

The Rev. Adrian A. Amaya ✠

What he was to us...

Rector

Teacher BELOVED

Mentor

Family

Spiritual

Special

Leader

Friend

Blessed

1966—2018

What he gave to us...

Strength

Laughter

Insight

Hope

Love

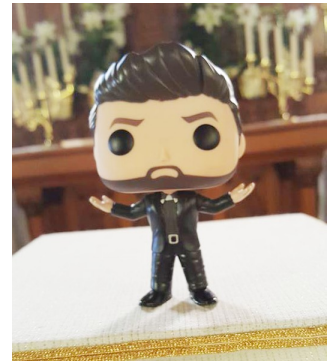
Faith

Memories

Blessings

THE WAY

THE NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1612 WEST GENESEE ST.; SYRACUSE, NY; 13204
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Summer 2018

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Mission Statement: The Church of St. Mark the Evangelist is a community of faith sharing the love of Jesus Christ with one another and the world.

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Celebrate as if this is your first time
Celebrate as if it's your only time
Celebrate as if it is your last time.

Service Time

Sundays:

10 am-Holy Eucharist
Nursery available during service

Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday:
9 am to 2 pm

*This special edition of THE WAY is dedicated
In Memory of and in Respect and Love for
The Rev. Adrian A. Amaya+++
July 29, 1966—April 15, 2018*



The Rev. Adrian A. Amaya, 51, formerly of San Antonio, TX, passed away Sunday, April 15, 2018, at his home in Syracuse, NY.

Adrian was born in Alice, TX. He received a Bachelor's in English Literature from The University of Texas in San Antonio, and a Masters of Divinity from the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. He worked as a stockbroker at USAA brokerage services. He was the assistant rector at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church in Corpus Christi, TX, a rector of St. Philips Episcopal Church in Beeville, TX, and the last ten years as the rector of St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Syracuse, NY.

Adrian enjoyed reading classic literature, theology, philosophy, fantasy, horror, and science fiction. He enjoyed listening to music and played various instruments. He enjoyed cooking, writing and playing Dungeons and Dragons.

He was passionate about church ministry especially Kairos prison ministry. Adrian was predeceased by his brother, Alejandro A. Amaya.

He is survived by his wife, Anna Maria Amaya; his sons, Alejandro Armando Amaya and Adam Anthony Amaya; his father, Alejandro Amaya and mother, MaryLou Amaya Flores; brother, Adam Andrew Amaya.



Reflections on Fr. Adrian's Maundy Thursday Homily

As recalled by a Parishioner

He began by talking about his mentor, a Rector of his church in San Antonio. He talked about the priest's background, etc. and how much he admired this man. Adrian then mentioned that there was a sign in the vesting room that read, "Celebrate as if this is your first time;" "Celebrate as if it's your only time;" and "Celebrate as if it is your last time." Adrian said he tries to remember that every time he celebrates the Eucharist. He pointed out that there are now so many "last times" in his life.

Then the inflection in his voice changed. He almost sounded excited as he said, "I can't wait until I get to the other side. I will see my mentor, my grandfather, maybe even my brother, my favorite authors, all the Saints!" He paused and said, "I sure hope they have barbequed brisket — I love barbequed brisket."

A reception was held in honor of Father Adrian on his last Sunday. At the gathering, I told a shortened version of the story, "*The Best is Yet to Come.*" (Story below) I then gave Father Adrian a fork and said, "This is for your brisket!"

For those who don't know it, here is the story:

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things in order, she contacted her Pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her.

"There's one more thing," she said excitedly.

"What's that?" came the Pastor's reply.

"This is very important," the young woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say.

"That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the Pastor.

The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!"

So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder "What's with the fork?" Then I want you to tell them:

"Keep your fork ..the best is yet to come."

The Pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman

goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She *knew* that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the cloak she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the Pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the Pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So, the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.



The fork pictured above was presented to Anna Amaya in loving memory of Father Adrian, his love of brisket and his sure knowledge that the best was yet to come...



A STANCE OF FAITH

A reflection of Father Adrian's final sermon

By The Rev. Kate Lufkin Day

I'd like to share a few words with you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

I was here when Fr. Adrian preached his final sermon on the first Sunday after Easter, and many if not most of you were also there. Some of the things he said then are burned into my memory. Probably each one of us has a slightly different memory of what he said then. ... But I remember these things in particular:

1. He told you that he loved you and loved being your priest and was grateful for the call to this parish;
2. He said several times, "I am being stripped of all the things that make me a good man, a good father, a good husband, a good priest."
3. He also said that though Satan was attacking him, he was standing firm in his faith. I understood him to mean that he was often assailed by fears, perhaps that his life and death were meaningless in the end. But as he told us that Sunday, Adrian repudiated Satan, he held his faith that in Jesus Christ his life and his death were both precious and meaningful, and that in his death he would pass to an even more intimate relationship with God.
4. His actions spoke even more loudly and clearly than his words. He could not even walk in the procession. But he was there. He did everything he could on that

day, much more than I, for one, thought possible.

I want to reflect with you on these, Fr. Adrian's last public statements and actions, in the light of the two of the Scripture readings we just heard.

Let's start with Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth. In the passage we read, Paul is trying to convince the people in the church that he founded that some new "apostles" who have come to preach there are WRONG. These new apostles (he does not ever name them) are apparently very attractive people. They look good. They look the way the people of Corinth think an apostle SHOULD look: strong, with lovely faces, and probably really good hair, too. (Maybe they looked like Joel Osteen?) They have voices that make everything they say sound like the gospel truth. And, apparently, (reading between the lines) they say that the reason they look so good is that God has blessed them specially.

Paul is no longer in Corinth, so he cannot confront these "super-apostles" in person. He has to write a letter. And what a letter! Paul's words have lived for ever afterwards, long after anyone who ever knew about the "super apostles" were dead and gone, their names gone forever. Paul reminds the people in the church in Corinth, that THEY (namely, Paul and his friends) DIDN'T look or

sound great, because it's not about THEIR greatness. It's about God's greatness, which is made manifest in THEIR affliction, and suffering, and general lack of charisma. Elsewhere in this letter (chapter 11) Paul quotes some as saying his "letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech is of no account." In short, Paul was no Joe Osteen.

Paul was more than aware of his own flaws. "We have this treasure in clay jars," he says. In other words, we've got God's glory, all right, but not so as you'd notice physically. We don't have great hair. We're not such thrilling preachers. But it's not about US (namely, Paul and his fellow evangelists) it's about YOU (namely the members of the church in Corinth). "So," he concludes, "death is at work in us, but life in you."

Paul's love and commitment to the congregation in Corinth were monumental. The people felt that love and commitment, and the measure of their appreciation is that they hung on to the letters he wrote, and copied them over and over and over again, and read them out loud when they gathered. So that even now, two thousand years later, they are available to us. The original papyrus (or parchment or whatever they were written on) letters are long gone, but the copies of copies are still with us, and we are STILL reading them aloud when we gather.

In a similar way, Fr. Adrian's last words to this congregation reverberate in our ears. His words of love and appreciation



reverberate. He gave freely of himself for as long as he could so that this parish might be a faithful vessel of the true Gospel. Not the false gospel of "whoever looks and sounds glorious is from God" or the false gospel of "if you are faithful, God will make you rich," but the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, and him crucified. As Paul looked for good fruit in Corinth, Adrian looked for good fruit at St. Mark's: the fruit of human lives transformed, transfigured, into living icons of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Like Paul, Adrian was a normal human being, not a superman or a "super apostle." Granted, Adrian did have really good hair, and a wicked sense of humor, but he wasn't like those super-apostles who preached the gospel of their own glory. He, too, carried the glory of God in a clay pot. Perhaps Adrian prayed, as Paul did, that God would take away his illness. Perhaps he also sensed God's answer, "My power is made perfect in weakness."

Which brings me to the figure of Eli, from our first reading. For, like Eli, Adrian had to accept, as best he could, God's action in his

own life.

Eli was serving as priest at the Lord's shrine, where the arc of the covenant was, that had been brought from Egypt. Eli had a long and illustrious career as the one closest to God, the one others came to see to find out what God wanted. He was the one who held the authority of God's word before any Scriptures were yet written down. And this is one important way in which Eli was different from Adrian: Eli's sons were nothing but bad news. (That was not Adrian's problem, to say the least.) And because of that, Eli's sons would never be worthy of succeeding him in the Temple. That was a problem, because Eli was getting old. So old his sight was failing.

Samuel, on the other hand, was just a boy. He had no authority, no special position, no "glory" if you will of his own. So when Samuel, Eli's servant, had a word directly from God – It had to have been a total shock to Eli that Samuel heard the call and not Eli!

I'm reminded of Fr. Adrian's words, "I'm being stripped." I think that must have been what Eli felt like when young Samuel was called directly by the Lord. "I am being stripped of my role as priest in the Temple." But this is where Eli's incredible grace and faithfulness shine forth. He has just received a pink slip from God, and he accepts that without bitterness. It is a pink slip, not only for him personally, but also for his sons! And he hears and accepts the word, the scathing, terrible word that God gives to Samuel in judgement against himself and his sons!

"We are icons of Jesus; glimpses of what a real human life can be like."

Father Adrian A. Amaya

It's not how we all want our transition from boss to retiree to go, is it? Out on our ear, a youngster of no experience put in our place, and a judgement against us for corruption. Talk about shame! And yet, Eli bore it with incredible grace and submission and integrity. As he served the Lord when he was raised to high office, he continued to serve, and obey the Lord when he and his progeny were removed from that office

Like Eli in the Temple, Adrian did not want to leave St. Mark's. He knew he would have to at some point, but this is not how he wanted to do it. Being rector was stripped from him, in his experience of dying. Being a good husband and father and priest were all stripped from him. And he cried out in pain to us in his last sermon. But he also accepted it with grace and love and integrity, wanting nothing more than God's own word to live in this place. For us, of course, he was always a good man, a good husband, father, and priest. In the end, as Adrian would put it, Satan did not win: Adrian did not even desire his own life more than he desired for God's word to

live here, and for us and for people we have not even met yet, to find God's love in this place.

In his Easter sermon, two weeks before he died, Adrian reminded all of us that "we are here to fight the good fight, not using the tools of the enemy — using God's mercy." And he also said (I was taking notes) "We are icons of Jesus; glimpses of what a real human life can be like."

Like Paul's legacy, and Eli's legacy, may Adrian's legacy of faithfulness lives on. They will live on in his children, and God willing his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. But his legacy of faithfulness will live on in the work of this parish. May we ourselves learn from him how to die when it is our time, with as much grace and thankfulness and love as we can muster. And may God's love and word live in this place for many, many years to come.



Our Chance to Say ... Thank You!



Pastor Kate Lufkin Day is a priest associate of St. Mark's. That's a fancy way of saying she is a priest who attends the parish. She is not the interim priest nor the rector, but she has graciously agreed to help the congregation at St. Mark the Evangelist and has provided ongoing support throughout a very difficult time.

Originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, Pastor Kate has lived in DeWitt, serving in this Diocese, for the past 20 years. Her husband, Bill, is a professor of philosophy at Le Moyne College, and their two children grew up here. She has been ordained for 28 years and has served parishes in New Hampshire, New Jersey and New York. She was rector of Christ Church in Jordan, NY for 12 years and for the past 9 has been Managing Chaplain at Crouse Hospital.

Her role at St. Mark the Evangelist originally was to cover most of the Sunday services for Father Amaya's four-month sabbatical which was cut short by his untimely death April 15. Pastor Kate has continued her promise of coverage and to celebrate services at St. Mark, which has been a blessing and very much appreciated by the parishioners, wardens and staff. God bless you, Pastor Kate, and thank you!



Cheerful Notes



A Loving Tribute to Our Dear, Departed **FATHER ADRIAN A. AMAYA**

Many of my earliest memories from the 1940's and 1950's center around the church that most of my mother's family had attended for generations, Hephzibah Baptist Church, which sat on a hill about three miles south of Coatesville, PA, a small steel-making city on the Lincoln Highway about forty miles west of Philadelphia. At Hephzibah in those days we had Sunday School and Church on Sunday mornings and Baptist Youth Fellowship and Church on Sunday evenings. And that wasn't all...There were prayer meetings on Wednesday evenings, junior and senior choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings, Boy Scouts on Friday evenings, and often BYF outings on Saturday evenings. A lot of families did not yet have television sets at that time, so church was our entertainment as well as our source for worship and spiritual growth.

Our Pastors there when I was a little boy were David Bartine, Thomas Pugh, and then Dr. Archibald G. Adams, a tall, joyful and robust silver-haired man of 66 who had

recently retired from a life of service as a missionary to China! The children at Hephzibah loved him, and he loved having us gather around. He came to my fourth-grade class at Columbia Avenue School one day to show us all his slides of China, as we were studying that country; and he and his wife, Olive, brought us all a many-course Chinese lunch and taught us all how to eat with chopsticks!

In the years to come, my church experience greatly widened. In Rochester, NY, where I lived while I was a student at Eastman School of Music, I was a soloist at Brighton Community Church on Sunday mornings and at Bethel Full Gospel Assembly of God Church on Sunday evenings. Our choir director there was Dr. Frank Garlock, who later gained fame as a composer and arranger at Bob Jones University, and as the father-in-law of "Patch, the Pirate" of children's musicals fame!

After my time in Rochester, I was a student in the Pastor's Course at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. I sang in the Moody Chorale and on the WMBI Radio Network, and I heard many great preachers at Moody. I did some preaching, myself, on practical Christian work assignments, as well as with a male Gospel quartet team with Paul Bovee, Paul Stark, Jack Schrader and Larry Mayfield.

When I returned to Coatesville in the mid-1960's, I attended First Baptist Church, pastored by one of the finest Bible teachers, Rev. J. Elwood Bauers. Later I joined the Great Valley Presbyterian Church in Malvern, PA, where we had another fine pastor, Rev. Leon Wardell, who had been run over by a trolley car as a

child and walked on two artificial legs! A former non-believer, Pastor Wardell became a fine witness, Bible teacher and preacher who also sang very well. I was singing more than ever by this time, and I was hired as a paid soloist in four different large Presbyterian Churches in Greater Philadelphia in the years from 1965 to 1980, again in all that time under the ministries of fine pastors, including Rev. Charles Parker Wright at Bethany Collegiate Presbyterian Church, which had been founded by Christian department store magnate, John Wanamaker. Pastor Wright was instrumental in founding the Presidential Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., and he also served for a time as Chaplain of our House of Representatives.

I enjoyed a good relationship with all of these churches and pastors, as I also did later on with Rev. Dale Groff, of Laureldale United Church of Christ in Reading, PA, where I served as Minister of Music for four years, while I was a director and soloist with Berks Grand Opera, which I founded in 1977.

I have written this brief history to hopefully give you some perspective in relation to what I now want to say. In all of these years and in and around all of these churches, I have had two pastors who were head and shoulders above all of the others, and who ministered to me in a way that only our Abba Father could have ordained. The first of those great men of God was the

last Pastor I revered at good old Hephzibah Baptist Church, the Rev. Glenn F. Boice. He was installed as our Pastor in the fall of 1956, right after I had received Jesus Christ as my Savior at Word of Life Island that summer. Rev. Boice was finishing up his seminary education at Crozier Theological Seminary in Chester, PA; and he brought a Holy Spirit revival to our little country church! In the two years he was our Pastor

he led about 90 men and women to receive Christ, and he disciplined us

in the BYF with loving, manly

concern. He spent some man-

to-man time with each of us,

once taking me to a Phillies

game (in which the

Brooklyn Dodgers beat the

Phillies and their star

pitcher, Robin Roberts). On

the way to and from the

game he counseled me

about preparing for a life of

service to Christ. He had me

preach the message at an Easter

Sunrise Service and continued to

warmly encourage me in every way. He

then suddenly left our church to become a

missionary to the Philippines; and the

whole church cried loudly when he

resigned!

The second great Pastor in my life has

been Father Adrian Amaya! From the time I

heard him pray when I had my first

interview for the Music Director/Organist

position at St. Mark's, I knew that he was

truly a Holy Spirit-filled Pastor and Minister

of the Gospel. I had never worshipped or

served in an Anglican church before, and

Father Adrian gave me all the knowledge,

training, support, and friendship that I



needed. And even more importantly, his counsel, his pastoring skills, his preaching of God's Word and God's unfathomable love and grace strengthened and inspired Cherry and me every week, all of the time! I loved his sense of humor, his brilliant mind, his wisdom, and the intimate loving manner of prayer he always did while blessing us individually at the end of each Sunday service or on our times of need! We never expected him to be taken from us so soon, and we prayed fervently for his healing when he got sick. But I guess our Lord just couldn't wait any longer to reward him for his life of service to us and his love and example to Anna, Alex, and Adam, as well as to countless others whom God desires to draw to Himself. I cried more when Father Adrian left us than I did when Rev. Boice left Hephzibah so long ago. And I don't think that I'll be finished crying for some time to come. I know a little of how John, the "disciple whom Jesus loved," must have felt, first at the crucifixion, and then after Christ's ascension. I really miss Father Adrian, and I thank God for allowing me to experience his ministry, his love, and his friendship!

William Cowper, the Anglican poet who wrote the words to last Sunday's Communion Hymn, "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood," also first coined the phrase, "God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform." That He does! On the Monday morning after Father Adrian went to be with our Lord, I received a surprise in the mail! It was the autobiography of my other great pastor, Rev. Glenn Boice, now 96 and 1/2 years of age and living in a retirement community in

Indiana! He had dictated the volume, replete with pictures, to his daughter Connie, who had studied violin with my father when Rev. Boice was with us. One of the pictures showed Connie playing the violin that my father had bought for her...a fact that I never knew until I received the book! When I began to read the book, I cried some more...this time from joy!

When my Dad went to heaven, at the end of his memorial service, a tenor friend of mine said, "How does your Dad like his new Stradivarius?" I thought, "Why not?!" The Bible says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor hath entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for them who love Him!"

Our great man of faith, Father Adrian Amaya, now knows about that; and I wouldn't be at all surprised if he knows my Dad and Mom, and Cherry's Mom and Dad and our son, Ronnie, also! May our loving Abba Father bless, comfort, and strengthen us all in the days to come until we see Father Adrian again!

*From Your Director of Music,
Warren Ottey*



The Rev. Adrian A. Amaya — Superhero of Faith, Love and Laughter!

Adrian was one of the first priests I met in the diocese. It was at Convention. He was wearing a superhero shirt under his clericals. I know this because he pulled his buttons back, Superman-style, and laughed at the ridiculousness of his own self. It turned out when I attended Day Spring, the new clergy support group, Adrian was in charge. It was a delight to have another Sewanee grad helping me find my way through this unfamiliar and snowy land.



Now, I was taught, growing up, that Texans were a bad bunch. Coming from Arkansas, I knew this to be true. But when he and I sat down at the Brooklyn Pickle, I realized I might've been mistaken about Texans. I'm sure I was supposed to be learning about clergy compensation or what to do when the bishop visits, but most of our time was spent remembering the flavors of good Southern food, especially those places where Southern and Mexican collide: tamales, menudo, brisket, and cornbread. Lord, have mercy!

One day, though, Adrian was being particularly frank. He wanted to know, as his sons grew into this strangely changing world, he wanted to know that he'd set a good example for them, that he'd taught them to grow into men that were strong, that he'd showed them how to care for the world around them. Well, the witness he gave, of laughing at his own jokes, of owning his own nerdiness, of living the life of Christ even to the end, that was his strength. I know I'm stronger for having known him. I imagine many of y'all feel the same.

Adrian already welcomed me to this unfamiliar and wonderful place. He welcomed a lot of us. I don't know for sure what's on the other side of the grave, but I like to imagine that one day, one day he'll be there, with his superhero shirt and a bowl of menudo, he'll be there to welcome all of us to another unfamiliar and wonderful place.

May he rest in peace and rise again in glory!

*The Rev. Brooks A. Cato
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Hamilton, NY*



My Memories of Father Adrian

He was so much more than a mentor and priest...

I have more great memories of Father Adrian than I can count, but a few items popped into my mind right away:

- Shortly after Fr. Adrian started at St. Mark's, my son (Tommy) had a medical incident that required transport from OCC to the hospital via ambulance. I called the church office to ask the secretary at that time (Jackie) to have the people at the Thursday morning service please say a prayer for him. Jackie then reminded me the Thursday Morning service wasn't held anymore, but she would let Fr. Adrian know so he could pray for him.

As Tom, Tommy and I were waiting in the treatment area at Upstate Hospital, we were shocked when Fr. Adrian walked in. It turns out Tommy was fine, but Fr. Adrian made us laugh when he told us of the shocked faces of the people in the waiting area/check-in when he came asking for Tommy. He said "The looks on those people's faces just said 'Man, that 18-year-old must be in worse shape than we thought.....they've called for a Priest!'" We got a real kick out of that!

- A couple of weeks later, we had the first Brighton Towers Christmas Service that Fr. Adrian was officiating at. He was standing in front of the Choir, describing how the service would go. He then stated that the people in the crowd should try to sing the Christmas songs loudly, because while we had a choir there, he said "But they're not very good." In a completely involuntary reaction, I slapped his arm and pretended it was from a cramp in my arm. I really got a view of his sense of humor that night. And by the way, I slapped him a few other times, when he would make jokes about how much older I am than he was (I'm 2 ½ years older than him.) I did it once in front of Anna (to which she replied "Good! He deserved it!")



- In terms of one of the many times he's showed compassion, I remember when my daughter's first Guinea pig died. He was our only pet and we were all pretty upset. He passed in the wee hours of Sunday morning, and in getting to church before my daughter, I warned Fr. Adrian that she may be out of it that day and what happened. He asked where we were burying the "piggy". After I told him, he asked "Would you like a service?" I thought he was joking, but realized quickly he wasn't. I told him it was up to Stef, and when she got to church she said "Okay." Sure enough, at 3:00 that afternoon, there he was, wearing his "clericals" and he had copies of the Liturgy for the Loss of an Animal or Pet. He even inserted the "piggy's" name, George. The neighbor girl who'd had given us "George" came over to the service with flowers as well. After we were done, of course we had Fr. Adrian in for a couple of beers, since we didn't want a funeral without a reception. By the way, he and the whole family came over a couple of years later for a memorial service for another "piggy", Francis (named after Francis of Assisi.) We had pizza after that one.

- An example of his showing a more serious, compassionate side, I remember his handling of the unexpected death of my father who died in a surprising, accidental way. He came right over to the house. A couple of days later, he helped my sister and me plan a wonderful funeral. It was one of the first funerals he did at St. Mark's so I wondered how that would go. His sermon focused on my Dad's passing in the Easter season....ironically Fr. Adrian himself passed in the same season, nearly 8 years to the day from my Dad. Anyway, the other thing that stands out was when I was at the cemetery. I was standing by myself a little bit away, watching people touching the casket as they were leaving, and I was quietly crying. I suddenly felt an arm go around me. It was Fr. Adrian, still in full vestments, chasuble and all. He didn't need to say anything...his just being there for me at that moment was powerful enough. He did meet with me a few times afterwards and really helped me "get my head put back together."

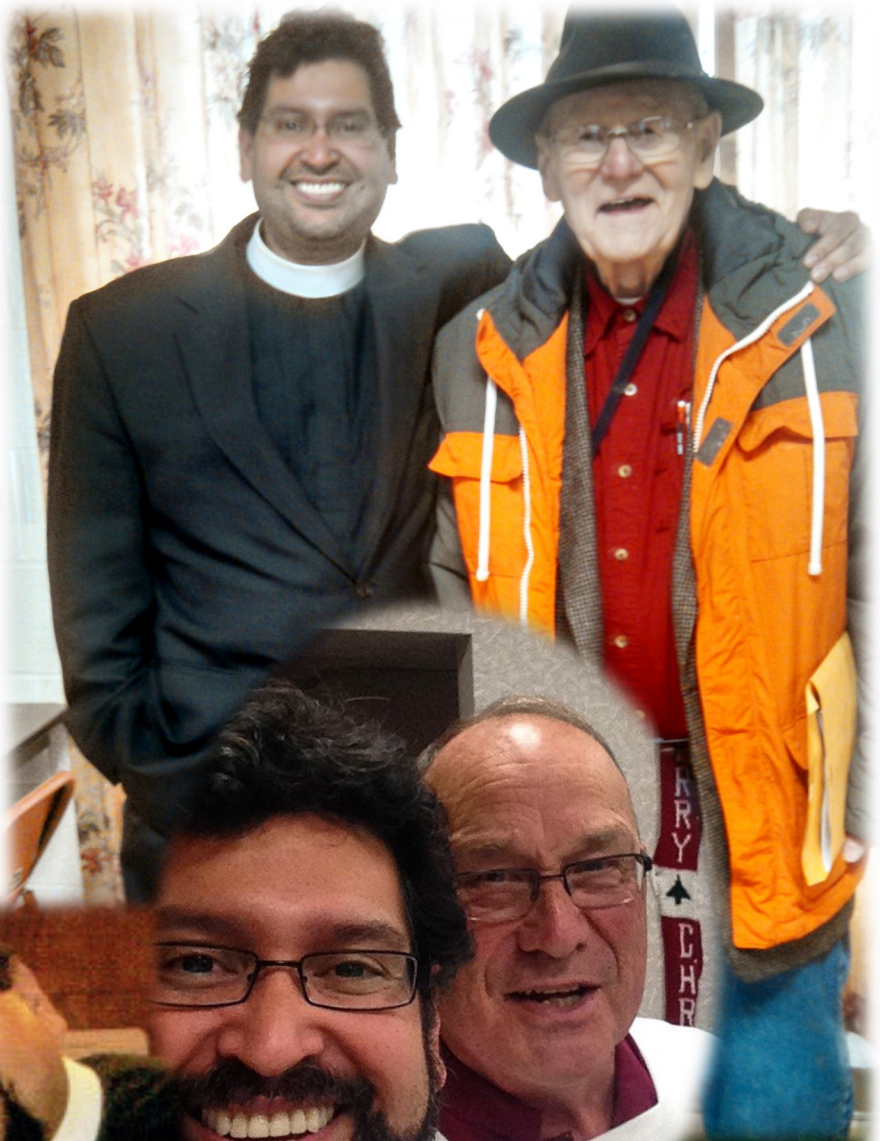
Again, there are dozens of other examples I could give. Fr. Adrian has been such a fantastic mentor, priest, leader, and friend to me. As I mentioned at church, one Sunday I so appreciate the confidence he had in me to allow me to share my meditations and reflections (and he really liked what I had to say.) I absolutely have grown more spiritually in the last 10 years than I can say, and Fr. Adrian had everything to do with that. I thank God for having our paths cross. His role in my life will never be duplicated. What a blessing he and his whole family have been to me and my family.

~ *Dana Marzynski*

Memories of Our Rector, Our Leader...



...Our FRIEND



We will always remember...

Letters of Love to the Amaya Family

My Mom loved the church. Us two Nancys, Sr. and Jr., were Trinity Church of Syracuse members for many many years. We thought the world of Father Avery. Then, due to many circumstances, Trinity blended in at St. Marks with All Saints and Calvary, and over the years a wonderful family was born! But I digress...

Mom loved Father Bergin! Maybe it was the fact that he was a wonderful caring man, (oh, and that lilting Irish accent!) he helped to give us the spiritual needs and a sense of belonging to this new church. When we heard that he was of "that age" and had to retire from here and that we were getting a new minister, she said that he'd better be a good one!!!

So, that first Sunday with Father Amaya, I parked the car, ran in to grab the wheelchair by the front hall door to wheel Mom in as she by that time was 90 and had some ambulatory problems. Adrian greeted us by the door, introduced his 40-year-old self, and the three of us chatted briefly. What a charming and sweet person!!! As I'm wheeling Mom in to church, she (in her stage whisper) says "Well, he's adorable!"

Adrian gave me and my family such support and kindness when Mom died two years later. I was so heartbroken, but AAA (as I have referred to him) came up to the funeral home to assist my brother, Bill, and me with the funeral plans, what we should do, etc. He conducted a beautiful funeral service for Mom. And several of us "St. Markians" and I have always said that Adrian Amaya always performed absolutely wonderful funeral services. You'd leave the service feeling so uplifted and maybe not as sad as when you came in the door, just because of AAA's words.

A few years later, 2014, my brother Peter, who had lived in Arizona for many years, found out that he had stage 4 prostate cancer. Because of that and a couple of other things, he lost his job and health insurances, so packed up most of his things, bought a truck, packed it up with his stuff, himself, and his dog, Fathom, and wound up at my door saying, "Umm, I need a place to live." So, longish story short, in they move (my dog, Bear, wasn't too happy with one of them - neither was the cat). Pete came to church with me two or three times and renewed his faith because he liked Adrian and his sermons, not that he would admit that to me, his big sister...but I could tell! Pete didn't go immediately for help with the cancer when it was discovered. Because of my nagging at him, I think he finally went to a lawyer and got the Social Security benefits that were long overdue to him, and to our local V.A. Hospital, and consented to go through chemo and radiation. The treatments weren't enough, though. Adrian came to the house two or three times to talk with Pete, and that gave him solace and comfort. In July 2016, Pete passed away. Again, Adrian's consoling and support gave my family much relief and help. Another beautiful service up at the Veterans Cemetery by Father Amaya! My family is so appreciative of our Father Adrian!

One last thing, at the Blessing of the Pets, Adrian blessed so many different animals,

his own pup, guinea pigs, Baxter the cat, and my big lug, Bear. Bear would get so excited about all that that he 'watered' just about every tree and bush on our premises. Bear and I loved those little get-togethers in the late afternoons. He too loved Adrian.

Anna, Alex, Adam, all the Amaya family, I am so sorry for your loss. Know that we all love and support you and will do anything that we can for you. Heaven has a new Angel.



Nancy Morrison

St. Mark's "Patriotic Trio,"
from left, Alex Amaya, Nancy
Morrison and Noah Howell



I can't even begin to say how much Father Adrian and his family mean to me. They spent their first Thanksgiving with our family at Teri and Kevin's house. The kids got to know each other and we all learned about some of their Mexican traditions. We had so much fun together....they came again the following year.

Teri and Anna became friends sharing their stories about kids and being nurses. When Wayne came out of remission, Father Adrian took us up on the altar and laid his hands on Wayne for healing. Throughout Wayne's illness they became good friends. I can't count the number of times Father Adrian came to sit with us in the ER. He was always there when we needed him. People would probably say that was his job but for us it was a dear friend coming to be with us to bring us comfort ... and the dark chocolate he would bring Wayne every time he came to visit him in the hospital or at home! Those visits were very precious to Wayne and I can never thank him enough for that.

It has been such fun watching Alex and Adam grow from little boys to the fine young men they are today. Anna is such a joy. She is always smiling and there to give comfort when needed. You are a wonderful and caring family and St. Mark's has been enriched by having you here with us.

My thoughts and prayers are with you, Father Adrian, Anna, Alex and Adam. God bless you all.



Sally Tullar

The Many Faces of AAA+



Meet St. Mark the Evangelist's 2018 Graduates



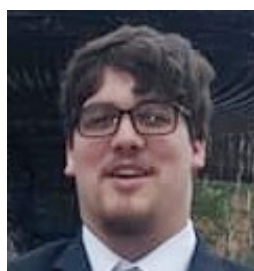
ALEJANDRO ARMANDO AMAYA (Alex) — Alex is the son of the late Rev. Adrian A. and Anna Amaya. He will graduate from Westhill High School class of 2018. During his time at Westhill High School, Alex participated in JV football and Robotics and was a member of the National Technical Honor Society. Alex enjoys artwork and anything to do with computers. His artwork was chosen for the poster of the Westhill High School's musical "The Little Mermaid." He received the Silver Key for the scholastic photo contest which depicted a picture of the Landmark

Theater announcement for "Phantom of the Opera." He has been a member of St. Mark's Church youth group, an acolyte and altar assistant. In his spare time he enjoys hiking and spending time with his friends. Alex will be attending Utica College in the fall to study cybersecurity and computer forensics.



NOAH CHARLES HOWELL — Noah is the son of Cindy and stepson of Andrew McRussell. Two months shy of his birthday, Noah is graduating at age 16 from Cicero-North Syracuse High School in his 11th year. He is headed to Onondaga Community College this Fall, majoring in Music with a focus on the upright bass. Noah's long-term goal is a career in Music Education to be able to share his passion with a new generation. Outside school, he is active with the Mattydale

Junior Fire Department, plays the role of The Artful Dodger at Dickens Christmas in Skaneateles, and recently began officiating roller derby. He also serves as an acolyte at St. Mark's church. Noah has overcome obstacles and grown into a strong young man over the last few years. No doubt he will continue on this path in the years to come. *We love you and are proud of all you have accomplished, Noah.*



TATE ALLEN LALLIER — Tate is the son of Amy and Allen Lallier. He is graduating from John C Birdlebough High School in Phoenix. While attending school, Tate has been taking welding. When he is done with school, he plans to pursue a career in welding, possibly pursuing a higher education in that field. Tate is active at St. Mark and serves as an acolyte. His hobbies include reading, hiking, and camping.



A Blessing for Graduates



All wise, all loving God, we thank you for all your gifts to us; for making us, for saving us in Christ, for calling us to be your people. Look with love on our graduates and bless them as they complete their years of high school. May your Spirit give them many skills and talents and help them to use these gifts for your glory and for the good of all people. In your kindness, guide them along paths that are level and smooth. We ask these blessings through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Faith, Fellowship, Food and Fun

Hosted by The Mustangs



10 am
Sunday
Service &
Picnic
At Shove Park

Hot dogs/coneys, buns, condiments and paper products will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring an item to share, lawn chairs and your drinks (no glass, please)

You may also want to bring games and bug spray.

SORRY: NO alcohol or pets allowed.



A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

St. Mark the Evangelist Supports Porter Elementary

A few members of St. Mark the Evangelist attended Porter Elementary School's Fifth Grade Moving Up Ceremony on Wednesday, June 20, to hand out Recognition Certificates and a free Cookiewich coupon to the 84 members of the Class of 2025. The Byrne Dairy coupons were purchased by St. Mark's and the effort was coordinated by Mission and Outreach Ministry Chair, Jim Miller.

The special guest speaker was Syracuse Chief of Police Frank Fowler who spoke about choices – choosing a career, choosing to work hard and most importantly, choosing to listen to your own moral compass. "If you hear that little voice in the back of your head telling you that you probably shouldn't be doing something, then you probably shouldn't be doing it," he advised.

Frazer Principal William Mecum welcomed the incoming class to the "Frazer Frontier" and urged them to be involved and stay focused on success while Porter Principal Jennifer King bid them an affectionate farewell with many pearls of wisdom, ending with the most important – to always "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

A student from each class also read "Student Reflections" about their time in Porter and then the entire fifth-grade gave a rousing rendition of the Carrie Underwood song "Champion."

The St. Mark Mustangs are once again planning their backpack and school supply drive this summer for Porter and more news about that will be coming soon. St. Mark the Evangelist and Porter Elementary are looking forward to partnering even more in the 2018-19 school year.



AUGUST 2018 FOOD \$ENSE MENU

Westside @ St. Mark's

Inquiries can be made at:

(315) 488-8511 or (315) 378-4908

Email: stmarkssyracuse@gmail.com

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarkTheEvangelistEpiscopalChurchSyracuseNewYork/)

[StMarkTheEvangelistEpiscopalChurchSyracuseNewYork/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarkTheEvangelistEpiscopalChurchSyracuseNewYork/)

August Package* \$20.50:

- Chicken Thighs, 2 lbs. (avg.)
- Beef Burgers 1 lbs.
- Cod Fillets, 1 lb.
- Kielbasa, 15 oz.
- Ground Turkey, 1 lb.
- Cheddar Cheese, 8 oz.
- Fresh Macaroni Salad, 16 oz.
- Peanut Butter, 18 oz.
- Frozen Cut Green Beans, 1 lb.
- Frozen Strawberries, 1 lb.
- Fresh Produce
- Fresh Produce



August Specials:

Italian Meatballs: 5 lbs. for \$12.50 -

The Italian Meatballs are fully cooked and in a five pound bag.

Pork Ribs: 3 lbs. (avg.) for \$9.00 - The pork baby back ribs are bone-in and average three pounds per special.

American Cheese: 5 lbs. for \$10.25 -

The sliced American cheese is not individually wrapped.

Breaded Shrimp: 3 lbs. for \$12.50 -

The breaded shrimp contain 16-20 per pound.

Chicken Breast: 3 lbs. for \$6.00 - The chicken breasts are boneless/skinless and individually quick frozen.

Mozzarella Sticks: 2 lbs. for \$6.00 -

The mozzarella sticks are par-cooked and ready for the oven or fryer.

Hot Pockets: 2/24 oz. sandwiches for \$17.00 - The Hot Pockets are meatball with 24 sandwiches per special.



PLEASE READ:

We cannot hold food for you after the scheduled pick-up time. If there is a conflict, you may have someone else pick up your food for you. If you have any questions, please ask the volunteers when you sign up.

There are NO refunds or exchanges.

Any food NOT picked up on

AUGUST 22 will become a donation.

What is Food \$en\$e??

What is it? Food \$en\$e offers the opportunity to stretch your food budget by purchasing quality food at a discount.

Who is eligible? EVERYONE is eligible to purchase food from Food \$en\$e. No donated food is used in this program. It's a buying club -- so there is no income requirement.

How does it work? It's Simple. Order and pay in advance at our site.

Cost is ALWAYS \$20.50 per unit. Multiple units may be purchased, and/or single specials — YOU choose!

Cash or EBT are accepted. No checks. (EBT customers must bring card and sign a voucher).

When can I sign up?
Sundays, August 5 & 12
10am – 12 noon

Friday, August 10
6-8pm

Saturday, August 11
10:30am—12 noon

**PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW
HOURS FOR PICKUP!**

Wednesday

August 22

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Sign Up for Food \$en\$e At One of These TWO GREAT EVENTS

Summer Ice Cream Socials

Sundaes on Fridays

Held on the second

Friday of summer months from 6-8pm:

 **August 10**

 **Sept. 14**



*Enjoy neighborhood
company while savoring Byrne Dairy Ice
Cream Sundaes with your favorite
fixings...*

For just \$1.00!

St. Mark's



**CLOTHES CLOSET IS OPEN
SATURDAY, AUG. 11**

From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Browse through men's, women's and
children's clothing, shoes, jewelry, etc...

ALL FOR ONLY 25 CENTS PER ITEM!

*The Green Café is also open during
Clothes Closet with a free light
breakfast for shoppers!*

The Church of St. Mark the Evangelist
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 18, 2018

Present: Julie Dunn, Gary Neddo, Jackie Eberline, Cherolyn Ottey, Dana Marzynski, Tom Marzynski, Gary Smith, Phyllis Honsinger, Debra Richardson

Excused: Jim Oliver, Jack Omilanowicz

Treasurer: Pat Dunn

Clerk: Debra Denny

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Gary Neddo at 7:00pm

2. Opening Prayer: Debra Richardson led the Opening Prayer

3. May 2018 Minutes: **Cherry Ottey** made a motion to approve the May 2018 minutes as corrected. Seconded by **Jackie Eberline**. The minutes were approved.

5. Treasurer Report: The May 2018 and Year-to-Date Financial Reports along with the quarterly Finance Committee report were presented for review.

6. Old Business:

Stewardship Guidelines: Cherry, Debra and Phyllis of the Stewardship Committee completed the year-long Stewardship Calendar as a guideline for the stewardship process. Gary Neddo recommended a committee of five people, made up from the Vestry and possibly parishioners, be formed to perform various steps outlined in the new guidelines.

Coffee Hour/Kitchen duties/Responsibilities Subcommittee Update: Jackie Eberline and Phyllis Honsinger reported they would have an update at the next Vestry meeting.

Review of Facilities Use Form: Gary Neddo requested the Vestry look over the Rules and Facilities Use Form used for outside groups and parishioners who use the church's facilities and send any necessary updates to the secretary.

Convention Delegates Update: The secretary reported that Jack Omilanowicz and Kathi Phillips were the certified Lay Delegates who would be attending the Annual Diocesan Convention to be held Nov. 9 and 10. Debra Richardson and Nancy Morrison are the Alternate Lay Delegates. Gary pointed out the alternates are expected to attend, however, they do not have a voice or vote unless one of the delegates is unable to attend the convention.

7. New Business:

Amaya Resolution: A resolution passed and signed by the entire vestry designating a modest monetary tribute be paid to the Amaya family in gratitude for Father Amaya's selfless service to the parishioners of St. Mark the Evangelist. Father Amaya postponed his Contractual Sabbatical leave twice over his 10 years of service to ensure the parish did not go an extended period of time without the benefit of receiving the sacraments of the church. Motion was made by **Gary Smith** to accept the resolution, seconded by **Cherry Ottey**.

Church Picnic Update: Debra Richardson reported that the pavilion at Shove Park was reserved for the church picnic at no cost for Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The picnic will be held after the 10 a.m. service. Parishioners will be asked to bring a side dish and their own drinks – no glass or alcohol – the Mustangs will supply the condiments and paper products. Debra requested the church provide the hot dogs, coneys, rolls, charcoal and starter fluid as in past years. The Vestry approved this request.

Re-institution of Church Hall Events & Activities Calendar: Gary recommended that the Parish Hall Events & Activities Calendar be re-instated. It will cover a three-month span and the secretary will be responsible for updating the calendars.

Request from local NA Group to Use the Facility: Gary informed the Vestry that the church has been contacted by a Narcotics Anonymous group who would like to meet at St. Mark on Sunday evenings, beginning July 1, from 6:15-8:30pm. The wardens will meet with the coordinator of the group to determine if the group is a good fit for the church before making a final decision.

Other Business

Debra Richardson requested an update regarding the progress of finding an interim and Gary announced there was nothing to report at this time.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Jackie Eberline** and seconded by **Gary Smith**. Meeting adjourned 8:11pm.

7. Closing Prayer was led by Gary Neddo.

Next Executive Meeting: July 12, 5:30 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting: Monday, July 16, 7 p.m.

Some Announcements

Time & Talent Update: The Ministry Sheets are being compiled and those new to the ministry they have selected will be contacted over the summer by the ministry leader. All new ministry positions will become active in September.

Donations Sought: We are looking for donations of good, deep and tall, and easy rolling drawer file cabinets for the Choir room. If you can help, you may contact Deb in the office (315-488-8511; stmarkssyracuse@gmail.com) or email Cherry Ottey at studios3co@gmail.com.

August Clothes Closet: There will be a Clothes Closet and Green Café on Saturday, Aug. 11 from 10:30am to 12:30pm. This will be in place of the annual August Back-to-School lawn sale.

Porter School Supplies: The Mustangs are collecting school supplies for students at Porter School. A list of supplies can be found on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall and will be included in the August newsletter. If you would like to make a monetary donation; the Mustangs will be glad to shop for you. The money can be given to any Mustang member. Backpacks will be filled on Sunday, Aug. 26th after church so any donations would be appreciated by Aug. 19th. St. Mark also provides the school's social worker/nurse with socks and underwear for emergencies. The underwear can be sizes 6-10 and the socks can be almost any sizes for children. Please leave these items in Parish Hall for delivery in September.



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:

Please join us at a very *Special Service*

Sunday, July 29

Please join us at our 10 a.m. service as we
commemorate Fr. Amaya's *Birthday and Ministry.*



*Sunday, July 29, 2018, is the anniversary of
Father Adrian A. Amaya's 52nd birthday.*

The Parish will honor his birthday and his 10 years of ministry with us by
dedicating a picture of Father Adrian that will hang in the Parish Hall.