



Fab Friday - March 22, 2024



I love putting this little message together each week. I always learn things I didn't know but should. So, I turn to the Internet for information and cross my fingers that this missive is at least somewhat accurate. I will trust in Fr. Nate to let me (and maybe even you) know when I make a terrible faux pas. For those of you who are new to the Episcopal faith and St. John's, perhaps this information will be helpful to you.

This week, we are beginning Holy Week by celebrating the Feast of the Annunciation on Monday evening. The Feast of the Annunciation is observed almost universally throughout Christianity. It commemorates the visit of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he informed her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I was confused at first when Fr. Nate suggested we celebrate this on the Monday of Holy Week when it has always been part of the Christmas story to me. Until he explained - I will try to repeat basically what he told me.

Generally, the Annunciation is celebrated on March 25 each year, commemorating both the belief that the spring equinox was not only the day of God's act of Creation but also the beginning of Christ's redemption of that same Creation - or in other words, the resurrection and the redemption of our sins. Since the world was created in spring, Christ was also conceived and died shortly after the equinox of spring. In other words, the Annunciation is essential to the Resurrection.

This year, we are celebrating the Annunciation on March 25, the day intended. In the tradition of the Western Churches, the feast is moved if necessary to prevent it from falling during Holy Week (Don't know why - it's just what Wikipedia said). Typically, the Annunciation would be moved to the Monday after the after the Second Sunday of Easter to avoid Holy Week.

Holy Week is the most sacred week in the liturgical year in Christianity. It is the sixth and last week of Lent, beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding on Holy Saturday. In addition to the Feast of the Annunciation, which will be a spoken Eucharist in the Lady Chapel, we have a full schedule of services as we follow Jesus to the Cross. Palm Sunday will include a full congregational processional into the Nave and reading of the Passion according to Mark.

On Wednesday, we will have the final Stations of the Cross and Thursday is Maundy Thursday. We will start our service on Maundy Thursday with an Agape supper, reminiscent of the Last Supper. This will include the Mandatum (The Washing of Feet) symbolizing Christ's washing the feet of his disciples on that night. Immediately following the meal and the service associated with it, we will process into the Nave from Wade-Dalton Hall to finish the services with a solemn Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose, hymns and the Stripping of the Altar.

Immediately following the service, members of St. John's will be at the Altar of Repose in the Lady Chapel to offer silent prayer for one hour each throughout the night, just as Jesus asked his disciples to do. Note here: even if you aren't signed up for an hour on our schedule, you are welcome to come to pray as well.

There will be two services on Good Friday - spoken communion from the Reserved Sacrament at both noon and 7:00pm. Holy Week concludes with Christ's rest in death and descent into hell on Holy Saturday. We will meet at 5:30pm for the Great Vigil which will include two baptisms this year - Colton and Chasen Jackson will be baptized and receive their first Eucharist that evening.

And, of course, the week concludes with the glorious Sunday of the Resurrection. For you early birds, and those who enjoy outdoor services, we will start the day with a 7:30 service in the Peace Chapel. Easter breakfast will be served at 9:15 in Wade Dalton and will be a family friendly menu all should enjoy. The Easter Day Festive Eucharist will be uplifting and joyful following the solemn week before, ending with an Easter Egg hunt for the many children of St John's Church.

Here is your [bulletin](#) for this coming Sunday service.


Enjoy your weekend!
Nancy

PS: While Fr. Nate is on sabbatical from the Academy, his contact email is nathan@commonplacebooksokc.com.



Sundays in Lent

Sunday - Feb 18 - The Great Litany
Sunday - Feb 25 - Decalogue
Sunday - March 3 - Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday - March 10 - Laetare Sunday -
Rose Sunday
Time Change, Spring Forward
Sunday - March 17 - Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sunday - March 24 - Sunday of the Passion
Palm Sunday
Sunday - March 31 - The Sunday of Resurrection
7:30 am Sunrise Service, Outdoor Chapel, Rite I
9:15 am Easter Breakfast in Wade-Dalton Hall
10:15 am Easter Mass, Rite II



ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE

You are invited to join us for Holy Week services at our church. Experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection.

Sunday, March 24
10:15am Palm Sunday - Sunday of the Passion


Wednesday, March 26
5:30pm Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 27
5:30pm Agape Dinner and Foot Washing
7:00pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist
8:00pm to Noon Friday - The Watch at the Altar of Repose

Good Friday
Noon Good Friday Eucharist from Reserved Sacraments
7:00pm Good Friday Eucharist from Reserved Sacraments

Holy Saturday
5:30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday
7:30am Sunrise Service in the Outdoor Peace Chapel
9:15am Easter Breakfast in Wade-Dalton Hall
10:15am The Sunday of Resurrection Easter Service



Maundy Thursday

5:30 Agape Meal with Foot Washing
7:00 Eucharist with Stripping of the Altar



Last year, we brought back the Maundy Thursday Agape Dinner and we will continue that tradition this year as well. Please note that there is a signup poster in the Narthex for the various food items needed for this special Agape menu. **We still need a lot of contributions to this meal. And nothing requires more than purchasing and bringing the item(s) to the church. Please sign up on Palm Sunday!!!!**

Included in the service at the meal, we will also have **Mandatum (The Washing of Feet)**. The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, "Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done."



The Watch at the Altar of Repose Thursday and Friday, March 28 and 29 8:00 pm Thursday – Noon on Good Friday

The night before he was crucified, Jesus spent several hours in the Garden of Gethsemane in anguished prayer. When his disciples fell asleep, he pled with them to stay awake to pray, asking, "Can you not watch with me one hour?"

Remembering this, and as an act of devotion, Christians have traditionally kept vigil throughout the night leading from Maundy Thursday into Good Friday.

This vigil is a time to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and to watch and wait while contemplating the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.

Sign up in the Narthex for one hour to watch and wait with Jesus.



Faith Journeys

Join us on a pilgrimage to
England & Scotland
June 22 - July 3, 2025

Especially designed for
St. John's Episcopal Church
Oklahoma City, OK

Rev. Nathan Carr
Pilgrimage Host

Registration opens soon!
More details forthcoming

A vertical poster for a pilgrimage to England and Scotland. The background features a painting of a stone archway. The text is arranged in a white box on the left. At the top left is the "Faith Journeys" logo. The main title is "England & Scotland" in a large serif font. Below it is the date "June 22 - July 3, 2025". Further down, it says "Especially designed for St. John's Episcopal Church Oklahoma City, OK". A small photo of Rev. Nathan Carr is included. At the bottom, it says "Registration opens soon! More details forthcoming".

It's not just a rumor. The itinerary is done and registration will open soon for our pilgrimage to England and Scotland in the summer of 2025. Watch the front bulletin board and area for information about the **upcoming tour which will be amazing!** I cannot wait to register. Are you planning to go?

Friends, we need your help donating candy for our Easter egg hunt. Please note that we kindly request **no chocolate** donations. We are asking that all donations be made by Tuesday, March 26, preferably by Palm Sunday, March 24.

See below about what to do with chocolate.



Do you recognize this logo? It is the logo for the Instant Church Directory. What's that, you ask. Well, if you don't know the answer, ask someone at church.

If you want access to the new online church directory, it's as simple as downloading the Instant Church Directory from your app store and creating an "account". Once you have an ID and password, you will be able to find all members and communicants of St John's in seconds.

The directory has photos. If your photo wasn't taken in the Nave last fall, you can still have a photo with the same background. All you need do is contact Jason Pierce (yes, Ron and Priscilla's son) at jason@grandlifeoriginals.com to make an appointment for a photo session at his studio.

Questions: Contact Nancy at stjohnsokc@yahoo.com for full information.

Outreach Ministry



CAIR Needs our Help

As part of their continued support of our new Afghan neighbors, the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) is partnering with YMCA again this year to host a Newcomer “Eid ul-Fitr” Festival for the Afghan community, and they need our help. St. John’s has been asked to collect candy donations for the goodie bags that each child will receive at the festival.

“Eid” (rhymes with “feed”) marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of [Ramadan](#) and is celebrated by [Muslims](#) worldwide.

IMPORTANT: the candies must meet Islamic dietary laws (“halal”), that is, they can’t contain gelatin as gelatin can be derived from pork products. To make it easy, below is a **list of commonly available candies and treats that are halal**. Note that the **listing of brand names is intentional** as not all manufacturers of these items may be halal. Also, candies must be individually wrapped and party-size (not full-size).

Tic-Tacs, Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups, Reese’s Pieces, Reeses’s Peanut Butter Filled Eggs, Regular and Chewy Granola Bars, Nestle chocolates, Butterfingers, caramels, butterscotch, M&M’s (both peanut and plain), Snickers, Three Musketeers, Mars Bars, Twix, Skittles, Hershey bars, Baby Ruth, Kit Kats, York Peppermint Patties, and Cadbury Creme Eggs. **(They like chocolate)**

CAIR will be assembling 500 goodie bags so we will need as much candy as we can get - we can do this! Please place your donations in the designated collection basket in the narthex by Palm Sunday, March 24.

AND - there are volunteer opportunities for this festival as well.

- Friday April 5, 9:30am-3:30pm: Assemble 500 Goodie Bags for Eid ul-Fitr, the celebration of the end of fasting after Ramadan. We expect 500 kids to attend this year's Eid ul-Fitr festival that CAIR Oklahoma is co-hosting with the Bethany YMCA.
 - Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EA5A82BA2F5C43-47450591-goodie>
- Saturday April 13, 4:00-8:00pm: Eid ul-Fitr festival for Muslim newcomers at Bethany YMCA. We need 100 volunteers for this event.
 - Sign up here. When you click this link, you'll see all the different volunteer descriptions and, shift times, etc.:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D45AFA92DABFF2-48123008-eidalfitr#/>



Save the Date for April 6 when we will be volunteering for Oklahoma City Beautiful's LitterBlitz. Enjoy a day in the sun with your brothers and sisters of SJEC. To learn more about this opportunity, click here [LitterBlitz](#).

More information about our April 6 day of service will be available soon, as will a sign up sheet in the Narthex.



Cookies, Bars, Cakes, Breads, and Scones, Oh My!

Help us raise money for a new adult-size changing table for St. John's Church. As our congregation grows, we want to be ready to welcome people of all ages and abilities. This is an important addition to our church to make this goal possible.

Bring your favorite sweet treat to sell at our Sunday bake sale to help us with this project.

