March 2016

Holy Week at St. Mark’s

Palm Sunday March 20
Process with the donkey as we enter Jerusalem for Holy week. Meet in the east lower parking lot before the 9:15, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. services.

Noon Eucharist Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Maundy Thursday March 24 Agape Feast
Join in this ancient Christian tradition of sharing a simple meal and foot washing at 6:00 p.m. in Mahon Hall followed by Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion and stripping of the altar.

Good Friday March 25
Children’s Dramatic Worship Follow in Jesus’ footsteps through Jerusalem. Come at either 10 or 11 a.m.

Passion Reading
The words of Scripture in different voices and music bring us to Gethsemane. Eucharist from reserve sacrament. 7:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil March 26
Begin outdoors at the open fire to light the candles. Enter the darkness of the church and hear the words of hope before the lights come up and we sing our joyful songs.

Resurrection of Our Lord March 27 Christ is Risen!
Worship at 9:00, 11:15 a.m. or 1:00 p.m., Egg Hunt after each service! Children’s Worship in room 123 with Pastor Robin at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

Sounds of Lent

Friday, March 4, 2016 12:00 NOON
KAITLYN MATTHEWS is a sophomore Church Music major at Valparaiso University, where she studies organ with Dr. Lorraine Brugh. Locally, she has studied with Dr. Marsha Foxgrover, Organist at Wheaton Bible Church and Organist in Residence at Rockford College.

Friday, March 18, 2016 12:00 NOON
MARIANNE KIM is a Chicago based full-time musician as a composer, arranger, pianist, organist, clinician and studio musician. Marianne’s versatile musical ability brought her to the diverse range of musical styles, such as classical, jazz, R&B, rock, Broadway musical, traditional & contemporary church music, and more. Marianne currently studies organ with James Russell Brown at Northern Illinois University and has performed in many of Chicago’s great churches.
I continue to bask in the memories of the wonderful celebration of my ten years at St. Mark’s. Although the party on Saturday, January 30 was not a surprise, the details were a well-kept secret. So, I was truly surprised and honored by what it was and at how many people were able to attend. I consider the event a celebration not just of my ten years, but a celebration of the past ten years of what has happened at St. Mark’s – its ministries and community. The planners of the party did an outstanding job, with perfect timing for a three-part evening: first, the gathering in Mahon Hall with appetizers; second, a program in the sanctuary; and third, a dessert buffet with more than a dozen pound cakes back in Mahon Hall. The program in the sanctuary was a perfect mix of humor, music, message and celebration. I loved each of the “Georgie” awards (now displayed on the mantle of the office-kitchen fireplace) and was beyond grateful that Izana Hill (my ten-year old doppelganger) was the smiling recipient. Psalm 155 written by Charles Snider and sung by the choir was a masterpiece of rhyme and story. I will cherish the chapeau, straw hats and other gifts that arrived just-in-time via UPS in a large brown shipping box. My likeness captured in the 3-D crystal halogram will help remind me in the future of what I looked like at my ten year mark – happy and grateful. In fact, every detail of the party was well done, and I am truly, truly thankful for the celebration, the many gifts and cards and for being together as a church family. Thanks to the generosity of many, the anniversary purse presented to me will enable Cecilia and me to travel to Barcelona, Spain from February 21 – 28 to visit our daughter, Frances, who is studying there for her junior winter semester. With a grateful heart, I look forward to the work, worship, prayers and welcome that God will inspire us to do together in the years ahead.

With gratitude in Christ, George+

St. Mark's parishioner, Mallory Holding, begins research project in Uganda: I'll be going to Kampala, Uganda by way of a couple weeks in Nairobi to manage a research trial for a road safety campaign for Georgetown University’s Initiative on Innovation, Development and Evaluation (Gui2de). I will be living in Kampala for at least a year. In sub-Saharan Africa road deaths are the leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 15 to 29 and the second leading cause of death for children ages 5-14. Deaths are often due to reckless driving by minibuses. The road safety campaign I'll be working on involves placing bumper sticker messages inside minibuses that encourage passengers to speak up against unsafe driving. Between 2007 and 2013 the results from Georgetown University's two randomized control trials in Nairobi, Kenya proved that minibuses with the stickers had between 25-50% fewer insurance accident claims, translating to 140 avoided accidents and 55 lives annually in the sample group. The success of this cost-effective solution in Kenya had led to the expansion of the project nationwide in Kenya and piloting the campaign in Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. (I will be leading the Uganda pilot program)

It's an exciting project to be a part of because it is such a simple solution to a major problem. The pilot project in Uganda will be testing out the bumper sticker intervention as a randomized control trial, so by the time I'm finished it will be nice to see just how effective (or ineffective) our work was.

Wednesdays in Lent

Eucharist at noon

Evening events begin at 6 PM
Always includes dinner!

March 2
Instructed Seder

March 9
Family blanket making event
for Alliance for Smiles

March 16
Music with Bobby jo Valentine

Cello, Flute,
and Piano Recital
Followed by Evensong
Tanya Carey, cello, Gerald Carey, flute
Marsha Webster, piano

Sunday, March 13, 5:30 p.m.
In 2016, the great events of Holy Week occur in the month of March. These events can be spiritually meaningful when we approach them with careful and prayerful preparation.

1. March 20 is Palm Sunday, also called the Sunday of the Passion, is the beginning of Holy Week, the most important week in the liturgical year, in which we experience anew the sufferings and abandonment experienced by our Lord on our behalf. In the context of a single day’s worship we experience a "roller coaster ride" of emotion, from the high point of joy of welcoming Christ with shouts of "Hosanna," to a quick emotional descent to the somber re-telling, in the Passion Gospel, of the mob's demand to "Crucify Him." Palm Sunday has been observed since 381 AD in Jerusalem.

On Palm Sunday, the Lord entered Jerusalem mounted on a young donkey. In Biblical times, royalty would ride donkeys in times of peace, reserving horses for wartime. By entering Jerusalem this way, Christ announced himself as the King of Israel, bringing peace, and fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9-12, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold your king comes to you, triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt the foal of a donkey."

2. Maundy Thursday, March 24, continues the gathering dramatic intensity in our Palm Sunday liturgy, as the Lord moves inexorably towards his execution. The central theme of this day is the institution of the Holy Communion, or Holy Eucharist, by the Lord at the Last Supper. The celebration of this clay may include blessing of oils, the consecration of Eucharistic bread and wine to be used at the Good Friday service (at which no elements are consecrated), and the reservation of the sacrament with a prayer vigil. The earliest celebration of a special Eucharist on this day is traced to the fourth century, where it was celebrated in Jerusalem at the site where Christians believed they had recovered the true cross.

"Maundy" refers to the mandatum, or command, given by Christ as he washed his disciples feet: "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another even as I have loved you." (John 13:1-5) A common Maundy Thursday custom was for abbots to wash the feet of monks and for kings to wash the feet of peasants. Even after the Reformation, English royalty "kept the Maundy" by washing the feet of poor people. The option of foot washing in the Episcopal Church service was reinstated in the 1979 revision of the Book of Common Prayer.

3. March 25, Good Friday, marks the beginning of the Triduum, the holiest three days of the Christian year, as we follow our Lord Jesus Christ up to Golgotha to suffer Crucifixion, as He predicted He must do. This is a day of holy sorrow and solemnity as we enter in silence and ponder the incomprehensible suffering that our Lord suffered at the hands of sinful humanity for our sakes. If there is a communion, it uses bread and wine consecrated earlier. Among the most ancient Good Friday customs is the veneration of a wooden cross to represent the cross on which Christ died.

On Holy Saturday, March 26, we keep vigil over his tomb. This is the most intense day of Lent and of Holy Week, the day in which we must face the full reality of Christ’s death on the cross for our redemption and in our place. On this most somber day of the church year, hope seems to have died with our Lord, but we are not left in despair. The somber reflection of Holy Saturday is not a defeat; it is a preparation for the explosive joy of the Easter celebration. See the collect for this day on p. 283 of the Book of Common Prayer.

4. In recent years, observance of Holy Saturday has been reunited with the ancient service of the Easter Vigil. This vigil takes place after sundown on Saturday, which in liturgical terms is already Sunday. Finally, at the Easter Vigil, we again proclaim the Resurrection. The vigil has a number of special elements: the blessing of the new fire, the lighting of the paschal candle, a service of lessons detailing God’s mighty acts of salvation in both the Old Testament and the New, and baptisms. We pray at this service, "This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life. This is the night when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell and rose victorious from the grave." (Book of Common Prayer, p. 287).

Easter, March 27, when Christ is victor over sin and death, is the greatest and oldest of all feasts celebrated in the Church. Now ends Lent, the somber forty-day journey of spiritual renewal and self-examination, and now begins Eastertide, the Great Fifty Days, a period of rejoicing in Christ’s victory. During Eastertide the Paschal Candle is lit every Sunday, the church is decorated with flowers and colorful fabrics, fasting is over, and we assemble to meet together in holy joy.

Vestry meetings are open. The next meeting is March 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library.
El día 2 de marzo, Recordaremos la Fiesta del Paso del pueblo judío

El pueblo de nuestros antepasados en la fe, celebra su liberación. La fiesta pascual de los cristianos tiene sus raíces en la pascua de los judíos. Cuanto mejor conozcamos la celebración judía, tanto mejor comprenderemos el papel de la tipología pascual del Antiguo Testamento para interpretar el misterio de la muerte y la resurrección de Jesús y tanto mejor comprenderemos lo que celebramos en la fiesta más importante de nuestra Iglesia.

En Ex 12,1-28 se nos narra la razón por la cual los judíos celebraban la fiesta pascual. La narración está compuesta de diferentes relatos, que proceden de tiempos diversos. Podemos recordar lo siguiente: (Artículo tomado de Wikipedia http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/P%C3%A9saj)

Pésaj (en hebreo מַצָּאִיִּים) literalmente «salto», es la festividad judía que conmemora la salida del pueblo hebreo de Egipto, relatada en el libro bíblico del Éxodo. El pueblo hebreo ve en el relato de la salida de Egipto como el hito que marca el nacimiento del pueblo como tal. La festividad es uno de los tres Shalosh Regalim (Fiestas de Peregrinaje) del judaísmo, ya que durante la época en que el Templo de Jerusalén existía, se acostumbraba a peregrinar al mismo y realizar ofrendas.

La festividad dura siete días (ocho en la Diáspora, ante la antigua duda de un error de cálculo de calendario se agregó un día extra para asegurar el cumplimiento), y durante la misma está prohibida la ingestión de alimentos fermentados, llamados en hebreo Jametz (ִנֵּאָהִים) (la raíz de la palabra indica «fermentación»). En su lugar, durante la festividad se acostumbra a comer Matzá (אַפָּה בְּרֵיהָ), seder significa "orden" en su acepción como "procedimiento", por lo que la frase completa se translitera como "orden pascual"; consiste en llevar a cabo una tradicional cena la primera noche de la festividad (las dos primeras en la Diáspora), llamada «Seder» (חֲמַר), durante la cual se relata la historia de la salida de Egipto que comienza con el parrófo de "ha lajmah anya". También se realizan varios brindis en los que se presentan los elementos del Plato del Sédé.

Y similarmente a como ocurre con otras fiestas judías, la realización misma de la celebración difiere entre las tradiciones askenazi y sefardí, en la que cada cual cuenta con su propia versión de hagada (hebreo: הַגָּדָה, el libro de oraciones).

Pascua Cristiana

En el Nuevo Testamento, san Lucas describirá el anuncio hecho a los discípulos de la muerte de Jesús, en la transfiguración, como su ésodo que debía cumplirse en Jerusalén (9, 31, cf. Jn 13, I al hablar de su paso de este mundo al Padre, en el momento de la pascua). Es probable también que la imagen del cordero inmolado, en Is 53, 7, implicaba desde el principio una referencia pascual. En todo caso, san Pablo describirá la pasión salvadora de Cristo diciendo: "Cristo, nuestra pascua, ha sido inmolado" (I Cor 5, 7).

Así, por una parte, la celebración pascual se convertirá para los cristianos en la celebración de la muerte y de la resurrección del Salvador, y la pascua judía, con todo lo que había significado para los judíos en la primera alianza, será para ellos la fuente principal de su interpretación de la pasión. Ya en la primera epístola de san Pedro vemos superponerse a este tema e1 del bautismo, celebrado de preferencia en la noche pascual. Pasado Él mismo de este mundo a su Padre por la cruz, Cristo nos transporta tras Él, no ya simplemente del Egipto material a una tierra prometida que no lo era menos, aunque uno y otra estuvieran ya llenos de evocaciones espirituales, sino “del reino de las tinieblas al reino del Hijo” (Cal 1, 13), que es lo mismo que la entrada en participación de “la heredad de los santos en la luz” (v. 12).

Así el misterio de Cristo, tal como lo explicará san Pablo y como lo celebrará toda la liturgia de la antigua Iglesia, es el misterio pascual, es decir, el que se cumplió en la pascua, que la pascua cristiana conmemora, y que constituye la pascua definitiva de la nueva y eterna alianza.

La parusía de Cristo será finalmente descrita a su vez como el definitivo cumplimiento de esta pascua en la eternidad (cf. Lc 22, 16 y Mt 26, 29). (Bouyerdi, Diccionario)
La Pascua en la Iglesia
La Pascua es la fiesta principal, corazón y punto álgido del calendario litúrgico, la llamada “Fiesta de Fiestas” opaca incluso a la Navidad, pues en sí en la natividad nació el Salvador y nos llenó de gozo su venida, aún mayor alegría nos causa el cumplimiento de las promesas de Dios al enviarnos a un Salvador que rescatara a la humanidad entera del pecado.

La fecha de la Pascua
La Pascua cambia cada año debido a la relación que tiene con la pascua judía y las diferencias entre el calendario judío y el nuestro.
Los judíos comen el cordero pascual la víspera del 15 de Nisan (el primer mes del calendario judío). Jesús celebró la pascua (la última cena) según la costumbre judía, o sea, el 14 de Nisan, murió en la cruz el 15 de Nisan y resucitó el domingo siguiente, que ese año fue el 17 de Nisan.
El calendario judío es lunar, y el nuestro solar, lo cual complica bastante las cosas. Por ejemplo, el calendario tiene 354 días. Para hacer un ajuste, judíos insertan un mes a su calendario, por orden del Sanedrín (no por algún método definido). Esto dio lugar a numerosas controversias sobre la fecha para la celebración de la pascua.
En los primeros tiempos, los cristianos de origen judío continuaron usando el calendario judío para la pascua: El viernes santo lo celebraban el 15 de Nisan y la pascua de resurrección el 17 de Nisan (fuese o no domingo).
En el resto del imperio romano, sin embargo, se tomó en consideración que Jesús históricamente resucitó el domingo y todos los domingos se celebra a la fiesta de la Resurrección. Por eso se optó por celebrar La Pascua el primer domingo después de la primera luna llena después del equinoccio de primavera. El Primer Concilio de Nicea (325) decretó que la práctica romana debe observarse en toda la Iglesia. Las ortodoxas celebran la pascua otra fecha porque siguen el calendario Juliano (ortodoxo ruso). La fecha de la fiesta de Pascua católica fluctúa entre el 22 de Marzo y el 25 Abril. En referencia a ella se calculan las otras fiestas movibles del calendario litúrgico.

El tiempo de Pascua Explicado
La pascua se celebra por 50 días. Es la fiesta más importante de la liturgia. Comienza el domingo de Resurrección y termina en Pentecostés. La cuaresma termina en la tarde del Jueves Santo con la liturgia de la Cena del Señor que da comienzo al Triduo Pascual. El Viernes Santo se hace el “ayuno pascual” que se continúa el sábado santo, preparatorio a la gran celebración pascual. El triduo culmina en la Vigilia Pascual del sábado por la tarde.
Los primeros ocho días de la pascua constituyen la octava y se celebran como solemnidades del Señor.

El agua bendecida en la Vigilia pascual se usa para los bautismos en toda la temporada de pascua.
En el día 40 de la pascua se celebra la ascensión del Señor y los 9 días de la ascensión a Pentecostés (la novena original) son días de intensa preparación para la venida del Espíritu Santo. Referencias tomadas para este artículo: (Bouyerdi, Diccionario)

Eventos importantes en San Marcos
El Estudio del Evangelio de San Lucas todos los miércoles de 7:30pm a 8:30pm.
Ya hemos comenzado con nuestro viaje de fe y conocimiento al lado de nuestro Señor en este evangelio. Queremos invitarte a que participes y te entregues al conocimiento de la Palabra de Dios hecha carne. Invita a un amigo o amiga a que participe.

Santo Viacrucis – Todos los viernes de la Cuaresma a las 7:00 PM en la iglesia. Te esperamos para que contemplemos el camino de la Cruz recorrido por nuestro Señor Jesús.

What is Spiritual Direction?
Spiritual direction is also known as spiritual companionship. When I preached on prayer last fall, I mentioned that each of us has different ways to pray. The same can be said about spiritual direction and spiritual companionship. Each person brings a unique way of connecting with God.

Sitting and talking with a spiritual director once a month can help us focus more clearly on the ways God is speaking into our lives. I believe God is always speaking to each of us, all the time. Sometimes we are able to “tune in.” Spiritual direction helps in that process of “tuning in,” of paying attention to the call God has on our lives. While spiritual direction is a requirement for those seeking ordination in the Church, it is “not just for clergy!” welcome any and all questions on spiritual direction.

I am available as a spiritual director at St. Mark’s. My office is next to Lehmann Parlor. I can also help people find other spiritual directors in the area. I can be reached by email at revcp Phillips@gmail.com or by phone at 630-802-9211. Make an appointment or catch me Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday or after church on Sunday.

Blessings, Catharine Phillips
Pledge and offering  
(offertory, oblation)

Edna Heatherington writes:
Why does the church, which is supposed to be a place of transcendence and spirituality, talk about money, ask its members to give money?

One short answer is that the church is human. We are an earthly group of humans who gather in a place to help each other and the world. Just as Jesus told his followers, when many had gathered to hear his teaching, “you give them something to eat,” (Mark 6:37), we ourselves must give our community its means of existence.

As it is the Creator who has called us into our human existence, and has given us a world in which we find the abundance of good things that sustain human living, when we gather to worship the Creator, we follow that ancient instruction given to Moses and our forefathers, every one in gratitude to give as we are able, “according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee” (Deut 16:17). The offering is part of the Eucharist, the Mass: In the prayer of oblation we offer ourselves, our lives and labors, in union with Christ, for the purposes of God. We ourselves must provide the bread and wine with which we recall the greatest gift, God’s presence among us in the person of Jesus.

So when we are participating in the eucharist, we place our individual offering into the alms basin, and those who bring the people’s gifts to the altar carry this offering with the bread and wine. But what then is our pledge?

We use the offering of money to maintain our church and its work. We have a building in which to worship, priests to lead us, and all the material things and human work required to support ourselves and our Christian work. Each year we look ahead and plan to continue and to make changes. We continue to employ our priests and staff members, to purchase bread and wine, to maintain our buildings and grounds. We continue in outreach work such as serving PADS, supporting the Food Pantry and the Walk-In Ministry. We plan to add new things such as to participate in Bridge Communities in 2016, to hire a bookkeeper and a communications consultant.

When the Treasurers, Vestry, and Finance committee make the budget plan for the year ahead, they ask the members to estimate what we can give and make our pledge, our promise of what we will give during the year. If the pledges are enough, the plans can go ahead. If we all promise what we can, and it is not enough, the plans must be changed.

Our pledges are not legal contracts, like an agreement to make a monthly payment on a mortgage or the loan we need to buy a car. They are our best estimate of what we both can and will give to our church. Especially when we both earn and give weekly, we usually calculate an amount we will be able to put into the alms basin each Sunday, as our participation in the offering of our own lives and labors, part of the eucharist. We may be able to increase what we give, and we often add special offerings for special purposes, such as the blue boxes of the Lenten Thank Offering.

We ourselves are the church. Our priests lead us in the sacraments and preach the Word, our music leaders help us add the transcendence of music, but the eucharist can happen only with our participation. All the life and work of our community is our work together. When we stand up together as the bread, wine, and other gifts are carried from the gathered people up to the altar, we offer our selves and we know that together we are the body of Christ.

CATHEDRAL YOUTH DAY

Or how I learned that “I am the Diocese!”

When: April 16, 2016 from 9 am to 3 pm
Where: St. James Commons. 65 E Huron Chicago, IL
What: Youth and adult leaders will explore the cathedral, play silly games, sing together, share musical talents, eat delicious food, and make new friends from all around our diocese.
Who: Youth in grades 6-12 and their adult leaders.
Why: You are the diocese! We all are! And our cathedral is a symbol that we’re all part of a wider "Church" that’s even bigger than our local congregation.
How: Register online. Cost is $10. Scholarships available.
Questions: Contact Chad Senuta or Jess Elfring-Roberts. csenuta@episcopalchicago.org or jelfring@episcopalchicago.org

Confirmation Retreat for 7th & 8th Grade Confirmands

Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Confirmands are strongly encouraged to attend the Maundy Thursday Agape Meal preceding this retreat.

Cinco de Mayo Dinner and Silent Auction is Saturday, April 30!
Middle Schoolers!
Wednesday Night Youth Group
(3rdWed@StMarks) will meet March 16, April 20, May 18, and June 8 (end of year celebration) from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. All 6, 7 and 8 graders are invited and encouraged to bring a friend. Meets in the library with leaders Jocelyn Briones and Teresa Norris!
March 16 will be a Game Night at 7:30 p.m. following the Lenten Supper and Program!

Hey, High Schoolers!
Wednesday Night Youth Group
(1st&3rdWed@StMarks)
Come to the library and bring a friend. Wednesdays: March 2, March 16, April 6, April 20, May 4, May 18, June 8 (end of the year celebration), from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Join Myles and Jess VanCamp. There's always food! March 2 is a study night! Bring your backpacks!

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS
(those currently in 8th grade and older)
Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip (ASP) – July 16-23. Contact Cindy Glavin cglavin92@yahoo.com or 630-858-1946.
Mexico Mission Trip June 13-18. Next meeting is Sunday, March 13, at 2:30 p.m. in the library. Deposits are due! ($100 – checks can be made out to St. Mark's) Contact Kim Reed for more information.

MISSION CAMP
(those currently in 5th through 7th grades):
Be on the lookout for August dates soon. It most likely will be during the first week of August!

Instructed Seder at St. Mark’s Wednesday, March 2, 6:00 p.m. in Mahon Hall. The 7th and 8th Grade Confirmands will provide and prepare the food for the Seder plates and are encouraged to participate. All St. Mark’s parishioners are invited to attend. A shared meal follows.

For All Youth
Youth Bridge Group: First Sunday of the Month: March 6, April 3, May 1, and June 5 from 11:45 to 12:45 in the library. We'll make lunches for PADS and have pizza and fellowship. For all youth, 6th grade and up!

Attend Lenten Suppers March 2, March 9, & March 16! We’ll have dinner followed by special programs for the whole family. Dinner and program start at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m.

PRC Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunity Saturday, March 5, from 8:45 to noon. Contact Kim Reed if you would like to sign up.

Registration is now open for Camp Chicago 2015! Camp Chicago serves young people, ages 7-17, from all parts of the diocese and beyond! Located at Camp Stronghold in Oregon, IL, the camp offers Christian education, worship, fellowship, leadership development, outdoor adventure experience, arts and crafts, canoeing, swimming, ropes course, tent camping, archery, campfires, music, and more. One week sessions run from June 26 to July 15. For those ages 16-17, there's Leaders in Training and Leaders in Community offered June 26- July 8. Camp is not restricted to Episcopalians. All are welcome. Scholarships are available, too. For more information or to register, go to www.campchicago.org.

Soup & Bread
For Youth Scholarships and Bridge Communities!
Saturday, March 19 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mahon Hall
If you are interested in making soup, bread, or cookies, please contact Kim Reed. There will be entertainment. Cost is a free will donation

Confirmation is Sunday, April 24, at St. Mark’s at the 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. services!
Children’s Ministry
Kristin Margaglione childrensministry@stmarksglenellyn.org 630-779-6866

Alliance for Smiles
On Wednesday, March 9, Mary Jensen from Alliance for Smiles. She will guide families in making blankets to comfort those undergoing cleft palate surgery. Dinner will be served at 6:00, followed by the activity. Alliance for Smiles organizes and sends surgical teams to sites for two week missions. A surgical team is comprised of approximately 15 medical volunteers, supported by approximately 5 non-medical volunteers. During a mission 70 to 100 under-served children receive surgery for cleft lip & palate anomalies. The AfS team works side-by-side with local medical practitioners to exchange ideas on proper medical techniques and procedures, and provide follow-up care.

United Thank Offering (the little blue boxes)
Fill a box with change as you give thanks for the blessings of God as we participate in the worldwide reach of the Episcopal Church. Please return to St. Mark’s on Easter Sunday, March 27.

Save the dates for Summer Fun!
Drama Camp with Gina Corrado
June 13-17
VBS July 18th –22nd
Registrations will begin in March.

Playgroup Continues
Come join the St. Mark’s Playgroup every other Thursday mornings from 9-10:30 in Mahon Hall! Children from 0-5 can enjoy each other’s company and the large space to move! Play with the toys here or bring some to share. No registration necessary. Coming dates are: March 3, March 17, April 7, April 21.

Holy Week is full of interactive opportunities!
From the donkey to foot washing to decorated rooms to the new flame and bell ringing, children will be engaged and inspired by the dramatic events at St. Mark’s. See the complete listing on the front of this issue and attend as many as your family can.

St. Mark’s Preschool announces our 2016-17 registration!
We will offer three, four and five day options for you as well as our wonderful Lunch & Learn program. You will have the option of either a morning or afternoon placement Monday through Thursday. Your child’s week at St. Mark’s Preschool is especially enriched by: Chapel, Music, Yoga and Spanish language experiences. Our Parents Day Out program is available for families seeking a full day of care for their preschooler from Monday through Thursday. For those children who especially enjoy the visual and performing arts, we encourage you to consider our Studio Arts Program which is held on Fridays from 9:30-1:0. Registration forms and more information can be found on our website www.stmarksglenellyn.org/preschool. Andrea Cocke, preschool@stmarksglenellyn.org.

Chorister Rehearsals Every Wednesday in the Choir Room
K-1st grade Choristers meet 4:00 – 4:40 and 2nd – 5th grade Choristers meet 4:45 – 5:30. New singers are always welcome. Each choir sings monthly, during the 9:15 worship service. We also have parties. And lots of fun. Come try us out! Questions? Contact Marsha Webster, 630-542-4677, musicassociate@stmarksglenellyn.org.

Save the dates this spring!
April 24 Confirmation Sunday
April 30 Cinco de Mayo fiesta
May 15 Communion Celebration

Holy Week events are a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family to St. Mark’s!
**Women in Touch**

Come to WIT (Women in Touch) – a women’s group for those of us who don’t think of themselves as “women’s group” people. It’s a trusted (and trusting) gathering of women at all stages in life. We meet every month in the morning and have several evening events as well.

**Living in the Light of the Moon**

**Thursday, March 10**

9:30-11 a.m. in the library at St. Mark’s.

Come for a fascinating discussion, led by St. Mark’s member Dr. Carolyn Faivre, on living in harmony with our bodies, emotions, and spirits by learning about moon cycles. Childcare available.

Other dates this spring: April 4, April 7, April 22. Watch for details.

Questions? Contact Jennifer Grant at 630-510-8019, jen@jennifergrant.com.

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**PADS Serves Homeless**

The next time that the St. Mark’s PADS team serves at PADS is Sunday evening March 6 through Monday morning March 7. We always serve the first Sunday of the month. St. Mark’s volunteers serve on four shifts starting with the dinner shift Sunday evening and ending with breakfast shift on Monday morning. That food that we serve is donated by St. Mark’s parishioners. If you would like to volunteer or donate food please contact either David or Don. David Dornblaser 630.474.9706 H 630.215.7999 C dornblaser@me.com Donald Sutherland 630.469.8284 H 630.661.5792 H drsmps@sbcglobal.net

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**PDO Registration for 2016-17!**

Parent’s Day Out (“PDO”) offers daycare from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and will walk children to afternoon St. Mark’s Preschool sessions. Children between the ages of 2 and 4+ are eligible to register for one or two days per week, and all days also offer a substitute list. Registration is $50 for one child and $75 for two or more children. Tuition is $25 per day for one child, $45 per day for two children, and $60 per day for three children. Financial assistance may also be available upon application to the PDO Director and Board. Program applications for September 2016 will be available through the Parish website, www.stmarksglomeron.org, the PDO check-in table, and by the church office and may be returned to the church office. Registration will begin for Parishioners, returning PDO families and St. Mark’s Preschool families beginning April 4, and for new families April 11. Questions: PDO Director Kathy O’Rourke – kathycubfan@gmail.com.

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**PDO June and July 2016 Summer Session**

PDO offers a June and July summer session on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings operating from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and providing a snack. You may register for one, two or three days each week, and you register for each individual day in June and July that you would like to have your child attend. The cost is $25/day/child, due at registration. There is a limit of 20 spots per day available. Parents of children attending VBS will also be able to sign up for child care for VBS week at the same time. PDO Summer Session and VBS Session signup sheets will be available at the PDO check in table beginning on Monday, April 18. PDO Director Kathy O’Rourke – kathycubfan@gmail.com.

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**Laced in Lent? Watch the weekly bulletins for discussion groups and daily readings.**

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**Book Lovers of St. Mark’s Meet March 20 (Note early start time)**

The St. Mark’s book group will meet March 20 at 2 pm at the home of Rinda Allison. We will compare and contrast two books Nine Parts of Desire (1996) and Paradise Beneath Her Feet. (2010) All are welcome! Please contact May Anstee at m-anstee@comcast.net if you plan to attend.
Lend a Warming Hand!

Once again, St. Mark’s has an opportunity to do more than talk about the homeless. We can actually show up, and do something! St. Mark’s has agreed to help out at the Warming Center at the First United Methodist Church (424 Forest Ave. Glen Ellyn), on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 4:00PM - 6:45 PM (2/21, 3/20). Responsibilities include registering guests, serving soup, coffee, baked goods, etc. providing a pad for each of our guests to rest on, and then clean up. The warmth of your smile and acts of kindness mean a lot to those who otherwise would be out in the cold! This winter, spread some warmth, and you will be twice warmed! Sign up for one date, or all of them! Questions? Ben Maxson, 630-715-5913.

Appalachia Service Project Flower Fundraiser

In July, several of our high school youth and adult chaperones will travel to Kentucky to work with the Appalachia Service Project (ASP.) In preparation for the trip, they are conducting a spring plant sale to raise funds, as each volunteer is responsible for paying his or her own fees to attend ASP. Please consider placing an order to help them make it to Kentucky. Enjoy the good feeling you will have knowing that you are helping our St. Mark’s volunteers have this wonderful opportunity to serve people in need while you get beautiful plants. You may order full or half flats of your favorite spring flowers or pre-planted baskets. Ask friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers if they might order some plants to help our volunteers. The flowers are from Grassmid Greenhouse in Michigan and are high quality and beautiful. You will find an order form in this edition of the Postmark.

What is Appalachia Service Project?
ASP is a weeklong Christian mission trip where our volunteers will join other church volunteers from around the country to repair and winterize homes for those in need in Appalachia. The high-energy and action-packed ASP experience is powerful and life changing. ASP worksites have as many as 400 kids participate which creates big energy and excitement throughout the entire week.

ORDER INFORMATION:
· Orders are due by Tuesday, March 8.
· Make checks payable to: St. Mark’s with ASP in the memo line, and returned with the order form.
· Return completed orders forms along with payment to the St. Mark’s office or to an ASP volunteer.
· Pickup Date: April 30th at St. Mark’s parking lot.

THINK SPRING! Contact Cindy Glavin at cjglavin92@yahoo.com or 630-858-1946 with any questions you might have. Thank You!

St. Mark’s Lenten Display:
Stations of the Cross, The Lion of St. Mark

During the season of Lent our church displays the Stations of the Cross and The Lion of St. Mark by artist and St. Mark’s longtime parishioner Richard Rush (1916-2001). Dick Rush was a prolific commercial artist who concentrated on sculpture in the later part of his career. He founded Richard Rush Studio, a model company where he created permanent displays for many clients, including the Shedd Aquarium; Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry (including work on the coal mine); and most notably, the dies from which the Presidential Seal is cast. Other work at St. Mark’s by Dick Rush includes the wall mural of the life of Christ, found in the hallway outside the choir room.

The Stations of the Cross displayed throughout the nave of the church are made of a lightweight modeling material that resembles stone. They are hand colored and mounted on wood panels. The images are emotional, yet subtle. The consistency of the colors and the use of similar figure groupings enable the story of Christ’s journey with the cross to build slowly and carefully. They bear more depth of understanding with repeated visits, as the Stations of the Cross spiritual practice is wont to do. The Stations begin at the front right of the church and proceed clockwise, ending at the pulpit.

The Lion of St. Mark appears at the rear right of the church nave. It too is made of lightweight modeling material, but is not stained. St Mark represented as a lion comes from the prophetic visions in the Book of Revelation—one of the four living creatures near the throne of the Almighty who are symbols of the four evangelists. In his sculpture of the winged lion, Dick Rush has incorporated crosses and other religious motifs along with significant dates in the founding and building of St. Mark’s Church in Glen Ellyn. It also includes an engraved panel listing the rectors of St. Mark’s parish from the first, Herbert. W. Prince in 1909, through the eighth, Raymond E. Cole, ending in 1996.

Please take time during this quiet season to visit the pieces that we are fortunate to keep as Richard Rush’s legacy.
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**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT**  
**SPRING FLOWER FUNDRAISER**

**ZONAL GERANIUMS 4 1/2" pot - $4.50 each**
- White
- Red
- **TOTAL GERANIUMS**

**PREMIUM ANNUALS 4 1/2" pot - $4.50 each**
- Dahlia Dahlias
- Lantana
- Gerbera Daisy
- Yellow
- Ivy Geraniums
- Red Shades
- Dragon Wing Begonia - Red
- Pink Shades
- Dragon Wing Begonia - Pink
- Wave Petunias
- Blue Wave (dark purple)
- Pink Wave (medium pink)
- **TOTAL PREMIUM ANNUALS**

**ACCENT PLANTS 3" pot - $2.50 each**
- Spikes
- Vinca Vine
- **TOTAL ACCENT PLANTS**

**HANGING BASKETS 10" - $20.00 each**
- Boston Fern
- Fuchsia
- New Guinea Impatiens
- Million Bells (Calibrachoa)
- Non-Stop Begonias
- Pansy
- Ivy Geraniums
- Combination of Flowers - SUN
- Wave Petunias
- Combination of Flowers - SHADE
- Strawflowers
- Combination of Flowers - PART SUN
- **TOTAL HANGING BASKETS**

**PLANTERS - 12" - $25.00 each**
- Premium Combination Planters - SUN
- Premium Combination Planters - SHADE
- Premium Combination Planters - PART SUN
- **TOTAL 12" PLANTERS**

**PLANTERS - 10" - $20.00 each**
- 10" Stock Geraniums
- 10" New Guinea Impatiens
- **TOTAL 10" PLANTERS**

**PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR ORDER**

Make checks payable to St. Mark's, with ASP in the Memo Line
Return Order form to the Front Office, or an ASP Volunteer

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**TOTAL:**

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**NAME:**

**PHONE #:**

**EMAIL:**
2016 St. Mark’s Organ Concert Series March 20

The 2016 St. Mark’s Concert Series, made possible by the generosity of the parishioners of St. Mark’s, is offered free of charge to the greater Chicagoland community.

March 20 4:00 PM
A graduate of the Juilliard School, Ms. Demers is Organ Professor at Baylor University in Texas. Her concert at the 2010 national convention of the American Guild of Organists, in Washington, D.C., was received with great acclaim not only by critics who deemed it “one of the most outstanding events of the convention”, but also by the standing-room-only audience which called her back to the stage five times. She has appeared in recital at the cathedrals of Cologne and Regensburg in Germany, St. Paul’s Cathedral and the Royal Festival Hall in London. Highlights of her 2015-16 season include a return engagement at the Royal Festival Hall, and the dedication of the new organ at Beijing’s South Cathedral.

Important Dates March 2016
2 W Instructed Seder dinner
9 W Alliance for Smiles and dinner
12 Sa Men’s Group
13 Su Tanya and Gerald Cary recital, Evensong
16 W Bobby Jo Valentine music and dinner
19 S Soup and Bread (Bridge/Youth)
20 Su Palm Sunday procession at 9:15, 10:30 AM, 1 PM
Organ recital: Demers
24 Th Maundy Thursday Agape meal, Eucharist, vigil
25 F Good Friday children’s worship, Passion reading
26 Sa Easter Vigil and reception
27 Su Easter Eucharist 9:00 and 11:15 am, 1 pm with Children’s Worship and Egg hunt

Bobby Jo Valentine March 16
Dinner at 6:00. With truly transcendent lyrics and a voice that touches the soul, Bobby captures the heart of audiences across the country. Bursting with energy, realistic optimism and filled with uplifting, honest messages about hope and life’s struggles, Bobby Jo continues to gather new listeners with every live performance.