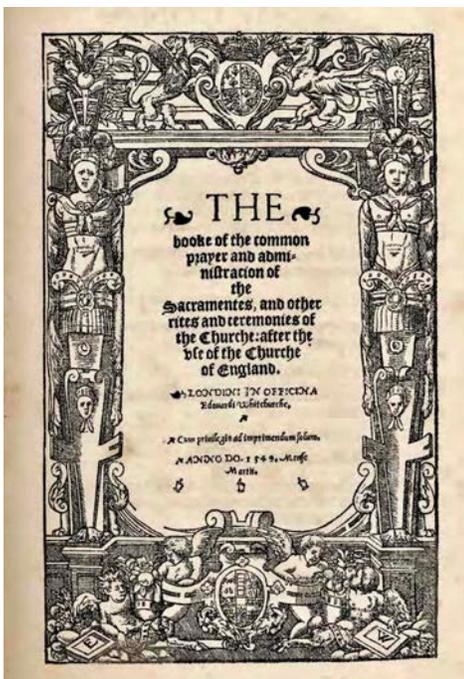
For over a century before the American Revolution the English Prayer Book of 1662 was in use in the Church of England in the American Colonies. Up and down the Atlantic seaboard, wherever parishes had been established, the forms of worship familiar in England were brought by the colonists to the New World. It was the War of Independence which laid upon the Church in America the responsibility of issuing its own Prayer Book. Just as the American States became independent of the English Crown, so the Protestant Episcopal Church as it was



**Charles I**  
worksheetsq.com

subsequently called, became separate from the Mother Church of England. The Preface to our first Prayer Book of 1789 clearly pictures the issues then confronting our leading clergy and laymen: *But when in the course of Divine Providence, these American States became independent with respect to civil government, their ecclesiastical independence was necessarily included; and the different religious denominations ... were left at full and equal liberty to model and organize their respective Churches, and forms of worship, and discipline, in such manner as they might judge convenient...*

But the preface further assured the reader that *this Church is far from intending to depart from the Church of England in any essential point of doctrine, discipline or worship...* The differences between the first American Prayer Book and the English Prayer Book were, with one exception, slight. The chief changes were those made necessary by the new political conditions. The exception was change was in the Communion Office. When Samuel Seabury of Connecticut was consecrated the first bishop in the Episcopal Church by the bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church in 1784, he brought back with him the Consecration Prayer of the Scottish *Continued on page 3*



**1549 Book of Common Prayer**  
Patheos.com

Prayer Book, *Continued from page 2* Communion service. This was incorporated in our Prayer Book and marked the first of the many steps in the American Prayer Book revision back towards the excellencies of the English Prayer Book of 1549.

*Excerpted from "the Struggle for the Prayer Book," The National Church, 1945*

## St. John's Chapel, Del Monte March 2026 Schedule

Date	Activity	Notes
March 1 <i>Lent 2</i>	10:00 AM Holy Communion	Fr. Richard Miles Officiating
March 8 <i>Lent 3</i>	10:00 AM Holy Communion 11:30 AM Vestry Meeting	Fr. Richard Miles Officiating Meeting in Centennial Hall
March 15 <i>Lent 4</i>	10:00 PM Holy Communion	Fr. Richard Miles Officiating
March 17 <i>St. Patrick's</i>	St. Patrick's Day	
March 22 <i>Lent 5</i>	10:00 PM Morning Prayer	Licensed Lay Reader Conducting
March 29 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10:00 AM Holy Communion	Fr. Richard Miles Officiating

**NOTE BENE: Schedule Subject to Change Dependent on Front Office**

### St. John's Chapel, Del Monte & Our Military Connection



David Jones, longtime member of our congregation, is undertaking the daunting task of chronicling the members of St. John's who have served in the military. Our connection to the military goes back even before the US Navy acquired the Del Monte Hotel. David is asking everyone in the congregation to search their memories and provide him with names, photographs in uniform (or partial thereof), any military memorabilia, and any history you might have. He can be reached at [davediane1@comcast.net](mailto:davediane1@comcast.net), or you're welcome to chat with him during "coffee hour" after service on Sundays.

CHRIST BEFORE US



SHADE ABUNDANTLY IN  
EVERY GOOD WORK  
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6

## Annual Giving Campaign - Pledge Card 2026

St. John's Chapel + Del Monte

Our/my gift is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per [week | month | year] for an annual total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I do not wish to receive pledge envelopes. (you will automatically receive pledge envelopes unless you check the box.)

## It's Not too Late to Pledge!

Pledge cards (see above) are still being accepted for the 2026 Pledge Year. We need your help! The new St. John's budget will be drafted with pledges as a major source of income. If you need a pledge card, there are extra cards on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. You may also email or call the church office to have one sent to you. The Vestry appreciates your continued support as we begin our 135<sup>th</sup> year. It's not too late to pledge!

### Prayer Lists Reset

It's time to do a reset of the lists of people for whom we pray. We will purge these lists and begin anew on Sunday, January 4, 2026. If you have names of people you'd like to add to the prayer list, please email or call the office.

[stjohnschapel@redshift.com](mailto:stjohnschapel@redshift.com)

(831) 375-4463

For all names added, please give us your contact information (as requester) and expect a monthly call or email for an update on the status of your requests. This will help us to manage the lists and help us all to pray better.

**Altar Flowers: The Flower Chart is in its usual place in the Parish Hall. Reserve those important dates now. Costs are \$30.00 for regular seasonal flowers, greenery and candles, OR \$40.00 for roses.**



We'll be celebrating St. John's 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 14, 2026, with several special observances. To help fund the event, Elizabeth Barratt is offering for sale this set of 8 luncheon/dessert plates from the historic Hotel Del Monte. Although priced at \$120 per plate, she is offering them to St. John's members at \$100 each for 7 plates in pristine condition, one for \$75 with a small chip not visible on the top; or \$775 for the set. These Syracuse China Co. plates date to the 1930s. If you are interested, please email Elizabeth at [HRHANDQE3@gmail.com](mailto:HRHANDQE3@gmail.com) or call 831-241-6927.



## BENEFIT SHOP

### THE BENEFIT SHOP ACCEPTS

- Clean, gently used clothing
- Clean, working small appliances
- Clean Kitchen items
- Chinaware, Glassware
- CDs and DVDs
- Knick knacks and bric-a-brac
- Small furniture items in good condition
- Art and Art objects
- Holiday items
- Jewelry

### WE CAN NOT ACCEPT

- ELECTRONICS: such as MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, PRINTERS, COPIERS, LAPTOPS, CELL PHONES, TELEVISIONS, OR COMPUTERS.
- Soiled or worn-out clothing or shoes
- Cassettes or VHS videos
- Non-working small appliances
- Broken, chipped, or cracked items
- Worn kitchen ware
- Broken jewelry or watches

***Please Note: We do not have the woman-power to dispose of unsaleable items. Please do not leave items at the gate, it is unlawful.***

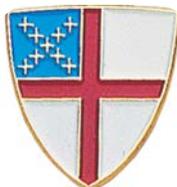
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