

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From Our Rector

Death of Death

It was some years ago, but in the middle of a funeral sermon, I blurted out a line that was not part of my original preparation. In what I hope was a Holy Spirit inspired moment, I simply exclaimed, *"We Christians don't believe in death. Death is dead!"*

Upon reflection, and to be more precise, we Christians do understand that our mortal bodies wear out and give way, and that we must all pass through physical death. But we pass through it into something new. Life is changed, not ended, and death does not, and will not have, the final word. What gloriously Good News this is!

As Easter approaches, the question before us in light of this great truth is: Do we really live our lives as if we believe that death is dead? Knowledge is one thing, and it is important. But living as though death has no power over us is the calling of all followers of Jesus.

We see this reflected in the lives of the original disciples. There is a clear moment when everything changed. As they huddled together after Jesus had been crucified, they were hidden away and

afraid. But once He appeared to them and showed them His scars, they went out into the world proclaiming that He had risen from the dead. No fear. No worry. No concern for the reaction of the Roman authorities or the religious opponents of Jesus. They now lived for Him and for His purposes, because their lives, souls, and hearts had been transformed by the resurrection of our Lord.

These eleven disciples and this small band of followers went into the world and changed everything. And the power that was at work among them in that small room two thousand years ago is still at work in the Church today.

There is so much around us that can cause us to forget this. The world can seem chaotic, and the personal struggles we all face can make it feel as though there is no hope. But Jesus has risen from the dead. He is alive, and He offers us not only eternal life beyond the grave, but new life here and now, a life of never-ending hope, true peace, and a life centered on Him.

During the Great Fifty Days of Eastertide, I encourage all of us to claim this new life offered through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is Lord of the earth, and His kingdom is being built right now, here among us.

As Easter approaches, the question before us in light of this great truth is: Do we really live our lives as if we believe that death is dead? Knowledge is one thing, and it is important. But living as though death has no power over us is the calling of all followers of Jesus.

Death has been defeated. It has no power over us. It's time we all started living like we believe it.

Your priest,

Fr. Todd
dill@saintmargarets.net



THROUGH A LOOKING GLASS



How has your Lent gone? This is a question that was always asked of me at a previous parish. Sometimes I could answer the question with an affirmation of new insights. Other times, my answer at best was, "I'm still in the desert." Both are fine answers, and the question was not asked in a judgmental way.

This annual question became a guidepost for me as it meant that Holy Week was near. I did not grow up in a church tradition that observed Holy Week, so I can distinctly remember my first Holy Week in the Episcopal Church. It was a Monday through Saturday full of ritual and prayer and contemplation. I also vividly remember my first Easter after participating in Holy Week.

Easter was different! Yes, the Resurrection was celebrated again, but it surely felt different. Holy Week is the only time in our church when we mark physical time in the life of Jesus, day after day. We remember his triumphant entry, and we read about Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. We experience his betrayal, his trial, and his crucifixion in various ways. We mark the important last moments of Jesus' life here on earth, and it makes our Easter celebration different. It makes it richer, more meaningful, more life-giving.



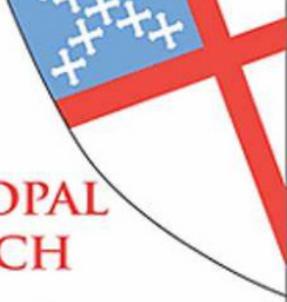
Holy Week truly is like looking at ourselves and all that is around us through a looking glass. These moments in time offer us clarity, direction, and life in a profound way.

As Lent draws to a close, I encourage you to take time, to pause, to be present for our Holy Week liturgies. Work will always be present. Spring Break will happen either way. The Resurrection of Jesus is what makes life worth living.

Try Holy Week this year, you won't be disappointed. Beloved, Holy Week makes all the difference.

BY REV. FATHER MATT ADDINGTON
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR

Father Matt is in the office M-Th
and can be reached at:
addington@saintmargarets.net



THE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

We're here for you

VESTRY

a word from our Senior Warden

As we journey through this season of Lent, the 2026 vestry is honored to serve St. Margaret's. We do so during a time of prayer, reflection, and renewed commitment to Christ's call in the world.

Guiding us in this season and throughout the year, Father Todd has invited the Vestry to reflect on the call of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make

disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." During Lent especially, this call reminds us that discipleship begins not with activity alone, but with repentance, humility, and a willingness to be shaped by Christ.

With this call before us, we seek to live out Christ's mission in tangible ways. These efforts reflect our commitment to care for the spaces we worship in, the people we serve, and the future we are called to steward:

As we continue through Lent, we invite you to hold the Vestry and the ministries of this parish in your prayers. We also invite you to listen for how God may be calling each of us to grow more deeply into the life and mission of St. Margaret's.

With gratitude and prayers,
Amy Pharr
Senior Warden



Caring for our building and grounds

*so our church remains a welcoming place
for worship and community;*

Supporting the St. Joseph Project

*extending Christ's compassion to
children in need of a place of permanent
rest; and*

Strengthening communication through

Finance Corner

*promoting faithful stewardship with
weekly newsletter updates in partnership
with the Finance Committee.*



Saint Margaret's welcomes Deacon Derek Luther & family!

**We welcome Reverend Derek Luther, Deacon in the Episcopal Church,
to join us in ministry at Saint Margaret's.**

Deacon Derek will be a wonderful addition to our faithful clergy team and will serve alongside Deacon Ludwig, Reverend Sarah, Father Matt, and myself in shared ministry at Saint Margaret's.

Deacon Derek Luther was recently ordained to the diaconate in the Diocese of North Carolina. Derek lives in Matthews with his wife, Brittany, and their three children: William (14), Charlie (11), and Anna Brackett (9). As a family, they enjoy traveling, cheering one another on at soccer games and swim meets, and spending time together with friends and neighbors in the community.

Derek's call to the diaconate grew out of his work in college ministry and time spent serving as a chaplain at the Charlotte airport. He carries a strong desire to help people experience God more deeply and to build bridges between the church and the world. As a deacon, Derek is especially drawn to the ministry of encouraging the church to see and respond to the needs of the wider community.

In his professional life, Derek works with colleges and universities, helping them better connect with students, alumni, and their families.

Derek and his family are excited to be part of the life of St. Margaret's and look forward to getting to know the parish in the months ahead.

I am so thankful to God that He has seen fit to bless us by sending Derek to share his gifts in ministry with us. Please join me in offering our prayers of gratitude to God for continuing to bless this church as we strive to be His faithful servants in this parish. -Fr. Todd Dill+

WHAT IS A DEACON?

In the Episcopal Church **a vocational deacon** exercises "a special ministry of servanthood" serving all people and especially those in need (BCP, p. 543). This definition reflects the practice of the early church, in which deacons were ordained "not to the priesthood but to the servanthood of the bishop."

A vocational deacon is a non-stipendiary position and the deacon's placement is decided by the Bishop.





Music

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

Treasures New & Old

When I'm speaking with colleagues about my work, I often brag on St. Margaret's. The biggest compliment I can give, which never fails to impress fellow church musicians, is your willingness to attempt an unfamiliar hymn. When I plan something from the less-used pages of the hymnal, I see just as many hymnals being held as if "Amazing grace" were being sung. Having worked in countless churches in more than 20 years, that is a remarkable thing to witness, and worth dwelling upon.

Often, I suspect many people come to church for the familiar, the comfortable. One may cynically dismiss such attitudes mere nostalgia, but I think there is a place for nostalgia in the faith. Scripture is replete with references to the power of memory: places renamed, monuments erected, exhortations to tell children the works of God. If music brings back memories of attending church with a dear relative who taught us the faith, I would call that an unqualified good.

However, the depths of our tradition are richer than we may realize and contain much that can feed us still. Simply consider "O God, our help in ages past", which is likely in the top ten for many of you. Isaac Watts, who wrote this hymn, wrote more than 500 other hymns, 17 of which are in our hymnal – are we not impoverished if we limit ourselves to just this one sample of his work? One of the worthy goals of *The Hymnal 1982* was to include music from broader parts of the Christian tradition, and whether from Lutheran or Gregorian sources, we can enrich ourselves with these treasures.

On a mechanical level, new experiences feed the soul and ward off atrophy. Trying to sing new melodies builds our skill at reading and understanding music, while a new text may give us fresh insights into what we believe. I've heard it said in educational circles that testing builds, not just measures, understanding in the same way that a push-up contest builds strength. The same is true of musical intelligence as well as our spiritual nourishment.

Finally, I will quote a close friend and colleague who, when facing complaints about new hymns at his church, regularly replies, "every hymn was new once." There is wisdom in this, for every hymn, from "O come, O come, Emmanuel" to "The strife is o'er", was once an unwelcome interloper, a difficult and unfamiliar intrusion. Yet these have become central to our faith precisely because someone, somewhere, in a pew bothered to pick up a hymnal and give it a try.

Finally, the best argument for why this matters is "Lift high the cross". This hymn was not known in Episcopalian pews until 1986, when our current hymnal began to be used. Within only 40 years, an unfamiliar and strange melody has become definitional to what it means to be Episcopalian, thanks to those who were bold to turn to hymn 473.

So again I say that picking up a hymnal is no ordinary act, but it is a willingness to live into our faith as we received it and as it remains living still. It feeds us, connects us to lost parts of our past, and builds a tradition that endures beyond our time. Let us continue to be open to the new and to hold fast to that which formed us in the past.

"...new experiences feed the soul and ward off atrophy. Trying to sing new melodies builds our skill at reading and understanding music, while a new text may give us fresh insights into what we believe."



Youth

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE AIR THIS TIME OF YEAR.

(IN ADDITION TO THE POLLEN).

Each March, the time change comes and brings longer days, warmer temperatures, and seasonal allergies (although at least we get beautiful trees and flowers from that!). Each March, I think “wow! I love spring, is this my favorite season?” And then I inevitably forget that thought when fall rolls around and I marvel at the crisp air, sweatshirts, firepit season, and the leaves that make the sky appear to be on fire. So, rather than a favorite season, I’ve realized I love the shift from season to season.

EYC emerged from a disjointed winter season (although we aren’t complaining about that epic 10+ inches of snow we received!) to the season of Lent. This Lent, we spent six weeks diving deep into the five promises of our Baptismal Covenant. With each promise, we wondered how this statement challenges us to grow closer to God, why would this promise have been included in the covenant, and how can we live out this promise in our daily life?

Our group made our own communion bread and had a church service together, we discussed how a sin is more than just something “bad,” it is something that separates us from God. We then made sure to also discuss how we repent and return to the Lord. The last three promises of our Baptismal Covenant tell us about our work in the world and how we serve God by serving others. We made chocolate chip cookies for Kairos Prison Ministry and had other discussions about respecting the dignity of every human being and loving your neighbor as yourself.

When we return from spring break, EYC will be in a completely different season: yes, the Easter season but also: the home stretch to summer! Our families will have about two months of school left but those months will snowball with preparing for AP or IB exams, spring sports tournaments, recitals, prom, confirming summer travels plans, and enjoying the perfectly spectacular days a Charlotte spring is known for.

Because I love the shift from season to season, I also love this time in EYC and I invite all of 6th-12th graders to join us this Easter season. There’s something in the air this time of year (in addition to the pollen). Our students and families have been working hard all year. They have learned the expectations of teachers and coaches, they’ve matured and conquered difficult things and have picked up new skills. Spring is the time to show off the hard work of the year and celebrate as we round the corner to summer. EYC will be at the church, hopefully in the side field enjoying games and Easter celebrations, and we would love for your student to join us!

We invite all 6th-12th graders (and friends) to join us from 5:00-6:30 with dinner 6:30-7:00pm. When coming to youth group, please enter using the double back doors (near the playground). The youth room is the second room on your left as you enter from those doors. Please note upcoming meeting times below:

EYC Spring 2026 Calendar:

NO EYC on April 5th. Happy Easter!

EYC will meet off-site for dinner on April 12th from 5:00-6:30pm (location TBA).

EYC will meet April 19th and April 26th at church from 5:00-6:30 with dinner 6:30-7:00pm.

EYC’s last gathering of the school year is May 3rd at the church from 5:00-6:30 with dinner 6:30-7:00pm.

Our EYC beach retreat for all 6th-12th graders is May 15th-17th at Oak Island. Sign ups will begin the week of April 13th.





Children's Ministry

BY JAMIE PETER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

As we journey through this season of Lent, looking toward Easter, we are grateful for the many ways our church family continues to grow in faith, learning, and community. We're excited to share a few highlights from our Children's Ministry and all that has been happening in our Sunday School classes.

Our **Children's Sunday School classes** have been engaged in meaningful Lenten lessons over the past several weeks. Together, we have explored powerful stories from Scripture, including Jesus in the wilderness, the words of Psalm 23 and "The Lord is my shepherd," and the miraculous story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Students have been actively participating in reading and discussing these Bible passages, while also expressing their understanding through fun and creative crafts that bring each lesson to life. It has been a wonderful season of learning, reflection, and growing in faith together.

We are excited to introduce our new StM **Children's Service Cards**! These cards are designed to help guide children (and adults, too!) through the worship service in a meaningful and engaging way. Each card includes simple explanations and notes to help explain what is happening throughout the service, making it easier for children to follow along and feel more connected. This is a wonderful tool to support children as they participate in worship, helping them stay engaged while also growing in their understanding of the service. The Children's Service Cards will be available beginning April 12th. You can find them in a basket near the Children's Bulletins before entering the service. We kindly ask that all cards be returned after the service so they can be reused each week. If you are interested in having your own personal copy, please feel free to reach out as I would be happy to provide one!

All 3rd through 5th graders are invited to join us for our upcoming **EYC Jr.** gathering on Sunday, April 26th from 3:30-5pm in the Parish Hall. Each gathering includes devotion, time to connect with others through fellowship, and plenty of games and activities. It's a great way to build community while learning more about God's love in a relaxed and joyful setting.

Volunteer for **Vacation Bible School!** We are looking for adults and youth to join us **June 29–July 2, 2026** as we journey into **Rainforest Falls!** Be a part of VBS as we help students will explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God through a week full of games, crafts, music, and fun. Please contact childrensministry@saintmargarets.net so you can be contacted closer to VBS with more information.



We are so pleased to congratulate our **Spring Holy Communion class** and their families. Claire, William, Mason, Anna and Ryan all received the blessed sacrament on Sunday, March 15th. *Congratulations!*

Mark your calendars for a few upcoming dates in Children's Ministry, and keep a lookout for emails with additional details:

- April 26th: Last Sunday School class of the school year
- April 26th: EYC Jr. 3:30-5pm
- June 29th-July 2nd: Vacation Bible School 9am-12:30pm



Outreach

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

connection@saintmargarets.net

THANK YOU ST. MARGARET'S for supporting the



Hunger Walk! What a blessing you all are to Common Heart and our community. Together, we raised \$15,975 and "kept the cup" as the highest fundraising group for the 3rd year in a row! Overall, Common Heart collected over \$95,000!

Help us hand out children's books at the StM pantry

We need a volunteers to hand out books that have been donated at our Wednesday night pantry. You can pick the date that you'd like to do it; arrive between 5:30-5:45pm; bring the book cart out to the carline and offer them to the waiting families.

It's fun and easy and your kids are welcome to help you!

Reach out to Traci if you're interested: connection@saintmargarets.net

Monthly Meal Delivery (picture attached)



More drivers are needed for our next meal delivery on Saturday, April 18th at 11:00am.

Pick up the meals and your route assignment at StM and deliver the to-go meals to 3 or 4 homes in the Waxhaw area. It takes about 1 hour and is great for families to do together!

Click here to sign up: <https://bit.ly/newCKFdelivery>

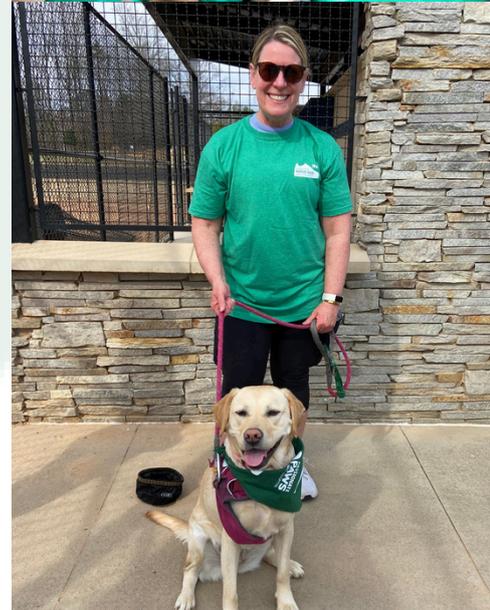
Fields of Hope update

Many of you attended the presentation in October from Fields of Hope and heard about the amazing work they are doing to support victims of sex trafficking.

StM will continue to support them based on their needs. One small way we were able to share some love with the girls currently living in their home is by providing Easter baskets.

Many thanks to Laura Gregorovic for coordinating gathering items such as lotion, lip gloss, candy, etc. and making adorable baskets that will brighten their day. Watch the announcements for more way to help Fields of Hope in the coming months.

Together, we raised \$15,975 and "kept the cup" as the highest fundraising group for the 3rd year in a row!



Outreach continued

The Daughters of the King hosted a Lenten Retreat on March 14 for all parishioners. 36 guests including 3 Daughters from St. Paul's in Salisbury enjoyed Fr. Cathie Caimano's discussion of Prayer as a Repetitive Workout for Your Soul. *Rosaries were provided for a suggested donation to The Joseph Project.*

The director of **Turning Point**, the only organization in Union County that provides emergency and lifesaving resources for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse, spoke with Daughters at our Feb. 14 meeting. The chapter is now in the process of donating furnishings and necessary items to a complete room at their location in Monroe. [CLICK HERE for more information on Turning Point.](#)



THANK YOU for the overwhelming support of the Kairos Prison Ministry!
155 dozen cookies, \$2,181 in meal tickets, 20 parishioners joined the prayer vigil. **THANK YOU!**

Parish Connection

We welcome new members:
The Worthy Family



StM 101 Express Class for Newcomers, 4/26

Sunday, April 26 at 9:30am

Are you new to St. Margaret's or never been able to attend 101? This "express" version of our newcomers class will take place April 26 at 9:30am.

We will discuss the Episcopal faith, our church's history, our various ministries and how to get engaged in the life of our parish. We'll even take a tour of the building. If you are able to join us, please RSVP to Traci Scott at connection@saintmargarets.net

Parish Breakfast REMINDER

A reminder that we will not have a breakfast in April due to Easter. But we are in need of more volunteers to help in the kitchen to make the next breakfast happen on May 3rd. **Can you help?** [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up.

Ladies Tea planned for 4/25

Ladies of St. Margaret's and their guests are invited to our 2026 Maggie's Garden Tea benefiting *Fields of Hope*. **Saturday, April 25th, 2pm-4pm in the Parish Hall.** \$35 for ages 13+ and & \$25 for ages 4-12

Hats are encouraged with a prize for best hat! Raffle prizes, fancy food and fellowship too! Space is limited so, register early by [clicking this link.](#)

If you are available to help us with replenishing food and tea during the event or help us clean up afterwards, we would love to have you (your admission will be free).

Please email Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net for more details.

connection@saintmargarets.net



FOCUS on *Worship Ministry*

If you have a deep love for God and a desire to serve Him, it could be a sign that you have a calling to ministry service.

Do you ever wonder why you see the same individuals serving “all the time?” It’s not something they are obligated to do. No, it’s because they are called to ministry service. They discovered that using their gifts and talents make a difference in our faith community, and it’s rewarding and fulfilling.

How do you know if you have a calling for ministry service? Is ministry service for you?

Discovering your calling for ministry service is a transformative journey that requires self-reflection, faith, and perseverance. It’s about identifying how to use your unique gifts and passions to serve God and others. The journey normally starts with our parents suggesting we serve. We are then trained and scheduled to serve as part of the Altar Party; the beginning of our journey. As time passes, our involvement grows and evolves (or it doesn’t). We like serving on the altar. We see the potential for us to make a lasting impact; there is joy in serving others.

You’ve discovered you have a calling for ministry service. So, to continue being fulfilled, find ways to nurture and grow in your ministry service. Fuel your growth, look for new ways to make a difference, learn about and pursue other ministry roles. Seek further guidance from parents, mentors and the clergy.

Remember, a calling to ministry service is a deep, persistent, inner conviction from God to serve Him and others, characterized by our passion, spiritual gifts, and affirmation from trusted voices. Ministry service should not be a “thing we have to do;” it should not be a burden, rather it should be an honor and brings us joy!

If you’d like to see if you have a calling for ministry service, contact any one of the ministry leads for more information and/or training.

*Is ministry service
for you?*

Acolytes – Cathy Harrison MCH.060112@gmail.com

Lectors – Debbie Marchand dmarchand@comporium.net

Ushers – Rosemary Nelson rosemarynelson18@aol.com

Chalice Bearers & Vergers – janet@mills-mills.com



THE JOSEPH PROJECT

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

2026-2027

Update

**We have received 105 pledges
to The Joseph Project
totaling \$474,060.**

*We have received **\$276,257**
as of 3/30.*

Need to fulfill your pledge?

Simply **CLICK HERE**, use the drop-down menu, and select
The Joseph Project under the Giving tab on our website.

You may also place a check in the collection plate—just be sure to write
“*The Joseph Project*” on the memo line.

Want to make a pledge to this new ministry? CLICK HERE

Thank you!



Our church office is open M-Th from 9:00-4:00
& 9:00-12:00 noon on Friday.

Rector

The Reverend Fr. Todd R. Dill+
dill@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Matt Addington+
addington@saintmargarets.net

Priest Associate

The Reverend Sarah Hollar+
hollar@saintmargarets.net

Deacon

The Rev. Ludwig Wallner

Deacon

The Rev. Derek Luther

Organist & Director of Music

Gavin D. Craig

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Executive Assistant to the Rector

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Assistant to the Rector for Youth Ministries

Elizabeth Pfeifer

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Assistant to the Rector for Finance & Accounting

Kathy Marakoff

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Assistant to the Rector for Children's Ministry

Jamie Peters

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

**Assistant to the Rector for Outreach
& Parish Connection**

Traci Scott

connection@saintmargarets.net

2025 Vestry

Amy Pharr, *Senior Warden*

Philip Huff, *Junior Warden*

Bill MacMinn

Jenny Marlier

Kathleen Culpeper

Karen Paar

Erin Culver

Jeff Henry

Patrick Williams

David Feldser, *Treasurer*



April Calendar

- 4/2 Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm service
- 4/2-3 Overnight Prayer Vigil in the nave
- 4/3 Good Friday, 12:00 noon service
- 4/4 Easter Vigil, 8:00pm service
- 4/5 **Easter Day**, 8:15 & 10:30 services
- 4/6 *Church Office Closed*
- 4/11 DOK monthly meeting, 10am
- 4/18 Monthly meal deliveries (CKF)
Knots of Love monthly meeting, 10am
- 4/25 StM Ladies' Tea, 2pm
- 4/26 Last Day of Sunday School
- 4/28 Marvin Ridge High School IB testing begins

*First Monday of the month: Prayer time in the nave with Father Todd, 10:00 am

*Wednesday Evenings: Food Pantry, 6:00 pm & Compline on FB live at 9:00 pm

[CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel](#) *SERMONS in library!*

REMINDER: Wednesday Evening Compline with Father Todd, 9 pm on Facebook

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

APRIL 2:
MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7:00 PM

APRIL 3:
GOOD FRIDAY, NOON

APRIL 4:
GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER, 8:00 PM

APRIL 5:
EASTER DAY, 8:15 & 10:30 AM

StM