



# ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Celebrating 40 Years  
of Christian Caring

*Where word and sacrament come together  
in celebration and service*

## TIDINGS

Spring 2017

## Rector's Easter Message

God has a vision for his creation, for his people, for us. A vision of joy and plenty, of security and peace, of love and friendship. It is a vision of a world made right, where humanity and the whole creation flourish in happy unity, where bitterness, conflict, hatred and divisions are things of the past.

He sent his son Jesus Christ to make this vision real. Despite the strong forces that rejected him and put him to death, the loving glory of God raised him to new and eternal life. His death is the defeat of everything that is against God and his resurrection opens the door to share his heavenly life.

In this life Christ's victory is certain but not obvious. We are still in the middle of the struggle. Yet in worship, prayer, generosity, true love for and from others and in countless other ways we not only glimpse God's vision but begin to share it.

May this Holy Week and Easter mean new life for you - new life shared with him who loved us and gave himself up for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Holy Week and Easter Schedule

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| April 8 & 9 Palm Sunday  | 5:00 pm, 8:00 and 10:00 am  |
| April 10 Monday          | 11:15 am Confession<br>12 noon Eucharist  |
| April 11 Tuesday         | 4:15 pm Confession<br>5:30 Eucharist  |
| April 12 Wednesday       | 11:15 am Confession<br>12 noon Eucharist  |
| April 13 Maundy Thursday | 5:30 pm Seder Dinner<br>7:00 pm Solemn Choral Mass<br>& Foot Washing<br>The Holy Hour Vigil |
| April 14 Good Friday     | 12 noon Veneration of<br>Cross and Communion<br>5:30 Stations of the Cross                  |
| April 15 Holy Saturday   | 7:00 pm Great Vigil of Easter   |
| April 16 Easter Day      | 8:00 am Choral Eucharist<br>10:00 am Solemn Choral Eucharist                                |

## Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharists

March 1 is Ash Wednesday. In addition to the two Ash Wednesday Eucharists (noon and 7:00 pm), St. Mary's will be offering the imposition of ashes to those who may not be able to attend the services but feel drawn to receive ashes.

Clergy will be available from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm in the St. Mary's parking lot, near PennyWise, to simply

impose ashes as desired. We will also have a healing prayer team present for those that also desire prayers for themselves or loved ones. We offer this opportunity to the greater Bonita Springs community on the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Holy Eucharist will be held at 12 noon with organ and cantor; Solemn Eucharist will be at 7pm with choir and incense.

The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle  
Bishop of Texas  
Visits St. Mary's March 18th & 19th



**Saturday, March 18, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**  
**The Dynamic Episcopal Church**

Exploring the faith and vigor of the Episcopal Church and how we can invite others to grow in Christ with us. This will include lunch. Please sign up in the narthex or contact Cherrill Cregar at [clregar@gmail.com](mailto:clregar@gmail.com).

**Saturday, March 18 at 5:00 pm**

Bishop Doyle will preach at the Eucharist.

**Saturday, March 18 in the evening**

Compass Rose Society Dinner with Bishop Doyle for St. Mary's supporters of the Compass Rose Society.

(To learn more visit [compassrosesociety.org](http://compassrosesociety.org) or contact Senior Warden Bob Foltz at [robert.foltz@ahss.org](mailto:robert.foltz@ahss.org).)

**Sunday, March 19 at 8:00 am**

Bishop Doyle will preach at the Eucharist

**Sunday, March 19 at 10:00 am**

**Confirmation**

Nine of our parishioners will be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. Bishop Doyle will celebrate the Eucharist and Confirmation and will preach. He will also speak with us about the Compass Rose Society at the reception in the Parish Life Center afterward.

Please come to these events and bring others.

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## A Few Words From The Senior Warden

As you know, the theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign is "Living Generously". One of the ways that St. Mary's as a parish lives generously is through our membership in the Compass Rose Society.

St. Mary's has been a member of the Compass Rose Society since 2011. The mission of the Society is to support the global ministry of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Anglican Communion. The Archbishop is the head of the Anglican Communion. The Communion consists of 85 million Anglicans in 165 countries around the world. The Society is one of the largest financial supporters of the Anglican Communion Office, which implements the global ministry of the Archbishop.

The Right Reverend Andy C. Doyle, Bishop of Texas and President of the Compass Rose Society will be with us on the weekend of March 18 and 19. He will speak about the Society at the forum in the Parish Life Center following the 10:00 AM Eucharist on March 19, and I urge you to attend.

We have been having a Compass Rose Society Sunday on a Sunday in the first few months of the year for several years. To me it provides a moment to reflect on the number and diversity of Anglicans throughout the world and on our union with them in our common tradition of Anglicanism. We are truly part of the Anglican Communion.

Bob Foltz, Senior Warden

## Lenten Opportunities and Resources

A **Display Table** in the narthex has booklets and other resources to introduce us to Lent. Please have a look and place money in the box on the wall where the Forward Day by Day booklets are.

### Worship during Lent

Ash Wednesday: Holy Eucharist at 12:00 pm. Solemn Eucharist at 7:00 pm.

Sunday and Saturday worship continues at the usual times with scripture, music, prayer and ceremonies attuned to the season of Lent.

Stations of the Cross are offered every Friday at noon during Lent, starting Friday, March 3. Please arrive at least 5 minutes before noon to prepare in silence.

Messy Church will take place Saturday, April 8 at 4 pm. An opportunity to worship with the youth of the parish.

Bentley Village Holy Eucharist will be celebrated March 14 & 28, April 11 @ 10:45 am.

Recovery Eucharist is Tuesday March 7 and Tuesday April 4 @ 5:30 pm.

Confessions will be heard on Tuesday, Feb 28 and Tuesday March 28 at 4:15 pm. The schedule during Holy Week is Monday April 10 @ 11:15, Tuesday April 11 @ 4:15, and Wednesday April 12 @ 11:15.

Weekday Eucharist on Tuesday at 5:30, Wednesday at 12:00, and Thursday at 7:30 continues as usual as does Evening Prayer on Monday, Tuesday Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

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## On Our Way to Living More Generously!

Stewardship 2017 is almost complete as Pledge Cards continue to drop into the red box in the narthex as well as arriving in the mail. Cards will be blessed during the 10 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, Feb 26.

Please try to get your card to the church in time for the blessing if you can. Ash Wednesday is March 1, and it is important to complete the pledge campaign by then in order to remove any distractions from our observance of Lent.

Meanwhile, thanks to the dozens of ministry leaders who made such a success of the Ministry Fair on Feb. 4 & 5. It was inspiring to see more than 200 parishioners milling around the Parish Life Center, eating popcorn and munching delicious finger food while learning about the many activities available at St. Mary's! The Prayer Shawl team was knitting, the Sunday School's butterflies fluttered from the ceiling, and colorful displays of every kind drew new participants to listen for where God was calling them, and then to sign up!



One week later, dynamic guest preacher Mother Catie Greene called us to Live Generously in every aspect of our lives, from our relationships to our style of leadership, from living in truth to giving of our financial resources. We were heartened by her message and then nourished by the elegant catered luncheon after the 10 a.m.

Eucharist to celebrate Generosity.

Off to a fast start with 100 percent participation by the Vestry, we had already reached the one-third mark toward our goal of \$600,000 by Feb. 14. Now, it's time to bring this campaign to generous fruition by making the best commitment that we can, and by turning in the pledge card as soon as possible.

**LOOK FOR THE RED POLKA-DOT BOX IN THE NARTHEX TO TURN IN YOUR CARD!**

## ST. MARY'S 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR

**Let the celebration begin...**and indeed it did in January, with blue and white banners mounted both on the church lawn and within the Parish Life Center announcing the 40th anniversary.

In spite of a very rainy Sunday at the end of January, the kick-off luncheon held in the Parish Life Center was filled with spirited parishioners and guests who enjoyed box lunches and the camaraderie that can be enhanced by somewhat tight quarters. Volunteers at the event were delighted to give out commemorative coffee mugs to everyone who attended as they listened to many positive comments. And this is just the beginning.....

An Anniversary Steering Committee of volunteers is tasked with guiding the celebration activities which will continue through November and which will be geared to both seasonal and full-time members of St Mary's Church. This is in addition to other events, which will be offered by other church groups throughout 2017.

By mid-March, you'll be able to watch us "build" St Mary's time line over the course of a few weeks on a special banner in the Parish Life Center. On the weekend after Easter, April 22-23, St Mary's will bid a special farewell to its many seasonal parishioners, often known as Snowbirds or Northern Lights, as they prepare to leave Florida for their northern homes.

During the warm Florida months, the Anniversary Committee will connect with long-time parishioners, who now spend most of their time in Florida, to have a conversation about their personal memories of St Mary's. After the project is completed, and before the anniversary year concludes, these stories will be shared with the Church family.

In honor of Independence Day in July, the Vestry will sponsor a Church ice cream social, and in August, the Church will celebrate St Mary's Day as it does every year.

Throughout the next few months, the Steering Committee will regularly offer some Church vignettes and stories on the website..... watch for..... A 40th Anniversary Moment.....

As St Mary's moves toward November 18th, concluding with the Feast of Founding, the Church hopes to include several guest preachers to help recognize the importance of the Church's amazing growth over the past 40 years, from a mission church to a vibrant faith community.

We hope you'll enjoy this celebration by joining in our events and by staying in touch through St Mary's Church website.

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### Outreach Committee: Day of Change

**HORRIBLE!** That's the reaction we have as almost every evening we watch images of children severely injured by war, or emaciated by famine, or dying by disease. But what can WE do to help these and so many others in this world where war, disease, and famine have become all-too familiar? In response to this frustrating question, the Outreach Committee wishes to give each of us the opportunity to make a difference; a vital difference, which can help to bring healing, and the restoration of health to those caught in the midst of conflict or who are suffering from the effects of natural disasters.

On MARCH 11th and 12th the funds received from our annual **DAY OF CHANGE** will go to **DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**, a world-wide organization comprised of some thirty-three thousand doctors, nurses, and medical personnel who work in almost every country on the planet (sometimes at great personal peril), and whose only criteria for giving medical service to any individual is that there is need to do so in order that a life may be saved. Please mark this date on your calendar, and by your generosity bring help and hope to all who receive care from **DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**.



## Missa Cantata for Lent, Sunday March 19th

The choir will offer a Missa Cantata on Sunday, March 19th. Missa Brevis # 4 by noted Canadian composer Eleanor Daley will be sung as well as several other anthems and motets. Please join us for this service of sung prayer as we join our hearts and voices together to give glory to God in praise and thanksgiving.

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## Feed the Mind during Lent

Book Study with Mother Bobbie each Monday at noon exploring Anthony de Mello's book, *Awareness, Perils and Opportunities of Reality*.

Bible Study with Father Bob each Wednesday at 10:30 discussing Craig Koester's book, *The Word of Life: A Theology of John's Gospel*

Bentley Village Bible Study will meet Monday's at 1:00 PM at the Assisted Living facility. The Gospel according to Mark will be the focus.

A Lenten Study Series at the home of Fr. Al and Betty Salt starts on the first Sunday of Lent, March 5. This study will include Scripture, more specifically, the message of the letters of John. Please use the signup sheet in the narthex.

### Events

- Newcomers Dinner, February 28
- Legacy Society Reception, March 9
- Day with Bishop Andy Doyle, March 18
- Bonita Christian Forum, Leslie Wickman, March 20
- Men's Retreat, March 24-25
- Seder Dinner - Maundy Thursday, April 13 @ 5:30
- " National Day of Prayer May 4

### Helping Others

- Volunteer at PennyWise.
- Harvest Time Ministries: March 10 & 11, March 24 & 25
- Spring food collection: March 11 & 12
- 'Day of Change' collection: March 11 & 12

### Special Events

Compass Rose Society Sunday and Confirmation the weekend of March 18 & 19 with The Right Reverend C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of Texas.

Fish Fry will be held on March 3 at 5:30 pm to benefit the Youth Ministry. Delicious food in a social gathering of friends.

Spaghetti Dinner will be held on March 31 at 5:30 pm.



## Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's Church

**Fundraising** - Our annual fundraiser was held Friday, January 20th with over 100 in attendance at a lively murder mystery dinner, "Dressed to Kill". We exceeded our fundraising goal and raised \$18,470.34 between raffle ticket and event ticket sales. Thank you to all who so generously supported this event!

**Donations to St. Mary's** - ECW donated \$1,313.13 for 48 new folding chairs which are enjoyed at outdoor mass, events in the Flora Linda Garden and overflow seating in the PLC.

**Mission & Ministry** - The weekly book club continues reading *Divine Dance* by Richard Rohr with Mother Bobbie; gaining spiritual guidance as well as fellowship.

**Hospitality** - ECW is supporting the Celebration of our 40th Anniversary through Bingo Night including a casual dinner which is to be held on Friday, February 24th at 6:00 in the PLC. We are also supporting the Men's Group with the Annual Fish Fry with live entertainment on Friday, March 3rd at 5:30 in the front lawn and the PLC. In addition, ECW has been helping with special choir receptions, minister's luncheons, funeral receptions and Coffee Hour.

**Reaching Out** - United Thank Offering (UTO) boxes are being offered as a Lenten discipline. Please participate in daily thanksgiving for all your blessings through prayers as well as placing coins and cash or checks in the UTO Blue Box.

**Programs** - Upcoming programs to include community outreach, informational, spiritual and fun are currently being planned:

At our March meeting, we have invited Father David Oliver to speak to us on his recent journey to Africa. We're so excited to celebrate all the wonderful Coffee Hour Volunteers at our April meeting.

In May, we'll go off campus for a fun day of lunch and pottery making. All ladies are invited to join us the 2nd Thursday of each month (exception in April - due to Holy Week, the meeting has been changed to Thursday, April 6).

Lunch Bunch-January Lunch Bunch was held at California Pizza Kitchen at Coconut Pointe and February Lunch Bunch is a "Ladies & Laughs-Bring your favorite dish" in the PLC. Upcoming fun Lunch Bunch locations are currently being planned.

Newcomers and frequent visitors who worship at St. Mary's and are considering a new spiritual home here, please join us for the next Newcomers Orientation Dinner scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 6 p.m. in the Parish Life Center. This dinner offers the opportunity to experience our hospitality and to be welcomed by our clergy, the Vestry and other church members. For more information about membership and enrollment, please contact Barbara Bateman at [membership@stmarysbonita.org](mailto:membership@stmarysbonita.org) or the Church office.



## ECW UPCOMING EVENTS

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Friday, Feb. 24   | ECW Supports 40th Anniversary Celebration<br>BINGO/Popcorn/Hot Dogs<br>(All Net Proceeds go to 40th Anniversary Fund)                               |
| Tuesday, Mar. 7   | ECW Exec. Board Meeting   |
| Thursday, Mar. 9  | ECW Monthly Meeting<br>12:30PM Fellowship<br>1:00PM Program<br>Father Oliver - "Pilgrimage to Africa"   |
| Tuesday, Mar. 21  | Priests' Luncheon   |
| Thursday, Mar. 30 | Lunch Bunch - Maguro Japanese Restaurant  |
| Tuesday, April 4  | ECW Exec. Board Meeting (note mtg. date change)   |
| Thursday, April 6 | ECW Monthly Meeting (note mtg. date change)<br>12:00PM ECW Honors and Celebrates<br>Coffee Hour Volunteers<br>Program - Mother Bobbi, "Our Journey" |
| Sunday, April 30  | Fr. George & Fr. Al 90th Birthday Celebration<br>More details to come   |

ECW of St. Mary's is a welcoming group of ladies devoted to supporting our church community, and each other through growth in all ways; spiritual, community outreach, informational, transformational and a lot of fun! Every lady is a member! Please join us as we celebrate God's love and life at St. Mary's!

For more information, contact Jane Battina or Renee Osborne.



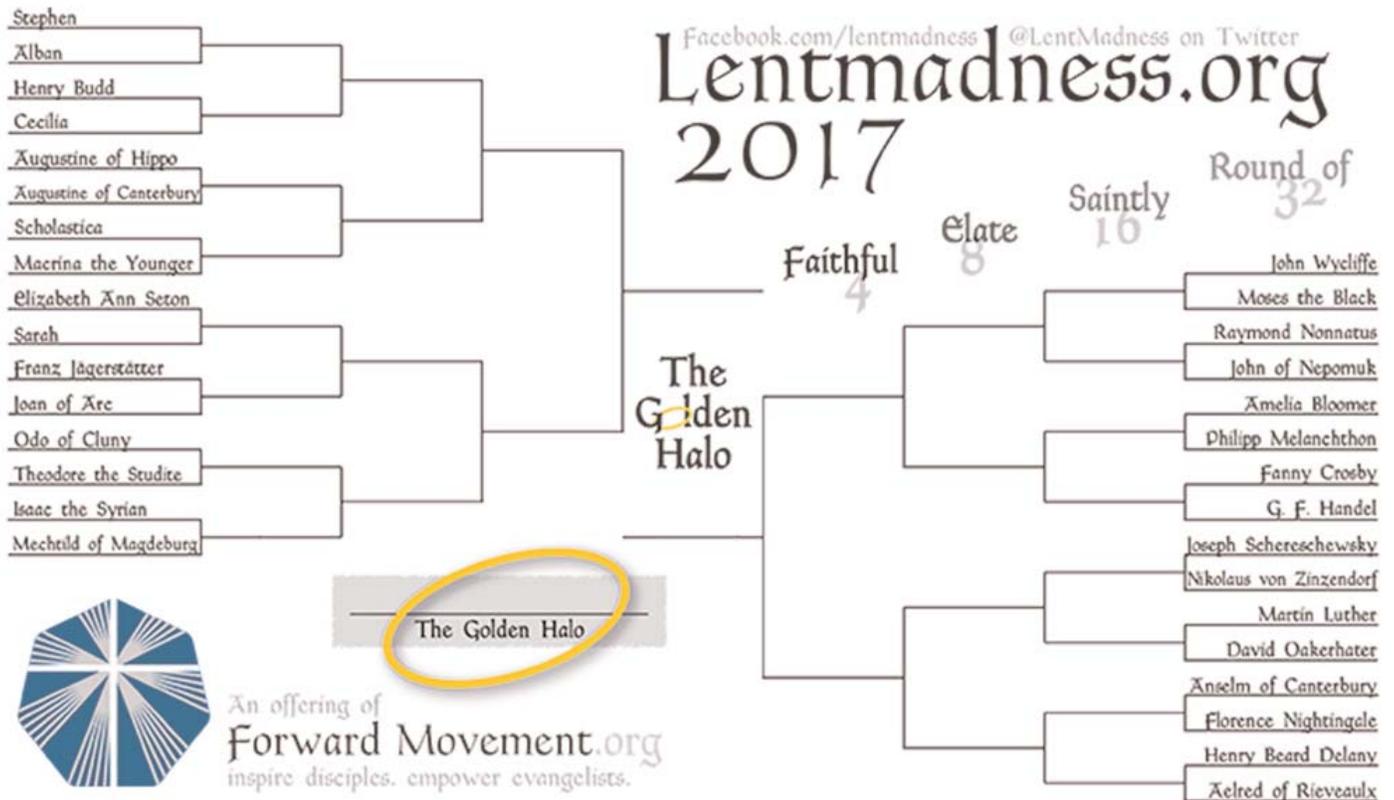
Thursday, May 4th, 2017

The theme this year is **For Your Great Name's Sake! Hear Us... Forgive Us...Heal Us!**

Taken from Daniel 9:19, which says, "O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act! For Your Sake, O My God..."

The Churches of Bonita Springs will sponsor a local time and place of prayer. Details to follow.

# Lent Madness



A worldwide opportunity to take part in a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational and joyful. How it works: on weekdays in Lent information is posted on [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org) about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about each saint and then vote for their choice to advance to the next round. This continues to the "Round of the Saintly Sixteen", "Round of the Elite Eight", "Round of the Faithful Four" etc. until the winner is awarded the Golden Halo.

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## THE ORDER OF SAINT LUKE

On Saturday February 18 at the 5:00 Service Laura Ransom was inducted as a Convener for the Order of St. Luke and Pat Thwaits and Bill Gilmore were inducted as full members of OSL. St. Mary's has 18 Lay Pray Ministers who pray in teams at each of the 3 weekend services. You may come forward for prayers for yourself or anyone you have concerns about or even to offer thanksgiving for blessings. Soaking Prayer with 3 or more gathered together for an extended time is available by appointment by contacting Cherrill Cregar at 239-887-1939.