



THE WAY

The Newsletter of
St. Mark the Evangelist
Episcopal Church
1612 W. Genesee St. Syracuse,
NY 13204
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June 2023



Photo Courtesy of George Konder

A Word ...

Countless times in the Gospels, Jesus is shown in prayer. Jesus also taught the disciples how to pray when they asked him; giving the example we now call “the Lord’s prayer.”

"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.



So it is clear that prayer is important in the life of faith. I would argue that it is probably the foundational discipline of a life of faith. Jesus’ invitation is, first and foremost, an invitation to relationship. To be in relationship, of course, requires relating – that is, talking and listening to one another. The way to talk and listen to God is through prayer.

One thing to pay attention to though is the content of your prayers. Lots of people seem to think that prayer is just reciting a wish list of their needs and wants to God, like little children say to Santa while on his lap at the mall. There’s a place, for sure, for your needs, but prayer is way more than that.

So, what should your prayers be like? Trust me, a quick internet search will offer you multiple systems of classifying prayer types. Largely, these all describe the same kinds of things, sometimes combining types others separate and use lots of different words to describe them. So, without claiming that these are the final word on prayers, I offer these six categories that your prayers likely should contain plus one that may not be used by you often, but which is important for many people. None is more important than the other, all have a place, so I offer these, in alphabetical order; Confession, Intercession, Listening, Petition, Praise, and Thanksgiving. Plus the bonus prayer type of Lament.

These prayer practices open us up to the world God is calling us into and towards the people Christ is calling us to serve.

But also to take moment each day, to look up and look around and see that God is good.

Blessings,
Jon

prayer

Mission to Brighton Towers



Gary preaching at Wednesday night service.

The long-running Episcopal mission at Brighton Towers on the city's southside is going strong. We recently moved into a new worship space after some renovations, and though it's a little tight, the community seems to have adapted well. Each week there is a joyous celebration of the holy Eucharist and joyful noises are offered to God in the singing of hymns. This mission is the Episcopal Church's only presence on the southside of Syracuse and remains a vital outpost of our tradition. If anyone is interested in assisting with worship, please let Fr. Jon or Gary Neddo know.

A Labor of Love

Armed with shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows and other garden accessories, the Outdoor Clean-up crew descended upon the lawn and gardens of St. Mark the Evangelist Church. June 3rd was a beautiful and sunny day which invigorated us. The crew eagerly attacked the gardens, trees, and hedges of the church. A little trim here, a little trim there and soon the hedges and trees were back in shape. Lots of pulling and raking was taking place in the memorial garden. The flower bed under the sign out front sprung to life with bright and colorful flowers. This labor of love was accomplished in just under three hours, knowing some of would be back to continue work in the garden.

The Outdoor Clean-up team consisted of Jackie and Dennis Eberline, Barry Guinn, Anna Amaya, Jim Miller, Michael Honsinger, Phyllis Honsinger and Jeffrey Honsinger.

Many thanks to Michael who stopped by a few times during the next week to continue work in the garden. He spread new dirt, planted flowers, and spread mulch. Since there had been no rain recently and none in the forecast, Michael watered all the flowers. The memorial garden has a new look, and we will continue to work on improving the grounds.

If you're interested in helping, please contact one of the team.



Image Credit: www.gettyimages.com

Porter Ceremony Held in Undercroft

On Friday, May 26th, several Porter new immigrant students and their families visited St. Mark's to celebrate their achievements. Held in our Undercroft, students received a medal for their work and a certificate for their accomplishments at their 5th grade graduation. Porter's ENL (English as a New Language) program is part of the Syracuse City School's district-wide program:

- ▶ To affirm positive attitudes towards multilingualism and to validate the use of multiple languages for all students.
- ▶ To encourage Syracuse City School District pre-k, elementary, and middle school students along the path of bilingualism.
- ▶ To reward engagement in pursuit of proficiency in two or more languages.
- ▶ To unite the home, school, and community by recognizing and celebrating multicultural and multilingual identities. St. Mark's is proud to have played a small part in their journey as new Americans!

NOTE: Our UTO grant in 2014, allowing renovation of the Undercroft, was entitled "The Trinity of the Undercroft." This reflected our goal of sharing our space with the Porter Elementary School and Hazard Branch Library.



Parishioners attended Diocesan Pride Celebration and Eucharist

St. Mark parishioners showed their love and colors Saturday at EpiscoPride at CNY Pride! "If it isn't about love, it isn't about God." ~ Bishop Michael Curry

In Memoriam



A Celebration of Life service was held June 17th at St. Mark's to honor the memory of parishioner Pearl Popiak. Pearl's life was committed to helping and serving others, working as a chief medical assistant in Kaneohe, Hawaii. She lived on the island of Oahu until she suffered a

stroke and moved back to her hometown where she was well-known and surrounded by many caring people in her neighborhood. Pearl died May 31st after a courageous battle with cancer.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory!



"The Presence of God calms the soul, and gives it quiet and repose."

~ Francois Fenelon

While summer is approaching and the tranquility of the season is upon us, the Vestry does not rest in doing God's work.

Here are some notes from the May 16, 2023 Vestry meeting:

- ▶ The Vestry met with Bill Maffei from Merrill Lynch. He discussed with us our investment outlook. He reported on our past and present spending and provided advice for our financial future.
- ▶ Fr. Jon provided a slide show that he will be using Sunday for our first "town meeting." There will be three meetings to discuss how we move forward as a parish.
- ▶ Kevin Ward and Phyllis Honsinger will be selling Pride t-shirts starting in June. Custom Logo helped to design a more cost-effective shirt.
- ▶ Sundaes on Fridays is returning on the second Friday of the month from June to September. The cost will now be \$2. Kevin Ward will be leading a compline service towards the end of each event.
- ▶ Jim Miller is still reaching out to the new Porter principal to discuss our partnership and programs. There will be a ceremony for the English as a New Language (ENL) students in our undercroft on May 26th. We are happy to have them using our space.
- ▶ The Fundraising Committee has met and discussed possible future events. They will continue to talk with others for ideas for raising money. Stay tuned for upcoming events.
- ▶ Circle V is having their annual Summer Luncheon on June 1st at Coleman's. All are invited!
- ▶ A new bulletin board has been installed by the front door.
- ▶ The Vestry agreed with Fr. Jon to change the Food Pantry eligibility to once a month rather than every 3 months.
- ▶ June 3rd is the yard Clean-up Day from 9AM to noon. All are welcome.
- ▶ Fr. Jon will have a short vacation from June 26th-28th. In August, he will be gone from August 12th-20th.
- ▶ The Diocese's Annual Convention will be Saturday, October 21st. Kevin Ward and Phyllis Honsinger were approved as delegates with Anna Amaya as an alternate.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact a Warden or Vestry member.

***Faithfully Submitted,
St. Mark the Evangelist Vestry***

From the Treasurer...

Budget Report for January 1 thru May 31, 2023

	<i>Budget for Year</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
<i>Income</i>	\$115,450.00	\$53,798.42	-61,651.58
<i>Expenses</i>	\$178,316.89	\$83,603.49	-\$94,713.40
<i>Deficit</i>	-\$62,866.89	-\$29,805.07	\$33,061.82
<i>Pledges</i>	\$53,000.00	\$23,970.00	-\$29,030.00

Submitted by: Pat Dunn
Reported: 6-16-23

Updates on Special Offerings

Parishioners yet again opened their hearts to the world around us. The Spring United Thank Offering collected \$292.65 which, as is traditional, was matched by our own Erreger Fund, for a total of \$585.30!

Our Blanket Sunday collection was \$310.00. It, too, was partially matched for a total of \$517.35. Thanks be to God!

Happening at St Luke's

Weekly Eucharist

Every week St Luke's has Eucharist on Thursday mornings at 10:00am. Each week we commemorate one of the Holy Women and Men from the Episcopal Church's calendar of saints. If you aren't able to come on Sunday or would just like another opportunity for communion each week, come and join us.



Garden of Hope

St Luke's has a small raised-bed garden where they grow green beans, tomatoes, and zucchini for Meals on Wheels. Volunteers are welcome to help with tending the garden and weeding.



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:



Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday:

8 am to 2 pm

Thursday:

12:15-3:15pm



Sundays
11 am—Holy Eucharist
In-person and by Livestream

All are Welcome!

HAPPY 4th of July!

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.