

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

THE LION

RECTOR'S CORNER

March 2020
Volume 32, Issue 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Adult Education	2
Lenten Practices	3
Episcopal 101	4
March Celebrations	5
Children & Youth	7
Calendar	11

I'm going to talk a little bit about seminary. If you don't know, seminary is the place where priests and pastors are trained — usually for three or four years — before being sent out into the church to serve. It's a funny place. It's a bit like a graduate school, in that you have subjects you're expected to enter into deeply and to demonstrate some kind of mastery over. But

it's also like a trade school, in that there are specific THINGS you are supposed to learn — how to LISTEN to someone deeply, how to EVALUATE a curriculum, how to DESIGN a worship service. So, it's a strange mix of reading books and then playacting being pastors. I once had to show myself on video presiding at a Eucharist so that people could give me feedback. I got an A-, so apparently, I tell the story of our Lord in his last days pretty okay but not perfectly.

At my particular seminary, the students were broken into worship teams responsible for leading the daily worship at the chapel. The week's worship would be assigned to a team of about five students with a faculty advisor to make sure you didn't get too far off the skids. The earnestness with which these students went about their work would break your heart. I imagine it's like the first time a student teacher makes his lesson plan or the dedication with which a law student prepares for her mock trial. We all took our jobs so seriously, and the result was that each week was like a liturgical cage match — students trying to outdo each other in creativity and piety. We will show you things about God that have never been discovered in 2000 years of Christian worship. It was real insider baseball.

My group was assigned the week of Ash Wednesday in my third year of seminary. It was an intriguing assignment, because Fat Tuesday — Mardi Gras — is a day of great feasting and frivolity, while Ash Wednesday is one of the most penitent rites of the Christian calendar. So we hit the books. My team learned that in different places, different Christians have gotten imaginative with their Fat Tuesday observances. Most of us know about the parades and the general debauchery on Mardi Gras, but some places would bring that frivolity into the sanctuary. We researched Masses that were done in reverse order; churches that would have people take coins out of the plate rather than put them in; other churches that would dress their children up as bishops to get some of the mirth out of their system on Fat Tuesday before the grey of Ash Wednesday and Lent started.

So, we took a page out of those books, and we organized one heck of a feast for Fat Tuesday — we got out the balloons and banners and lively music. We had snacks and light-hearted prayers to go along with our dancing. Then, on Ash Wednesday, we leaned into the solemnity, trying to highlight a sharp contrast between these two days in the life of the church. I'm not saying we planned the best worship week for the whole seminary for the whole year, but I'm NOT not saying that either....

The older I get, the more interested I am in how these two days hang together. I'm interested in what happens at 11:59pm, right when we are on the cusp of midnight. Because I'm starting to believe that life is not a feast or a fast — it's somewhere in the middle. But our brains are a bit simple, and the church sets time apart so we can experience the joys of God's abundance on Tuesday in stark contrast to the soul searching and deep mortality of Wednesday.

The ritual feast and the ritual fast are spiritual technologies that we use to get at something that we already know: that life is both. On Saturday, we hosted a funeral, and I looked into the parish hall and saw every table that the church owns laid out beautifully in white with gracious hospitality for all the people who were in mourning for a dear friend. On Sunday morning, less than 24 hours later, those same exact tables were decked out in Mardi Gras beads, masks and were soon laden with pancakes, syrup, and sausage. I heard kids laughing and telling jokes while running around. The church housed the solemnity of the grave right alongside the energy of new life. The church always does its best work on the cusp of midnight.

So, what is the good news? That we are sometimes sad and sometimes happy? That's pretty weak tea. The good news is that our God is the God of all of it. Our God is our God when we are eating king cake and drinking wine; our God is our God when we are confronted with sin and death, and we are on our knees begging forgiveness for past wrongs. God is the God of all of it. We do not need to hide or compartmentalize ourselves from a loving God, who knows both the joys and the sorrows of this life — after all, He was one of us.

At the Ash Wednesday service back at my seminary, the professor on our team gave the homily. He stood there in all his solemn clothing, dressed quite a bit like I am right now, and he reached into his garments to take out one strand of Mardi Gras beads — as a reminder, I think, that even in the deep penitence of Ash Wednesday, even in the midst of sin and death, a little portion of the feast remains. So, by all means, lean into the season of Lent and use the ancient wisdom of the church to teach you something about yourself, your community, and your God. But don't go too far, and don't forget that Christian people always live right at the cusp of feasting and fasting, and God is the God of both.

Fr. Ian Burch, Rector

ADULT EDUCATION

Lenten Sunday Adult Formation

The Bible's Buried Secrets

Was David really a great king? Did Moses actually lead the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land? And how did this one God called Yahweh emerge from a culture of many gods? Using sections from an acclaimed PBS Nova documentary as our starting point, we will explore how science and biblical scholarship are joining forces to answer these and other questions raised by some of the seemingly inscrutable stories of the Hebrew Bible. Sessions will be held March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, at 11 a.m. in the Library.

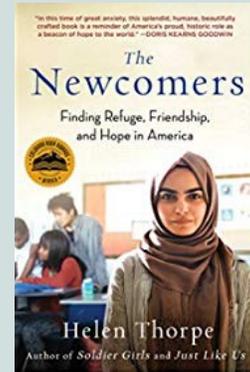


WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Our next meeting will be March 30 at 7 p.m., at home of Kathy Katter. Our book for discussion will be *The Newcomers* by Helen Thorpe. It is a delicate and heartbreaking mystery. It is a reminder that in a time of nativism some Americans are still breaking down walls and nurturing newcomers.

Books are available at Boswell's for a ten percent discount. All women of the church are invited. Guests are also very welcome. If you need directions to Kathy's home, please contact the church office at sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org.

~Ellie Moseley



Poetry in Lent

This year, we're adding an opportunity for the season on Lent: Poetry in Lent. Join me Sunday evenings as we explore the ways we might use the study, recitation, memorization, and writing of poetry as a Lenten discipline (it's customary to mark the season of Lent with special study or prayer or fasting). We will meet at 5 p.m. in the Library to encounter poets like Mary Oliver, George Herbert, Maya Angelou, Anna Akhmatova, and Christian Wiman. Anyone who would like can walk with me across the street to Bel Air for dinner, so bring some pocket money. RSVP to ian@stmarksmilwaukee.org or just show up.

~Fr. Burch



RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY

- Whole grain pasta and other grains
- Deodorant and shower gel
- Whole grain cereal and oatmeal
- Low sodium canned peas and carrots
- Baking ingredients and salt free seasonings

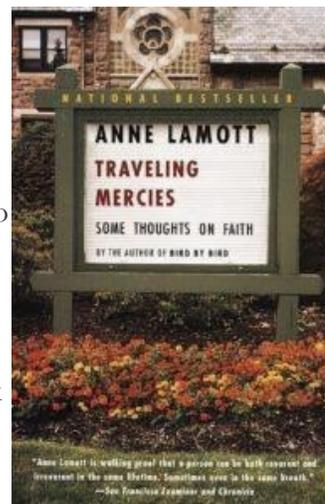
Thanks as always for your generosity to our pantry community!

Silence in Lent

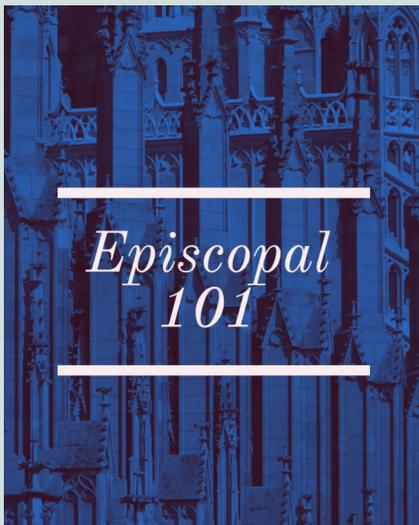
Silence is a part of prayer, and we will explore the ways that silence can set a tone for worship during the season of Lent. The 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Eucharists on Sundays, as well as the 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, will begin with a period of silence for prayer and meditation to prepare ourselves for worship. At the 9:30 a.m. service, we will intone a bell to begin and then end the silence. You may pray or silence your mind in your own way, or you are welcome to use the prayers in the Book of Common Prayer beginning on page 810, particularly prayer 64 on page 833.

THURSDAYS IN LENT, 6 P.M. — ONE BOOK, ONE PARISH

Many churches throughout the Christian world add worship services or times of study during the season of Lent (i.e., the forty days of special fasting and prayer before Easter Sunday). Our version of this is the One Book + One Parish initiative. Each year, we select a book to read during Lent. Those who are able, gather for discussion, fellowship, and a simple soup supper on Thursday nights at 6 p.m., beginning March 5. Those who cannot join us are welcome to read and follow along with study questions posted on our Facebook page. This year's book is *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* by Anne Lamott. Thirty copies of the book will be available for \$10 at the back of the church, or you can order it from your favorite bookseller. Mark your calendars for the Thursdays in Lent; I look forward to seeing you there. Discussion and supper in the Parish Hall. Come to the first session having read the overture. If you're willing to bring soup for the first session, email me at ian@stmarksmilwaukee.org.



~Fr Burch



Sundays, March 8, 15 & 22, at 11 a.m., in the Rector's Office

Why do Episcopalians cross themselves? Are we Catholics or Protestants? Why do we have funny words for everything? You are warmly invited to learn more about the Episcopal faith in a three-part conversation with the rector and each other. Please RSVP to sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org. As much as possible, we would like participants to commit to being at all three sessions.



BIRTHDAYS:

3/1 Rose Mortara	3/16 Emory Farkas
3/2 Tron Patnode	3/17 Melissa Nowak
3/3 Jan Rhodes	3/17 Pat Ward
3/5 Mary Ross	3/18 TJ Davies
3/8 Kyle Potter	3/21 Peter Batchelder
3/10 Isabella Mortara	3/26 Sean Larsen
	3/28 Sara Paulus

ANNIVERSARIES

3/10 Susan and Steve Rohde

Don't see your birthday or anniversary listed?

Send Sara an email with the details!

sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org

LENTEN DRIVE: LAUNDRY SOAP NEEDED FOR LAUNDRY LOVE

What is Laundry Love? A monthly event that provides washing and drying services to those in need. We average 120 loads of laundry every month (about \$600 of washing and drying).

Who benefits? Anyone who shows up! Most people using a laundromat live at or near poverty.

Why Laundry Love? Clean clothes and bedding are a crucial part of maintaining good hygiene, looking and feeling good, feeling the dignity each of us deserves.

What do we need? 100oz (or larger) bottles of laundry soap. We have fabulous volunteers and a steady funding stream, we just need the soap!

Laundry Love is coordinated by the Hospitality Center, an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. The Hospitality Center seeks to provide hospitality and needed services to those who are homeless, underserved, and living in poverty in Racine, Wisconsin.



PILLOW CASES



Do you have a sewing machine? Can you sew a straight line? Do you have half an hour to make a gift for a resident of the emergency shelter, Milwaukee Women's Center (MWC)? If so, come to our second pillowcase sewing day on Saturday, Saturday, March 7, 9-11:30 a.m.

Judith Miller will have her sewing machine there, but please bring your own sewing machine and one yard of quilting cotton fabric.

Please contact Judith at either jdthmlrmd@yahoo.com or 608-274-9288 with any questions and to let her know if you'll be coming.

A pillowcase may seem like a small thing, but for someone who may have fled home with nothing, it can be a bit of comfort and normalcy.

- The domestic violence emergency shelter provided comprehensive domestic violence services to 103 women and 127 children.
- 135 low-income homeless adults and 210 children received shelter and assistance through MWC's Family Support Center Emergency Shelter.

PALM SUNDAY AND EAST FLOWERS



St Mark's Flower Guild has simplified donations for Palm Sunday arrangements, and Holy Week/Easter flowers and plants. Only one envelope for everything will be included in Sunday bulletins starting Sunday, March 22, with a form inside for noting memorials and thanksgivings for inclusion in the Easter service bulletins. The deadline for details to be included in Easter bulletins this year is Palm Sunday, April 5. Contributions can be made after this date, but due to the busy season, the office will not be able to include those details in Easter bulletins.

You may pay by check (mark "Easter Flowers" on the memo line) or electronically (click DONATE on our website, and choose "Easter Flowers"). As always, contributions will appear on pledge statements and are fully tax-deductible.

We usually have Palm Sunday arrangements of palms, forsythia and pussy willows. For Holy Week/Easter this year your donations will help provide Easter lilies and other plants for the church and our chapel for the Vigil as well as both cut flowers and greens for flower arrangements throughout the church.

Thank you from the Flower Guild.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

HOLY MOLY REGISTRATION



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, email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org) today.

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

We are in need of Church School teachers for 2020. 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 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.



UTO Blue Boxes | Lenten Offering for Families



Throughout the Lenten season, your family can count and give thanks for your blessings by collecting change in your United Thank Offering Blue Box. Boxes are available for you in our church school classrooms and at the back of the church beginning on Sunday, March 1. We will collect the boxes at church on Easter Sunday.

RESPOND: ST. MARK'S YOUTH GROUP

All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join RESPOND, our Youth Group! Join us after church in the Gathering Room (2nd floor) every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 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. To register or to learn more about RESPOND, please email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org) today.



Please note there will be no Youth Group on Sunday, March 1. Our only March meeting will be on Sunday, March 15.

20S & 30S LENTEN PRAYER REFLECTIONS

All adults in their 20s & 30s are invited to join our Lenten Prayer Reflections every Monday evening during the month of March. Join us from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. as we share dinner together while watching and discussing Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby's video series on exploring and expanding our prayer lives.

Each meeting will have its own theme:

- 3/2: Asking God
- 3/9: Learning to Lament
- 3/16: Saying Sorry
- 3/23: Giving Thanks
- 3/30: Wonder!

For any questions about this event, to RSVP, or to share any dietary restrictions, please email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS | FRIDAYS IN LENT



The church will be open from 12-2:00 p.m. each Friday during Lent for those who wish to pray the Stations of the Cross. Copies of "The Way of the Cross" will be available in the sanctuary throughout the Lenten season.

CAMPUS MINISTRY | DINNER CHURCH



Dinner Dialogues, our interfaith meal and discussion group is back in 2020 as we continue our partnership with Hillel MKE and The Corner House. College students and adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to join us on the 1st Tuesday of each month this Spring Semester from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. as we share dinner as well as our own faith and perspectives on a variety of subjects.

Spring 2020 Dinner Dialogue Dates & Locations: 3/3 at Zao MKE (2319 E Kenwood), 4/7 at Hillel MKE.

Campus Ministry | Cafe Fridays

Each Friday during the school year, St. Mark's offers Café Hours from 12 to 2 p.m. Enjoy a quiet place to work and study or visit with friends, all while enjoying free baked snacks and coffee/tea in our Parish Hall.



DINNER CHURCH | CAMPUS MINISTRY + 20S & 30S

College students and adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to come and experience a new way to worship with Dinner Church! Join us in the Parish Hall on the first Sunday of each month during the school year as we share dinner, prayers, and discussion together. Setup and conversation begin at 5:30 p.m. with worship and dinner at 6 p.m. For any questions about Dinner Church or campus ministry at St. Mark's, email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org) today. Our next Dinner Church will be on Sunday, March 1.



Spring 2020 Dinner Church Dates: 3/1, 4/5, 5/3

DAILY 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 4:30-5 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, email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org) today.

MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Church School 11 AM Adult Education 11 AM RESPOND Youth Group 5 PM Poetry in Lent	2 5:30 PM 20s/30s Lenten Reflections 6 PM Sweat 'n Dance	3 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Caf� Hollander 8 PM Reclaiming Jesus @ Von Trier	4 3:30 PM UWM: International 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist 7 PM Choir	5 6 PM Lenten One Book, One Parish 8 PM AA	6 Rector's Day Off 11:30 AM Campus Ministry Cafe 8 PM AA	7 9 AM Pillowcase Making
8 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Church School 11 AM Adult Education 11 AM Episcopal 101 5 PM Poetry in Lent 6 PM Newcomer Social Hour	9 5:30 PM 20s/30s Lenten Reflections 6 PM Sweat 'n Dance	10 7 PM Pastoral Concerns	11 3:30 PM UWM: International 4 PM Bible Study 4:30 PM ESS Board Meeting 6 PM Midweek Eucharist 7 PM Choir	12 6 PM Lenten One Book, One Parish 8 PM AA	13 Men's Retreat Rector's Day Off 11:30 AM Campus Ministry Cafe 8 PM AA	14 Men's Retreat
15 Men's Retreat 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Church School 11 AM Adult Education RESPOND Youth Group 11 AM Episcopal 101 5 PM Poetry in Lent 5:30 PM Campus Dinner	16 5:30 PM 20s/30s Lenten Reflections 6 PM Sweat 'n Dance	17 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Caf� Hollander 1 PM Spirituality and Aging 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting	18 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist 7 PM Choir	19 6 PM Lenten One Book, One Parish 8 PM AA	20 Rector's Day Off 11:30 AM Campus Ministry Cafe 8 PM AA	21 9:30 AM Quilting Circle 9 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast
22 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Pancake Breakfast 11 AM Adult Education 5 PM Poetry in Lent	23 3:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 4:30 PM UWM: Soccer 5:30 PM 20s/30s Lenten Reflections 6 PM Sweat 'n Dance	24 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	25 3:30 PM UWM: American Cuisine 4 PM Bible Study 4:30 PM UWM: Soccer 6 PM Midweek Eucharist 6:30 PM UWM: International Foods 7 PM Choir	26 6 PM Lenten One Book, One Parish 8 PM AA	27 Rector's Day Off 11:30 AM Campus Ministry Cafe 8 PM AA	28
29 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Church School 11 AM Adult Education 5 PM Poetry in Lent	30 3:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 4:30 PM UWM: Soccer 5:30 PM 20s/30s Lenten Reflections 6 PM Sweat 'n Dance	31 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #d3d3d3;"> For the most current update, please view our calendar on our website: www.stmarksmilwaukee.org </div>			

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

Dan Buckler, Clerk

Sara Bitner, Parish Administrator
sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org

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

Terry Patterson, Bookkeeper
terry@stmarksmilwaukee.org

Jyoti Bratz, Housekeeper

Skrauss, Sexton

Kiran-Joy Kuhn, *Lion* Newsletter Editor

Vestry Members

David Miyama

Georgia Cain

Ginny Schrag

Dan Buckler

Judith Miller

Graicey Van Spankeren

Steve Martinie

Genevieve Vassell

Judy Young

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

2618 N. Hackett Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53211

414-962-0500

stmarksmilwaukee.org

Sunday Eucharist

8:00 a.m.

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