



the EPISTLE



The Monthly Parish Newsletter of
SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MARCH 2021 • ISSUE 264

MEANDERING OF THE INTERIM

NEEDS

"The Israelites were radically stripped of the things which they believed they needed to sustain their life. The certainty of food and water every day in the desert. The presence of the Temple to fulfill their duties to God, in the Exile. But in the experience of being stripped in that way, they actually had to ask what is of the essence. They learned that the essence of their life as the people of God was to trust God and to worship God in spirit and in truth." *Br. Geoffrey Tristram Society of Saint John the Evangelist*

We are in Lent; a Holy Lent and we are still in the midst of "The Virus." Lent is often a time when we consider "giving up" something that we remind us of the sacrifice that Christ made on the cross. In other words, we surrender something of value something we might consider important to our daily lives. Doing this allows us to "suffer" with Jesus.

I contend due to the ugliness of this "Virus" we, as the human race have been up a lot. Jesus knows how we, as God's People, have suffered. The quarantine, lack of human contact, not seeing and being with loved one and even death.

We NEED! We need to comprehend that the God who created us, redeemed us and sanctifies us is still with us! We need to recall what we have learned in scripture, that the essence of our lives as the People of God is to trust God and to worship God in spirit and in truth.

Ask God for what you need and God will supply.

Chris+

C. Christopher Thompson+
Transitional Priest-in-Charge

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST IN LENT

Dates: February 24 - March 31

Time: 8:00 am

Place: Church Nave

Requests: Masks, Social Distance and Contact Tracing Form

MUSIC DEPARTMENT'S 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

It is likely no exaggeration to say that 2020 was the most challenging year in the history of Saint Mark's. The emergence of a once-in-a-century pandemic, coupled with significant staffing transitions, has left us all disoriented, disrupting our sense of community, throwing us out of our routines, and forcing us to reimagine the ways in which we interact both with the church and as the church. This was particularly true for the music program. Ensemble music, after all, is fundamentally a social activity, a product of people coming together to create something larger than themselves. How do you carry on as church musicians in a period of masks and social distancing?

The year began with its usual promise. January featured our Epiphany-themed Taizé service as well as the Canterbury Choir's annual Super Bowl Subs fundraiser. In February, Saint Mark's hosted a special concert by The Ohio State University Symphonic Choir, which featured our Organist and Assistant Director of Music Tyler Robertson as Assistant Conductor. In the waning days of February, the Saint Mark's Choir helped observe Ash Wednesday, followed by a beautiful service of Choral Evensong on the first weekend of March, with music by Orlando Gibbons, Jamie Hite, Felix Mendelssohn, and Stephen Paulus. The same weekend, the Canterbury Choir traveled to Cleveland for the second straight year to participate in Treblefest, an annual celebration of children's church choirs held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. The combined choirs concluded the event with a service of Choral Evensong, singing music by Edward Bairstow, Peter Hurford, John Ireland, and Todd Wilson.

A little over a week later, everything changed. With reports of community spread of COVID-19 in Ohio, both public worship and choral activities were suspended. For the first several weeks of the pandemic, worship leaders met at the church to livestream the principal Sunday service via Facebook Live. As conditions worsened, however, the diocese mandated a suspension of all in-person worship, leading us to begin worshipping via Zoom on Palm Sunday in early April. We found creative ways to continue to supply music for these Zoom services over the next two months. Tyler prerecorded his organ voluntaries, first on his practice organ at home and later, when it was permitted, on the organ at the church. Matt provided weekly chanting of the psalm live via Zoom. For the Feast of Pentecost in late May, the staff singers prepared our first virtual choir project, featuring Thomas Tallis's "If Ye Love Me." Meanwhile, the Canterbury Choir's planned trip to Washington, D. C., in April was rescheduled, first to 2021 and then to 2022.

In early June, worship leaders were able to resume live-streaming the service from the church. We began to use an iPad app called Switcher Studio, in conjunction with several iPhone cameras, to stream the service over Facebook Live with multiple camera angles. This allowed us to resume live organ music (which did not work well over Zoom) during services. We remained cautious about live singing, however, in the face of concerns about singing and virus transmission. Throughout the summer, chanted music was prerecorded in the choir room for broadcast during the service.

In late June, we said goodbye to our rector, Paul St. Germain. In honor of the occasion, the full choir (as well as numerous choir alums) prepared a virtual choir presentation of Paul's favorite hymn, "The Church's one foundation" (Aurelia). Just two weeks later, we bade farewell to Associate Rector Christopher Richardson. The service included virtual solo presentations of two of Christopher's favorite hymns, "There is a balm in Gilead" (sung by Margaret Wells) and "Lift every voice and sing" (sung by former staff singer Jaman Dunn).

The summer and fall also proved to be a time of great change and transition for the music program at Saint Mark's. In August, we were thrilled to celebrate the hard work of Tyler Robertson when he officially graduated as a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from The Ohio State University. A couple weeks later, our hearts were heavy to learn that Tyler had accepted an exciting call to be the new Director of Music and Organist at Christ Church (Episcopal) in Glendale, OH. Tyler's last Sunday at Saint Mark's was October 11. Tyler served Saint Mark's with distinction from his arrival in 2014, significantly enriching both our worship and parish life, and he and his family will be greatly missed.

Following Tyler's departure, Saint Mark's was blessed with the ministry of retired organist Ron Kenreich, who stepped in to play for Sunday services through the end of December. At the same time, we engaged organist Robert Wisniewski (formerly of St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus until his retirement in 2017) to record a series of virtual choir accompaniments for both choirs for the months of November and December. We are thrilled that Robert has agreed to serve as Interim Organist for the first half of 2021 as we undertake a search for the next Organist at Saint Mark's.

In the last months of 2020, we experienced a fair amount of evolution in our practice of pandemic worship at Saint Mark's. We enjoyed a brief period of in-person worship in late September and early October, until worsening conditions in the state required us to return to live-stream only for the remainder of the calendar year. In early October, we resumed some limited live singing for Sunday services, welcoming a solo cantor back to chant the Psalm and the Alleluia from the chapel and to sing the opening and closing hymn with the organ. With the arrival of Advent at the end of November, we were excited to debut a new system of cameras and microphones for live-streaming services. This robust technology now allows us to capture audio and video from any place in the church, including the nave, chancel, narthex, or chapel, enabling us to share the beauty and richness of our services with viewers throughout the world, both now during the pandemic and going forward into the future. I am grateful to Mark Drew for all the time and effort that he has put in to make this new system a reality at Saint Mark's.

With the holidays approaching, both choirs ramped up for a series of virtual choir projects, with particular focus on Advent and Christmas Eve. Our staff singers prepared a presentation of Tomás Luis de Victoria's "O quam gloriosum" for All Saints Day, when we usually would enjoy a special service of Choral Evensong. A couple weeks later, the full choir presented Charles Villiers Stanford's anthem "O for a Closer Walk." In lieu of our annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols in early December, the Saint Mark's Choir prepared several Advent hymns usually sung during that service for broadcast during Sunday morning services in Advent.

For Christmas Eve, the choirs prepared an ambitious slate of virtual choir presentations for broadcast during a single Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. The Saint Mark's Choir recorded renditions of the carols "O come, all ye faithful," "Silent Night," and "Hark! the herald angels sing." They also sang the exquisite anthem "In dulci jubilo" by Robert Pearsall. The Canterbury Choir, meanwhile, prepared all the musical components of their traditional Christmas Pageant, complete with carol verses, anthems, and solos. The pageant recording included scripture readings by members of the youth group and photographs of Sunday school participants dressed as shepherds and angels. The entire service was deeply moving, and I am profoundly grateful to everyone who helped to make it possible.

As we reflect on the challenging and unprecedented year that has passed, I am heartened by the resiliency and creativity that has been shown by so many in order to continue the work of our parish. I know that we are all looking ahead with longing and hope for the return of some semblance of normalcy in the year ahead, to a time when we can gather again as a community for worship, complete with stirring hymns, thrilling anthems, and soaring organ music.

Respectfully submitted,

*Matthew Bester
Director of Music*



Last month we told you about some donations that were made to local charities by the Outreach Ministry on behalf of St. Mark's parish. We received a number of thank you notes that we wanted to share with you.



NNEMAP Food Pantry would like to thank you for your recent gift of \$5000 dated 12/16/2020. Your gift is gratefully acknowledged.

Thank you for supporting our mission during this most challenging year. We look forward to another year of service to our community in 2021. Generous contributions from donors like you will ensure our customers always have food on their tables. Thank you for being part of our NNEMAP Food Pantry community.

Thank you for this generous gift.

Sean Becker

Director of Development and Marketing



On behalf of the 280 human trafficking survivors that we served last year with supportive services or employment training, I'd like to thank you so much for your recent donation of \$500.00 to Freedom A la Cart. Your support makes a tangible impact on the lives of human trafficking survivors in Central Ohio. It is the generosity of donors like you that make our work possible- empowering survivors of human trafficking to build new lives of freedom and self-sufficiency.

Your gift will help survivors like Cheyenne, a survivor, mother and team member employed in our workforce development program, who has learned vital

transferable skills to utilize as she continues in her career and aspires to work in the medical field.

"Freedom has been the most supportive place I have ever worked, Their support and flexibility has really helped me in the rebuilding of my life... They continue to help women like myself toward towards their goals in life." Cheyenne

Once again, thank you for your generous partnership.

Paula Haines

CEO

Everyone here at Freedom want to thank you for your donation. Freedom saves us every day. We hope your enjoying the New Year.

Lori Moyr

From Freedom Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program

Recipients.....

On behalf of Freedom we want to thank you so much for your generosity of adopting three families! All three of the women were so excited when they came to pick up their gifts and I'm sure the children were equally excited. Thanks again for all your continued support.

Kathy and the Freedom Team

I am truly grateful for the presents I received. Terriona and Royal love their toys. The girls especially like the Minnie Mouse grocery cart. Thank you so much. I apologize for my timing. I am very preoccupied these days. Thank you so much.

Sincerely, Charlene Anderson and Royal and Terriona

Christmas Secret Santa, Thank you so much for the gifts for my son, His birthday is 12/28 so I was able to use a couple as Birthday too! We marked from Santa on your gifts. Your tremendous heart to help and give is inspiring and encouraging.

From the Hodges Family to you- thank you.



After all that the last year has brought us, we're humbled to have you as a faithful member of Team SHAN, a community of abolitionists that fights human trafficking through education, advocacy, and caring for those impacted. Your donation contributed to the following achievements we're celebrating and more:

- Establishing the April Thacker Dream Scholarship
- Adopted and hosted our first John School in September for 7 solicitors

- Continued support for survivors and thrivers

Looking forward to 2021, we are developing some new resources that we hope will equip you and others in the community as together we respond to the complex issue of human trafficking. Next Saturday we'll convene our first Labor Trafficking specific training, which we hope to augment into a Conscious Consumerism Workshop this summer. We're in the design phase of an online platform to equip at risk youth and their caretakers to recognize and appropriately respond to suspected human trafficking cases in hopes of preventing cases among this vulnerable population. Additionally, we hope to launch a support group for solicitors who complete the John School and realize they have brokenness of their own to process that lead them to purchase sex.

We are humbled by your generosity and continued support as together we look forward to seeing all those impacted by human trafficking restored into society, welcomed in the workplace, and thriving in community.

Courtney Schmackers
Executive Director



On behalf of Women Affirming Women, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$500 for our Women's Respite Program to be held July 23-25, 2021. The contribution will help us to fulfill our goal of providing an atmosphere that encourages the building of community and improving the quality of life for women caretakers of children in Columbus and the surrounding area. We aim to provide a service oriented and safe environment for women to expand their knowledge and to develop into the humans they are called to be. Through both education and services, our objective is to help them break through barriers that are holding them and their families back from living truly human lives.

As an all-inclusive and non-discriminating community, Women Affirming Women focuses on the main elements that aid in shaping a woman's life in order to achieve economic stability, independence, and self-confidence; all traits that lead women to become leaders in their communities. We have teamed up with organizations such as The Economic Community and Development Institute that help our women get business loans and grants, VSP, that gives our ladies and their family members free eye exams and glasses, and New

Directions Career Center that aims to empower women in transition to maintain economic stability. With such organizations, we help better their lives and the lives of their families.

In recognizing the role women play in society, we understand that by serving the women, we in turn are serving the entire community. In helping to improve the quality of life for our women, there is a positive effect on their children, families, schools, churches and communities.

Once again thank you for your generous donation.

[Signed by each of their officers]



2020 was a struggle. I am sure we can all agree on that. We all had to make changes and face unprecedented challenges. From the current pandemic to social injustice and civil unrest, we had to answer hard questions and make tough decisions. We and those we serve were also confronted with the unfortunate passing of our Director Emeritus, Kent Beittel. It was a crushing blow after his many years of dedication, leadership and compassion. But we were able to persevere. We were able to confront all of these obstacles and stay behind with those left behind. That was because of YOU. YOU made it possible to keep our doors open through all of these challenges. YOU made sure we were still there for the most vulnerable. YOU made sure we were able to help our guests; homeless and marginally housed men, women and children. YOU allowed us to help your neighbors.

Our records indicate your gift(s) in 2020 to be: \$6000.00

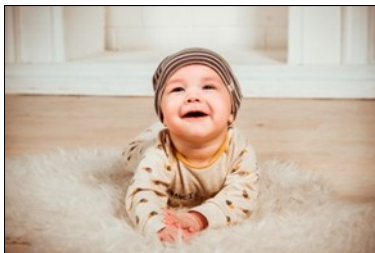
Because of your support, we were able to assist 2,514 individuals, 966 of whom were "living on the streets". 62,401 sack lunches and 73,496* 'to-go' meals were provided thanks to your generous support.

We also assisted 71 men and women through our "Payeeship" program, which helps homeless and recently homeless persons who need third party money management. In 2020, we helped transition 65 people into housing. We were able to assist those persons "living on the land" 7,229 times with items such as tents, tarps, backpacks, sleeping bags, 'bed rolls' and candles. 4,850 instances of clothing assistance and 1,084 hygiene kits were provided to those in need.

We also provided access to phones, copier, fax and computers in addition to providing a mailing address.

In 2021, we join everyone in hoping for an eventual return to whatever may be considered "normal". The Open Shelter, along with YOUR support, will continue to meet any challenge and be there for those with nowhere else to turn. Thank You for allowing us to be, in Kent's words, "a covered piece of the sidewalk."

Yours in Service,
Sheli Mathias
Director



REPORT FROM TRINITY EPISCOPAL LAYETTE PROGRAM

For the year we served 64 babies with everyone seeming most appreciative. Besides your generous help we were blessed with receiving \$10.00 worth of baby items from Fruth Pharmacy, a local store. Also a \$25 gift card from a member of our church and \$20 from the Presbyterian Church who now lives in Florida but keep asking about our program. With 2020 being a bad year, and our churches being closed for 5 months, we were able to do collections to help our program.

We started 2020 with a balance of \$1308. We received \$1000 from the Diocese and your assistance. At the end of the year we had a balance of \$302.87. Without your generous support we would be hard pressed to succeed in our efforts to help others.

May god bless your church and its members.

Celia Stiltner, Layette Chairman

St. Marks sent Trinity Episcopal in McArthur \$4000 in 2019. In January, 2021 we sent them a \$2000 donation. Additionally, we have been taking a carload of layette items every six months.



HOMELESSNESS

Did you know...that the Outreach Ministry has recently made a decision to increase it's response to the issues surrounding homelessness in the Columbus community.

For years we have supported **Habitat for Humanity** which focuses on building houses for vulnerable populations.

Since the onset of the pandemic, people's lives have been drastically upended and many people who were marginally housed have faced the prospect of losing their homes.

In 2020, The Outreach Committee designated funds to the **Open Shelter** for their ministry to those who live outside. The **St. Mark's youth** have also committed to at least one hands-on project with the Open Shelter this year.

During 2021, we would like to increase our support to agencies assisting those with a housing crisis. We have begun researching various other local agencies that focus on providing services to families and youth who are experiencing housing crises.

If you are interested in helping St. Mark's respond to these growing needs in our community, please consider joining the Outreach Committee (and the sub-committee on homelessness in particular). Please contact Roberta Morton (notvmorton@gmail.com or 614-268-7021)

If you would like to contribute financially, please send a contribution designated to Outreach/ Homelessness ministries.



EmpowHer

Last month, Freedom a la Cart completed construction on their new facility in downtown Columbus. The facility will house their catering business, a café, and space to provide services to women in the CATCH and Butterfly programs. They hope the new location will encourage women who are being trafficked to reach out for help. To celebrate the new facility, Freedom hosted the first “EmpowHer” virtual luncheon. The guest speaker was Rebecca Bender, a survivor of trafficking who now runs a nonprofit aimed at educating communities about trafficking so that cultures can be changed. She operates the largest online school for survivors. She has students in 368 locations and 10 countries. Her presentation, attended by several on your Outreach Ministry, was educational and thought provoking. Here is some of what we heard:

Rebecca came from a solidly middle class family that lived in a small town. She was an only child, a good student and an athlete. When she was in middle school her parents divorced and her mother had to take on several jobs to keep the family afloat. Finances were difficult and for a while they moved into a trailer. Later her mother started dating which left Rebecca alone even more. Her father was battling alcoholism and depression, so he wasn't there for her emotionally. She continued to be an honor roll student, a cheerleader and a varsity athlete but she also became a party girl craving attention. The summer before she was to start college, she became pregnant. She stayed home to have her baby while her friends went off to school. The next year, as a mother at 19, she moved in with several of her friends who had rented a house off campus. It wasn't all she had hoped, as while they went out to party, she stayed home alone with her daughter. She was lonely. Finally she met a man who wanted Rebecca and her daughter to be a part of his life. He told her he was in the record business and appeared to be prosperous. They dated for six months, when he told her he had been offered a job in Las Vegas. He said he loved them and wanted both of them to move to Vegas with him. It sounded like her life was coming together, but what she didn't realize was that she was dating a con man. When they got to Las Vegas there was no job and everything changed.

Rebecca told us that when she was growing up, she learned about stranger danger, but was never warned about con artists or brainwashing. No one had explained to her about pimps who enforce their indoctrination through fear, sleep deprivation, or social ostracism when she didn't comply with

his rules, or, if she did, how she'd be rewarded with shopping sprees, cars or vacations. There was systematic effort to destroy her individual thinking. She feels we need to teach about peer pressure at an earlier age, and how peer pressure can lead women to do risky things they would normally never consider. In her case, as in many, there was fraud and guilt involved in enticing her into the life. Once in the life there were continual threats of violence to her. There was also the threat that her boyfriend/pimp would take her daughter and she would never see her again.

When she was growing up no one in her community knew about adverse childhood environments (ACE) that put children at risk. These include physical, sexual or emotional abuse; physical or emotional neglect; household challenges such as substance abuse or mental health issues; domestic violence; a divorce or a parent in prison. While all children may have one or more of these risk factors, children with six or more are likely to experience risky behavior, psychological issues, serious illness and/or an earlier death.

She also talked to us about the cult like nature of the situations in which women involved in trafficking find themselves. She was always looking for love. The other women in her house became like sisters to her. At the low point of her life, she felt they were the only ones providing her with emotional support. Running from the life would mean leaving them behind, and this was seen as a betrayal of them. It was this cult like atmosphere that made it so hard to leave the life.

To break out of the life involved many stages: pre-contemplation, contemplation, preparation, action and then maintenance- how to become stable when leaving everything behind. Rebecca felt she had none of the normal skills that people have, making breaking out even harder. She entered the prostitution life at an early vulnerable age and never learned normal emotional or employment skills. Also, she had a record that had to be reported on job applications.

It is really important to have organizations such as Freedom who help women overcome these barriers to reentry into a normal society. They need help with expunging criminal records, finding employment as well as emotional support for the mental trauma the women must overcome. During her early re-entry days, when she was financially strapped, the kindness of others doing even small things, like providing an Easter basket for her daughter, were a huge help. The other thing that was extremely important to Rebecca's strength was her relationship with and guidance from God.

If you would like to learn more about Rebecca's Journey, you might want to read her book *In Pursuit of Love*.

God Moment #6

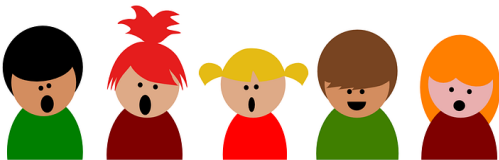
Once again playing
guitar and singing
with the kids

My thanks to Joanne Drew and the Sunday School staff for their invitation to sing and play with Sunday School formation.

There are tons of children's church songs, AND we have all the songs that were heard during Vacation Bible School.

One thing that is different this time is Zoom. Imagine: what would Sunday Children's Formation be without it. In fact, what would worship be at Saint Mark's be without it.

I am sure everyone looks forward to being together in person. In the meantime, we all will thank God and carry on.



FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

We offer condolences to the families of:

The family of Virginia Parrish, long time member of Saint Mark's, who passed away on February 12, 2021 at the age of 105.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER is a new printed project to enhance communication among parishioners. It comes from a long standing tradition in the Church of England where certain public records were officially recorded in the great ledgers of their parish church. You can sign up for weekly email updates about Saint Mark's on our website www.saintmarkscolumbus.org, click on "Join Our Mailing List."



EASTER MEMORIALS

Collections for Easter flower memorial will begin Sunday March 7th. You may contact Diane Hartney at dalehartney1942@gmail.com to donate and designate a memorial message.

You may also go to the flower guild page on the church website and donate online.

The monies collected for Easter memorials and weekly memorials help to defray the cost of altar flowers through out the year.

SAINT MARK'S MIGRATION MINISTRIES

Episcopal Migration Ministries, the refugee resettlement and immigration ministry of The Episcopal Church, has proudly assisted new Americans for over 90 years. This ministry builds a foundation for individuals forced from home and country by famine or terror to thrive in communities across the United States.

Saint Mark's Migration Ministries committee members meet monthly -by Zoom- to discuss how we may actively participate in numerous programs provided by EMM. Recently, we have participated in Artisans Beyond Borders which is a ministry of Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tucson, AZ. The Etsy Website showcases beautiful embroidery which provides a small income for families waiting in shelters in Mexico to apply for asylum in the U.S.

For more information, contact Joyce Acton at 614-569-9219 or actongroup@gmail.com

IN AND AROUND SAINT MARK'S



UPDATE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The search committee is finishing up the parish profile and other forms in preparation for posting for potential candidates to see. There are several steps yet to be taken before that can happen Approval from the St. Mark's vestry and the diocese must be obtained. Then this information is posted on several platforms. St. Mark's will post it on our website, the dioceses will post it on their website and ENS (the Episcopal New Service). We can expect to see all of these things happening in the next couple of weeks.

Potential candidates will see all our information and if interested will contact the diocese for further information.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support as we move forward in this process.

SUPPER GROUP

We will continue meeting on the first Saturday of each month. **All ages, singles, and couples are welcome.** If you are interested in joining us, please forward your email address to gawylie@att.net and you will be included in future meeting notifications. For additional information please call Gloria Wylie at 614-525-9715.

Zoom link is:

<https://saintmarkscolumbus.zoom.us/j/96770888927>

STEPHEN MINISTRY

This pandemic and isolation have been causes for loneliness, mild depression, and just plain sadness since we cannot be with family and friends in our normal ways. If you or someone you know is feeling "low" and would like to have a Stephen Minister check in with them, please let Father Chris Thompson or one of our Stephen Leaders (Pat Barton, Michele Johnson, Dianne Silliman) know. Our Stephen Ministers are wonderful lay ministers who will just "listen and walk with parishioners" during a difficult time. Stephen Ministry visits, (mostly by phone due to the weather and the pandemic) are completely confidential and provide an opportunity to share feelings that you may not want to burden your family or friends with. Please consider this wonderful ministry.

SAINT MARK'S MEMBER CARE

The Saint Mark's Member Care ministry has provided meals for a number of parishioners over the past months. We welcome anyone who might be able to fix and deliver a meal or provide a gift card for a meal. If you or someone you know could use a few lovingly prepared meals, or if you would be willing to help, please contact [Michele Johnson](#).

We also have a New Baby ministry which provides a welcoming rose and muffins to families with a new baby in the house. If you know of a family with a new baby, please contact [Regan Bohnert](#) with this information. In addition, if you are interested in helping with either meals or the new baby ministry, please contact Regan.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



Roberta Morton	3/1	Avery Haupt	3/13	Jesse Cheever	3/26
Vernice Ray	3/1	Emily Iams	3/16	Stuart Brace	3/27
Crystal Essex	3/2	Cheryl Boop	3/17	Jim Gebhart	3/29
Rick Wheeler	3/5	Patrick Hreachmack	3/17	C.J. Milburn	3/29
Jay Wilcox	3/7	Judy Leach	3/18	Philip Norman	3/29
Tommy Dickhaut	3/9	Michael Murray	3/19	Rachel Anstaett	3/30
Alexander Reed	3/10	Steven Rogers	3/21	Jillian Bohnert	3/30
Erin Hiller	3/12	Dave Yeager	3/23		

CHILDREN & YOUTH FORMATION

9:45 a.m. on Sundays via Zoom

To receive Saint Marks' weekly newsletter for Children, Youth, and Families, email Formation1@saintmarkscolumbus.org.

Lenten Activities for Families



Lent comes from an old English word meaning "spring season," and is the season of six weeks symbolizing the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert. It is a time of giving up some things to make room for the joy of Easter and baptism, and a time of discipline to make us more fit as disciples. Some people give up something for Lent, some take on something.

We've pulled together some of our favorite resources to use to observe Lent, accessible on the [Lent, Holy Week, and Easter](#) page of the Saint Mark's website. They include a downloadable Stations of the Cross Devotional Guide from Illustrated Children's Ministry with coloring pages, reflections, and discussion points for children and adults. Participating in Forward Movement's Lent Madness is always fun, it is sneakily educational, and you can sign up to receive daily emails.

However you choose to observe Lent this year, we'd like to know about it! Please email your ideas, activities, and traditions to us at Formation1@saintmarkscolumbus.org.

Book Drive

Books were made to be read! So, if you have some on your shelves that truly need a new home, donate them to the book drive!

Children and Youth Formation is partnering with the Outreach Committee on a Book Drive for the NNEMAP Food Pantry. We're asking Saint Mark's children and youth to collect and donate new or gently used books for readers of all ages. There will be a box for donations in the Saint Mark's lobby. We'll also hold a drive-by book drop-off at Saint Mark's from noon-2pm on Sunday, March 28th.

Thank you in advance for your generosity during this challenging time of reduced access to libraries, schools, and when so many have lost jobs and income.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Saint Mark's annual Easter Egg Hunt is on! However, this year, instead of taking place on the church grounds after Sunday worship service, Saint Mark's Youth will come quietly to your front lawn on the evening of April 4 to hide eggs to be discovered by children on Easter Sunday morning. We ask families with children 5th grade and under who would like to participate to please register on [Sign-up Genius](#).



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
YOUTH

 **NNEMAP**
food pantry

Visit us on Saint Marks' website:
[Children, Youth, and Families](#)

Monday, March 1

5:30 PM: AA Men's Group (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, March 2

1:15 PM: Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)

3:00 PM: Staff Meeting (Zoom), Women of St. Mark's (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 3

8:00 AM: Lent Wednesday Eucharist (Nave)

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

6:00 PM: Adult Formation (Zoom)

7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)

8:00 PM: Prayer Group (Zoom)

Thursday, March 4

6:15 PM & 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Friday, March 5

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)

Saturday, March 6

6:30 PM: Supper Group (Zoom)

Sunday, March 7

Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson

9:15: Adult Formation (Zoom)

9:45 AM: Children's Formation (Zoom)

10:30 AM: Liturgy of the Word (Live Streamed)

8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Monday, March 8

5:30 PM: AA - Men's Group (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, March 9

1:15 PM: Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)

3:00 PM: Staff Meeting (Zoom), Women of St. Mark's (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 10

8:00 AM: Lent Wednesday Eucharist (Nave)

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

1:00 PM: Stephen Ministry Meeting (Zoom)

6:00 PM: Adult Formation (Zoom)

7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)

Thursday, March 11

5:30 PM: Stephen Ministry Meeting

6:15 PM & 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Friday, March 12

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)

Sunday, March 14

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson

9:15: Adult Formation (Zoom)

9:45 AM: Children's Formation (Zoom)

10:30 AM: Liturgy of the Word (Live Streamed)

12:00 PM: Annual Meeting (Zoom)

8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Monday, March 15

5:30 PM: AA - Men's Group (Parish Hall)

7:00 PM: Sisters in Faith (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 16

1:15 : Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)

3:00 PM: Staff Meeting (Zoom), Women of St. Mark's (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 17

8:00 AM: Lent Wednesday Eucharist (Nave)

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

6:00 PM: Adult Formation (Zoom)

7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)

Thursday, March 18

6:15 PM & 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Friday, March 19

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)

Sunday, March 21

Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson

9:15: Adult Formation (Zoom)

9:45 AM: Children's Formation (Zoom)

10:30 AM: Liturgy of the Word (Live Streamed)

8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Monday, March 22

April 2021 Epistle Deadline

5:30 PM: AA - Men's Group (Parish Hall)

7:30 PM: Saint Mark's Monday Night Book Group (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 23

1:15 : Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)

3:00 PM: Staff Meeting (Zoom), Women of St. Mark's (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 24

8:00 AM: Lent Wednesday Eucharist (Nave)

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)

Thursday, March 25

6:15 PM & 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Friday, March 26

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)

Sunday, March 28

Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson

9:15: Adult Formation (Zoom)

9:45 AM: Children's Formation (Zoom)

10:30 AM: Liturgy of the Word (Live Streamed)

8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Monday, March 29

5:30 PM: AA - Men's Group (Parish Hall)

7:30 PM: Saint Mark's Monday Night Book Group (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 30

1:15 : Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)

3:00 PM: Staff Meeting (Zoom), Women of St. Mark's (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 31

8:00 AM: Lent Wednesday Eucharist (Nave)

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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SAINT MARK'S

Part of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, Saint Mark's held its first worship service in 1951 in a converted Methodist church in Grandview. Ground was broken in 1953 for the Parish Hall (now the Education Building) where services were held until the current Nave and Sanctuary was completed in 1958. Office space in an adjacent building was purchased in 1989. Major renovations of the entire facility occurred in 2004 and 2008 creating a campus today that empowers Christ's ministry within and beyond our parish.

SAINT MARK'S VESTRY MEMBERS'

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