



# *St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

## April 2025

### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

**SUNDAY - 10:00 A.M.**

**APRIL 6  
MORNING PRAYER  
Lay Reader - Sam French**

**APRIL 13  
PALM SUNDAY  
HOLY EUCHARIST  
THE REV. HARV SANDERS  
Lay Reader - Ruana Gladfelter**

**APRIL 20  
\*\* EASTER \*\*  
HOLY EUCHARIST  
Lay Reader - Don Kiefer**

**April 27  
MORNING PRAYER  
Lay Reader - Kate French**

### ***A Message from the Bishop's Warden***



Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you know I have orchids? And the orchids manage to do well despite the fact that I do not have a green thumb. (Therefore I can't really take credit for my success.) Currently, I have ten out of twelve plants in bloom, and I just found another spike on one that just dropped its blooms.

Years ago, I noticed how well they did in the new spot I had moved them to because of our Christmas tree placement, and we had to rearrange the living room to make sure they kept that prized bit of sunlight. Poor Sam had to get used to another position for his chair. He still brings that up from time to time. Just ask him 😊

Every now and then my orchids "speak" to me. Once during the Pandemic, when the churches were closed and everything seemed like it would never be the same, an unexpected spike on an orchid I really thought would never bloom again gave me hope that life as we knew it would return.

I had another such experience just recently. If you look closely, you will see a new spike on the pictured plant. Well, a couple of weeks ago when we heard the parable about the fig tree, this poor orchid "spoke" to me. You will see how it desperately needs to be repositioned.

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### **CHURCH INFORMATION**

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 453 Clinton, MO 64735

GPS Address: 1837 E Hwy 7 Clinton, MO 64735

Bishop Provisional, The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, Diocese of West Missouri

Bishop's Warden: Kate French, [kfrench357@gmail.com](mailto:kfrench357@gmail.com)

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For a long time it has been growing sideways and has not bloomed. Then a few weeks ago, two leaves started turning yellow, one at a time.

Finally I cut them off, only to discover under them a new bloom spike hidden away. I immediately remembered the parable about the fig tree, giving second chances and nurturing! I had hung in with that orchid, never giving up on it, and finally, that love paid off! (Yes, I talk to my orchids!)



Now, of course, the parable is about more than trees and plants. To me it is about people and life around us. Do we often give up on others, rather than continuing to love and nurture relationships? Do we allow ourselves to become upset with situations in the world and in our own country when we don't agree with how things are going? Maybe the parable is telling us to just continue to love and care for the people in our communities and work to make the world better in our own small corners of the world, sharing Christ's love with all we encounter. We need to remember that God is always with us, though everything in our lives, and we don't need to let ourselves be swallowed by fear and desperation. Jesus walks beside us every step of the way, loving us and supporting us and helping us through all situations. I thank God that He always loves me and is always there to nourish and care for me in whatever way my soul needs. May I always respond to that love and continue to grow in His love.

In Christ,

Kate

## CHURCH NEWS:

Alyssa's confirmation was a joyous time for our church. I was confirmed as a teen, and I told her I loved the experience she was having – making her own adult decision to renew her faith in God and to claim the promises made for her at baptism as her own. Our baptismal covenant is very powerful! For those not there, remember how Bishop Diane always talks to the confirmand before the laying on of hands? She and Alyssa found they both love Pokémon-Go! The Bishop was even at a very high level. She and Alyssa were huddled together after church trading Pokémon! They will both always remember that!

The reception for Bishop Diane later that day could not have gone better. Sheryl was the chair for that event and she planned everything beautifully, all of which Bishop Diane noticed and loved! She was touched by how many churches in our deanery had someone here.

Some people drove 1.5+ hours to be here. We presented her with a lovely guest book full of messages of love and we are compiling a picture book. (Sheryl's good ideas were endless!) Bishop Diane's husband was with her.

He visited with everyone and "loved on" our church just like she does! And during the second service, she called him up for a few words. He shared that this three year separation had been made so much easier because he knew how much we all loved her and he knew that her work here was truly important for us. Also with us were Barb Crossley and Fr. Mike! A treat to see them both. He is up and about, and he will begin his physical therapy work soon. We pray for his continued healing!

The next big thing is Bishop-elect Amy Dafler Meaux's consecration and our new adventure together! May 3rd at 10:00 AM at the Cathedral! Registrations are needed to attend in person or to view on-line. Registrations can be made through the Diocesan webpage through 11:59 PM Sunday, April 6.

## UP-COMING:

**Stations of the Cross on Fridays.** Please contact me for details if you are interested.

**Bible-study** in the book of Luke with Mtr. Anne's church on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. A soup supper is at 6:00 and we are invited to attend in person or by Zoom.

**Palm Sunday** - Fr. Harv Sanders, a retired priest who moved to Sedalia, will be with us.

**Easter Sunday** – Fr. Don Compier, also recently retired, will be with us.

### BIRTHDAYS

18-Kirsten HOCKADAY

21-Kaitlyn Gladfelter

23-Sam French

### ANNIVERSARIES

## PRAYER LIST:

### Healing:

Fr. Mike, Augustus Hockaday, Kirsten Hockaday, Kitty, Tina, Don, Therese Hopkins, Kathy, Steve Sheline, Olivia Lim, Mark, Keith, Ruana, Becky, Katie, Pope Francis

### Cancer:

Heather C., Christy, Pat, Micheal, Cindy McAvoy, Rev. Jenny Ketner, Debbie M., Suzanne, Herb Johnson, Barb Chambers, Ruana, David Scott

### Comfort, Strength, and Peace:

Gail Cloutte, Pat Decker, Kathy and Mike, Christy and Diane, Christopher, Connie and David Scott, Zaha, Steve Sheline, Becky, Marie Hopkins, the Gladfelter and Sanders families

### Departed:

Donna Sheline, Judy Mason Edwards, Harding Braun, Anne Spicer, Cathy Shook, Mary Kampling

### Others:

Peace in the world, those devastated by natural disasters, those facing personal challenges

### Thanksgiving:

Family and friends, St. Paul's, God's many blessings