

Notices for the week March 30-31, 2019

Confirmation is the apostolic rite of the laying on of hands with prayer for the daily increase of the Holy Spirit. It is a blessing for all baptized Christians, children and adults. Today we welcome the Rt. Rev. Michael Garrison, Assisting Bishop in the Diocese of Southwest Florida to celebrate the Eucharist, preach and confirm, receive into the Episcopal Church or hear the renewal of vows of 12 of our members. We pray God to bless them and to bless us through them. Please come to the reception in the Parish Life Center after the Eucharist to greet them.

If you have not been confirmed or if you have not been received into the Episcopal Church, please speak with one of the clergy. Confirmation will be celebrated next year, probably sometime between January and March.

The Altar Greens are given to the glory of God in gratitude for those reaffirming their faith today.

Altar Flowers: During Lent, greens are used in place of flowers. If you would like to contribute you can sign up in front of the Church Office. Cost for the full altar is \$70, half the altar is \$35.

During Lent, our Wednesday Noon Holy Eucharist will include musical preludes from 11:45 am, and musical interludes at Holy Communion, on harp, piano, organ, and hammered dulcimer.

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

Part-time Priest Associate: St. Mary's received a very generous gift last month. The donor who provided the funding for the part-time priest associate position for 2019 decided to do the same for 2020 to ensure that Fr. Faupel can continue to serve at St. Mary's. We are deeply grateful to this anonymous fellow parishioner.

UTO Boxes: The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. As an opportunity during Lent, UTO boxes are available to take home this weekend and return filled at the weekend Eucharists April 6 and 7.

Book Club: Monday at 12:00 noon. Please join Mother Bobbie as she continues exploring our soul's relationship with God and how best to care for and nurture that relationship using John O'Donohue's book *Anam Cara* (Soul Friend). Books are available in the office.

Recovery Eucharist is this Tuesday at 5:30 pm. This innovative service brings the 12 Step recovery program and the Serenity Prayer into the traditional liturgy of the Episcopal Church. All are welcome. The Recovery Eucharist is a program of St. Mary's Ministry of St. Martin, a patron saint of sobriety. It will be celebrated the first Tuesday of each month.

Wednesday Bible Study continues at 10:30 am with Fr. Michael looking at the scriptures for next weekend: Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8, Psalm 126

Healing Eucharist Wednesday at 12 noon. Healing is an essential part of the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ and the healing ministry of Christ belongs to the church today as much as it did 2,000 years ago. We believe that God uses many avenues for healing, some medical and some spiritual and that they should be supportive of each other.

Centering Prayer, Thursdays at 9:00 am, is a method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift.

Bentley Bible Study Thursday at 1:00 pm with Mother Bobbie. All are welcome. It is held in the Assisted Living Building.

COMMA: We have such busy lives. Pause smell the flowers..... and pray. Every Thursday at 5:30 PM. we gather in the Sanctuary and take a moment for prayer and reflection. There is no set outline nor agenda, we let prayerful hearts and the Holy Spirit guide us. There is an undeniable need for prayer in our own lives and there are many who need our prayers. Join us at COMMA Thursday evening at 5:30 and experience the power of prayer.

The Outreach Commission is sponsoring a Spring Food Drive for Café of Life, an organization supported by St. Mary's. It will take place April 5th and 6th. They are requesting the following items: rice * pinto beans * flour tortillas * canned fruit * canned

corn * toilet paper * dish detergent * and paper towels. Paper bags and the shopping list will be in the narthex. Please only bring the items they have requested.

Stations of the Cross. Friday at noon during the Lenten season. the last being on Good Friday, April 19 at 5:30.

Next Week and Beyond

Church Tour will be offered by Fr. Michael Saturday and Sunday April 6 & 7. He will explain the symbols and ceremonies of the church to newcomers and everyone with questions. Please meet in the narthex immediately following the Eucharist.

Cursillo is holding its Ultreya (time of encouragement) Monday, April 8 at 6:00 pm, starting with a potluck supper. Those who have been on a Cursillo weekend and those curious about Cursillo or looking for a time of Christian fellowship and encouragement are very welcome.

Requiem Eucharist will be held Tuesday, April 9 at 5:30 pm for all the faithful departed. Please give names to the office by Monday, April 8.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on Wednesday, April 10 at 12:30. If you crochet or knit, please join us in fellowship as we make our shawls for those in need. You can contact Barbara Williams at 239-992-4343 or Sara George at 239-216-2280.

April Concert: The Symphonic Chorale is proud to conclude its 8th Season on Friday, April 12 at 7:00 pm with the premiere of a new composition by composer Eric William Barnum titled Blue Squills. Dr. Barnum will be in SWFL for the premiere and the Chorale's Artistic Director, Dr. Trent Brown, will conduct, accompanied by a small string ensemble led by SWFL Symphony Concertmaster Reiko Niiya. "We are honored to conclude our season with this new work by Eric Barnum and to have him as our guest for these concerts to share with us and our audiences his vision for this beautiful text by poet Sarah Teasdale," said Chorale Artistic Director Trent R. Brown. "To have a composer of his stature and reputation in the world of choral music here to work with The Chorale is very special." Please join us at this exciting concert.

Monday	12:00 pm	Book Club with Mother Bobbie
April 1	5:00 pm	Evening Prayer
Tuesday	10:15 am	Morning Prayer
April 2	11:00 am	Staff Meeting
	12:30 pm	Icon Painting Class
	2:00 pm	OSL Study Review
	3:00 pm	St. Martin's Ministry Meeting
	5:00 pm	Evening Prayer
	5:30 pm	Recovery Eucharist
	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
	8:00 pm	AA Empathy Meeting
Wednesday	9:00 am	Pastoral Care Meeting
April 3	10:30 am	Bible Study
	12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist
	5:00 pm	Evening Prayer
	5:20 pm	Christian Formation
	6:00 pm	Estero Youth Group Stations of the Cross
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday	7:30 am	Holy Eucharist
April 4	9:00 am	Centering Prayer
	5:00 pm	Evening Prayer
	5:30 pm	COMMA
	7:00 pm	Florida Conference of Young People in AA
Friday	12:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
April 5	5:00 pm	Evening Prayer
Saturday	4:00 pm	Evening Prayer
April 6	5:00 pm	Holy Eucharist
	8:00 pm	AA Group Meeting
Sunday	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite 1
April 7	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist
	6:30 pm	AA Meeting

Easter Flowers are available for Memorial or Thanksgiving. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Any gift amount for flowers will be welcome. Please indicate on your check or cash note "Easter Flowers".

Holy Week* and Easter Schedule	
*Please do not schedule meetings during Holy Week. Please participate as fully as you can.	
April 13 & 14 Palm Sunday	5:00pm, 8:00 am and 10:00 am
April 15 Monday	12 noon Eucharist
April 16 Tuesday	5:30 pm Eucharist
April 17 Wednesday	12 noon Eucharist
(confessions heard before each Eucharist Monday through Wednesday)	
April 18 Maundy Thursday	Seder Dinner 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm Solemn Choral Eucharist & Foot Washing
April 19 Good Friday	12 Noon Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion 5:30 Stations of the Cross
April 20 Holy Saturday	7:00 pm Great Vigil of Easter with Baptism
April 21 Easter Day	8:00 am and 10:00 am Choral Eucharist

Palm Cross Workshop will be held Saturday, April 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Life Center. Open to all parishioners young and not so young, this is an opportunity to fellowship and be creative at the same time. Just bring a pair of scissors and come join the fun. Instruction will be available. For more information, contact Sandie Beihl (498-9867 or sbeihl8474@comcast.net)

Palm Sunday: Please bring a substantial palm branch to wave signifying how you welcome the Lord Jesus Christ as Messiah and Lord. (You might also like to make Palm crosses at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 13)

Maundy Thursday: Sign up for the Seder Supper, which starts at 5:30. The purpose of the Seder Supper is to help us recall the dramatic and miraculous events which led to the Exodus from the ancient land of slavery. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex and PLC.

Vigil

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Definition of *vigil*

1: the act of keeping awake at times when sleep is customary also: a period of wakefulness

2: an event or a period of time when a person or group stays in a place and quietly waits, prays, etc., especially at night.

After the Maundy Thursday Service we will have a vigil in the Flora Linda Garden. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex come join us for one hour to hold a vigil with the holy sacraments. An hour of prayer and deep reflection. An hour of unity and fellowship with Christians around the world. An hour dedicated to our lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Keep watch with the Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane (Flora Linda Pavilion) for some time between 8:30 pm and midnight. To enhance the setting, you can lend a flowering or green plant for the occasion, please bring it to the Flora Linda garden during Holy Week before Thursday. All plants may be retrieved following the 10 am Eucharist Easter Day. Contact Sandie Biehl at 239-498-9867. Please sign up for the Vigil in the narthex.