



## Lent and Holy Week

Lent begins next week on Ash Wednesday, February 14. This season which began as a time of preparation for Holy Baptism at Easter is now time for all Christians to return and be refreshed in our Christian faith and to renew our walk with God.

### Our Church invites us into Lent this way: (BCP page 265)

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

Plan your Lent in a way that allows God to refresh and transform you.

In particular, would you engage with the Gospel According to St. Luke, reading it during the season of Lent? There is more information on our website.

Holy Week and Easter is the center of the Christian year because it celebrates and re-presents the heart of our faith – the sacrificial death and life-giving resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please set aside other responsibilities and activities as much as you are able and enter fully into the transforming worship of this week. In particular, plan to share in Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter worship.

God bless you,  
Fr. Michael

## Lent

*Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
(Isaiah 55:6-8)*

Lent begins on February 14, 2018 with Ash Wednesday. Our regular worship schedule will continue until Holy Week. Additional Lenten offerings are:

### Tuesdays:

- Getting to Know Luke - Father Michael - February 20th, February 27th and March 6th @ 7:00 pm
- March 13th – Movie – The Blind Side @ 7:00 PM

- March 20th – Bonita Christian Formation - Leigh Ann Tuohy – Presbyterian Church

### Fridays:

- Centering Prayer – Lady Chapel @ 11:30 am
- Stations of the Cross @ 12:00 pm

### Reading Luke & Acts– a Lenten Discipline

Do something transformative for Lent this year! The Presiding Bishop calls on all Episcopalians to a different discipline. As well as giving up something, gain something! Enter in to the life of Christ by reading the Gospel according to St. Luke during Lent and grow into the life of the Church through the Acts of the Apostles (Luke's sequel) in Eastertide.

Working through the Forward Movement organization,

The Episcopal Church has produced a structured reading list, prescribing a reading from the Gospel of St. Luke for every day in Lent (really beginning February 11th which is the Sunday before Lent begins) and a reading from the Acts of the Apostles (written by St. Luke) during the Easter season. This is such a worthwhile project that St. Mary's has adopted it as our official devotion for Lent and Easter of 2018.

### Here's how it will work.

- (1) Obtain a copy of the reading list. This is available on St. Mary's website ([www.stmarysbonita.org](http://www.stmarysbonita.org)), at the project website ([goodbookclub.org](http://goodbookclub.org)), printed copies will be available in the Narthex of the church, or consult your Forward Day by Day booklet where the readings are listed and meditations provided.
- (2) Each day during Lent and Easter, read the prescribed section of Luke or Acts.
- (3) Attend church! Each weekend during Lent and Easter, the readings will include Luke and the Acts. And the priests will try to discuss these readings in their sermons.
- (4) Additional discussion will be available at St. Mary's after the 10 AM Sunday Eucharist.
- (5) Father Michael Rowe will offer "Getting to know Luke" – a series of talks about the Gospel of St. Luke – to be held at the church at 7 PM on February 20th, February 27th, and March 3rd. (Please sign up.)
- (6) There are lots of supplemental books and texts available in St. Mary's church library, and through [goodbookclub.org](http://goodbookclub.org).

For more information, and to view the Presiding Bishop's introductory video, go to [goodbookclub.org](http://goodbookclub.org).

So DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS LENT – learn something new and increase your familiarity with the Gospel according to St. Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. It's even better than giving up desserts.



## St Mary's Church Library Renewal Project – Diana Dearth

Plans are afoot to update the church library with the goals of completing cataloging of all library materials and ensuring that this facility supports church activities, remains up to date, and is a welcoming and user-friendly resource. To that end, we have acquired ResourceMate library automation software and have upgraded the library computer. This will allow us to catalog all library materials in the Dewey Decimal system and to keep an organized and up-to-date inventory of the library collection. Library users will be able to access the library collection on the computer, much as one does in the county library system. Initially, checkout and check-in for borrowed materials will be a simple sign-out sheet, but the new software will eventually allow us to automate borrowing as well.

The library is represented on the Christian Formation Commission so that resources supporting the needs of these activities can be included in the library collection. It is hoped that eventually a group of volunteers will be able to update and monitor the library collection, keep parishioners informed of new acquisitions, and promote the use of the library.

To date the ResourceMate automation software has been installed and work on automated cataloging has begun. A sign-out sheet has been placed in the library to record borrowing and return of books so that we can monitor book circulation and keep track of inventory. Library resources related to forthcoming events, such as The Reverend Brett Cane's visit and presentation on Worship and Space (January 20/21) and The Good Book Club's focus on Luke (Lent) and Acts (Easter), will be displayed in the Parish Life Center.

You will be seeing some moving around of library materials as we tackle this project. These will be identified and it will still be possible to use the library. Watch for updates on our progress!

# A Message from our Senior Warden – Tim Blaicher

On Sunday January 28th we inducted twelve members of the Vestry.



## Youth Coordinator – Courtney Crosby

**H**ello St. Mary's Parishioners! My name is Courtney Crosby and I am excited to begin teaching Sunday school and taking on all things youth oriented at St. Mary's! I am a junior studying Communications at Florida Gulf Coast University and lifelong Episcopalian. I was born and raised in Saint Petersburg, Florida and have been an active parishioner at St. Peter's Cathedral until I relocated to Estero for school. I have many experiences with the Episcopal Church ranging from The Episcopal Youth Event, or EYE, to Dayspring Summer Camp, which I am excited to share with this Parish. I look forward to using my experiences to embark on a New Year with this church and all of the blessings that it will bring. I look forward to getting to know all about St. Mary's and all of you through worship and fellowship.

With love, Courtney.



## Order of St. Luke

The Order of St. Luke prayer teams will be available for your prayers at all weekend services.

On Saturday February 17th at 10:00 AM a half-day conference for spiritual enrichment will be sponsored by the Order of St. Luke. All are welcome. To register call Cherrill Cregar at 239-887-1939 or Cleregar@gmail.com.

On Saturday March 17th at the 5:00 PM Service the new members of the Order of St. Luke prayer team members will be inducted.

On Maundy Thursday March 29th you are invited to be a part of the Seder Supper sponsored by the Christian Formation and Order of St. Luke Teams. We will enact the Passover Feast, as it would have been in the time of our Lord Jesus Christ. It will begin at 5:15 PM in the PLC and will be finished in time to attend the evening service. To be a part of this special experience you can sign up in advance on one of the clipboards in the Narthex. If you would like to donate food to share in the feast contact Cherrill Cregar 239-887-1939 or Cleregar@gmail.com.

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## Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's Church (ECW)

St. Mary's ECW kicked off this year's season with the highly anticipated Annual Christmas Tea. This year's theme, "Gingerbread Spice and Everything Nice, That's What Christmas is Made Of", was a delightful afternoon of fellowship, fun, and of course, Tea, for 125 lovely ladies. Anne Frazier, Development Director of Gifts for Lee Health, and Guest Speaker, gave a brief presentation and shared her sincere appreciation of our partnership in the "Golisano Stocking" gift gathering for children spending holidays in the hospital.

St. Mary's ECW hosted the Fort Myers and Naples Combined Deanery Workshop, Thursday, January 11. Leila Mizer, ECW Diocesan President presided over the meeting, with 48 ladies in attendance. Special guests included Michelle Schombs, ECW Diocesan

President-Elect. The meeting concluded with a lovely luncheon focusing on 'Substantial and Sustainable Faith'. With abounding vegetables as décor, the ladies enjoyed and appreciated St. Mary's ECW's hospitality.

### Executive Board-

The ECW Executive Board thanks Jill Smith for her your devoted service and support the past three years. Jill will continue her leadership roles at St. Mary's serving on the Vestry, and as Chairperson for Christian Formation. The ECW Executive Board is working to fill the current opening for "Reaching Out" Chairperson as well as Hospitality Chairperson.

### Fundraising-

**Mark your calendars! Saturday, April 7, and Sunday, April 8, ECW ladies will sponsor the 2nd ECW Bake Sale! All ladies are invited to participate by donating baked items. Watch for more publicity and signup sheets.**

**Ministry-** The inspirational Book Club, led by Mother Bobbi, continues to flourish weekly with many attendees. We are seeking a volunteer to lead ECW "Ministry".

**Hospitality-** We are seeking responsible leadership for Hospitality to work together with the Committee Chairs, (Foyer, Ministers' Luncheons, Funeral Receptions and Lunch Bunch). The liaison will lend support, when needed, in securing help, should that be required, and providing a brief monthly report to the Board. This role is anticipated being a minimal time commitment.

Vivi Curt will assume interim responsibilities for Foyer Groups.

Upcoming Lunch Bunch will be Thursday, February 22 at **Bravo Cucina at 12:00 in the Mercato.**

**Reaching Out-**We are seeking responsible leadership for this area of ECW.

### Programs – Upcoming Programs:

March 8 – New Horizons

April 12 – "Cooking with Charlie"

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**All ladies are invited to join us the 2nd Thursday of each month for the monthly meeting, and the last Thursday of the month for Lunch Bunch.**

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!

## St. Mary's Choir

We joyfully welcome this Bright New Year of our Lord with harp and the sound of singing!

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*

*Psalm 43:19a*

St Mary's Music Ministry has greeted the New Year of our Lord 2018 with great joy and openness to a future wherein, as we read in *Isaiah 40:31* "those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."



From Chronicles to Revelation, from Earth to Heaven above, the Lord is praised again and again on the Harp. St Mary's is enjoying the addition of the sound of the harp in our worship. *Psalm 57:8* invites: *Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. And we do!*



**Instruments and Musicians will be on hand at the Ministry Fair on the first weekend of February, for happy show and tell, mini-lecture demos, and invitation to join in some new opportunities to make music to the Lord!**

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!**

## Holy Week\* and Easter Schedule

**March 24/25 Palm Sunday** 5:00 pm, 8:00 and 10:00 am

**March 26 Monday** 11:15 am - Confession  
12 noon - Eucharist  
5:00 pm - Evening Prayer

**March 27 Tuesday** 4:15 pm - Confession  
5:00 pm - Evening Prayer  
5:30 pm - Eucharist

**March 28 Wednesday** 11:15 am - Confession  
12 noon - Eucharist  
5:00 pm - Evening Prayer

**March 29 Maundy Thursday** 5:15 pm - Seder Dinner  
7:00 pm - Solemn Choral Eucharist  
& Foot Washing  
9:00 pm - Vigil in the Garden

**March 30 Good Friday** 12 noon - Veneration of the Cross  
and Holy Communion  
5:00 pm - Evening Prayer  
5:30 pm - Stations of the Cross

**March 31 Holy Saturday** 10:00 am - Liturgy of the Word  
7:00 pm - Great Vigil of Easter

**April 1 Easter Day** 8:00 am - Choral Eucharist  
10:00 am - Solemn Choral Eucharist

\*Please do not schedule meetings during Holy Week. Please do participate as fully as you are able in this most central week of the Christian Year.

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