



THE WAY

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



Parishioners from St. Mark's and St. Luke's along with other parishes and members of the Diocese traveled to see the Consecration of Bishop Carrie Schofield-Broadbent at the Washington National Cathedral on Sept. 15.

A Word ...

Judging a by a recent trip to WalMart, it's almost Christmas, but according to my calendar and the view out my window it's definitely early Fall. And, of course, we still have Halloween, All Saints, Thanksgiving, and Advent to get through before we arrive at the Feast of the Incarnation.

Retailers understandably want to maximize their revenues and profits and would surely prefer we stock up sooner rather than later on all the items we think we need to make our home holiday tableaux just perfect. Looking around my house, I'm pretty sure I don't need another scarecrow or elf statue, but those displays sure are tempting. But even if I can sustain my resolve to not buy new stuff, I find it still feels like my mind is being drawn away from the here and now to dwell on things coming up.



Throughout the Scriptures, one of God's recurring messages to us is to live as fully in the moment as is possible. Ecclesiastes reminds us that "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Jesus himself touches on this when he says, "do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

As followers of Christ, we should strive to make time to step outside of the sweep of busy-ness that seeks to pull us tumbling along into the next thing. The spiritual practice of Sabbath is designed to help us do just that, to step outside of the demands constantly being made on us and to refocus ourselves on our core relationships: with God, with the creation, and with those we love. By regularly setting aside time for a sabbath practice, we grow deeper in our relationship with God, we settle our souls and our minds, and we strengthen ourselves to better manage the demands imposed upon us that allow us to fully embrace and enjoy Halloween, All Saints, Thanksgiving, and Advent all before Christmas arrives.



Peace,
Jon

All Saints Day Coming

Sunday, November 5th, will be our celebration of All Saints this year. On this day, we remember all those whose mortal life has ended but who remain in the love and care of God. As has been our custom, we will remember in prayer parish members who have died in the previous year as well those loved ones you would like to be remembered. We will have prayer request forms available for you to let us know whom you would like to see remembered, If you are unable to be in church, you can contact our parish administrator, Deb Denny, in the office. You are also invited to bring in a photo or other small memento of your loved ones to add to our remembrance table at the front of the church.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARK...

Discernment 2023

On Sunday, September 8th, we held our third parish meeting of this discernment process where we looked at potential future scenarios for St Mark's. Fr Jon gave a presentation looking at seven potential paths we could take and the potential cost implications of each. He presented four important learnings from the first two sessions for our parish; they were:

- ◆ Maintaining a sense of community is important
- ◆ Our outreach ministries are an essential part of our parish identity
- ◆ We believe that the church is the people and not the building
- ◆ Participating in Eucharist is important in our lives of faith

He then briefly described each of the potential paths available to us. We could choose to close, though Fr Jon said he didn't think that was a step we really needed to consider as we still have too many possibilities and resources to even think about that. He suggested an option he called Retrenchment, which would basically be significant cost-cutting. He suggested we could sell the current parish building and move to a smaller more cost-efficient location or we could move into another parish's building while still keeping our identity as St Mark's.

He then talked about 3 different scenarios of merging our parish with another. Merger possibility #1 is similar the merger that led to St Mark the Evangelist in the 90's, we would assimilate into a new merged parish identity in another location. Merger possibility #2 would again to become part of a new merged parish in another location but to also purchase a small building in our current neighborhood to be a ministry center to continue all of our ministries here. Merger option #3 would be to merge with another parish but to continue worshipping and doing ministry in our current facility. The cost savings here would come from sharing our administrative and personnel costs, essentially creating a multi-point parish, which was a model of parish life more common before the 1940s.

The Vestry, which has participated in all of the meetings and discussed the issue in their regular meetings, is now planning a retreat on October 28th to explore all of these options in greater detail and work out what path is best for us to achieve the four important items communicated by the whole parish and to best fulfill the Gospel mission we have been entrusted to carry out.

Once the vestry has a clear sense of the path forward, we will have another parish meeting to discuss that and decide together where we believe the Holy Spirit is leading us.



HAPPENING AT ST LUKE'S

Weekly Eucharist

Every week St Luke's has Eucharist on Thursday mornings at 10am. 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.

A Beautiful Consecration

On September 15, little over 40 people from the Diocese of Central New York left by bus to witness the Consecration of Bishop Carrie at the Washington National Cathedral. It was a long ride but filled with good conversation and plenty of snacks.

On Friday night we stayed at the Glover Park Hotel in Georgetown not far from the cathedral. The Washington National Cathedral was Gothic in architecture and upon entering one just looked up. The stained glass windows were beautiful.

The service itself was awesome. The procession of banners and bishops was a sight to see. The music filled the cathedral with everything from classical to gospel. The pipe organ was amazing!

I sat with the folks from St, Luke's and when we couldn't see the television screen we moved and were surprised to find Dana and Tom Marzynski sitting there!

Bishop Carrie looked wonderful in her new regalia. There was a reception under a tent following the service and a box lunch was waiting for us on the bus.

It was certainly a once in a lifetime experience and one that I couldn't adequately describe.

Submitted by Kevin Ward



Fall Craft Show held at St. Mark's

Held Saturday, Sept. 30, St. Mark's first fall Craft Show was a success and both organizers and vendors are looking forward to it becoming an annual event. Along with the crafts, there was also a bake sale and a lunch of soup and sandwiches for purchase.

The show had a wide variety of handmade items that included jewelry, candles, crocheted articles, fall items, prints and more.

According to event coordinator, Gail Manolescu, all but one vendor said they would return in 2024. "We want to make it a regular show and keep it on the same weekend of September every year so they can plan on it and save the date," she said. "We will hopefully get some more advertising ahead of the next one and have an even better turnout of customers and vendors. But it went very well for the first effort."





“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”

~ 2 Corinthians 4:17

Here are some notes from the September 18, 2023, Vestry meeting.

- ▶ Jim Miller reported that he’s been busy making connections. He has visited Phil Buffham at Van Duyn, Bill Martin at St. Camillus but has not been able to connect with Forrest Antrum.
- ▶ A new sign has been erected on W. Genesee St. and Avery Ave.
- ▶ Food \$en\$e has seen an increase in orders due to the acceptance of credit cards and online ordering.
- ▶ More discussion was held on the possibility of donating online and set-up on the website.
- ▶ Nancy Tucker, Kevin Ward, and Phyllis Honsinger developed a checklist/process for evaluating future events or ministries. An additional criterion was added before being accepted. The final copy will be available at the next meeting.
- ▶ Fr. Jon reported that October 8th would be the Blessing of the Animals. There will be one held at St. Luke’s and one at St. Mark.
- ▶ Fr. Jon is still talking with the Food Bank and Jackie Eberline is looking at other sites.
- ▶ Fr. Jon reviewed the attendance chart and trends are holding steady.
- ▶ The Craft Show is set for Saturday, September 30th and will host up to 14 vendors.
- ▶ In the next part of the meeting the Vestry discussed the different options in the Discernment Process. We all expressed which option (s) appealed to us and why. The discussion needs more development so an idea was presented to have a Vestry retreat. This will take place on Saturday, October 28th. Fr. Jon will find a location.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to see any Vestry member or Warden.

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



ANIMAL BLESSINGS

Folks had two opportunities on Oct. 8 to bring their beloved pet in for a special blessing from Fr. Jon as blessings were offered at both St. Luke and St. Mark.
(Photo courtesy of George Konder)



october

Happy Birthday

- 4 Nancy Morrison
- 5 Mary Texler
- 8 Amy Lallier
- 18 Sally Tullar

Happy Anniversary

- 12 Jim & Kitty Miller

If you would like to be added to the birthday and or anniversary listing, please contact Deb in the office.

From the Treasurer...

Budget Report for January 1 thru September 30 2023

	Budget for Year	Actual	Difference
Income	\$115,450.00	\$93,864.80	-21,585.20
Expenses	\$178,316.89	\$112,639.00	-\$65,677.89
Deficit	-\$62,866.89	-\$18,774.20	\$44,092.69
Pledges	\$53,000.00	\$35,359.00	-\$17,641.00
Clothes Closet/FP			
Balance of Account	\$ 3,124.84		

Submitted by: Pat Dunn

In Gratitude

Fr. Jon recently received the following note and he wanted to share it with you:

I wanted to thank you and all of the caring people I met at St. Mark's Church for such a beautiful service and for all of the kindness and support at a time of loss. I read the heartfelt article stating it was an honor for St. Mark's Church to be able to celebrate Pearl's life in a service. The quote was beautiful as were the pictures, "May she rest in peace and rise in glory." Thank you for including my sister in The Way. She would be honored as well. It was a relief to find out that my sister donated her bank accounts to animal welfare. The International Fund for Animal Welfare is also helping animals in Maui. Pearl's legacy lives on...

Thank you!

*With sincere gratitude,
Pearl's sister, Anna*



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:



Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday:

8 am to 2 pm

Thursday:

12:30-3pm

Sundays

11 am—Holy Eucharist

In-person and by Livestream

All are Welcome!



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.