

# **ST. JUDE JOURNAL**

## **MARCH 2026**

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

*From the Rector*

*Vestry Views*

*Vestry Highlights*

*Treasurer's Report*

*Lots of Pictures*

*...and more!*

### **MARCH CALENDAR**

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**Parish Office**

**526-221-2505**

**Mon.–Thu.**

**9:30am–1:30pm**

\* \* \*

### **HEALING SERVICE 2<sup>nd</sup> WED**

11:00 A.M.

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

8:00 A.M. HE

10:15 A.M. HE



### **FROM THE RECTOR**

Dear Parish,

As we step into March, I am filled with gratitude for each of you and the incredible sense of community we continue to build together. Spring is just around the corner, and with it comes a renewed sense of hope, new beginnings, and the beauty of God's creation awakening once again.

This season reminds us that, no matter the challenges we face, God's love is always present - guiding us, strengthening us, and leading us forward.

I encourage you to open your hearts to the possibilities that this new month and season may bring. Whether you are seeking growth in your faith, healing in your heart, or simply a sense of peace, know that you are not alone on this journey. Let us continue to support one another, pray for each other, and reach out in kindness to our neighbors and community.

May God's grace inspire us to spread joy, uplift those around us, and embrace every opportunity to serve with compassion. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the coming weeks, trusting that God's plans are greater than we can imagine.

Blessings to you and your loved ones,  
Mo. Jimmie Sue

## VESTRY VIEWS By Laura Loud



As March arrives, it brings us into the season of Lent - a time to slow down and make a little more room for God. Each year, I am reminded that Lent is not only about “giving something up.” It is more about making room for prayer and noticing where God might be giving me a gentle reminder to grow.

Sometimes that growth is choosing patience, kindness or forgiveness when it does not come easily. Other times it comes daily - reaching out to family, a neighbor, friend or stranger who needs encouragement, someone to listen to or a smile. My little random acts of kindness. I never know what kindness will grow into.

Serving on Vestry has deepened my appreciation for how we journey through this season together. Lent is individual and personal but it is also shared as a community. All of us join together in prayer and worship. Most importantly we support one another as we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter morning.

My prayer this Lent is that we will each find one small way to be closer to Jesus. May it feel less like a burden and more like a blessing.



## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**Treasurer’s Report:** Brian presents updated Treasurer’s Report.

- Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report. **Unanimous approval.**

### **Business:**

- Liaison Reports: Mice Makers have resumed meeting; Youth Group will have a meeting in April; Social Justice Team had a great first meeting.
- Gathering 3 quotes for the snow damage repairs. Initial claim to Church Insurance has been submitted.

### **Action Item:**

- Safer Churches Resolution; Sexual Harassment Resolution. **Unanimous approval.**
- Parochial Report: Small amount of growth from 2024 to 2025. Motion to approve Laura, seconded by Maria. **Unanimous approval.**
- Approve Diocesan Tithe. Motion to approve Lauren, seconded Janine. **Unanimous approval.**

### **Rector’s Report:**

- Mother Jimmie Sue thanked the confirmands and older Sunday school students for their help with the Pancake Breakfast.
- Thank you for contributions to the Souper Bowl of Caring.

- A fun time was had by all at the White Elephant event hosted by the LGBTQAI+ Group.
- Safe Church is renewed every 3 years.
- Mo. Jimmie Sue is making Pastoral Care calls.
- The plumber cleaned out the rectory drain that was clogged.



### TREASURER'S REPORT By Brian Quinn

- January Net Operating Income deficit of **\$135.57**
  - Snow removal was \$995 for January
  - One less deposit in January as no in person service on 1/25
- January Net Income deficit of **\$2,292.40**
  - Includes other funds such as VBS, LGBTQAI, COVID, FMM & Loan Payoff Fund
- COVID ERTC monies last year amounted to \$17.K
  - Moved 5K to Loan Payoff Fund so will be \$25K at start of year
  - Moved remaining \$12K to FMM in lieu of HVAC repairs so roughly \$25k
- Loan stands at \$38,994.57 at Jan EOM
  - Meeting to discuss campaign to pay of loan on 3/25
  - No early payoff penalty from Flagstar
  - Donation of \$20k last year which covers loan expenses for 2026
- Pledge Status:
  - Pledges submitted to office for 2026 is \$212,868 with pledge count of 50
  - Last year was \$222,404 with pledge count of 61
- Assets now \$211.6K and assets – liabilities now \$172.7K
- Parochial report submitted



### CLOTHING COLLECTION BIN



We are collecting used clothing and shoes in our Collection Bin. **St. Jude's receives ten cents per pound** of any items donated and receive a check on a weekly basis. None of the donations are made into rags.

Please share with your family and friends about our Clothing Collection Bin – every pound counts.





**HEALING SERVICES**

11:00 am to 11:30 am Healing Service will be on Wednesday, March 18th in the Chapel with Ken Norian and Chris Vanenburg.



**January 2026 Financial Summary**



	Yearly	Jan Actuals
<b>Operating Income</b>	288,404	31,532
Altar Donations	2,850	0
Special Offerings	2,890	100
Miscellaneous Contributions	17,335	134
Building Use	2,000	150
Outreach & Mission Income	4,567	177
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>317,994</b>	<b>32,093</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Worship	4,495	422
Formation	1,430	0
Outreach & Mission	29,391	2,254
Stewardship	2,504	0
Hospitality	945	0
Building Maintenance	46,010	2,770
Rectory Maintenance	8,660	1,257
Loans and Bank Fees	20,488	94
Office & Office Supplies	13,145	869
Insurance	36,700	3,461
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,150	0
Personnel	209,565	21,101
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>367,483</b>	<b>32,229</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(53,169)</b>	<b>(136)</b>



**REMINDER: MARCH 8th DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS**

Set your Clocks 1 Hour Ahead!



**SUNDAY SCHOOL** by Barbara Arnold

As part of the mission in Sunday School, students are encouraged to grow their faith by helping others. The past few months have been a great example of this and the dedication of our youth to the program.

**March 8: Scout Sunday (New Date):** Youth Service will be honored with a special blessing. We ask that all members of Cub scouts, Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts, Civil Air Patrol come in uniform. We will host a coffee hour. Proceeds will benefit this year's Sunday School Charity "Answer the Call."

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**EASTER CANDY FOR EASTER EGG HUNT NEEDED**

Please donate candy needed for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Please donate wrapped small candies that would fit into the plastic easter egg. All donations can be left in Classroom 4. Thank you!

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**EASTER EGG HUNT** will be held on Sunday, April 5th after the 10:15 service. Please donate plastic eggs and wrapped candy to the hunt.

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARITY – ANSWER THE CALL**

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Sunday School charity "Answer the Call." All the monies collected during Advent Boutique and the Christmas Card service goes towards the charity. Thank you to everyone who keeps filling the donation cans located outside of classroom 4. The charity collection continues till mid-May 😊 Thank you!

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**SPRING/EASTER SALE** will be held on Sundays of in March and April in the Parish Hall.

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**HOLY WEEK**  
  
**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Palm Sunday, March 29, 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.**

Blessing of the Palms, Holy Eucharist

**Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.**

Hand Washing, Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar

**Good Friday, April 3, 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.**

12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. - Veneration of the Cross;

**Easter Vigil, April 4, 7:00 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday, April 5, 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.**

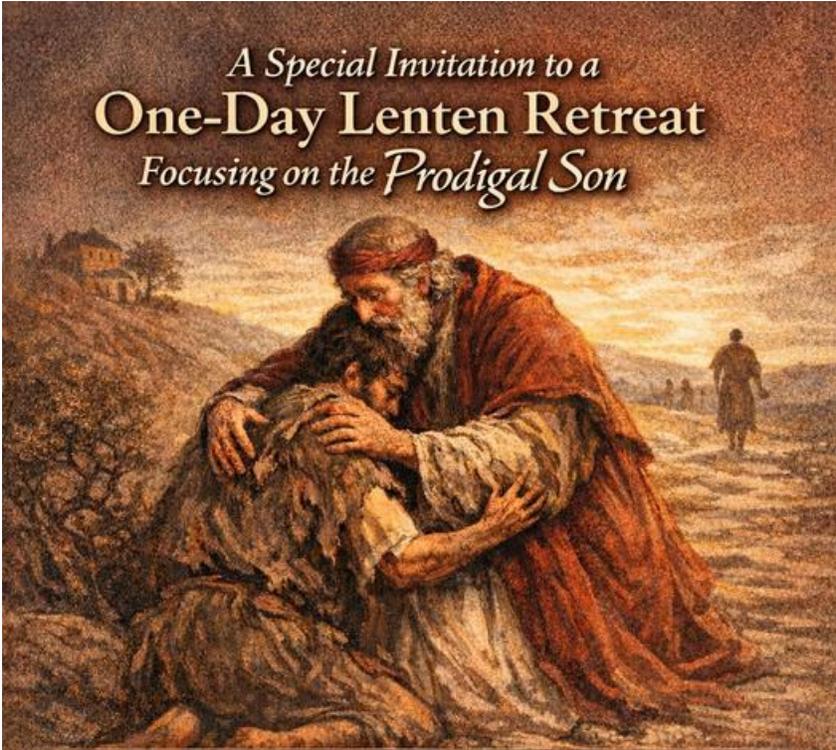
8 a.m. - Holy Eucharist 10:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

Easter Egg Hunt & Cascarones



**ONE-DAY LENTEN RETREAT @ GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

*A Special Invitation to a*  
**One-Day Lenten Retreat**  
*Focusing on the Prodigal Son*



**Date:** Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
**Time:** 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM (with closing Eucharist to follow)  
**Location:** Grace Episcopal Church, 23 Cedar Shore Drive, Massapequa, NY 11758  
**Cost:** Free of charge  
Please register by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026  
Contact Deacon Bob White at  
[DEACONBOBWHITE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DEACONBOBWHITE@GMAIL.COM)  
or call 516-798-1122 ext 13  
*“All are welcome. No prior retreat experience necessary.”*



**HOSPITALITY REPORT** By Kathy Hecht



During Coffee Hour in February, St Judeans participated in our annual Souperbowl of Giving & Shrove Tuesday on Sunday pancake breakfast, two of our favorite traditions. Thank you to everyone who helped with those events. Thank you also to those who hosted other Sundays in February.

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate our scouts on Scout Sunday. Come and honor our wonderful St. Jude scouts. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, we'll be “wearin’ the green” for St. Paddy’s Day. Dress

accordingly. On March 22nd, and March 29th, there will be Cascarone making/dying for Easter Sunday deployment. An exciting month of Sundays!



Open dates in need of a Coffee Hour host are: March 22nd, March 29th, April 19th & May 3rd. Thank you in advance for volunteering.

As always, any questions, see Kathy Hecht or Amy Deppe.



### LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION

**Instructions:** Please read Chapters 1-5 before our first gathering.

**Begins:** Sunday, February 22nd / **Ends:** Sunday, March 22nd -- **Time:** 11:45am -- **Location:** Parish Hall.

*Lenten Book Discussion*

This Book thoughtfully invites the reader behind the scenes of Bible stories.

Much of scripture is comprised of individuals who are unnamed but have important roles to play in biblical stories.

This book offers first person accounts of twenty-one Bible stories from the perspectives of bystanders or supporting characters, giving us an opportunity to imagine: how would we react? What would we say or do given similar circumstances today? Perfect for the contemplative character of Lent.

Please read CH 1-5 ahead of time.  
**2 Sundays: 2/22 & 3/22**  
During Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall

The book cover features a central illustration of a woman's head and shoulders in profile, wearing a purple headscarf. The title 'A BOY, A MAGICIAN, and A HARLOT' is written in a serif font at the top. Below the illustration is a small banner that reads 'Stories You Never Heard from the Bible'. The authors' names, 'LORI J. GAINER and JEANIE THIBAUT', are listed at the bottom, along with 'ILLUSTRATIONS BY TONI L. STARNIRI'. The entire cover is framed by a decorative border.

## ST. JUDE'S LGBTQAI+ GROUP

### What our group is about



We get together for discussions and events celebrating, discussing, and helping each other complete the connection between God and the LGBTQAI+ community in the Church.

If anyone would like to be added to the LGBTQAI+ emailing list, Facebook group or if you have any questions about our group, feel free to email Mo. Jimmie Sue at [revdeppe@gmail.com](mailto:revdeppe@gmail.com).

Remember ALL are welcome, the A stands for Ally! You are already a member of our group if you are a member of St. Jude's welcoming community of faith!



### MISSION CENTER



The St. Jude Mission Center at the Little Red Barn currently serves 15-20 families every other week. We are currently stocked with baby essentials and food thanks to donations from parishioners here at St. Jude, as well as, St. Francis in Bellmore, and from supermarket drives by CAP, Wantagh Kiwanis, and Levittown Kiwanis.

**Dates Open:** The Mission Center is open at St. Jude's on 3/8 and 3/22. We are open from 1:00pm to 2:30pm.

#### **Donations Needed:**

- Size 6 diapers
- Baby wipes
- One-pound packages of rice
- Black beans
- Canned fruit
- School snacks for kids (protein bars, cookies, chips)

If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring a fundraising event for the Mission Center, we are always happy to discuss those opportunities. Please contact Mother Jimmie Sue, Barbara Rice Thompson, or Patty Doll.



## THANK YOU'S



- Thank you to the Confirmation Class and the Middle School Class for putting together Shrove Tuesday on Sunday Brunch!!
- Thank you to everyone who has dropped off winter coats, returnable bottles & cans; food & diaper donations these past couple

of months!

- Thank you to everyone who helped prepare our Ash Wednesday worship service!
- Coffee Hour Hosts – you all ROCK!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



- Scouts Sunday – March 8th
- Healing Service in the Chapel – March 11th @ 11:00am
- Please Help Decorate Cascarones – March 22nd
- Vestry Retreat – March 28th
- Please Help Decorate Cascarones & Palm Sunday – March 29th
- Maundy Thursday Service – April 2nd @ 7pm
- Good Friday Services – April 3rd @ 12pm & 7pm
- Easter Vigil Service – April 4th @ 7pm
- Easter Sunday with Easter Egg Hunt & Cascarones – April 5th
- **April Journal Deadline** – March 23rd



### **ST. PATRICK'S "A BIT O' GREEN CAKE** from Laura Loud

1 package white cake mix	1 cup ginger ale
1 small box instant pistachio pudding mix	1 teaspoon vanilla
3 eggs	1/2 cup chopped almonds or walnuts, if desired
1 cup vegetable oil	

For Frosting:

1 small box instant pistachio pudding mix  
1 1/4 cups milk  
1 container of whipped topping or 1 1/2 cups whipped cream



**CAKE INSTRUCTIONS:** In a large mixing bowl combine cake mix, pudding, eggs, oil, ginger ale, vanilla and nuts, if desired. Beat at medium speed 2 minutes. Pour mix into a greased Bundt pan. Bake in 350-degree oven for about 50 minutes or until top springs back when touched with fingertip. Let cool in pan for 10 minutes. Invert it onto cake platter. Let cool completely.

**FROSTING INSTRUCTIONS:** To make the frosting, make the pudding as directed on the package but only use 1 1/4 cups of milk. Allow the pudding to thicken slightly and then fold in the whipped topping.



### **Help US Collect Eggs to Celebrate Easter with Cascarones!**

Mo. Jimmie Sue and I met in San Antonio and that is where we started our family. Every year San Antonio has a celebration called "Fiesta" which began in 1891 as a commemoration of the heroes of the Alamo. Fiesta takes place during April each year. Cascarones are a big part of the Fiesta celebration. They are also a big part of Easter celebrations! So in San Antonio, cascarones abound every spring! For the purposes of Easter, they symbolize rebirth and Jesus' resurrection. Tradition has it that a person hit with a cascaron and sprinkled with the confetti inside is brought good luck for the year. And goodness!, good luck abounds this time of year! The tradition of making cascarones and, of course, "doing" cascarones traveled with our family no matter how far we moved from San Antonio. It is something that the children (and us) look forward to each year!

Here's what we need to do to make cascarones:



Collect empty egg shells throughout Lent. To do this, crack your eggs so that there is a small opening in the top. Small enough so that there is still lots of shell left behind but big enough to get confetti into. Shake or pour out the egg. Wash your egg shell out with a bit of soap and water. Let dry. You can store your empty egg shells in egg cartons, that's the best way to keep them safe until the cascarones are cracked on someone's head!

Bring the egg shells into church by **March 22nd**. I plan to make the cascarones with the youth and young at heart on March 22nd and March 29th at coffee hour.

Once we have empty egg shells, the next step is to dye them. You can decorate them just how you decorate Easter eggs. Once the dyed eggs are dry then we fill them with paper confetti and cover the opening by gluing tissue paper over the hole.



Here are some pictures of empty shells, dyed shells, and completed cascarones so you can see what I'm talking about! I am also more than willing to answer any questions and even do egg cracking demonstrations if needed. :)

I love this tradition and so does Mo. Jimmie Sue! We look forward to sharing it with our St. Jude's family! If you have any questions, feel free to call, text, email or catch me in person :)

### **FIND ST. JUDE'S ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Instagram:** search for @stjudeepiscopal

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/StJudeWantagh/>

**YouTube:** Search for @stjudeepiscopal

<https://www.youtube.com/@stjudeepiscopal>

A simple way to boost our online presence is to like and share all the wonderful events and pictures we post. Please consider giving us a "like" and a "follow".

### **CHURCH OFFICE CORNER**

2026 Sanctuary Lamps/ Altar Flowers (Live or silk)/ Altar Candles / Mass Cards signup is online or call the office: <https://forms.gle/Q7DqqaCHm5LrvLFX6>

Please print the name of the individual(s) you wish to remember or honor. If looking for a whole month, please choose the month-long option; or for a specific date choose this instead. Please make a new form for each month (all December on one form) or choose a specific Sunday.

**FROM YOUR EDITORS**

If you would like to write an article, please contact Mo. Jimmie Sue. If you know someone who would like a copy, please contact Sue Heilig.





**THE BISHOP**

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano

**THE RECTOR**

The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe

**WARDENS**

Charles Garbowski (2028)	Alan Hecht (2027), Clerk
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**VESTRY**

Michael Nersesian (2028)	Adrienne Comito (2028)
June Gerbracht (2027)	Maria Smith (2029)
Jon Mortagua (2029)	Janine Scarlatos (2027)
Laura Anne Loud (2027)	Lauren Wangner (2029)
Ken Norian (2028)	Brian Quinn, Treasurer

**STAFF**

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Walter H. Fuller
Music Director: Shira Fishkin
Parish Administrator: Susan Heilig
Sunday School Coordinator: Barbara Arnold



# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8am Worship 10:15am Worship	2 CAP P.H. 7pm	3 AA 7:30pm	4	5 AA 7:30pm	6 9:30am Mice Makers  AA 7:00pm	7 Diocesan Discernment Day  <b>Lenten Retreat @ Grace Episcopal</b>
8 8am Worship 10:15am Worship Scout Sunday Daylight Saving Time	9 CAP P.H. 7pm	10 AA 7:30pm	11 11am Lay led Healing Service - Chapel	12 AA 7:30pm	13 9:30am Mice Makers  AA 7:00pm	14 Wedding Rehearsal
15 8am Worship 10:15am Worship	16 CAP P.H. 7pm	17 AA 7:30pm   7:30pm Vestry Meeting	18	19 AA 7:30pm	20 9:30am Mice Makers  AA 7:00pm	21 Wedding Service
22 8am Worship 10:15am Worship  Decorate Cascarones	23 CAP P.H. 7pm  Journal Deadline	24 AA 7:30pm	25	26 AA 7:30pm	27 9:30am Mice Makers  AA 7:00pm	28 Vestry Retreat
29 8am Worship 10:15am Worship   Decorate Cascarones	30 CAP P.H. 7pm	31 AA 7:30pm	1 (April)	2  Maundy Thursday 7pm	3  GOOD FRIDAY 12pm & 7pm	4  Easter Vigil 7pm

## **SJ CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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- Healing Service in the Chapel – March 11th @ 11:00am
- Please Help Decorate Cascarones – March 22nd
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- **April Journal Deadline** – March 23rd

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### **CHURCH OF ST. JUDE (EPISCOPAL)**

3606 Lufberry Avenue

Wantagh, NY 11793

O: 516-221-2505

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TO:**

**CELEBRATING ST. JUDE'S IN PICTURES**  
**PANCAKE BRUNCH**







