



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

TIDINGS

Where Word and Sacrament
Come Together
In Celebration and Service



SPRING 2019

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mary's,

Lent begins next week on Ash Wednesday, March 6. 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.

Please do take part in one of the Ash Wednesday Eucharists (at noon and at 7:00 pm) and plan your Lent in a way that allows God to refresh and transform you. The attached Lenten Rule and Opportunities and Resources is designed to help you.

Lastly, please plan now to participate fully in Holy Week from Palm Sunday, April 14 through Easter Day, April 21. The full schedule is elsewhere in this issue.

God bless you.

Fr. Michael

Lenten Opportunities and Resources

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6; Eucharists at 12 and 7 pm, with "Ashes to Go" outside Penny Wise after the noon Eucharist.

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

Our corporate fast means we do not have sweets at coffee hour or other parish events during Lent.

Weekday Eucharist on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday continue as usual as does Evening Prayer Monday through Saturday. Why not take part this Lent?

Stations of the Cross starting on March 8, the first Friday in Lent at noon and continuing to Good Friday. Contact Pamela Stamper if you would like to lead or assist one Friday.

Wednesdays at 10:30 am: Bible Study looking at the following weekend's propers (see St. Mary's web site under worship for each weekend's readings) and at 7 pm Entrusted: A Study of 2 Timothy from Beth Moore

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.

Men's Retreat at Dayspring, March 8 & 9.

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FORGIVENESS: The Way Forward is our Lenten Learning Day on Saturday March 16 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm, with Mel Bennett and Fr. Michael with Taize.

Confirmation with Bishop Michael Garrison is on Sunday, March 31 with 10 of our fellow parishioners being confirmed, received into the Episcopal Church or reaffirming their baptismal vows.

Lenten Rule

The disciplines of Lent are designed to train us to be different. Fasting frees us from being at the mercy of our physical appetites. Study frees us from accepting uncritically the assumptions of our culture. Prayer and worship form the ultimate declaration of independence by locating the true source of power and authority in God rather than in anything of this earth.

Praying God's grace to keep a Holy Lent, I resolve to undertake a discipline covering the following areas:

- Public Worship: Sundays, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and ?
- Penitence: Self-examination and confession
- Personal devotions: Prayer, meditation, reading, etc.
- Fasting: Giving up certain foods or activities
- Giving: Gifts of money, time and effort to other people or worthwhile causes.
- Other

Please take the time to prayerfully consider your Lenten Rule and write it down.

Christian Fasting

1. Two kinds of fasting
 - corporate, for all God's people
 - personal, according to one's own Rule
2. The Episcopal Church has days of fasting, discipline and self-denial. (See page 17 in *The Book of Common Prayer*)
3. Purposes of fasting
 - sorrow for sin
 - training and self-discipline
 - freeing resources
4. Guidelines for fasting and abstinence are modest.
5. For us "fasting" from television, internet, novels or committees might free up our most valuable resource – time – to spend with God and with the people we love.
6. How will you fast this Lent?

Message from the new Senior Warden

I am somewhat humbled at being appointed to the task of Senior Warden of St. Mary's, particularly after serving with the previous two, Bob Foltz and Tim Blaicher, two servants of the parish whom I much respect for their leadership. I have "big shoes" to try to fill, and will use both of my predecessors as consultants. I do cherish our church and will do my best to serve the Rector and our congregation well. I ask for your prayers.

Recognition and appreciation of our people who volunteer their time and talents to making St. Mary's function is an important part of church leadership. Such volunteering is as important a part of stewardship as is the giving of monetary gifts. Thank you to all who give so much.

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Of course, financial stewardship is also the life blood of our parish. We have the capability in our parish to increase the coverage of this responsibility to more people, and will strive to do so. Some other churches set a goal of having the number of pledgers each year equal the average weekend attendance at the regularly scheduled Eucharists. We will be an even more effective parish if we improve in this area.

St. Mary's is known for being a welcoming and friendly church. Let's continue this and strive never to let anyone, visitor or regular, escape the campus without a warm greeting and if possible, a recognition by name. To help in this effort, let's be faithful in wearing nametags, and if you do not currently have one, sign up on leaving the church. We welcome visitors, and the best way to increase their number is to invite people to attend. We have no preset criteria for people who are welcome; all who seek a closer walk with God should come. Our communications commission is working diligently to promote our attributes with a webpage, Facebook, and this periodic parish newsletter, *Tidings*.

This past Christmas season, our church responded wonderfully to the challenge of giving Christmas to underprivileged children in our own area. Money was donated and gifts were contributed in response to tags on the narthex. A Christmas tree was erected by members of our ECW. When the tags were first posted, there was nearly a "sellout" and in the end 149 tags were taken and gifts bought as requested. A volunteer committee kept this all organized and several parishioners went out and had the joy of seeing to the distribution of gifts to the happy children. It was St. Mary's at its best! Thank you all who made this happen.

This is a wonderful church to which I am delighted to give my best in service. Let's make 2019 a banner year!

Paul Judkins

Update from one of our Postulants

After finishing Systematic Theology over Thanksgiving break, I decided to take a break from online coursework to experience new dimensions of ministry at St. Mary's. I joined the Pastoral Care team and the Worship Commission.

At the same time, I am applying to attend seminaries in residence to finish a Masters of Divinity degree. This degree is required for ordination to the priesthood. My daughter, Madeline, is heading off to the School of Art Institute in Chicago in August. If everything falls into place, I will move north in early summer to the last two years of a master's program.

The three seminary options for me are Nashotah House in Wisconsin, Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria and General Theological Seminary in New York City. I've been accepted to the first two and will visit New York on March 5th.

Thank you for your prayers and support and I welcome future prayers as I discern the path forward.

Anne Hartley

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March 3, 2019 is Compass Rose Sunday. After the 10:00 Eucharist Bob Foltz will be giving a presentation on the activities of the Compass Rose Society and The Anglican Communion. This will be held in the Parish Life Center and all are welcome to attend.

St. Mary's Lenten Learning Day 2019

FORGIVENESS
The Way Forward



Forgiveness is a cornerstone of our Christian faith. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus' reply was The Lord's Prayer. Prominent in the Lord's Prayer are the familiar lines:

*And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us...*

Jesus teaches that forgiveness for his followers must be boundless, instructing Peter to forgive "seventy times seven times". The Greek word for forgiveness, *aphiēmi*, is mentioned 146 times in the New Testament. Clearly the mandate to forgive is central to living a Christian life. But is every grievous action and every offender forgivable? How do we forgive offense in the face of clear injustice? And what is forgiveness—something one does or something one feels?

The study of forgiveness is a relatively recent concept in the world of psychological study and it is in the recent 30 or 40 years that psychologists have begun to focus on this crucial but previously neglected aspect of emotional healing. The process of forgiveness offers sufferers a path out of anger, resentment, depression, anxiety, alcohol abuse and other negative spirals, and into emotional well-being and life satisfaction.

On Saturday March 16 from 9 to 12:30 St. Mary's Episcopal Church will hold its annual Lenten Learning Day (formerly Lenten Quiet Day). Fr. Michael Rowe and Mel Bennett, M.A. will present and discuss the spiritual and empirical underpinnings to forgiveness: a core act of Christianity and the way forward

Mel Bennett, M.A. is a cognitive-behavioral therapist who has specialized in the study of forgiveness therapy.

Coffee and refreshments will be served.

To register please sign the sheet in the Narthex or outside the church office, or telephone the church office at (239) 992-4343.

Prayer in the Square

On Ash Wednesday March 6th the Order of St. Luke will gather in the tent for "Prayer in the Square" with our priest and offer "Ashes to Go". It is surprising how many come from all around the area.

If you cannot attend the 12:00 or 7:00 pm services please come to the parking area behind Penny Wise and get ashes and prayers from 1:00 – 3:00.

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Men's Retreat

The Men's Retreat will be held at Dayspring beginning at 4:00 pm on March 8th. It will conclude by 4:00 pm on Saturday March 9th.

The cost of the retreat is \$150 for a single room and \$125 for a double room and includes three meals.

Rooms are limited so please contact Paul Judkins at Seniorwarden@stmarybonita.org.

Penny Wise Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Penny Wise/St. Mary's Thrift Shop is celebrating its 30th Anniversary (1989-2019) this year. As part of our Celebration, we are asking our parishioners to attend at least one Open House after each of the Masses on the **weekend of March 23/24**.

If you have never set foot into Penny Wise, or are a regular shopper, now is your opportunity to visit us after Mass with the store open "just for you". As many of you know, we are open 6 days a week Monday thru Saturday from 10 am- 3pm during season and have reduced hours during the summer months. Bring your cash, checks, and credit cards to make a purchase to support our many outreach initiatives. Over the years, Penny Wise has contributed over 2.5 million dollars to St. Mary's and in 2018 alone contributed \$44,000 to Outreach Missions and another \$45,000 to St. Mary's.

During the next few weeks we ask you to consider: attending our Open House; think about volunteering at Penny Wise weekly; gathering your used clothing, home goods, and linens and bring your donations to Penny Wise; calling Penny Wise if you have any furniture (outdoor or indoor) that you wish to donate

We will be celebrating our Anniversary by offering "Strawberrys and Cream to Go" to each parishioner who attends the Open House. This can be your snack after Mass or you can take it home for later in the day! We want to see you! Your support is very important to the 60 volunteers who keep Penny Wise running strong!



Order of St. Luke Prayer Ministry

OSL prayer partners are available to pray with you at each of the three weekend services. As you approach the prayer station we ask you "how may we pray for you" and we anoint you with holy oil and pray. Whatever are your requests they remain between the prayer partners and the Lord. Yes, it is confidential.

OSL also serves at the 1st Wednesday of the month Noon Eucharist along with the priest. That is a Healing Eucharist.

Once a month after our OSL Chapter meeting we go out in the parking area and gather under a tent to offer prayers to those just passing by or the Penny Wise shoppers. It has been rewarding. We call this time "Prayer in the Square".

If you would like to learn more about the Order of St Luke Prayer Ministry contact Cherrill Cregar at Cherrillcregar@gmail.com or 239-887-1939

We have a team ready to help you.

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ECW Updates

Thank you to everyone who played a role in the success of St. Mary's "Love on Broadway" fundraising event!

We are continually inspired by the generosity and dedication of so many. Your professional and financial contributions are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to you, St. Mary's will now provide an enhanced worship experience by investing in much needed new choir robes as well as contribute to St. Mary's operating budget.

Cash Raffle Winners

\$2,500. – Pamn Baker

\$1,000. – Silvia Raubolt

\$500. – Jim Fowler

Early Bird – Kate Kennedy



Upcoming Events

Lunch Bunch Thursday, February 28th, 12pm
Stir Crazy, Coconut Point Mall

March ECW Gathering Thursday, March 14th,
Artis, Naples, "Fashioning Art from Paper"

More details to follow

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.

Kindness for Kids



**THANK YOU, ST. MARY'S CHURCH
MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS FOR
YOUR ENTHUSIASTIC AND GENEROUS
SPIRIT OF GIVING**

Nearly 150 children, from infant to early teen, living in two needy neighborhoods, were given new clothing and age-appropriate toys by St Mary's Outreach Commission in partnership with Episcopal Church Women (ECW), on behalf of Harvest Time Ministry families.

Parishioners and friends of St Mary's selected tags and brought in scores of items that were packed by volunteers in holiday wrappings. Representatives from St. Mary's and Harvest Time Ministries personally delivered all the gifts right before Christmas, along with bags of food collected during Church food drives in November and December.

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It started as an inspirational phrase and logo which became a ribbon of love for all who were joined together during this time of outreach.



The Music Ministry continues to celebrate ongoing abundance of blessings!

This Spring we have been delighted as always by the presence of Fr David Oliver and his big warm voice in our midst. We are thrilled to have been joined by new choir members Pat McKenzie and Shirley Woolaway, and lovely weekend worship soloist Mary Koenig, who will also continue helping Youth Coordinator Courtney Crosby with incorporation of the Youth into our 10am Sunday Worship with Saints and Songs.

Through our parishioners' generosity in supporting the outstanding parish fundraiser *Love on Broadway*, we look forward to the ECW's gift of new choir robes! Thank you, Sandy, Renee and all who participated.

Pam Stamper has been gracing our worship with harp glissandi, and some of our youth also bring us much joy accompanying our hymns on various instruments.



And Rachel Elmquist brings beauty to our worship with her violin, voice, and spirit.



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Our young guest musicians amaze us and make us glad.



Kathleen Pignato

Upcoming Events

March 6 Ash Wednesday	12:00 pm and 7:00 pm
Fridays during Lent Stations of the Cross	12:00 pm
April 12 Friday Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida	7:30 pm

Holy Week* and Easter Schedule

April 13/14 Palm Sunday	5:00 pm, 8:00 and 10:00 am
April 15 Monday	11:15am Confession 12 noon Eucharist 5:00 pm Evening Prayer
April 16 Tuesday	4:15 pm Confession 5:00 pm Evening Prayer 5:30 Eucharist
April 17 Wednesday	11:15 am Confession 12 noon Eucharist 5:00 pm Evening Prayer
April 18 Maundy Thursday	5:15 pm Seder Supper 7:00 pm Solemn Choral Eucharist & Foot Washing 9:00 pm Vigil in the Garden
April 19 Good Friday	12 noon Liturgy of the Passion and Holy Communion 5:00 pm Evening Prayer 5:30 Stations of the Cross
April 20 Holy Saturday	10:00 Liturgy of the Word 7:00 pm Great Vigil of Easter with Holy Baptism
April 21 Easter Day	8:00 am Choral Eucharist 10:00 am Solemn Choral Eucharist

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

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St. Mary's Vestry 2019 - 2020



St. Mary's Choir



Love on Broadway