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The deadline for The Voice is the 15th of each month.

Email submissions to officeadmin@stjohnsflatrock.org or deliver them to the church office.

THE VOICE



February 2022



Snow day selfie with Fr. Josh, Wilder, and Arlo.



Joey Saltz hurling a snowball at the photographer.



Sande Ragl and her lovely snow angel.

From the Rector's Desk

Winter's Harshness Can Lead to Clarity

The days after the Epiphany and before Ash Wednesday act as ordinary time, much like during the months after Pentecost when our altar goes back to green and our rhythm becomes one of work, prayer, service, and sacrament. Even though the prayers, scriptures, and music offer something of a unity which lead to us referring to the "Season of Epiphany," these days are traditionally ordinary in their rhythm as we hunker down for cold days and even colder nights.

Hunkering down in the ordinariness of winter can come with surprises and clarity. In January, we received over a foot of snow at our house. The Good Lord timed it nicely for us so that we could cancel in-person worship with plenty of certainty and notice. He even arranged for my wife to be off work over that long holiday weekend. We had a nice Saturday together before settling in that night, wondering what snow might greet us on Sunday morning.

The snow arrived on January 16 with the beauty and harshness that is winter in Appalachia. It shut down streets, schools, work, and made grocery stores look like they had been looted. I did not leave my house in a vehicle for over four days. Once the weather had blown in, I was simply left with snow piled up and a front yard eagerly awaiting sled tracks, along with children and parents whose sanity depended on getting outside to play.

This winter weather was ultimately a gift as it granted me the clarity to look eye to eye at those who matter most in my life: my Creator whose presence blanketed everything in sparkling beauty and the children and wife who invite me to be a father and husband each day. It turns out that I really needed the time and clarity given by a harsh winter snow. From talking to some of you, perhaps you needed that time and clarity, also. These photos certainly seem to say so.

~ Fr. Josh Stephens

Flip to page 6 for a stewardship update and to see more parishioners finding time and clarity in the snow.

Service of Healing with Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays at 10:30am in the Wilderness Room

WITH YOU, O LORD, IS THE WELL OF LIFE:

And in your light we see light

HEAR US, O LORD OF LIFE:

Heal us, and make us whole.

From "A Litany of Healing," Book of Occasional Services 2018, pg. 174



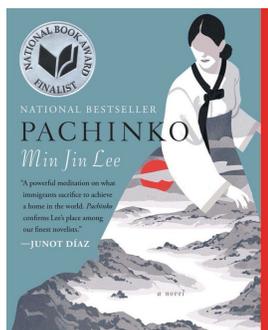
Readers in the Wilderness

First Fridays at 10am in the Library

February 4: *Pachinko*

by Min Jin Lee

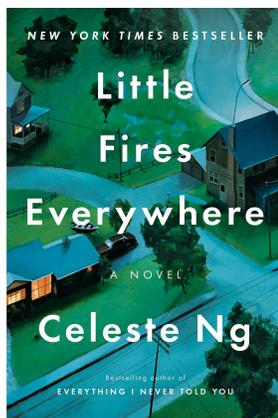
Pachinko is an epic historical fiction novel following a Korean family who eventually immigrates to Japan. The character-driven tale features a large ensemble of characters who become subjected to issues of racism and stereotypes, among other events with historical origins in the 20th-century Korean experiences with Japan.



March 4: *Little Fires Everywhere*

by Celeste Ng

A riveting story that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives. *Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.



Ushers Still Needed for Sunday Worship

Ushers shape the worship experience of visitors and parishioners by (1) helping to establish a warm and welcoming environment for worship; (2) providing a friendly first impression of our parish family to visitors; and (3) assisting in the smooth operation of the service. Please consider helping St. John in this way. Contact Bettie Orr (bettieworr@gmail.com) if interested.

First Parish Breakfast of 2022

Sunday, February 6 from 9 to 10:30am

Join us for the first Parish Breakfast of the year hosted by the Chefs of St. John, who will serve bacon, sausage, eggs, grits, gravy, fruit salad, potatoes, biscuits, French toast, and juice/coffee/tea. The cost for the breakfast is \$6/person or \$12/family. Please sign up at bit.ly/FrenchToastFebruary by Wednesday, February 2 to aid in planning. We hope to see you there!



Parish Breakfast on December 5, 2021 (Photo by Abby Stephens)

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN
OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS
PRESENT

A Valentine Party



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13
FROM 3 TO 6 O'CLOCK
IN THE NEW PARISH HALL



JOIN US FOR

Games Dancing
Crafts Photo Booth
Refreshments Fellowship

AND BRING A FRIEND!

No RSVP required.

Interested in helping out?
Call Linda Giltner (864-680-2793)
or Vickie Taylor (577-9632)



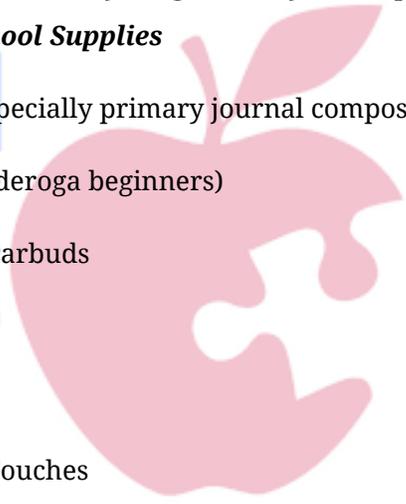
Show Love to Your Neighbor All February through Collections at St. John

School Supplies to Assist HCPS Students

In Henderson County, we have a number of homeless youth attending our public schools. Each year that number hovers around 300. These kids (all ages) do not have the supplies necessary for school. Jessica Owensby is in charge of tracking this population of students and has asked for our help with collecting supplies to help these students succeed in school. St. John has helped by giving toiletries to this population in the past, and until the end of February we will collect supplies in the hallway leading to the Wilderness Room. Please remember when you contribute that it is not just the older students who may be homeless. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Most-Needed School Supplies

- Backpacks
- Notebooks (especially primary journal composition books)
- Pencils (Ticonderoga beginners)
- Pens
- Headphones/Earbuds
- Tissues
- Crayons
- Gluesticks
- Erasers
- Scissors
- Pencil Boxes/Pouches

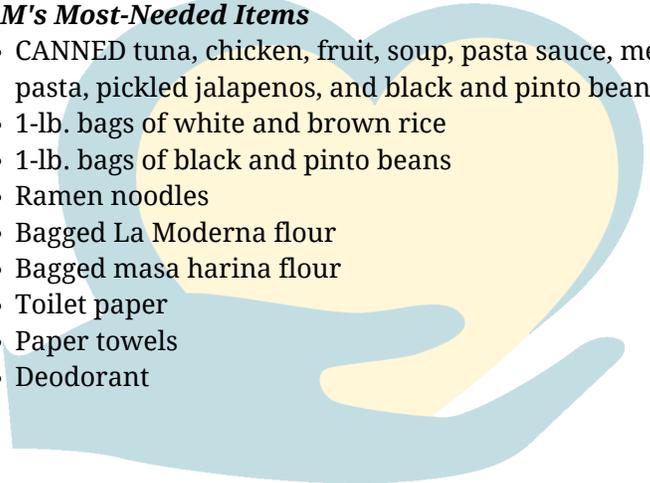


Souper Bowl Sundays

It's that time again for our "Souper" Bowl food collection for Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM)! Canned goods and other non-perishable items will be collected by St. John in the Wilderness throughout February to support IAM's amazing ministry to our community. We encourage everyone to bring items on Sundays in February and leave them at the entrance to the church, or you can also leave items in the Wilderness Room at any time. A list of items IAM is always in need of is below, but any canned goods or any other non-perishable items are greatly appreciated. Let's make February a "souper" month for St. John in the Wilderness and IAM!

IAM's Most-Needed Items

- CANNED tuna, chicken, fruit, soup, pasta sauce, meat pasta, pickled jalapenos, and black and pinto beans
- 1-lb. bags of white and brown rice
- 1-lb. bags of black and pinto beans
- Ramen noodles
- Bagged La Moderna flour
- Bagged masa harina flour
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Deodorant



Special Christmas Offering to Support Afghan Refugees Raised Over \$2000

Thanks to your generous giving at three services on Christmas Eve and Day, St. John in the Wilderness sent \$2,120 to the Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) Afghan Allies Fund. This donation will assist EMM in their efforts to welcome and resettle refugees by providing housing and basic services to newly arrived neighbors seeking safety from turmoil in their home country. Thank you for your support in this ministry!

Christmas 2021 at St. John in the Wilderness



A Note from the Flower Guild

Bay Chamberlain says thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas décor. It was a great help!

The February Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of:

February 6

Ryan Patterson Webb
by Bess Tarkington Lee

February 13

Duane & Peggy McKibbin
by Bill McKibbin

February 27

Roderick Bryan Smith
by his wife, Martha



Remember the Days of Old: A New-Old Compromise

Fr. Josh Stephens

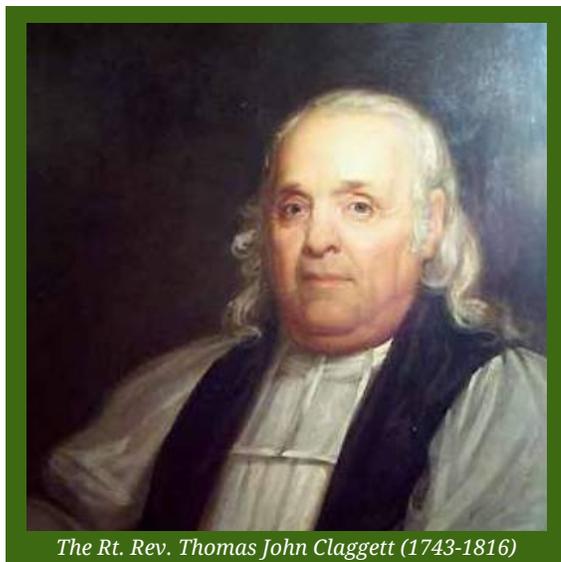
By all accounts, the Anglican Church in North Carolina during the colonial period was not a story of success. Clergy were hard to come by and typically at odds with their vestries who often refused to pay or give provisions for priests. The Church of England had the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG) as the main arm active in sending clergy and literature to colonies during the 18th century. Reports from SPG missionaries suggest that priests faced the hardest of tasks in the eastern part of the state, equally challenged by disease, endless rivers to cross, and a populace hostile to orthodoxy.

The greatest weakness of the Anglican efforts was the lack of bishops in the colonies. Anyone interested in ordination had to make an arduous journey back to London with no guarantee of approval even with recommendations from colonial officials in North Carolina. During the Revolutionary period, many members were seduced by the Methodist Society, which would officially separate from the Church of England during that time. Others fell prey to Baptist preachers who (scandalously) cared not for the proper formalities of liturgy and sacrament!

The strongest centers for Anglicanism -- which would remain Anglican but be called Episcopal after the Revolution -- were in Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania. The first General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which was organizing itself without Canterbury's consent at this time, was in New York in 1784. North Carolina did not send delegates, but was beginning to plant the seeds needed to grow a diocese in its East Coast tidelands.

The now American Church still faced the serious problem of securing bishops with Apostolic Succession, meaning that the new bishop had to be ordained in the lineage of the Apostles by the laying on of hands from at least three other bishops in that line. The English Church refused to

"Remember the Days of Old" is a column about the history that has shaped St. John in the Wilderness. The title comes from Deuteronomy 32:7, "Remember the days of old, consider the years long past; ask your father, and he will inform you; your elders, and they will tell you."



The Rt. Rev. Thomas John Claggett (1743-1816)

ordain Episcopal Bishops because those priests seeking consecration would not swear the oath to the Crown that was required by all Anglican clergy. (The Queen of England remains officially the head of the Church of England today.) Samuel Seabury was sent by Connecticut to London for consecration in 1784 but the Bishop of London refused. He found more receptive hands with the Scottish Episcopal Church whose clergy had refused to swear a new oath to William and Mary nearly a century before and were sympathetic to American insubordination. In 1786, however, Parliament decided to allow for ordination from American clergymen seeking the episcopacy. So, the Anglican Church would not allow new loyalties and an ocean to divide it completely. The Episcopal Church continued to organize itself uniquely, but an important compromise had been reached between the New and Old World Churches. Besides, once the Episcopal Church had three bishops consecrated in Britain, it was able to consecrate without sending clerics back to London. The first bishop consecrated by American hands and on American soil was The Right Reverend Thomas John Claggett of Maryland.

Sourced mainly from *The Episcopal Church in North Carolina, 1701-1959*, edited by Lawrence F. London & Sarah M. Lemmon



- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Allet Rodriguez | | | |
| 2 John Bell | | | |
| 2 Ben Melton | 8 Tom Aschenbrener | 16 Matthew Dees | 21 Sandy Gulbrandsen |
| 2 Bill McCleery | 9 Lynda Minturn | 16 Anneliese Guth | 23 MacKenzie Savage |
| 2 Michael Byrd | 9 Traci Tindal | 16 Alexander Hagerty | 24 Carole Hodge |
| 3 Phillip Brown | 12 James Petillo | 17 Laura Shelton | 26 Kim Delk |
| 5 Bob Sundeen | 13 Jim Spry | 17 Sandra Jones | 26 Adam Sherrill |
| 6 Dick Wright | 14 Emilee Cantieri | 17 Alex Viola | 27 Susan Rex |
| 7 William Johnson | 16 David Mallett | 19 Betty Murdaugh | 28 Kelly Kanipe |
| 7 Charles King | 16 Mary Wyatt | 20 Bay Chamberlain | 28 Karen Conley |
| 8 Ty Hornsby | 16 Bruce Woodard | 20 John McElwee | |

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Holy Hike to High Falls & Triple Falls, DuPont State Recreational Forest

January 11, 2022

In January, Holy Hikers enjoyed a 3.3-mile loop hike, stopping along the way for snacks, fellowship, and to marvel at the majesty of High and Triple Falls. In a picnic area overlooking High Falls, hikers prayed together and reflected on the way God shows up in these "wild places." **Join Holy Hikers for their next hike on February 8th**, when two parishioners will lead a group on the trails surrounding the Fish Hatchery in the Pisgah National Forest.



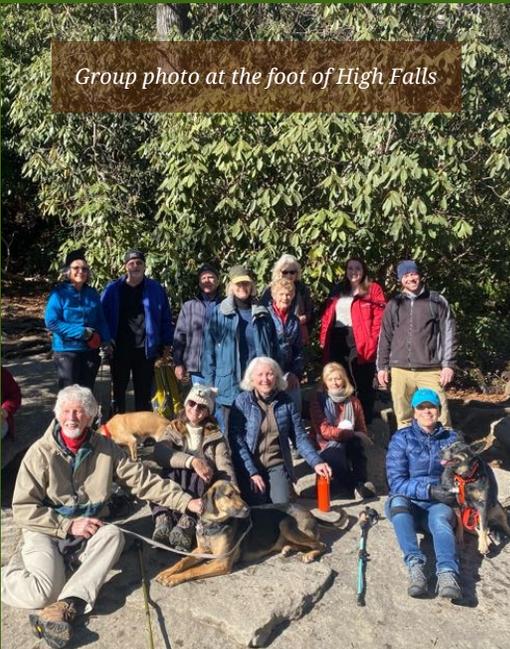
An adventurous few traversed the rocks during one of our rest breaks.



Snack break at the foot of High Falls



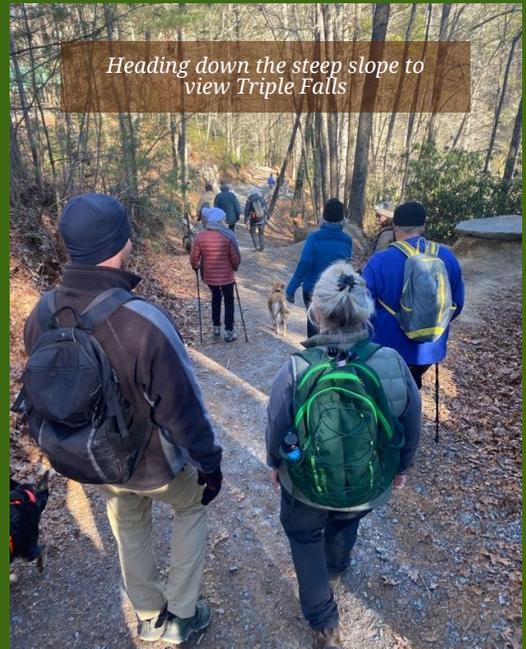
Group photo at Triple Falls



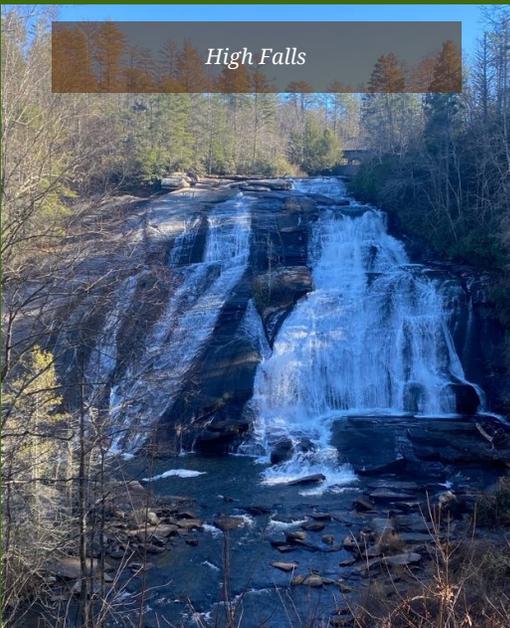
Group photo at the foot of High Falls



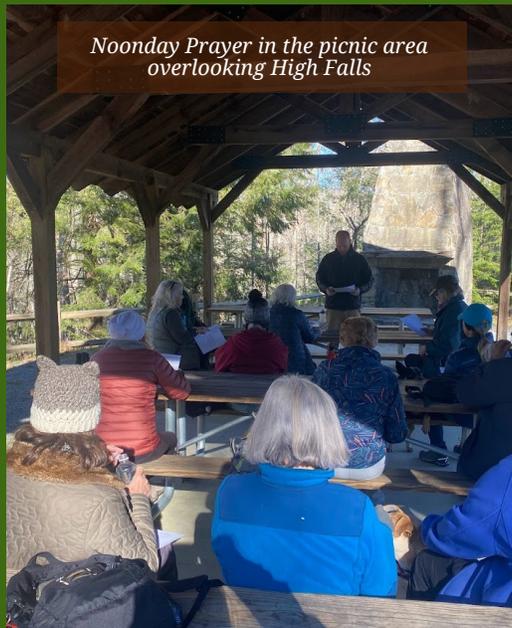
High Falls Loop
Triple Falls Tr.



Heading down the steep slope to view Triple Falls



High Falls



Noonday Prayer in the picnic area overlooking High Falls

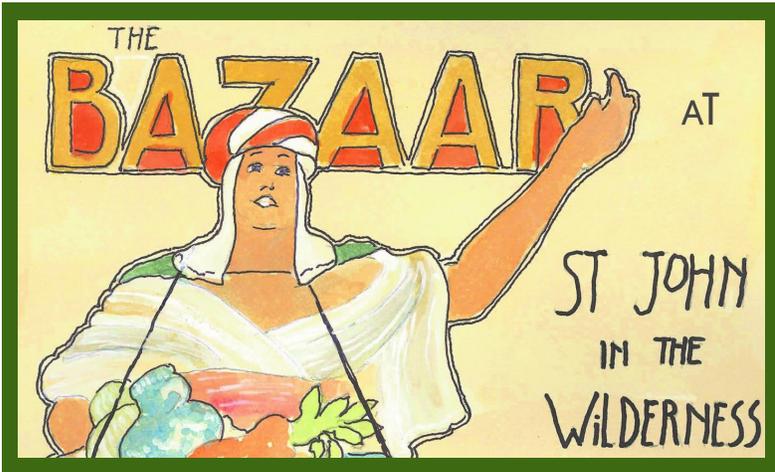


As long as the location allows it, dogs are always welcome on Holy Hikes!

Save the Date: Empty Bowls

Sunday, April 24

The Backpack a team is planning their 5th Empty Bowls Event. There will be three seatings at 12:30, 5, and 6pm. Tickets go on sale March 1. We look forward to seeing you!



Planning in Progress: ECW Bazaar

*Linda Giltner & Lynn Wiescholek,
Bazaar Committee Co-Chairs*

ECW and the Bazaar Committee are working together to determine the best approach for the Bazaar (formerly known as the May Market). It was put off in 2020 due to COVID, so last year we switched gears to an online sale, as well as a huge one-day sale at the Shed (to clear it out for renovation).

Those two opportunities brought in thousands of dollars which go directly to local charities. God works in wonderful ways!

The Committee is brainstorming possibilities for the Bazaar this spring. We thank you for your patience and for all the hard work done by so many during the past two years.

God has a plan for the Bazaar. We cannot wait to understand his directions for us, and we are anxious to fulfill his wishes for the greater good.

Pledging Participation Increases for 2022's "Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow"

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we are excited to share with you that we have our results for our Stewardship 2022: *Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow*. For 2022, we have received 160 pledges for a total of \$554,000.

Our goal was to receive 170 pledges, so we are a few pledges short, but we consider this a big success because it marks an increase in pledges received compared to the last two years. The total dollar amount pledged is also an increase of around \$55,000 compared to the last two years.

Of course, these wonderful milestones are only possible because you are not only sharing what you have with this church community but also providing us an estimate of what your giving will look like in the year ahead. Thank you so very much! With your increased participation and total giving, we plan to move ahead with seeking to call an assisting priest in 2022. Thank you for sharing in our life together as the Body of Christ at St. John!

"Hey Kevin, Did You Get Your Truck Yet?"

Nope, not yet. There is a national shortage of new pick-up trucks, and we are waiting for restock of the truck we have chosen. We will announce when the truck finally arrives!

St. John Parishioners Enjoy the Snow



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2



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4



5

Photo Descriptions

1. Trout and Luna, the Schenck Family dogs, tramping through a winter wonderland.
2. View from Patty Vint's window.
3. Cynthia Easterling shredding on a sled.
4. Rosanna Couture pulling Wilder, with Arlo not far behind.
5. Addy Saltz wanted her baby doll to sled too!
6. Joey Saltz and Huck the Pony.
7. Arlo Stephens all bundled up to tackle the slopes.
8. Kevin Hunt, Sexton, working to get our parking lot in shape.
9. Carriage Entrance of St. John in the Wilderness



6



7



8



9

Looking Ahead to Lent

Mardi Gras Potluck

More details to come, but go ahead and mark your calendar for a New Orleans-inspired potluck in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, March 1 at 5:30pm.

Ash Wednesday Eucharists

March 2 at 12 noon and 5:30pm in the Church

Diocesan High School Conference

Save the date!
March 4-6, 2022
More details to come.

Lenten Reflections

Written by parishioners, compiled by Betsy Tibbs, and formatted by Patricia Askew. Available for pick up at the entrances of the church, in the office, and at stjohnflatrock.org/len-reflections

Thursday Night Lent Formation: Benedictine Spiritual Practices

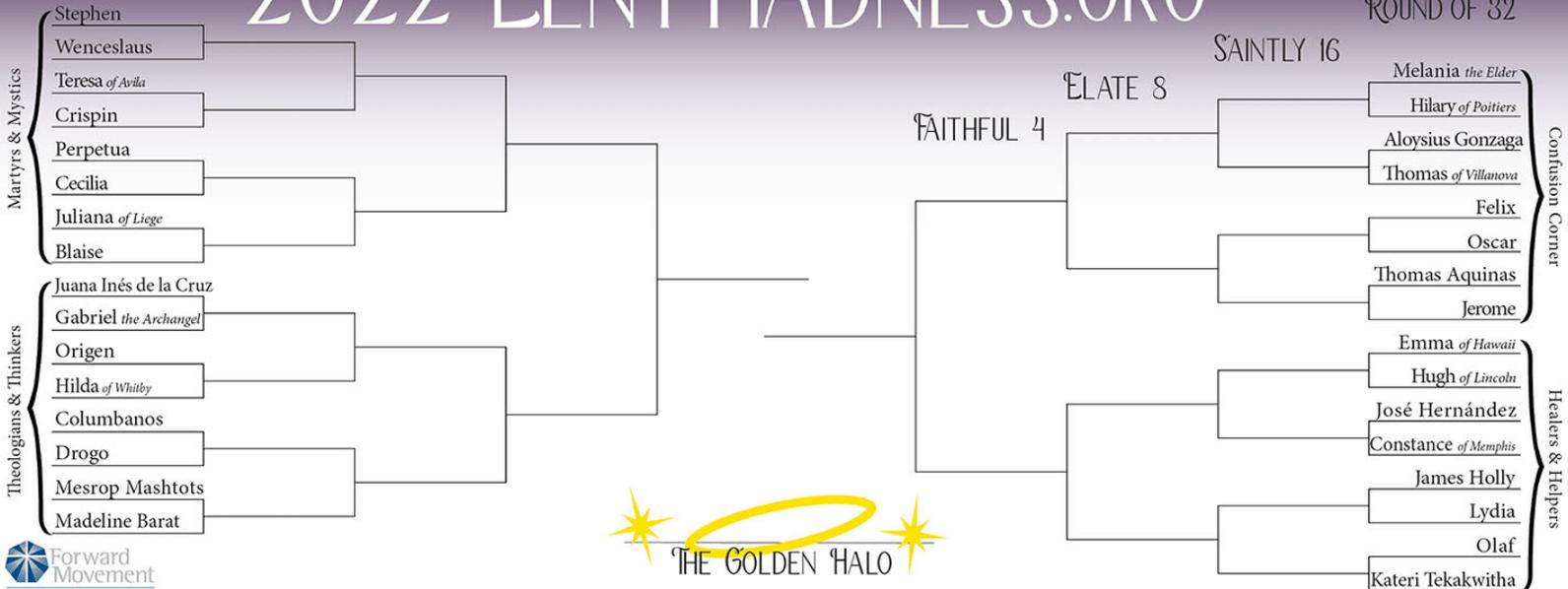
Join us for dinner in the Parish Hall at 5:30pm and formation programming at 6pm, Thursdays through April 7.

Lent Madness

Lent Madness began in 2010 when the Rev. Tim Schenck created this fun and engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church's Calendar of Saints. This year, St. John in the Wilderness will offer a prize to the person who most accurately fills out the bracket ahead of time. Use the bracket below, or print one off from lentmadness.org/bracket. Learn all about this year's lineup by picking up a Lent Madness booklet from the Office, then **turn your bracket in by Tuesday, March 1** to be in the running. We will update the saintly winners of each round on bracket posters in the Wilderness Room, the Parish Hall, and outside the EYC Room so that players can keep track of how well they've guessed. Best of luck!

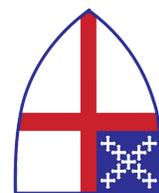


2022 LENTMADNESS.ORG



Images from Dancig, Scott (Icon of St. Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco, California), reproduced with gracious permission. Icon artist: Mark Dukes. Photos by David Gillette.

The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness
1905 Greenville Highway
P.O. Box 185
Flat Rock, NC 28731



The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness

The Rev. Josh Stephens
Rector

The Rev. Dn. Charles Rex
Deacon

Sarah Yeargin
*Director of Parish Communication
& Administration*

Stacy Knapp
Parish Financial Assistant

Dewitt Tipton
Organist and Director of Music

Kevin Hunt
Sexton

Mary Anne Inglis
Youth and Families Coordinator

Vestry

Jennifer Shelton
Senior Warden

Gibson Sims
Junior Warden

Tom Griswold
Treasurer

Margaret Barker
Clerk

Terry Enslin, Marie Hyder, Dick
Zecher, John Barker, Elizabeth
Christenbury, Lynn Wiescholek, E.R.
Haire, Jr., Clint Adams, Will Rodriguez,
Marisa Pharr, Kim Sanders



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:45 a.m. Rite Two Eucharist (in person & live streamed)

11:00 a.m. Rite Two Eucharist (in person)

Monday through Thursday

9:00 a.m. Online Morning Prayer (live streamed)

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Healing Service (in the Wilderness Room)

4:30 p.m. Evening Prayer (in the Wilderness Room)

Our Mission Statement

To know and love God as He is revealed to us
in Jesus Christ, to bring others to His saving
love, and to serve the world in His name.

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