

Dear members and friends of our parish family,

I write to you this week still brimming with joy from the glorious celebration this past Sunday of our first partnership joint Eucharist. Together, 112 of us in all, comprising the parishes of St. Andrew & St. John, St. Saviour, St. Mary & St. Jude, and Church of Our Father, came together as the gathered body of Christ. The day was especially jubilant as old acquaintances were renewed and new relationships formed. We were blessed to have with us, as well, the Reverend Canon Michael Ambler who offered a strong affirmation on behalf of the bishop for our ministry together, sharing that what we are doing is quite unique and may serve as an example to other parishes within the diocese. Indeed, I see in our common mission as MDI Episcopalians a clear example of how churches may grow together in meeting the needs of the future. As a tangible indication of our strength together, I am pleased to report that our shared offering resulted in over \$700 to Local Solutions.

On this upcoming Sunday we celebrate the Feast of All Saints, one of seven Principal Feasts observed in the Church. As All Saints Day calls on us to remember saints known and unknown and our unity with them in the body of Christ, I encourage you to remember those loved ones departed this life by offering their names during our prayers of the people. Our readings this week (Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12) point us to recognize our unity with souls past, present, and future as revealed in Christ. Join me as I further explore in my sermon how we are called to claim our place in the communion of saints and live into identify as baptized Christians. All Saints is recognized as day for baptism and as such we will renew together our Baptismal Vows.

This Sunday also begins a series of stewardship talks that will continue through the month of November. First up, James Kitler, Church of Our Father Treasurer, reflects on the importance of stewardship in the life of the church as well as the life of the individual. James' talk will serve well to open our hearts as we each pray about our role in supporting the ministry of the Church. Be on the lookout for this year's pledge letter in your mailbox during the coming week!

Finally, remember Saturday night to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed.

Faithfully,

John+