

THE WAY

The Newsletter of

St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church
1612 W. Genesee St. Syracuse, NY, 13204
315-488-8511 || www.stmarkssyracuse.com



Fall 2021



St. Mark Parishioner's artwork on display in Marcellus! ...Pgs. 4-5



Forever in our Hearts...Pgs. 8-10



St. Mark hosts successful COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Pgs. 6-7



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An Update from our Rector



Dear St. Mark's Family,

Welcome to fall. What a year we have had. Covid Restrictions have made 2021 a year like none other that I can remember. For a month, or more, we have been working our way back into something more like "normal." We are not there yet. Let me give you an overview of worship in September.

Sunday, September 5th we held our last service for this year in the Undercroft. Most weeks it sure was a lot cooler down there. As rules changed we were able to add some music back into our worship. Mask requirements changed almost weekly. By the end of the summer, we were back to requiring face coverings (masks)

at all times other than while speaking (reading lessons, preaching. Etc.) or eating. Yes, EATING. Near the end of the summer, we were allowed to have a modest "coffee hour" after worship each week

Sunday, September 12th we will be having our annual picnic for the first time in what feels like years. See the announcement in this newsletter or on St. Mark's website for details. There will be a very informal service at 10 AM at the picnic site. **AND** we will also be providing an "Online" service beginning at 10 AM.

Sunday, September 19th we will return to worship in the sanctuary complete with organ music and a more traditional Coffee Hour following the service. The service will also be available by Live Stream.

Related notes: The current rules will allow us to have soloists, duets and even a modest Choir of up to four people. Please check with Organist/Choir Director Warren Ottey if you are interested.

You can provide food for the Coffee Hour although we are still keeping things simple as we are required to observe six-foot distancing. Altar Flowers may be donated. Call the Church office or Joan Green (652-3350) to arrange a specific week.

Some COVID-19 rules are still in effect. As said above, masks are required and distance must be observed. (The sanctuary remains taped off for this purpose.) Holy Communion will be distributed in only one form – the host.

As things develop, there will surely be other changes.

See you at worship.

Nelson W. Gaetz
Interim Rector

Why Being an Episcopalian Brings a Healthy Mental Outlook on Life



“I came across this in the Chaplain’s office during my 9-month stay on the psyche unit at the V.A. in Coatesville, PA, back in 1992. It was this info that lead me to the Episcopal Church — where I found a church for life.”

~ Bill Zimmer

Characteristics of Mentally Healthy Religious Practices

1. They lead to an increasing acceptance of individual differences and openness to other people rather than narrowness and judgmentalism.
2. They lead to increasing forgiveness, serenity and courage rather than to guilt, anger and anxiety.
3. They lead to an increasing sense of reconnecting, meaning, purpose and belonging rather than to alienation (disconnecting).
4. They lead to an increasing ability to feel joy and to celebrate life and nature.
5. They encourage freedom, growth and searching rather than to control and repetition of doctrine.
6. They encourage a realistic approach to guilt, leading to healing rather than to increasing shame and condemnation. They distinguish between dishonest (neurotic) and honest (appropriate) guilt.
7. They realistically face the problems of pain, loss and change rather than wallowing and denying.
8. They allow Mystery to be Mystery, acknowledging the non-rational apprehension of reality.
9. They lead to a positive involvement with social and personal issues, not avoiding these issues with simplistic answers and/or pessimism.

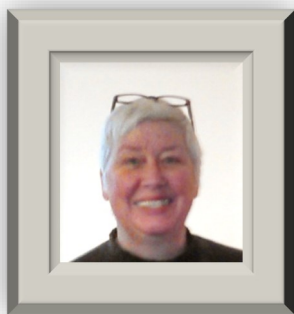
SUMMARY

Healthy Religious practices: acceptance, openness, compassion, objectivity, forgiveness, serenity, reconnecting, meaning, purpose, belonging, joy, celebrates life and nature, freedom, growth, searching, appropriate handling of guilt, healing, restoration, wholeness, realistic view of pain – loss – change, mystical, positive involvement with relationships and social issues, love.

Possible religious pathologies: narrowness, judgementalism, fear, anger, anxiety, control, alienation, disconnecting, dependency, doctrinal obsession, neurotic guilt and shame, denial of pain – loss- change, simplistic answers, cynicism, pessimism.

John L. Prater, BBC, Department of Veterans Affairs, Chaplain Service, 1988

St. Mark Parishioner Nancy Morrison is now... Artist on Display!



For the entire month of September, St. Mark's own, Nancy Morrison, will have her artwork on display — and for sale — at the Marcellus Free Library, 32 Maple St, Marcellus, NY. Everyone who enters the library will be greeted by her incredible artwork which is hung near the receptionist desk. Nancy said she learned that the library occasionally displayed artwork from local artists by chance while delivering posters to there for an upcoming musical for the Onondaga Hill Players – not only is Nancy an artist, but she is also a producer for the company!

She explained that when she walked into the Marcellus Library and up to the front desk, the woman who greeted her asked if she was one of the artists. Intrigued, Nancy replied, "Um, no, I have posters for a musical play. What do you mean ... artists?" She was told that they occasionally display artwork from local artists and Nancy, her interest immediately piqued, asked, "Who do I see about that?" The receptionist pointed her toward Robin Browning-Bolewski, the director of the library, who explained how it worked. When Nancy told her how she had taken up the hobby of painting a couple of years ago, Robin responded with an enthusiastic "Great!" and the rest is history. Here is how Nancy got into painting, how she creates her beautiful and unique designs as well as her personal affection for the village of Marcellus:

In her own words...



Hello, my name is Nancy Topp Morrison, and I am new to the art world. I'm a widow, mother to Elizabeth and Stephen, mother-in-law to John and Michelle, and grandmother to four of the most wonderful kids you would ever meet: Jack, Jillian, Leandra, and Harper. I am retired from working for the great State of New York after 36-plus years.

I discovered that I liked to paint way back in December of 2016 when my daughter-in-law invited me to her sister's house for a 'paint and sip' party. "Sure. What do I need to bring with me?" So I went out and bought a couple of paint brushes, three or four little bottles of acrylic craft paint, and two small canvases. (And a bottle of wine.) The girls acquainted me with Pinterest for some ideas and I was hooked! At the age of 74!!

I also discovered some wonderful artists on YouTube, and have basically become a self-taught, not-bad-if-I-do-say-so, artist. Or rather, someone who loves 'to art' and make crafts.

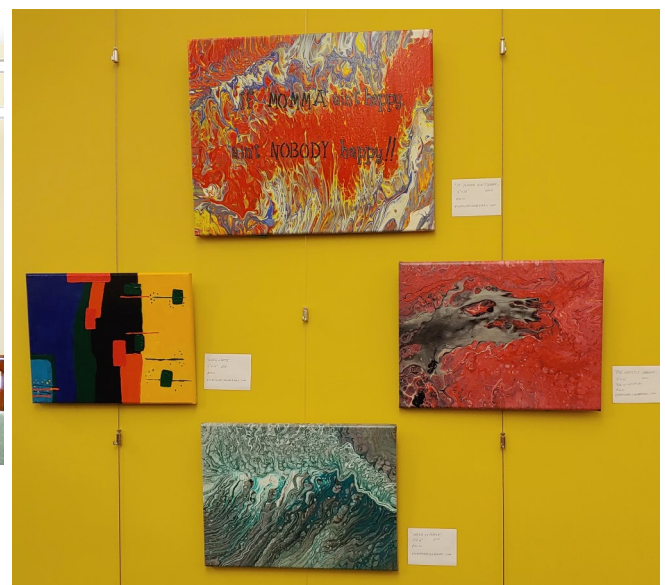
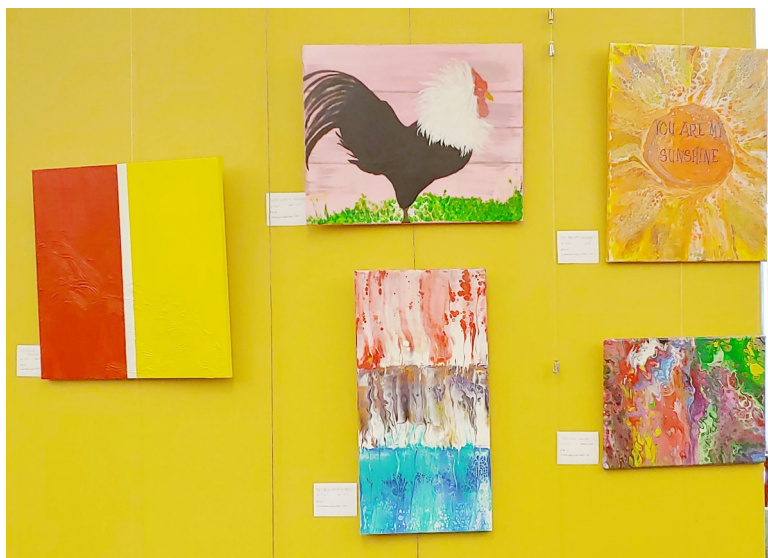
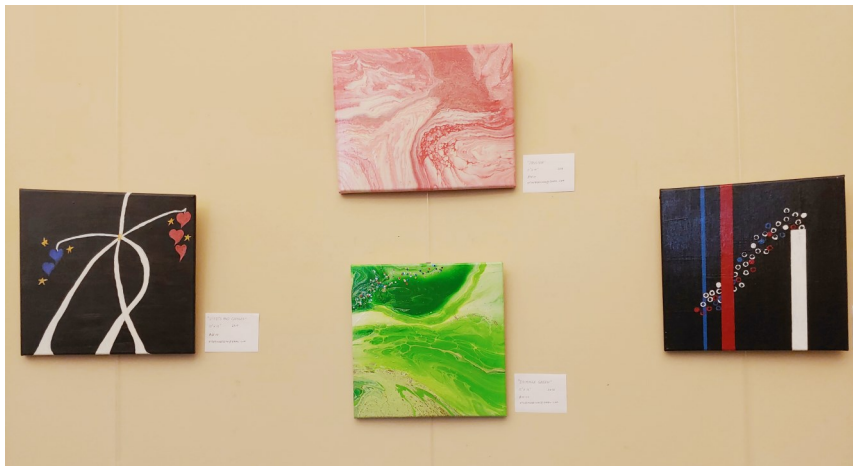


I feel that my style of painting would be called 'abstract expressionism' or possibly, 'whatever-comes-to-mind expressionism.' It is primarily fluid art pouring, but sometimes I also use brushes, spatulas or other things to draw or make embellishes (sharpies, the ends of toilet paper tubes, combs, stencils, sponges, etc.).

I have a wonderful connection with the Village of Marcellus through my late grandmother, Hattie Topp Spinks. She was married to her third husband, Amos Spinks, and they lived out on Platt Road. My brothers and sister and I would visit them several times, enjoyed feeding the chickens that they kept out back and gathering the eggs, wandering around the area, and playing with other kids who lived out that way. I remember a couple of times sitting out on their porch and watching the fireworks on the Fourth of July that were across the way in the park. Loved it!!!

Anyway, I do hope that you enjoy my paintings. If you wish to make a purchase of one of them, you may contact me at: ntoppmorrison@gmail.com.

Enjoy some of her amazing artwork on display:



St. Mark does its part in the fight against COVID-19



Wednesday, August 25th, was a very hot day at St. Mark the Evangelist both weather wise and with all going on.

Downstairs in the Undercroft we had our monthly Food \$en\$e delivery to unload and repackage as "Units" of 12 items each AND Specials such as Lobster Bites. The Unit for August included fresh sweet corn and grape tomatoes. We were able again to provide each customer with a free bag of assorted Pepperidge Farm breads.

The CNY Food Bank truck showed up much earlier than anticipated for all Food \$en\$e sites are exhibiting smaller than normal

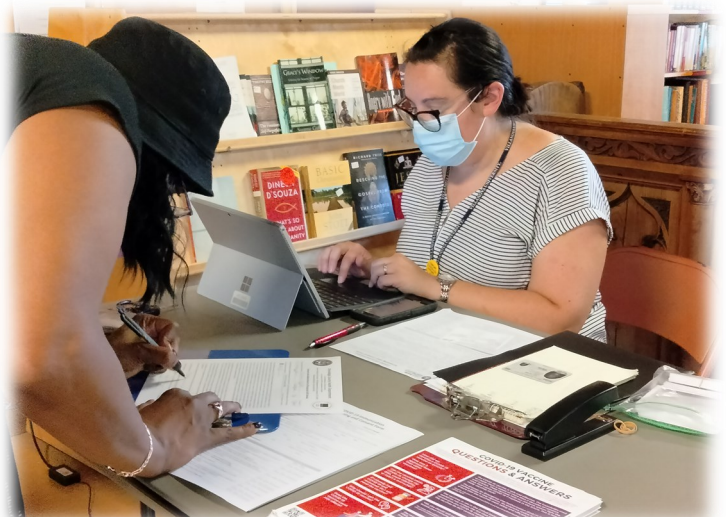
orders. Fortunately, Jen Blowers, of the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program has a son, Ryan who is a student at SU and he brought along a few of his friends who jumped in enthusiastically with unloading and filling and transporting the boxes. Stefanie Savory, another CASA coordinator, also brought her 4-year-old daughter who eagerly assisted Phyllis with order receipts as well as filling the boxes with bags of the bread!

Meanwhile, upstairs in the Parish Hall, four nurses from the Onondaga County Health Department held a walk-in Pop-Up Vaccination Clinic from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., offering the newly approved Pfizer vaccine. We had 9 people come for shots, including a 14-year-old soon to be East Syracuse-Minoa freshman. Asked by the channel 3/5 television news crew who came as well why he had come, he responded, "My father made me!" A family with some good sense!

Thanks to the Vaccination crew of Karen Ward and Gail Manolescu, who assisted and scrubbed tables. Thanks to the Food \$en\$e crew in the Undercroft: Barry Guinn, Sally Tullar, Nancy Morrison, and Phyllis Honsinger. And thanks to Bill Zimmer and David Richmond who did double duty, both upstairs and downstairs. We thank Gary and Cheryl Neddo for obtaining and packaging the monthly donation of Pepperidge Farm breads. Special thanks to both Deb Denny, Parish Administrator, for her photography and promotional skills AND to Phil Buffham who set up and reset up and cleaned, and as always helped w/ all aspects of the monthly delivery from unloading to delivering orders to cars, to returning all to the Sunday service configuration!




A reporter from WSTM news talks with a family who just received the Pfizer vaccine at the clinic.





WSTM (local stations 3 & 5) stopped by the vaccination clinic to talk with those getting the Pfizer vaccine as well as with our volunteers (at right, from left, Bill Zimmer, Karen Ward and Gail Manolescu.



Did you know...?

 Based on evidence from clinical trials in people 16 years and older, the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine was 95% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 in people who received two doses and had no evidence of being previously infected.

 In clinical trials, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was also highly effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection in adolescents 12–15 years old, and the immune response in people 12–15 years old was at least as strong as the immune response in people 16–25 years old.

 The vaccine was also highly effective in clinical trials at preventing COVID-19 among people of diverse age, sex, race, and ethnicity categories and among people with underlying medical conditions.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Pfizer-BioNTech.html>

Forever in our hearts...

This summer saw the celebration of the lives of two faithful parishioners and friends, Ginny Talcott and Dottie Schmitt. They will be missed, but they are home. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. And let us all say to both of them...Well done, good and faithful servant!

Dorothy "Dottie" Schmitt

October 29, 1926 – December 13, 2020

On December 19, shortly after his mother's death, Derek Schmitt wrote a beautiful tribute to his mom on Facebook and agreed that St. Mark could share it with the parish:



Dottie's son, Derek.



Young Dottie

My mother, Dorothy Schmitt, passed away last Sunday at 94. Another victim of Covid, according to the death certificate, not that that's anything here or there. She was one of the greatest generation, growing up on a farm during the depression in rural Madison County, NY. Later, with my grandfather seeking work, they moved to Syracuse, (they lived in an area that's now a parking lot for the Dome), then to Oswego where she went to high school then Oswego State Teachers college (now known as SUNY Oswego).

Like all at that time, she had many friends who went to war and some who didn't come back. She then met one who did come back, my Dad. She was teaching in Troy and he was a GI Bill student at RPI (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute).

I'll put up two things, a memory and a lesson.

The memory: Her being a teacher, was home in the summers. As a kid, she would take me places, usually for a reason, sometimes just to ride, never the shortest route; I learned all the back roads of southern Onondaga County. She had convertibles and the top was usually down – one was a 63 Valiant, 3-speed on the column.

The lesson: Nothing direct, but by example, my parent's relationship was a partnership, I've always, (hopefully), lived my life and relationships that way as well.

RIP Mom, you're home.



A Farewell to Dottie

By Jackie Eberline

On August 7, Dennis and I were invited to a “Farewell” celebration for our friend, Dorothy (Dottie) Schmitt, who was a member of St. Mark’s for many years. She passed away this past December.

It was a small gathering of family and a few friends. The ashes of Dottie, her husband, Frank and Dottie’s beloved dog, Jack, were interred in a small garden on the family property in LaFayette.

Daisies were the favorite flower of Dottie and Frank so we all sang “A daisy a day.” Dottie was a member of the Pompeian Players and a family favorite activity was to perform the skit “Little Nell” each year a family holidays. As part of the farewell celebration, the skit was performed by daughter, Rev. Jacqueline Schmitt, and her son, Seth.

Dottie grew up in Oswego and Rudy’s Restaurant, located on the shore of Lake Ontario, was a favorite of hers. Small rocks were gathered from Rudy’s shoreline and were placed around the garden with all the daisy plants everyone brought.

Dottie was a faithful and fun-loving gal. Although this was not a traditional celebration this was certainly Dottie. Dottie, Frank and Jack are now together on their “little slice of heaven.”



Clockwise from right:
Dottie’s granddaughter, Natalie, and her husband, Alain; Dottie doing what she loved to do—acting; and performing with her other love—family; Dottie and Natalie; Dottie singing in St. Mark’s Choir.



Virginia Jean Talcott

March 2, 1931 – July 1, 2021



In loving memory of Virginia J. Talcott, 90, born March 2, 1931. Virginia passed away peacefully on July 1, 2021, in her home. Born in Williamsport, PA, she moved to Geneva, NY, where she met her husband Glade E. Hall. They had 4 children, Daryl J. Hall, Syracuse; Glade E. Hall, Jr, (Deborah) Seattle, WA; Ellen L. Leo, Syracuse; and Lawrence A. Hall (Patricia) Honeoye Falls, NY. Virginia had 7 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, 2 nieces and 1 nephew.



In the 60's and 70's, Virginia worked as a secretary for CS Burrell and Sons Insurance, and as a bookkeeper at Kmart in Geneva, NY.

Virginia married a second time to Douglas Talcott, of Camillus, which brought her to the Syracuse area, where she was a member of St. Mark The Evangelist Episcopal Church. Virginia loved to travel, work in her garden, workout at her local gym, read and spend time with her family.

Services were held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, July 6, at Tindall Funeral Home. A calling hour was held from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service at the funeral home. Virginia was laid to rest in Oaklawn Cemetery, Phelps, NY.

Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society (cancer.org) on her behalf.



I wanted to sincerely thank everyone for all the support cards and donations when my husband entered the gates of Heaven. It was so appreciated!

Sincerely
Dottie Doane



**Church &
Picnic**



Sunday Service

Join us **Sept. 12** *for*

Faith Fellowship | **Food Fun**
Hosted by The Mustangs

10 AM

At Shove Park, Camillus

The Church & Mustangs will provide hot dogs and buns, condiments, paper products and water. Please bring a dish to share, your drink preference and lawn chair. You may want to bring games, bug spray. Dress accordingly!

SORRY: No alcohol or pets allowed.

Bring a friend!

NOTE: A sign-up sheet for food & drink is on the Undercroft Café counter





The Vestry at Work

“Summertime is always the best of what might be.” ~ Charles Bowden

The Vestry’s work this summer has us readying our parish for the best of what we might be. With the hope of a new leader, we want to present our best. We continue to discuss current and upcoming events and issues as we ease into fall. Many view fall as a time of change and new beginnings.

Since we are still operating under COVID guidelines, we know how quickly things can change. We base any decisions according to the diocese, local, state and CDC guidelines.

Here are some highlights of our July meeting:

- ▶ Our guest speaker, Jim Miller, presented his proposal to use the parish hall as a vaccination site during the August 25th Food Sense pick-up time. Issues of concern were clean-up afterwards and volunteers to help during clinic.
- ▶ Jim Miller reported on the search committee’s active search for a part-time rector.
- ▶ Summer worship will continue to be held in the undercroft until September 5th. September 19th we will return to the sanctuary. Upon returning, we will determine the latest COVID-19 guidelines for masking and social distancing.
- ▶ Our church picnic returns this year! We will gather at the Shove Park pavilion on September 12th at 10 a.m., beginning with our worship service. The Mustangs’ will provide paper products and condiments. Hot dogs and buns will be provided. Those attending, please bring a dish to share and your drink preference.
- ▶ With the return of Warren Ottey, we can have limited music and singing (COVID-19 guidelines). Any hymn suggestions can be sent to Fr. Gaetz or the church office.
- ▶ Father Gaetz will be gradually adding pieces back into the service. The first to be added will be birthday and anniversary blessings.
- ▶ The Onondaga Health Department inspected and passed our kitchen. The report has been filed.

Feel free to contact any Vestry member with questions, concerns or suggestions.

Faithfully,
The Vestry



Brief Note From Our Search Committee

Your Search Committee has met a few times over the summer, including another meeting with the Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, Canon for Transition and Church Development.

We will meet again after Labor Day to discuss possible candidate(s) and possibilities moving forward.

As a parish, please continue what you are doing:

- Praying regularly.
- Telling others that we are looking. Use your "network" to help find a leader who will work to return us to full time ministry.
- Keeping your pledge up to date to keep our present financial situation stable. (Remember: You may pledge any time of the year).



Jim Miller
Search Committee Chair

Report from our Treasurer, Pat Dunn

Budget Report for January 1 thru Aug 22, 2021

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
<i>Income</i>	\$85,365.00	\$125,594.47	\$40,229.47
<i>Expenses</i>	\$157,694.40	\$85,164.47	-\$72,529.93
<i>Deficit</i>	-\$72,329.40	\$40,430.00	\$112,759.40
<i>Pledges</i>	\$49,000.00	\$34,335.00	-\$14,665.00



Photo courtesy of American Magazine

The Chosen: A Must Watch

By Jim Miller

The Chosen is a most remarkable and refreshing television series. Kitty was told about it by Kim Ada and Kim's description made it a "must watch" program. It is a story about the life of Jesus and his friends unlike any of the Jesus or Christianity Hollywood movies you grew up with! No "Niagara Falls running backward" with Charlton Heston as Moses to depict the Red Sea escape in *The Ten Commandments!* (1957)

The Chosen is a **television drama based on the life of Jesus of Nazareth**, created, directed and co-written by American filmmaker Dallas Jenkins. The title, *The Chosen*, refers to the disciples chosen by Jesus as he begins his public ministry. The TV series is the first multi-season series about the life of Jesus and season one was the highest crowd-funded TV series or film project of all time. The series' creators stated that they had hoped to distinguish the new series from previous portrayals of Jesus by crafting a multi-season, episode-based story. The series portrays Jesus "through the eyes of those who met him." You'll meet Simon, Matthew, the other disciple as well as Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene among others. Just as Jesus of Nazareth was a storyteller, this series tells stories true to the primary resource, The Bible.

Jenkins wanted to create a series about Jesus that could be "binge watched." His intention was not only to dig deeper into the people who encountered Jesus and to see Jesus through the eyes of those who met him, but also to show him in a way that is more "personal, intimate, immediate."

The first season introduces Jesus and the calling of his initial disciples. The second season focuses on the beginning of his public ministry and what happens as word of his ministry begins to spread. (*Wikipedia*)

So far, Kitty and I have watched the entire first season – 8 episodes – each about 45 minutes in length. It is an absolutely free app and is easily available on several streaming services. Kitty gets it on her iPad and screens it on our television. Although it lends itself to binge watching, we have limited ourselves to one episode each week. The plan for *The Chosen* is to run for 7 seasons. As it is crowd-funded, there are no subscription fees or obligation to pay for it somehow. So far, the first two seasons have been fully funded and Season 3 is about halfway funded. The production costs are about \$10 million dollars for each season.

Words that come to my mind when watching it are engrossing, captivating, mesmerizing and exhilarating...perhaps a bit intoxicating (but in a good way). The first night following my introduction to it, I awakened several times always with *The Chosen* somewhere in the deeper recesses of my mind! I like that there are no “Hollywood” film stars in the cast and that there are so many people of color which lends to its authenticity. From a Social Studies perspective, the look into the culture of the time is wonderful, particularly the Roman occupation, and while it is fictionalized, *The Chosen* is centered on the Gospels and the Prophets.

There is also a companion book, *The Chosen*, but is not necessary for the enjoyment of the series. I have been reading one “chapter” each morning – each three pages long. I will have a copy or two to lend should you be interested.

I think watching this series would make a wonderful activity for our *Four West* youth and would be equally suitable for any of our parish groups to watch.

It is available here: <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen/the-chosen>



Chief Yellow Lark

The Great Spirit Prayer

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me. I come before you as one of your many children. I am weak and small. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset; my ears sharp so I may hear your voice. Make me wise so I may learn the things you have taught my people, the lessons you have hidden under every rock and leaf. I seek strength, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy – myself. Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so whenever life fades, like the fading sunset, my spirit will come to you without shame.

A Sioux Prayer, Translated by Chief Yellow Lark – 1887

This prayer was printed in our Sunday bulletin the day that Matthew Neddo received his Eagle Award in scouting. I cut it out and saved it; it is beautiful.

~ Bill Zimmer



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:



Service Time

Sundays

10 am—Holy Eucharist

In-person and by Livestream

Visit www.stmarkssyracuse.com for

Info regarding virtual service and programs

Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday:

9 am to 1:45 pm



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.