

THE LION'S TALE

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE REV. MARK A. KOZIELEC, RECTOR
4714 CLIFTON AVE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63109
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WWW.SAINTMARKS-STL.ORG

FEBRUARY 2020



**SHROVE
TUESDAY
FEBRUARY
25TH**

PANCAKE SUPPER

5:00 -7:00 P.M.

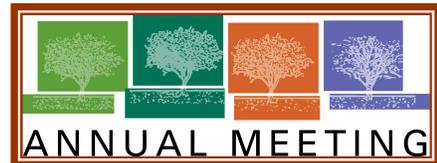
Adults \$5.00, Children \$3.00
\$15.00 max per family

Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon and Fruit!
All are welcome. Sign up sheet on the
bulletin board in the parish hall or call
or email the office to sign up to attend.
Volunteers are also needed.

*"Shrove Tuesday" is the English version
of the custom Mardi Gras, a day of
indulgence before the self-denial of the
Lenten season.*



**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 26TH
HOLY EUCHARIST &
IMPOSITION OF ASHES
NOON AND 7:30 P.M.**



NEWS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

New vestry members for 3 year terms are:

Carol Hohenberger
Brian Stujenske
John Trellogen

Convention Delegate

(1 year term - Alternate) Karen Watts

Our new Vestry officers are:

Sr. Warden: Lynn Heritage
Junior Warden: Otto Schoenberg
Clerk: Amanda Cashen
Treasurer: Greg Diekemper

Meetings will continue to be held on the second
Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Proehl
Conference Room. Next vestry meeting Feb. 11.

Information on committees and groups
including all financial reports is in the written
report, including the descriptions and details of
the External and Internal Ministries of St.
Mark's. For those who were unable to attend,
copies of the Annual Report are available at the
back of church. Please read over the Annual
Report and if you have any questions or
concerns, contact the office or the rector.

Finding Lent in the Possibility of Forgiveness

It's a bit hard to think about Lent when we are smack in the middle of the Season of Epiphany—the time of light and revelation. It's even harder to think about it when we've just had a few days of decidedly spring-like weather—more Easter weather than anything else. And yet, in a few weeks, we will gorge ourselves on fluffy pancakes and heavenly smoked meats and then be marked with the ashes that call us to remember that from which we come and that to which we return.



But perhaps thinking about Lent in the light of Epiphany is not so odd after all. For in this light and revelation we can begin to see what possibilities Lent may be calling us to engage with. One such possibility which Lent calls us to embrace is *forgiveness*. Especially forgiveness.

Desmond Tutu, retired Archbishop of South Africa and the one-time chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission convened to address the atrocities of apartheid, tells us “forgiveness is not being sentimental,” nor is it an act of forgetting; “in the act of forgiveness we are declaring our faith in the future of a relationship and in the capacity of the wrongdoer to make a new beginning on a course that will be different from the one that caused us the wrong” (*No Future Without Forgiveness*, 273).

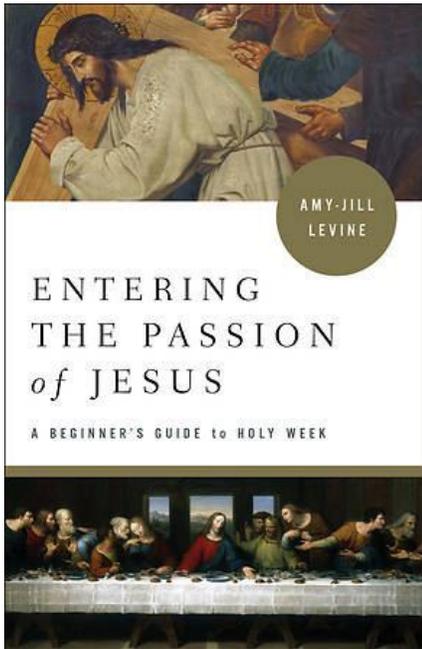
This making a new beginning is really what Lent is all about. Not giving up chocolate or on-line shopping or other nefarious habits. But embracing the possibilities that come when we engage in deep reflection on those areas in our lives we are not so pleased with, and then setting about the task of making a new beginning. AKA: Repentance.

In the words of absolution we find in the New Zealand Prayer Book, we hear: “God forgives you. Forgive others; forgive yourself” (731). I find those simple words deeply profound. *God forgives you*. Just as God loves us so God forgives us. *Forgive others*. Well, sometimes we can and sometimes we can't, but we can try, with God's help. *Forgive ourselves*. That, I find, is perhaps the most challenging discipline. And yet, if we know that God forgives us, why is it so hard to forgive ourselves?

Perhaps therein we find the perfect Lenten discipline: Living into the possibility of forgiving ourselves our foibles and shortcomings. Not ignoring them. Not sugar-coating them. But pulling them out to examine them, offering them up for God's forgiveness, and then forgiving them ourselves by striving to make a new beginning.

In the light and revelation of Epiphany perhaps we see that Lent need not be shrouded in an endless litany of “Mea culpa! Mea culpa!” but instead be shown forth in an ongoing chorus of “Deo Gratias! Deo Gratias! Deo Gratias!”

Mark +



St. Mark's Lenten Study

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week

Join us as author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

Six Wednesday Evenings in Lent at 7:00 PM in the Proehl Conference Room

March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1, 8

The Book is available for purchase but is not necessary to participate in the DVD sessions.

LENT INFORMATION

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RESOURCES FOR LENT

2020 LENTEN MEDITATIONS

A free booklet provided by Episcopal Relief & Development will be available during Lent at the back of church. The Lenten meditations this year focus on the spiritual lives of children and how children inspire the spiritual lives of adults. ERD is committed to helping those whom Christ calls the greatest among us, so they can better reach their God-given potential to learn, grow and thrive. *Info provided by ERD*

JOIN THE JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

A poster illustrated by award-winning cartoonist Jay Sidebotham, invites spiritual reflection and is a wonderful companion for the Lenten season. Will be available soon at the back of church.

DOORWAYS Current Volunteer Opportunities



DOORWAYS is always seeking volunteers to better assist our clients and staff. We currently have opportunities in the following areas:

- Cooper House office hours (every Monday, answer phones and assist with administrative tasks)
- Cooper House resident companions
- Bakers (provide special treats to residents)
- Special event volunteers
- Activity Assistants (go on activities with residents)
- Administrative Volunteer (make phone calls, assist with mailings, etc.)

If interested in volunteering, please contact Patrick Young at 314-328-2707 or pyoung@doorwayshousing.org.

IF YOU WOULD like to receive the weekly "MARKINGS" by email, send your email address to the church office. And don't forget you can follow on Facebook or visit our webpage at www.saintmarks-stl.org

FROM YOUR DEACON ...

We are currently in the midst of Epiphany. In the season of Epiphany, we celebrate the light with which God reveals God's nature to us through the incarnation of Jesus, the Christ. On February 2, as part of the Epiphany season, forty days after Christmas we celebrate the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. The Presentation is actually the combination of two rituals prescribed in the Old Testament – the redemption of the firstborn on the 31st day of the child's life and the purification of the mother on the 40th day.

In the redemption of the firstborn, the family acknowledges that the firstborn, be it human or even animal, is particularly holy to the Lord. And for forty days after giving birth to a child, the mother was considered ritually unclean. At the conclusion of that period, a sacrifice for purification of the mother was offered. The law as mandated in Leviticus specified that this sacrifice was to be a lamb. But there was a loophole given in Leviticus for the very poor – two young pigeons could be offered for the ritual cleansing of the mother. Mary and Joseph's adherence to Jewish law has revealed not only the importance of their tie to Hebrew scripture in which they raised Jesus, but also that God is revealed in the poor.

How do we as followers of Jesus respond to this revelation? We respond by taking care of the poor. We bring in food for Feed My People, for the homeless downtown, and for residents of Doorways. We bring in bottled water and warm clothing. But even more importantly, we know God by seeing the poor face to face, by being present with the poor, at the Episcopal City Mission, at the Kasey Page home, and at Doorways. We can individually support organizations that provide the poor with the training and resources to lift them out of poverty. Following the admonitions of the Old Testament prophets, we respond by promoting peace and justice, which you will remember is what love looks like in public. We can be a part of organizations whose mission is to promote peace and justice and combat the systems that harm our society's marginalized.

As we approach this 2020 election season which is just starting in earnest, we can support policies that address poverty and injustice, that work to reduce the large income and wealth gap in our country that grows wider with each new year. As we are engaged in the electoral process, we can cast our ballots asking ourselves the question, not what is best for me and my welfare, but what is best for our community's marginalized. We can vote prayerfully raising the questions: "Does my vote promote justice? Does my vote reflect the love of Christ? Does my vote reflect Christ's compassion?"

I offer the words of Franciscan priest Richard Rohr: "It is the strength of the link between religion and politics that will determine both the quality of our politics and the authenticity of our religion."

In Christ,
Deacon Jerre

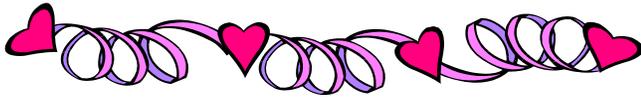
1st Thursdays @ River's Edge Social



**February 6th @ Noon
Everyone Welcome!
Fellowship, Food & Fun**

6997 Chippewa Street

Questions: Deacon Jerre
jebirdsong@att.net



WHAT'S COMING UP?

TUESDAYS 9:30 a.m. Al Anon Meeting in Parish Hall

WEDNESDAYS 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting in Parish Hall

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
~11:30 a.m. Sunday Forum
~12:30 a.m. Kitchen Clean Up

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH Pancake Supper 5:00 -7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH - Ash Wednesday noon and 7:30 p.m.



COFFEE HOUR HOSTING

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to host Coffee Hour which follows the 10:00 service.

NEW DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

Copies of the new directory (which also contains the birthday list) are available at the back of church. Also please note that the directory is not to be used as a source for solicitation. Also if you did not get a copy of the Annual Report from the Annual Meeting, there are extra copies at the back of church.



SUNDAY FORUM

February 23rd 11:30 a.m. in the parish hall. Topic is "Gun Violence".

Winter is Upon Us!

As is our general practice, rarely do we cancel all worship services. However, the rector expects that all members will make smart and informed decisions on whether to travel when we have snow/sleet/ice, etc. In the event that church is closed, we will communicate that through a message on our voicemail system, through our email-newsletter, the Markings as well as on the TV Channels 2, 4 & 5 closings list. Be safe and know that you are always blessed!

Upcoming ECW Events

Thanks to everyone who joined the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) for our Post-Christmas Party. Fun was had by all. Karen Watts got a very special serving dish in the White Elephant exchange and graciously donated it to the church-- expect to admire it at Coffee Hour in the future!

February's ECW gathering will be a kitchen clean-up. Stay after the special forum on Sunday, February 23 and help us put the Parish Hall kitchen in order. Bring lunch for yourself so you have the energy to work. While not as fun as our recent party, this is a great way to give back and be of service to our church home, so we hope you can join us. For more information, contact Kathy Watts.

For March, ECW will be hosting a speaker from Episcopal City Mission on Sunday, March 8 at 1 pm. Join us to learn how ECM provides support, healing and hope to youth in the juvenile justice system. For more information, contact Rita Mauchenheimer.

VESTRY MEETING Tuesday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the Proehl Conference Room.

ST. MARK'S WINTER SOCKS AND GLOVES DRIVE to benefit the Guests of Miss Carol's Breakfast

- Warm Heavy Socks are extremely helpful to those out in the cold for long periods of time
- Having clean socks on a Regular Basis can be very helpful. Consider a 10 pack of white socks.
- Gloves are also needed.
- Or you could make a donation to the Rector's Discretionary account and we shop for you.

THE HAMPTON AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP meets every Tuesday morning from 10:00 - 11:30 am in the St. Mark's parish hall. A Newcomer Meeting is also available beforehand at 9:30 a.m.

For the St. Mark's Calendar, please visit our website www.saintmarks-stl.org and click on the calendar tab.