

# THE WAY OF LOVE AT HOME

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## GREEN SEASON CHALLENGE

Win prizes as you fill in the challenge board! Teens, see the back page!

## MEET A SAINT

Who was Mary Magdalene? Peek inside to learn about her!

## SUMMER EVENTS

Watch the church website, bulletin and messenger for details about:

- Berry Festival
- Yard Give  
(clean out your closets and playrooms!)
- Homecoming Sunday

During the summer months after Pentecost, as our beautiful trees, shrubs, vegetables, and flowers do what they do best, green is the dominant color in the outside world here in Pennsylvania. Inside the church, you will also see lots of green at the altar and on the vestments. The green will remain for most of the fall as well.

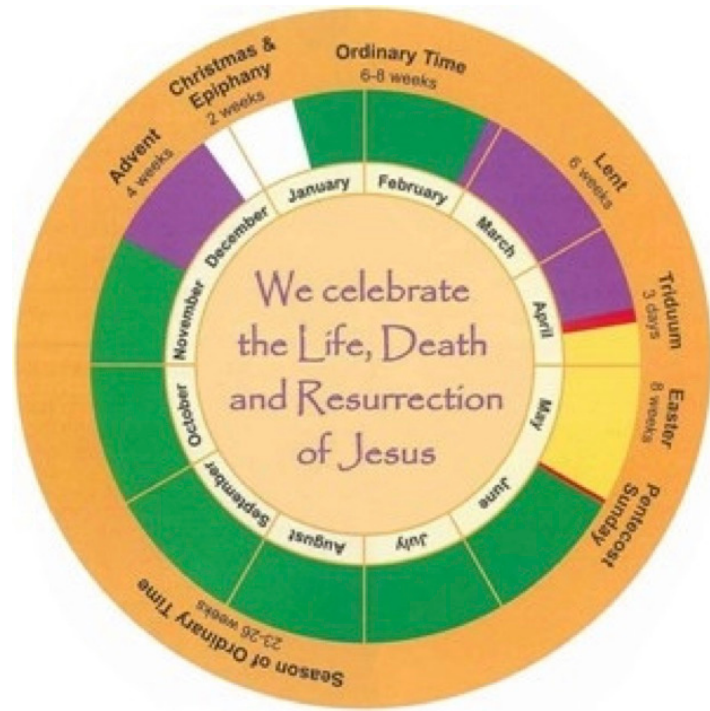
The green season is a “growing time” because this is the portion of our faith year when we focus – through Bible readings and prayers – on how we can grow as Christians to be more like Jesus. It is when we think, both personally and communally, about what it means to “be Christ in the world”: what it means to share kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, peace, joy, love, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) with the world around us.

How does growing these fruits changes our daily lives and our everyday choices? Let’s explore those questions together this summer!

Lots of Love,  
Your St. John’s Family



# Ordinary Time?



In the church year, the green season is called Ordinary Time. There are two chunks of ordinary time in the church year. Ordinary time starts after Epiphany and goes until Lent. Then it starts up again the Monday following Pentecost until the evening before Advent.

Circle the words below that have the same meaning as "ordinary".

Customary

Normal

Common

Different

Unusual

Regular

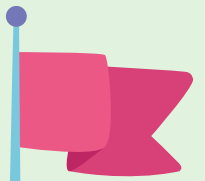
UNIQUE

Everyday

**USUAL**

But guess what?!? The church season's name might have been derived from a word that gives it a *different* meaning: the Latin word "ordinalis" meaning 'numbered' or 'ruled'. That means we could think of "Ordinary Time" as counting time, the regular rhythm of life, when our understanding of Jesus and God grows, and we participate in everyday life as Christians!

## GREEN SEASON CHALLENGE



How are you growing to be more like Jesus?

Find the challenge sheet included in this newsletter. Over the summer, complete each of the challenges. As you reach each level, bring your sheet to church & show the clergy (on Sunday) or Equilla (Monday – Thursday) & gather your special prizes!!

LEVEL 5:  
23-25 CIRCLES

LEVEL 4:  
18 CIRCLES

LEVEL 3: 13 CIRCLES

LEVEL 2: 9 CIRCLES

LEVEL 1: 4 CIRCLES

# Meet a Saint: Mary Magdalene

Feast Day: July 22

Mary Magdalene, a companion (friend) of Jesus, was from Magdala, a town on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. We learn about her first as a woman whom Jesus heals. She traveled with Jesus and the disciples, supporting them in their ministry.

When Jesus died on the cross, the men except for John ran away, but Mary Magdalene stayed with Jesus until the end. She went to his tomb to help prepare his body for burial, and she was present when he rose again. Two of the gospels (the books that tell the stories of Jesus's life) record that Jesus appeared to Mary alone. It was Mary who took the news of his resurrection to the other disciples—the men. For that reason, she is called “the apostle to the apostles.”

In a time and place when women belonged to their fathers or their husbands, could not own property, could not go out alone in public, could not talk to strangers, could not read or study the Hebrew scriptures (the part of the Bible we call the Old Testament), Jesus treated women as equals. Mary Magdalene was one of his most trusted and loved disciples. She was strong, brave, and faithful.

Most of what we know about her comes from the New Testament, but there are writings not included in the Bible that tell of her being a powerful leader in the early church and the one who teaches Jesus's followers to better understand him and his message of life-changing love.

**Jesus, your saints are the lights of the world in every generation. Help us to shine as they do, letting your light glow in us that through us others might see you. Amen.**



## Summertime Service Days



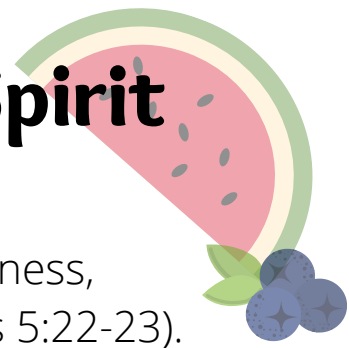
Write each family member's name on a piece of paper and then every person will draw a name out of the bag. Look for a way to do something kind for the person you picked. Open the door for them, refill their drink, play with them when you don't really want to, say kind words, let them go first, share your ice cream . . . anything to let them know they are loved.

## Church Visits?

Are you leaving Lancaster for a bit this summer? Are you excited to get away and spend time in a new place? If you visit another church, grab a bulletin and bring it back to St. John's. We'd love to talk about what's the same and what's different at other churches!



# Teen Challenge: Fruits of the Spirit



Consider the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

For the remainder of the summer, can we choose to work on one of the Fruits of the Spirits? How would it change our family life, our community life, and our personal life, if as a team we worked together, intentionally and mindfully growing in one of these areas?

- What fruit of the spirit would you pick: Would it be joy? Love? Peace?
- What about practicing gentleness with each other, especially in your speech?
- Maybe you want to find a way to generously serve a forgotten community, such as the seniors in your neighborhood, or foster kids who have aged out of the system.
- Perhaps you need to all practice patience together on a long road trip.
- Or faithfulness in seeing a DIY project through to the end together.
- Maybe you can all practice self-control in your media consumption.

As you go along in your practice, try to notice and discuss what is working and what might need tweaking. Maybe you made mistakes (like I did planting my pumpkins next to my tomatoes), or maybe you discovered something life changing (like how much better the tomatoes do when weeded and stripped at the bottom!)

Whatever it is you do, remember that growth is often slow going and occasionally uncomfortable, and never really ending. But don't give up! Keep heaping mounds of Christ love and grace on each other! For grace and love and are to our souls, what water and sunlight are to the tiniest seeds in the earth: vital for growing healthy, ripe, delicious fruit.



- Jerusalem Greer at Buildingfaith.org  
<https://buildfaith.org/growing-faith-summer/>

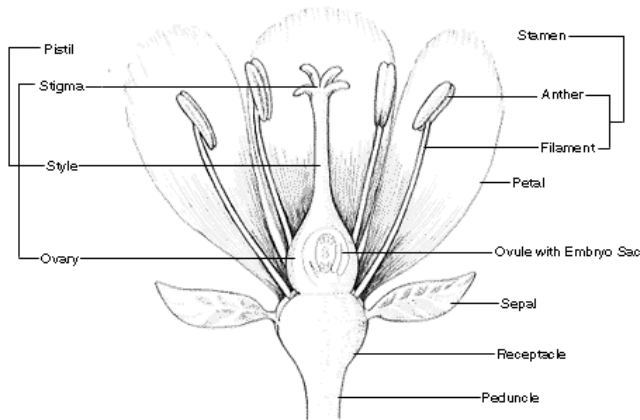


# St. Francis' Corner

For flowers that bloom about our feet,  
 For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet,  
 For song of bird, and hum of bee,  
 For all things fair we hear or see,  
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

For blue of stream and blue of sky,  
 For pleasant shade of branches high,  
 For fragrant air and cooling breeze,  
 For beauty of the blooming trees,  
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

## Summertime Fun: Exploring Flowers



### Can you find these parts on a flower?

**Peduncle:** The stalk of a flower.

**Receptacle:** The part of a flower stalk where the parts of the flower are attached.

**Sepal:** The outer parts of the flower (often green and leaf-like) that enclose a developing bud.

**Petal:** The parts of a flower that are often conspicuously colored.

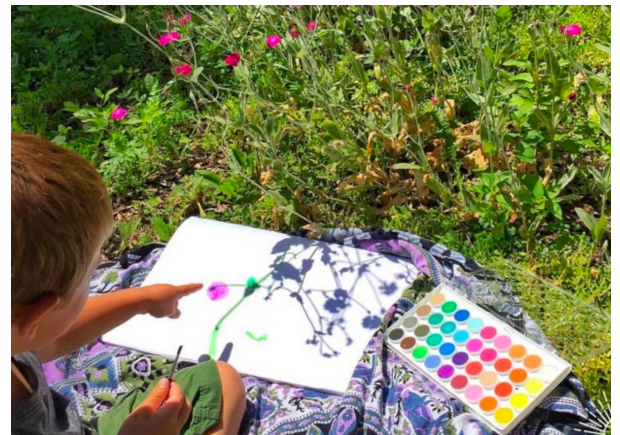
**Stamen:** The pollen producing part of a flower, usually with a slender filament supporting the anther.

**Anther:** The part of the stamen where pollen is produced.

**Pistil:** The ovary, style and stigma. The ovary often supports a long style, topped by a stigma.

**Stigma:** The part of the pistil where pollen lands and then grows a tube down to the ovary.

**Ovary:** The enlarged lower portion of the pistil where ovules are produced. The mature ovary is a fruit, and the mature ovule is a seed.



### Flower Shadow Painting

1. Find a patch of flowers.
2. Bring some paper and watercolors outside.
3. Sit so that the flowers' shadows hit the paper.
4. Use the watercolors to paint the shadows.

# GREEN SEASON CHALLENGE

During the summer months, try to complete each of the challenges circles. As you reach each level, bring this sheet to church, show the clergy (on Sunday) or Equilla (Monday - Thursday) & gather your special prizes!!

Be responsible:  
Clean your bedrooms and play areas without complaining.

Read a book.

Create a play about or act out a scene from a story in the Old Testament.

Meditate for a few minutes.

Draw a picture of Mary Magdalene.

Read for 15 minutes.

Invite a friend to play with you.

Be peaceful & brave:  
Dip your toes in a stream, the ocean, or a lake.

Go for a walk or a bike ride.

Be generous:  
Bring in three items for the St. John's food pantry.

Watch a movie or read a book about people from a different culture than yours.

Be gentle:  
Sit outside and listen to the birds.

Read for 20 minutes.

Jump in a puddle!  
(And think about how awesome nature is.)

Use things you find outside to create something beautiful.

Go to Church!

Memorize the "Our Father" or a different prayer.

Be faithful:  
Try out a new bedtime prayer.

Say grace before a meal.

Watch the sun set and give God thanks for the day.

Send a card to someone in the St. John's parish, just to say hi.

Read for 10 minutes.

Call a grandparent or someone special and sing them a song.

Share your toys and books kindly with your siblings or cousins or friends.

Write a poem that's inspired by a story in the New Testament.

CHURCH  
CHECK-IN

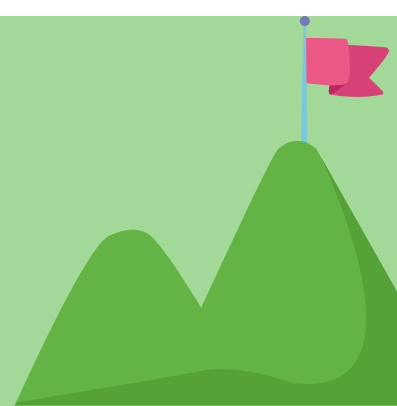
LEVEL 1: 4 CIRCLES

LEVEL 2: 9 CIRCLES

LEVEL 3: 13 CIRCLES

LEVEL 4: 18 CIRCLES

LEVEL 5: 23-25 CIRCLES



# Color & Wonder



After the apostles had received the Holy Ghost, they went forth to all lands to preach the Gospel.