



## Fab Friday, May 12, 2023

EVERYTHING HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S THIS WEEK (AND MORE)



Greetings Fellow Parishioners,

Earlier this week, I received an email from one of our parishioners telling me that Mother's Day was originally "mother church" day, when everyone went back to their original church on a Sunday in May. That was such a curiosity to me that I turned to the Internet to fact check and make sure this wasn't fake news!

Well, did I ever learn a lot. Mother's Day has a long history dating back to the ancient Greek and Romans who celebrated the mother goddesses — Rhea and Cybele. Since then, there is a rich history explaining how the holiday started and its Christian origins. (I don't know about you, but this surprised me.)

Before the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis helped start the "Mother's Day Work Clubs" to teach local West Virginian women how to care for children. During the Civil War in the early 1860s, the club became a unifying force for many during a divided time. With the war in the nation's rear view in 1868, Jarvis organized "Mother's Friendship Day" where moms of both Union and Confederate soldiers gathered to promote reconciliation. Moms have always been good at mediating peace!

Following Ann Reeves Jarvis' death in 1905, her daughter championed efforts to establish a day celebrating mothers. She organized the first Mother's Day celebration in West Virginia in 1908. She spearheaded a campaign to take Mother's Day nationwide with a letter-writing

campaign to newspapers and politicians. That campaign culminated in President Woodrow Wilson declaring the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day in 1914. Fun Fact: other supporters of the effort included abolitionist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe, temperance activist Juliet Calhoun Blakely, Mary Towles Sasseen and Frank Hering. BUT that's not all there is to the story.

The biggest precedent for the maternal holiday can be traced back to "Mothering Sunday." Primarily celebrated in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, Mothering Sunday is, to this day, the fourth Sunday of Lent. Because English churchgoers worship at the nearest parish to them, it was considered important for many that people return to their home or "mother" church once a year.

Thus, the return to church for many was a homecoming of sorts. It was a time for families to get together, reuniting with children for worship. "Mothering Sunday" (or "mother's church" day) was also a way for domestic servants or workers to get the day off to visit their mothers.

So, there you have it. Facts checked, story written and, I'm sure, conversation will ensue. Enjoy your Mother's Day - celebrate your mother(s) both living and those who've gone before. I sure miss my mom, even 23 years since her passing.

The [bulletin for this Sixth Sunday of Easter](#) is here for your reading pleasure.

See you on Mother's Day!  
Nancy

---

### **What's happening at St. John's in May 2023**

#### **Please note important dates this week:**

**Saturday, May 13** The Brotherhood of St. Andrew meets at 8:00 am in the Parlor

**Saturday, May 13** Daughters of the King Discernment Class at 10:00 am in the Parlor

**Saturday, May 13** "All the World's a Stage," a production of the OKC Handbell Ensemble at 5:00 pm in the Nave

**Sunday, May 14** Mother's Day and Newberry Baptisms at St. John's at 10:15 in the Nave

**Tuesday, May 16** Hickman Music School Spring Concerts, Littles at 10:00 and Bigs at 1:00, in Wade-Dalton Hall

**Wednesday, May 17** Evening Prayer at 5:30 in Mary Chapel

**Thursday, May 18** Ascension Day Eucharist at 5:30



**Sunday, May 28 is the Day of Pentecost, Whitsunday.** We will also honor our graduating senior, Thomas Howard that Sunday. **Please be aware: Incense will be used during the Pentecost service.**

---



**ADULT FORMATION CLASS:**

**“Church History – The Reformation”** led by Steve Orwig continues . . .  
(Each week, we will have some questions to guide our discussion. If you have a chance to consider these before the class, great! If you DON'T have a chance to look at these, please come anyway and participate in the discussion, or just listen.)

**WEEK TEN (May 14) The 17<sup>th</sup> century: Civil Wars and The Commonwealth—**

1. Who was Oliver Cromwell?
2. What were some of the changes in religious and civil life that occurred during the period of English history known as The Commonwealth?

**PLEASE NOTE: Sunday School will end with the last class on Sunday, May 28 and will resume in the Fall.**



**Are you a cyclist?** May is Bike Month and you are invited to **ride your bike to church on Sunday, May 21**. No reservations needed, no insurance waivers required, no food to bring, no kitchen to clean up. Just hop on and ride your bike to church. Better you than me!



## St. John's Outreach News and Needs

**Teacher's Toolbox is in need of** a variety of color copy paper at this time. Our teachers so appreciate your donations.

---

## **New St. John's Security Measures:**

In light of recent events, the Bishops Committee has been reviewing our safety and security guidelines. **As a safety precaution, a member of Bishop's Committee (BC) will lock the front door of the church after the Sunday service begins.** The BC member will remain near the door, for the duration of the service, to provide access for anyone arriving late for the service. Safety precautions are under review for other services. More to come.

---

## **Employment Opportunity:**

**St. John's is looking to hire a nursery worker** who can commit to two / two-and-a-half hours per week for consistent service in our nursery. Background check and Safe Church training will be required. Please contact Nancy if interested.

