

THE LION

RECTOR'S CORNER

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Friends in Christ,

I was walking the dog the other day in my new neighborhood of Bay View — near expansive Humboldt Park — and I found myself looking at all the dead leaves, empty trees, iced ponds, and heavy grey skies. I could feel the weight of the winter on my shoulders. As I was looking around at all the signs of mid-winter, I thought about how our lives have a cyclic quality. Of course, I'm not the first writer to notice that lives have seasons, but sometimes large truths bear repeating.

Maybe you're in a season of winter — emotionally or spiritually. Or maybe you're in the midst of an illness or a setback, and your body simply isn't spry and spring-like as you'd want it to be. St. Mark's is such a positive and upbeat place on Sunday mornings, I hope we're not giving off the impression that all of life is one big party. Every one of you knows that it is not. And our God and the great tradition of our Church know it isn't either. Jesus knows about winter, and the church does, too.

Our faith is a corporate one for a reason. We're not meant to be living this life on our own. Winter is a time for community — a time of being accompanied through the rough times, the cold times. God is with us on the dark nights, and the people of God are with us, too. We don't have to live through the difficult seasons alone. You're welcome at church no matter what season you're in.

Let the words of the author of Ecclesiastes be our instruction today:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.



Blessed winter to you all.

Fr. Burch (Ian+)

DEACON'S CORNER



For the last ten years Common Ground — an organization made up of churches, schools, universities, and small businesses — has a Friends of Common Ground campaign. St Mark's is a proud participant and member of this organization.

The purpose of Common Ground (CG) is to work on issues important to our community by seeking justice for the greatest numbers. One project has been to rehabilitate over 85 houses in the Sherman Park neighborhood, which helps stabilize the neighborhood. Another project has been to speak up against racial profiling by helping to bring about a civil rights action on behalf of minorities who have been profiled. Another project called Do Not Stand Idly By works to keep guns out of the wrong hands; it's a national program that promote gun safety. There

is also a project for workforce development in Milwaukee, whose purpose is to bring better training, jobs, and support for youth who are unemployed.

Presently, CG is researching how to save Saint Joseph's Hospital in Sherman Park from closing. By working with other mental health providers, CG hopes to make the hospital a psychiatric emergency provider for those in a mental health crisis. This is necessary because Milwaukee County will no longer provide this service for people without good private insurance after 2020. Another use for part of the hospital might be to bring quality elderly housing for folks with lower incomes. This would fill another great need in this community.

But perhaps the work CG is most known for is the establishment of the Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative, which today has over 50,000 members — many of whom receive government subsidies to make their insurance affordable.

There are other issues CG is working on, but this is just an idea of the breadth of the work that CG and its members are doing in the four-country area around Milwaukee. All of this requires money to fund the staff and the cost of developing the justice work Common Ground does.

The revenue for the CG budget is from member dues, some national church and foundation funding, and, importantly, the annual Friends of Common Ground campaign. St. Mark's has been a leader in raising funds for CG, and I'd like to see that continue. These funds are especially important since CG does not take government funding in order to stay independent and non-partisan.

So far this year, St Mark's has raised just short of \$10,000 from 19 donors for the CG 2019 budget. I am very proud that we raise the this amount of money for a church of our size. It speaks to the generosity of our members and their understanding of the importance of CG's work. Each year I am humbled to see how just a few St Mark's CG fundraising members can raise so much money to answer the call for justice that our faith calls us to.

I hope that you may be interested in finding out more about Common Ground's work and how you could become involved. There are 11 issues that CG is presently working on of a varied nature. One surely might catch your interest. If you would like more information about CG, please feel free to contact me (michellemoonye5@gmail.com).

~Michelle

DIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE LEADERSHIP DAY

INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMIC RACISM

The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee invites you to its next Leadership Day on Saturday, March 23, at Zion, Oconomowoc. Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training will present a day-long Introduction to Systemic Racism.

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce participants to the idea that oppression and, in particular, racism is not only a matter of individual prejudice but a systemic, institutional problem of power, which requires structural intervention to dismantle.

Participants will be exposed to a definition of systemic racism. A rationale will be explored for developing a fuller analysis of racism, including understanding its historical and legal roots and contemporary functioning.

Saturday, March 23

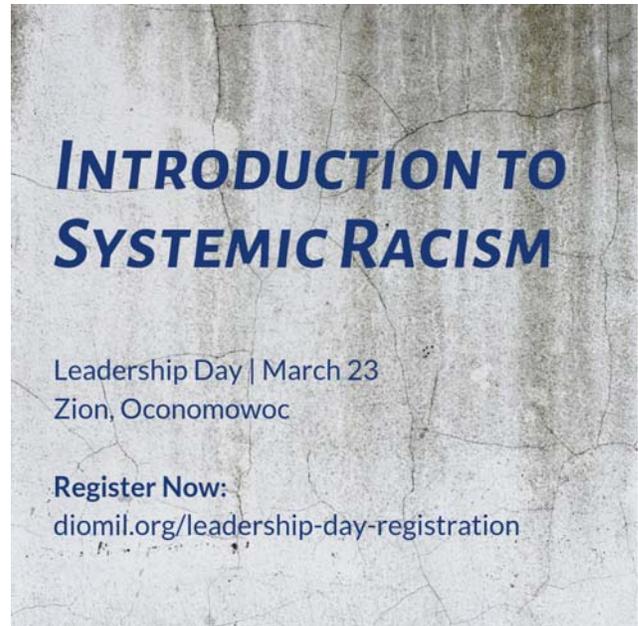
8:30 am — Check-In

9 am to 4 pm — Workshop

Zion, Oconomowoc

Cost: \$10 to cover the cost of lunch (you may mail a check to the Diocese of Milwaukee Finance Office or you may pay with check or cash at the training).

You may register at: diomil.org/leadership-day-registration



RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY



Items needed most this month:

- Whole grain cereal and oatmeal
- Condiments and dressings
- Coffee and tea
- Olive and canola oil

Thanks as always for your generosity to our pantry community!

FEBRUARY ADULT FORMATION

Sunday, February 3: Capital Campaign Discernment Presentation. An all parish meeting during Coffee Hour for a presentation from Sarah Townsend Leach of the Episcopal Church Foundation regarding a proposed capital campaign.

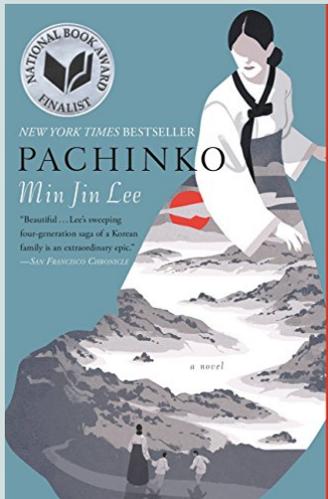
Sunday, February 10: A Survey of Liberation Theologies from Latin America, Asia, and Africa. The rector, Fr. Ian Burch, will introduce writings from theologians about their experience of the gospel in base Christian communities from all over the world, focusing on Jesus' message of liberation. Class begins at 11 a.m. in the Library.

Sundays, February 17 & 24: "Blessed Are You Among Women" Led by Dr. Jeanne-Nicole Mellon Saint-Laurent, Assistant Professor of Theology at Marquette University, this presentation will explore the development of the devotion to Mary in the early Church, including an examination of the biblical basis for the doctrine of Marian devotion as well as how traditions about Mary were remembered in song, homily, and public liturgy. Classes begin at 11 a.m. in the Library.



~John Hickey

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP



February Book Selection

The Women's Book Group will meet on February 25, at 7 p.m., at the home of Janet Martin in the Catholic Home. Our book for discussion is *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. In the early 20th century, a Korean fisherman's daughter has a wealthy stranger's child, marries a pastor and moves to Japan. Come join us in discussing these two different cultures and their conflicts.

Books can be purchased at Boswell for a ten percent discount or borrowed from the library.

~Ellie Moseley

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DISCERNMENT MEETINGS

“Commit your work to the Lord and your plans will be established.” *Proverbs 16:3*

As many already know, St. Mark’s is in need of some improvements to the building. Over the coming months, you will be hearing and reading more about these needs and the desire to hold a proposed capital campaign in mid-to-late 2019 to raise funds for the projects.

The vestry has engaged Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) consultant Sarah Townsend Leach to guide us through careful consideration of a capital campaign, purposefully to assure the congregation is invited into the process of review and opinion. We are beginning the discernment phase of ECF’s three-phase capital campaign process in earnest February 3, and now is a time for us to dream big and take time to develop a vision for the future of St. Mark’s.

During the month — from February 3-26 — we, as an entire congregation, will have conversations in small groups to answer the question “What is God calling us to do and be?” with prayerful reflection. As you are asked to engage in the Discernment process, we ask that you faithfully consider what a capital campaign could mean for the future of St. Mark’s and what projects God is calling us to support.

Jamie Zingler and Vince Katter have been at work scheduling these discernment meetings. We have twelve meetings set up during the month of February. We ask that every member of St. Mark’s sign up to attend one of these meetings. Some of the meetings are at church, and some are in people’s homes. Some are during the day, and some in the evenings. Take a look at the scheduled dates and sign up for one meeting that works for you. We would love to hear from everyone what your vision is for our church.

To see the meeting times/locations and to sign up, please visit:

<https://goo.gl/forms/By4i8qrYYNhfky2>

If you have any questions, please contact Ian (ian@stmarksmilwaukee.org) or Sara (sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org).

~Sara Bitner



What is God
calling us to
do and to *be*?

CONFIRMATIONS & RECEPTIONS

On the Feast of the Epiphany, Bishop Steven Miller made his official visit to St. Mark's. During the service, Bishop Miller confirmed two and received eight parishioners into the Episcopal Church. Congratulations to those who were confirmed and received. We're delighted to have you in our community! The wonderful worship service was followed by a fine Epiphany brunch.

Confirmations:

Nathan Self
Laura Vowels

Receptions:

Bobby Gilbert
Graicey Van Spankeren
Matthew Norby
Tom Lacy
Jane Lacy
Mary Loving
Alex Mustykowski
Steve Rohde



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Bob Canary
2/2 Mimi Wainwright
2/6 Ashley Green
2/10 Jennifer O'Hear
2/13 Joan Martinie
2/14 Bill Wainwright
2/16 Michael Weinert
2/17 Vince Katter
2/22 Mary Goode
2/24 Kim Uding



Don't see your birthday or anniversary listed?
Send Sara an email with the details!
sara@stmarkmilwaukee.org

ST. MARK'S POSTULANT — MATT PHILLIPS

Friends,



Many know that I have spent much of the last year in discernment, deeply listening to God's call in my life. Sarah and I feel so grateful and honored to have been supported by your prayers and well wishes, especially from those who walked along this journey with us in our Parish Discernment Committee. To our great joy, Bishop Miller has made me a Postulant for Holy Orders with the expectation that I will apply to seminary in the fall of 2020.

For now, I am continuing to grow and cultivate my prayer life, my preaching, and my love and service to God and my neighbors. I am also incredibly thankful and excited for the continued opportunity to serve the people here at St. Mark's. Sarah and I — along with our dog and cat — are loving our time in Milwaukee, especially on these snowy days — and can't wait for more to come!

Yours in Christ,
Matt Phillips

ST. MARK'S POSTULANT — KIRSTEN GUIDERO

Greetings, beloved St. Mark's community!

I've been settling in rural Indiana for five months now, and they have been jam-packed for sure. I began teaching first-years how to read (and how not to read!) the Bible in August, did lots of hiking with Lucy in September and October (tired dog stealing all the room in the bed), in November presented a paper on the role women's ordination has played in Anglican-Orthodox ecumenical relationships (looking official with my friend and former MU colleague Dr. Jakob K. Rinderknecht), and in December organized a workshop teaching congregants in my new local parish — Gethsemane Episcopal — how to make Advent wreaths while also learning how to thurifer (no one caught on fire!).



Bishop Miller has graciously permitted me to fold my work in the Marion parish into my formation as a postulant, so in addition to serving at the altar and reading Scripture, I'm also shadowing Vestry meetings, planning and executing major church outreach events, and helping re-launch our youth ministry. There may also be some adult education in the works. This semester I'm teaching a course on theological aesthetics, which has been very

exciting so far. We're exploring how race, gender, suffering, and class connect with traditional approaches to 'beauty' while trying to find a new way forward. I continue to finish up my dissertation and hope to have a defense date (with a visit to St. Mark's included!) to share for later this spring. My summer plans include: sleeping.

Could I ask your prayers for a major workshop I am co-leading next month as part of my postulancy work? It is a time of learning about and reflection on violence against women that Gethsemane is putting on for area residents, particularly local students. I am also planning a follow-up support group that will meet regularly, since so many of our young women have really suffered under discriminatory sexist teachings and behavior at home and in churches.



Lucy and I miss you all and look forward to seeing you soon!

~Kirsten Guidero

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

RESPOND: YOUTH GROUP

All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join RESPOND, our youth group. Join us right after church in the Gathering Room (2nd floor) every 2nd Sunday of the month from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., as we share lunch, sing songs, play games, and respond to God's call for us to love and serve our neighbors.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, February 13, where we'll select and begin planning our spring service project together. To register or to learn more about RESPOND, please email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org).



HOLY MOLY | ST. MARK'S CHURCH SCHOOL



All children from K4 through 5th grade are welcome to attend Holy Moly, our church school here at St. Mark's. Join us as we learn a new Bible story each week through video, reading, discussion, and engaging crafts!

St. Mark's Church School gathers upstairs every week for the first part of Sunday worship beginning at 9:30 a.m., and ends in time for students to join their families in church for Communion. To register or learn more about Holy Moly and our Church School, or to receive our weekly children's ministry newsletter, email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org) today.

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

We need Church School teachers for the remainder of the school year. Not only is teaching Church School important, but it's easy, spiritually nourishing, and fun too! The Holy Moly Curriculum is easy to follow as it gives step-by-step instructions on how to facilitate class each week. Then the students do the rest!

If you would like to volunteer to teach Church School for a four-week block this winter or this spring, please add your name to our sign-up sheet, located next to the kitchen in the Parish Hall, or email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org) today.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

WEEKLY EVENING PRAYER | JOAN OF ARC CHAPEL

All college students and faculty are invited to attend weekly evening prayer at Marquette University's Joan of Arc Chapel. Join us every Thursday evening during the school year from 4:30 to 5 p.m. for Evening Prayer with music, and stick around after prayer as Marquette's Canterbury Fellowship will have dinner together locally. For any questions about evening prayer, or to request a ride to and/or from evening prayer, email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org) today.

LIVING COMPASS WELLNESS CIRCLE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Lenten season is often full of reflection and self-examination. As we approach the season of Lent, St. Mark's will offer a six-week Living Compass Wellness Circle for college students to reflect on themselves and their whole-person wellness. Our first meeting will be at St. Mark's on Tuesday, February 19, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. A light vegetarian dinner will be served. Space is limited, so please RSVP to Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org) by Friday, February 15.

PROVINCE V CAMPUS MINISTRY RETREAT | CHICAGO: FEBRUARY 22-24

Join young adults and college students from across the Midwest and Great Lakes region for our annual retreat. We will be sharing stories and practices to sustain hope as we work to put our faith into practice. How do we support one another in struggles for justice and peace? Where do we find energy and meaning to stay strong? We will be spending time in the beautiful city of Chicago, and the Cenacle Center is right in the Lincoln Park neighborhood in the middle of the city. Contact Matt to join (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org).

CAMPUS MINISTRY EUCHARIST

FEBRUARY 10

Every second Sunday of the month during the academic year, students are invited to worship and eat together at St. Mark's, starting at 5:30 p.m. Join us as we celebrate Holy Eucharist Rite II, complete with music. Food and fellowship to follow! To RSVP or to share any dietary restrictions, please email Matt Phillips at matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org.

DINNER DIALOGUES

FEBRUARY 13 & 27

St. Mark's is partnering with The Corner House and Better Together to bring Dinner Dialogues. All college students and adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to join an evening full of great food and great discussion about our faith and the world. Dinner Dialogues meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m. at The Corner House (3074 N. Maryland Ave.) For more information, please email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org).

FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Rector's Day Off 4 PM Studio Piano Recital 8 PM AA	2 8:30 AM ECF Discernment Meeting Training 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
3 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 10:45 AM Capital Campaign Discernment Meeting 1 PM Capital Campaign Discernment Mtg	4 5 PM The Choristers Rehearsal 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	5 8 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 7 PM Capital Campaign Discernment Mtg	6 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist Zao Band Practice 7 PM Choir	7 8 AM Yoga 8 PM AA	8 Rector's Day Off 8 PM AA	9 8:30 AM Vestry Retreat 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 10 AM Capital Campaign Discernment Mtg
10 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 11 AM Adult Education RESPOND Youth Group 5:30PM Campus Eucharist/Dinner	11 5 PM The Choristers Rehearsal 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	12 8 AM Yoga 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 7 PM Capital Campaign Discernment Mtg	13 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist Zao Band Practice 7 PM Choir	14 8 AM Yoga 8 PM AA	15 Rector's Day Off 8 PM AA	16 8:30 AM Aperi Animam Retreat 9 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9:30 AM Quilting Circle 10 AM Capital Campaign Discernment Mtg 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 7 PM Capital Campaign Discernment Mtg
17 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 11 AM Adult Education	18 5 PM The Choristers Rehearsal 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 7 PM Capital Campaign Discernment Mtg	19 8 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 1 PM Spirituality and Aging 6 PM Campus Ministry Living Compass Group 6:30 PM Vestry 7 PM Capital Campaign Discernment Mtg	20 Rector Away 3:30 PM UWM: International Foods 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist Zao Band Practice 7 PM Choir	21 8 AM Yoga 8 PM AA	22 Rector's Day Off 8 PM AA	23 10 AM Capital Campaign Discernment Mtg 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 7 PM Capital Campaign Discernment Mtg
24 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	25 5 PM The Choristers Rehearsal 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 7 PM Women's Book Group	26 8 AM Yoga 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 7 PM Capital Campaign Discernment Mtg	27 3:30 PM UWM: International Foods 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist Zao Band Practice 7 PM Choir	28 8 AM Yoga		

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Mark's is a growing, welcoming parish on Milwaukee's Eastside. We are a vibrant community of sojourners and seekers. We are young and old, families, singles and couples, gay and straight, from a variety of backgrounds. Together we represent a diverse array of perspectives and life experiences. We believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives and in the world and that we are called, both as individuals and as a community, to share Christ's love with our neighbors. We hope that the community at St. Mark's will help you to grow deeper in your faith and that you will find yourself enlivened by service to God and to God's world.

The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller, Bishop of Milwaukee

The Rev. Ian C. Burch, Rector
ian@stmarksmilwaukee.org

The Rev. John Hickey, Priest Associate

The Rev. Michelle P. Mooney, Deacon

Stephen Wolff, Director of Music
steve@stmarksmilwaukee.org

Matt Phillips, Director of Campus/Youth Ministries
matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org

Kathy Katter, Senior Warden

Bill Hunt, Junior Warden

Bruce Jacobs, Treasurer

Sara Bitner, Parish Administrator
sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org

Daniel Klopitz, Children's Choirmaster
daniel@stmarksmilwaukee.org

Bill Davies, Bookkeeper
bill@stmarksmilwaukee.org

Jyoti Bratz, Housekeeper

Skrauss, Sexton

Kiran-Joy Kuhn, *Lion* Newsletter Editor

Vestry Members

Brooke Frizzell

Cheryl Johnson

Michael O'Hear

Georgia Cain

David Miyama

Ginny Schrag

Dan Buckler

Judith Miller

Graicey Van Spankeren

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

2618 N. Hackett Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53211

414-962-0500

stmarksmilwaukee.org

Sunday Eucharist

9:30 a.m.

Childcare is provided
from 9:15-11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Eucharist

6:00 p.m.

Office Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.;

Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Eastside Senior Services

414-210-5881