

THE WAY

The Newsletter of

St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church
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Spring 2020



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A COVID-19 Update from our Rector



May 27, 2020

Dear Friends,

Just a quick note to clear up any confusion you might have regarding re-opening of face-to-face worship.

In spite of the announcements made by the state of New York indicating that churches can begin holding limited in-person worship services and the fact that several denominations have announced dates for opening, we at St. Mark's will not be doing so at the moment.

As you might imagine, there are many details to be attended to in order to insure safe opening. In light of this, our Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe has directed all congregations in the Diocese to wait at least another month before opening. We'll be using this time to be absolutely sure we are ready.

I'll send another update soon but for now I just wanted to bring you up to date.

Sincerely,

Fr. Gaetz

Nelson W. Gaetz, Interim Rector

St. Mark's new website is launched!

While the isolation and suspension of services, meeting and events brought much of our church to a standstill, it also opened up some much-needed time for the office to seriously focus on the huge task of building the church's new website – one of the major items needed to be completed before the search for a permanent rector could begin.

If you have not had a chance to check it out yet, please take some time to review it. We think you will be surprised at how active our little church is in our community!

If you do see anything that is not right, missing or needs to be updated, please let the office (Deb) know as soon as you see it so it can be corrected.



www.stmarkssyracuse.com

Meet St. Mark the Evangelist's 2020 Graduates



ADAM ANTHONY AMAYA — Adam is the son of the late Rev. Adrian and Anna Amaya. Adam is a student at Westhill High School and set to graduate in the spring of 2020. During his time at Westhill High School, Adam played Lacrosse, participated in chorus and was a member of the National Technical Honor Society. During his spare time, Adam enjoys playing his electric and acoustic guitars, playing video games, playing with our new puppy and cooking like his dad. Adam makes amazing chocolate bars. In the fall, he will attend Onondaga County Community College and is considering enlisting in the military or joining ROTC after his first year.

KALEY ANN RICHMOND — Kaley Ann Richmond is the daughter of David and Jill Richmond and big sister of Olivia Jean Richmond. The Richmond's reside in Westvale. She will graduate in June from Westhill Central High School. Kaley was an active and well-rounded student at Westhill. For three years, she was a member of the girls varsity tennis team and a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. All throughout her years at Westhill High School, she was extremely active in the theater and music programs. She was a proud member of the select choir group known as Octante and had various acting roles in musical productions of *The Little Mermaid*, *Freaky Friday*, and *How To Succeed In Business Without Even Trying*. For her senior year, she landed the lead female role of Rosie in the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*. Those who attended were thoroughly entertained by her performance! Outside of school, Kaley holds down two jobs. She is a sales clerk at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo's gift shop and is a cashier at Wegmans. At St. Mark's, Kaley was active in youth group activities, preparing Thanksgiving baskets for parishioners and several Christmas/Easter pageants. Kaley will attend Onondaga Community College this fall with a major in communications. Her parents, sister, family and friends are so proud of her and look forward to what the future will bring.



SYDNEY KATHRYN WOODS — Sydney is the daughter of Peter and Kathryn Woods and granddaughter of the Rev. Nelson Gaetz. She is graduating from CW Baker High School in Baldwinsville. Sydney was inducted into the National Honor Society as a Junior. She has been active in the music program since she was in 4th grade in both Chorus and Band. She is a flute player in the Baker Band. She sings with the select Baker Chamber Choir. Over the past two years, she has served as Stage Manager for the Junior High musicals and as Student Producer for the High School musicals. She appeared on stage in the last 5 musicals through the Baldwinsville Theater Arts program. In addition to her school theatrical endeavors, Sydney has also stage managed for the Baldwinsville Theatre Guild. Her high school choral teacher called her a "Theater Warrior" as she participated in 9 out the 11 theater shows in the 13027 zip code over the last 2 years. Sydney has been an active Girl Scout since Kindergarten, earning her Bronze and Silver Award. She will be completing her Gold Award by year's end. She received the Baldwinsville Theatre Guild Scholarship and the Joe Falardeau Memorial Scholarship. In the fall, Sydney will be attending the University at Buffalo as a Biological Sciences Major.



We asked ‘What have you been doing during this unprecedented time when the world virtually shut down?’ Here is what some of you told us...

Gail Manolescu said:

“Every two weeks, the Manolescu family does a game night on Zoom. We have played Trivial Pursuit and Scattergories. We also did a Harry Potter escape room. It has been wonderful to see all the family. As for me, I keep busy working on crafts and just finished a quilt top for my oldest granddaughter’s graduation.”



From Sally Tullar (dated Tuesday, May 19):

Hello to all my Church Friends,

I am still currently in Denver with my daughter, Wendy, and grandson, Holden. Wendy has recovered greatly from her rotator cuff surgery. Holden, believe it or not, is really enjoying his on-line school. He also is taking virtual keyboard lessons twice a week.

We have really enjoyed the togetherness that this pandemic has created. I am able to take walks around the neighborhood (mask included). (Wendy won't let me go anywhere else!!) I am really missing my daily water aerobics class at the rec center but plan to find somewhere to go when I come home.

I will be coming home on May 27th. I was waiting to get a nonstop flight but there were none from Denver to Syracuse so I am flying into Buffalo and my family will pick me up there. I have my doctor's permission to fly as long as I take the necessary precautions, mask, gloves, wash hands frequently, etc. I am excited to come home. I love it here in Denver but I miss all my family and friends at home.

I have very much enjoyed going to church each Sunday. Thank you, Father Gaetz, Deb and Warren for making that possible. I can't wait until we can all worship together again at St. Mark's.

Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. I love you all and can't wait to see you all again soon.

(As of May 29, Sally reports she is home safe and sound and looking forward to seeing everyone!)

*From Leslie Hunt, Chair of
the Prayer Shawl Group:*

“I’ve completed 18 prayer shawls, 4 scarfs, read 2 books and am now going to start working on my landscaping in front of bay window.”

Read more about the Prayer Shawl group below...



Crocheting, Knitting & Sewing Enthusiasts invited to join St. Mark’s new Prayer Shawl Facebook group!

When the COVID-19 pandemic caused the world as we know it to more or less shut down, many around the country and the globe got pretty creative in finding ways to still connect, whether it be virtually or by maintaining a distance from their home. Facebook and the news are full of stories of people coming together in neighborhoods via their windows and terraces to honor those on the front lines or people traveling around to serenade those they love and those they didn’t even know – just to bring a smile to faces otherwise shut away from human contact.

We at St. Mark are no different – connecting through our Facebook page, our website and phone calls and cards. It has been very important to continue to communicate and pray with each other during this time while we anxiously look forward to when we can all be together again, even if it is with masks and giving each other the peace sign rather than a handshake or a hug.

One group that took advantage of the situation to create a Facebook group for support and encouragement was the St. Mark Prayer Shawl ministry. While we could no longer meet as a group in person, the new page allowed us a way to share our projects, ask questions and still be able to learn from one another.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry uses their talents – whether it be crochet, knitting or quilting – to lovingly create prayer shawls or lap blankets for those who are ill or shut-in. The level of expertise is not important – as we like to say, we are all a work in progress. Anyone is welcome to join the group and we are all willing to help anyone wants to learn or advance their skills.

Once completed, these gifts are blessed by our priest and put in gift bags along with a Pastoral Prayer of Blessing for the recipient. The shawls are available from the church office for you to take and to give out.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry normally meets one evening a month throughout the year with the exception of the summer months. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please contact Leslie Hunt, 315-622-3365.

Peace—Be Still—Listen to the Teacher

Based on Mark 4:35-41

Peace! Be still! What comforting words — you know there are days when we need to hear just these words. You know the kind of day I mean when even the most normal things appear to be more than you can deal with; more than you're ready to handle.

The kind of day that starts out pretty normal, when everything is going along smoothly. Then all of a sudden from out of nowhere a storm appears. A storm that strikes without warning; a storm that is so fierce it shakes you to your very core. A storm that just a few minutes ago wasn't even on the horizon.

Well, that's the kind of day today's Gospel is talking about. It has been a pretty average day for Jesus; well, average since the word spread about his ministry.

He had been teaching in parables to a very large crowd and his disciples about the kingdom of God for many hours from a boat just off-shore. When evening came, he decided they would go across to the other side.

So, they set off in the boat for the other shore. And that's when it all happens! A great windstorm came up from out of nowhere and the waves beat the side of the boat with waters so high that they swamped the boat and they were taking on water.

This had to be a pretty frightening storm. I mean, there are experienced fishermen in the boat and they are in a panic. They are afraid for their very lives.

And where is Jesus while all this is happening? He is in the stern; the very back of the boat, asleep on a cushion; worn out from the day. He is sound to sleep; blissfully unaware of what is taking place around him. (For some reason in my head I'm picturing a baby; sound asleep, very content with just the hint of a peaceful smile on his face).

One would think that looking at Jesus asleep there in the boat would have been enough to calm their fears and stop the panic. But no, instead of making them feel at ease and calming their fears; the sight of Jesus sleeping only worked to heighten the way they were feeling.

Can't you feel their anxiety as they wake him

up? "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Possibly, we've had occasions in our lives where we've asked Jesus the same question.

Here's what I love about Mark's telling of this story. Jesus wakes up and rebukes the wind and says to the sea, "**Peace! Be still!**" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. I love that, there was a dead calm. With just three little words "**Peace, Be Still,**" everything comes to a complete stop. Things don't just suddenly get quieter, no, there is a dead calm! Just imagine the complete and utter silence! It is then that he turns his attention to his disciples and asks, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith? And they were filled with a great awe!'



Now, Mark's Gospel moves pretty quickly from one scene to the next not allowing us a great deal of time to think. So, just for a minute, let's slow things down. Let's imagine that we are the disciples. What might that great awe feel like? What is it we are feeling? Is it relief,

is it gratitude, is it confusion, is it amazement, is it physical weakness, is it uncertainty or maybe we're still feeling just a little panic, a little fear?

Then the question, who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him? The question asked by the disciples is not an unreasonable question.

Interestingly enough, none of the questions asked in this Gospel lesson get answered. So, are we left to wonder what this story is about? Is it about the storm? Is it about the perilous journey to the other shore? Is it about fear and a lack of faith? Is it about taking risk? Is it a lesson in trust and courage? Maybe, maybe it is about all these things?

Yet, I feel there is one question we can answer with a degree of certainty; who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him? That is the one thing I feel is clear.

Oh, not because of what we know about Jesus as Christians of today. No, it is because of what we have heard in this Gospel reading..... Jesus is their teacher!

What a wonderful word choice on Mark's part. He didn't choose to call Jesus by his name, or use the words lord, or master. No, he clearly chose the word teacher.

I think he did this to avoid any confusion about Jesus' mission. Jesus' whole ministry is teaching. He has come into the world to teach his disciples, us and the whole world about the kingdom of God.

Jesus is here to teach us about what it means to have a true and lasting relationship with God not in some far off place at some time in the future; but right here and now in the present.

One of my favorite teachers was my first-grade teacher, Mrs. Hageman at Porter School. She knew our roles in the classroom. When things would get a bit out of control in the classroom – which didn't happen often, but it happened – Mrs. Hageman would stand back against the blackboard and wait.

Soon we would all realize that she had stopped teaching. Do you remember that feeling of dead calm? Well, I swear you could feel it in the room.

We would all stop and look at her; who, by the way, had been glaring at us the entire time with that look. You know that look, we've all experienced it. Every elementary teacher has one; the look that made you freeze in your

tracks!

And then very quietly she would say, we have two jobs in this room, mine is to teach and yours is to learn. So, let's all be still and get back to our jobs and just like that, the calm was restored and we went on with the business of learning.

I learned so much in Mrs. Hageman's class. She taught us more than our ABC's and 123's. She taught us how to get along with others. The lessons I learned in her class have seen me through some clear blue days and some dark stormy nights.

Yes, Jesus is our teacher and just like Mrs. Hageman, he knows our roles. His job is to bring us closer to God so that we may know him better. Our role is to learn from him so we may be Christ to the world.

Thus far in this season of Pentecost he has taught us that God's love can bring about healing, cast out demons and make disciples of ordinary men.

He has taught us that God's kingdom is inclusive and we are all God's children, the poor, the weak, the strong, the diseased, the possessed and even those who have not yet come to know him. God loves us all.

Jesus has taught us that even when all seems lost and the waves are beating against the boat and we feel like we are about to perish, there is hope. Faith in God can quiet the strongest winds and bring about a dead calm to the wildest sea. Faith in God can restore order to our lives.

Oh, the lessons we have yet to learn so that we may enjoy God's kingdom to the fullest in this life and for all eternity ... Peace, be still; listen to the teacher.

Amen!

*A Sermon by Gary W. Neddo
June 24, 2018 Proper 7 Year B*



St. Mark's Food \$en\$e volunteers devise remedy for COVID-19 threat

By Jim Miller, Food \$en\$e Co-Chair

Well along in our sixth year of the St. Mark's successful CNY Food Bank's Food \$en\$e ministry, we were confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic. We started the program thanks to a suggestion by Cherry Ottey, mainly to support the Porter Elementary School community. The program has grown slowly over the years by word of mouth and by fliers handed out in nearby businesses – Byrne Dairy, Colonial Laundromat, Brooklyn Pickle, and Coleman's Irish Pub. The office has developed a burgeoning e-mail list as well as a presence on our web site, Facebook page and the community calendar. This steady growth culminated into what was to be our record distribution on Wednesday, March 25 – 10 days after most of our country shut-down due to the pandemic along with the suspension of our in-person worship services and all programs (except food-related ones).



Food \$en\$e is not a welfare program by any means. It is a cooperative buying program which enables anyone to purchase first-quality foods at about half the cost of purchasing the same items at a local grocery store. Ordering does require advance payment either with cash or EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) cards.

Orders for March were placed and paid for in February and early March, well before Corona virus was a household name and before its danger was widely known. We had 51 "Units" ordered...a record number (each unit consists of 12 different items of frozen meat, fresh fruits and vegetables, and other frozen and canned foods). People can also order "Specials," a variety of larger quantity frozen foods. Those too were ordered in large numbers. The truck was coming and would need to be unloaded and orders sorted into packages for the people to then pick up.

Our program relies solely on parish volunteers. Barry and Marilyn Guinn share chairing the Food \$en\$e program with Jim & Kitty Miller. Stalwart volunteers on hand monthly to help with distribution include Nancy Morrison, Gary and Jane Smith, Phyllis Honsinger, Barb White, Leslie Hunt, Nancy Tucker, Sally Tullar, Bill Zimmer, Phil Buffham, our sexton, and volunteers from ACR (formerly Aids Community Resources). Cheryl and Gary Neddo are also on hand to operate the Bread Ministry which distributes much-needed bread for only a quarter donation.

The week leading up to the distribution, our son, Ryan, became adamant that my wife, Kitty, and I were not to be involved. Nor would ANY of our vulnerable volunteers and those with health issues. Ryan is a genetic counselor working for Sanofi, a large pharmaceutical firm, as

a liaison with doctors. Ryan's wife, Megan, is the director of physical medicine and rehabilitation services at St. Joe's and also well aware of the severity of the threat. Ryan became more and more adamant.

But Barry and Marilyn Guinn were still in Florida and we had few alternatives in our parish to pull this off. And the office had been inundated with calls and emails from anxious customers, concerned about being able to pick up their much-needed food. Cancelling was not an option.

So, Ryan created a plan. He would run the distribution with some friends and asked his good friend, Tim O'Donnell, along with his sister-in-law, Erin Greenwood, to help. Erin, a speech therapist in the Baldwinsville district, enlisted her two daughters, Delaney (10) and Alexa (13). Two of our parishioners who are experienced at the distribution also arrived to assist – Leslie Hunt and David Richmond – as did the ACR volunteer coordinator and assistant.

Cheryl and Gary Neddo, who run our Bread Ministry, came a day early and bagged 60 packages of Pepperidge Farms breads, rolls and cookies to be handed out for free. They knew that this was likely to be the last opportunity for a while, so while the bread is usually offered for a 25-cent donation, it was to be free this day. The funds raised from the bread normally go to support our Green Cafe and monthly Thursday evening dinners, also now on hiatus.

When the truck arrived, Ryan and crew unloaded the truck, most wearing gloves and masks. No customers were allowed in the Undercroft. Young Delaney and Alexa had lot of pent up energy eager to be released and not only did they love the experience, they want to come back and do it again! And their Mom was happy to have a useful focus for the energy they would normally have expended at Irish dancing classes.

Once the food was unloaded and organized into the "units" and "specials,"

Ryan then sent everyone away, leaving only him and Phil, our sexton, to distribute each order one at a time, making customers remain in their cars. Phil and Ryan would get the receipt from the customer, check it off from a master list, gather the order and bring it out to the customer. While normally more than half of the customers would place and pay for the next month's order during pickup, thus saving themselves a later trip to the church, no ordering for April was allowed as it was pretty obvious that there would be no April program.

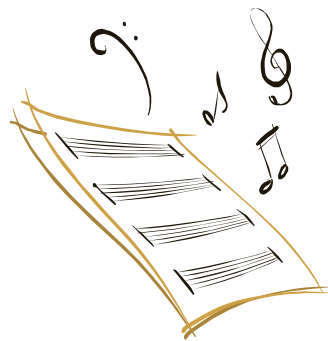
Fortunately, thanks to great strategic planning, Phil and Ryan said everything ran smoothly and they were done in record time! Our volunteers, including Kitty and me, as well as our customers, were relieved and grateful to Phil, Ryan and the "set-up crew." God continues to work in mysterious and powerful ways – especially during a pandemic!



From left, Alexa and Delaney Greenwood step in to help sort March Food Sense orders in order that St. Mark volunteers susceptible to the COVID-19 virus could remain safe at home. Images courtesy of Erin Greenwood.



Cheerful Notes



Con Memorial Day weekend in the soon-to-become legendary semi-locked-down year of 2020, our great fallen American military heroes were remembered with perhaps more gratitude than ever before. We thanked our Creator and Heavenly Father for them, as well as for our United States of America that they unselfishly won and preserved for us! Even though there were no parades this year, the televised festivities and concerts were remarkable!

There is another far less known treasure we church musicians commemorate each year in this late spring season! It is the revival in 1829, of Johann Sebastian Bach's "St. Matthew Passion," a huge work for chorus and orchestra which was all but buried with Bach in 1750. Even J.S. Bach's own sons, all but C.P.E. Bach, considered their father's music to be old fashioned; and probably over half of his scores were discarded and lost for all time. But not the score of the "St. Matthew Passion! Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach kept this score and handed it down to his students, along with J.S. Bach's preludes and fugues, and some cantatas, deeming them to be useful exercises in training young musicians. One of those C.P.E. Bach students later gave keyboard lessons to two young Jewish ladies who later became the aunts of young Felix Mendelssohn.

Because of the rising tide of antisemitism in Germany at that time, Felix' banker father

converted to Christianity and had Felix baptized when he was eight years old.

When Felix began his study of music as a child, his two aunts presented him with some of their Bach keyboard scores, along with the handed-down score of J.S. Bach's "St. Matthew Passion."



Felix Mendelssohn © Getty / DEA PICTURE LIBRARY

Young Felix had become a devout believer in Christ, and he was deeply moved when he began to study Bach's score which had a libretto based upon Martin Luther's Lutheran Bible. He had added conducting to his musical studies, and by 1829, the now 20-year-old composer had published his first symphony and the incidental music to "Midsummer Night's Dream." Then with the help of his actor friend Eduard Devrient and some financing they had secured, J.S. Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" was presented at St. Thomas Church on March 11, 1829, as part of the Good Friday service. Felix conducted the amateur choral and orchestral ensemble from the piano, and Devrient sang the part of Jesus. The performance was so successful that there now arose a demand for a second performance, this time in a large hall in Berlin, with a larger, more professional choir and orchestra. The concert was a sell-out, and many were turned away. Among those in the audience were the famous poet Heine, philosopher Hegel, and famed violinist Paganini!

With that marvelous performance came a new realization of the genius and spirituality of J.S. Bach, who had for the past 80 years been widely considered "old fashioned." Suddenly, this work, and all of Bach's music that could be found, took on new life that is still vital in this present day!

When I was a freshman at Eastman School of Music in the fall of 1959, a fellow student came down to the lobby sitting area of Munro Hall, our men's dormitory, early one Saturday afternoon with a German recording on the Vanguard label of the "St. Matthew Passion." He put it on the hi-fi and began to play it. Soon, a sizable crowd of students had gathered to listen, and we listened all the way through the magnificent work, which finished playing just before dinner was served. That experience for me, and for many of them, was not only an exciting demonstration of the virtuoso skills of soloists, chorus, and orchestra, as Bach's music is not always easy to cleanly negotiate; but it was truly a deeper spiritual experience than anything many of us had felt in music of any kind until that hallowed afternoon. I went out to a record store the following



J.S. Bach © Getty / DEA PICTURE LIBRARY

Monday and purchased the same Vanguard album, and I still have it! These memories light the corners of my mind this evening, as do the memories of celebrating Memorial Day with my family and friends over the years! We in America are so blessed! I am thankful to our Heavenly Father for all He has given us, and for what He will do in the future, near and far. And I am thankful for you, His family at St. Mark's!

*Your Director of Music,
Warren Ottey*



Circle V News

Circle V meetings are on hiatus along with other church groups and events, however, they realize that the need does not stop for anything. To that end:

Circle V is still collecting items for the personal care bags, i.e. shampoos, combs, wash cloths, deodorants for either men or women, shavers for women or men, bar soap, toothpaste and brushes, etc. They ask anyone who can pick up one or two (or more) of these items to please hold onto them until the church re-opens. Then they will be working like busy bees to put the bags together!

Circle V meetings are held at noon on the first Thursday of the month in the Parish Hall except for June and December meetings, which are held at area restaurants. YOU are always welcome to attend our meetings. Just bring your own lunch; dessert, coffee and tea are provided. ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Life Thought: Be Comforted

(A message for Pentecost)

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” (John 14:26)

I have never had a great memory. When my kids would ask me, “Hey, Mom, remember this? Or “Remember that time when...” I would struggle to recall the time and place. Sometimes I just could not; other times, it would take a while but I would eventually begin to put some of the pieces of an event together, remembering at least some of it and then asking one of them to fill in the blanks for me. As a result, I remember my young son worrying about me, convinced that I had early stages of “old timers” (Alzheimer’s).

Now that I am older, my memory is not any better and I can forget something said to me a minute later. And I am forever experiencing that familiar and inevitable sign of old age, “What did I come in this room for?” My mom and I both have the same problem and we assure each other that it is simply that we always have so much going on in our lives and too much in our head to possibly remember everything. That’s our story and we are sticking to it.

I have learned a few tricks over the years, however. One is massive note-taking (which helps when I remember where I put the darn note). The other is to play memory and brain stimulating games. The last is the best. I just ask the Holy Spirit to bring it to me.

For instance, I usually remember something I need to do or an idea for a story or column pops into my head when I am driving. There is not much I can do at that point except pray that I remember whatever it is I need to do or that idea until I have a chance to write it down. Generally, I do not. So, I have learned to pray to the Holy Spirit to bring it to my memory and although it may not be immediate, it does get revealed to me.

More recently, I have learned an even better method. When a thought comes to me I need to remember, I immediately pray to the Holy Spirit to save the idea for me in order to remind me at the appropriate time. And that works wonderfully. Please know that in no way does this mean I think of our Comforter as a personal secretary!



I know God said He was giving us the Holy Spirit to be our Comforter and generally when you talk of comfort you think of someone who is sad or lonely or depressed who needs soothing or solace. But I think comfort is so much more than that. It can simply mean making you comfortable with whatever is making you uncomfortable. And for me that is forgetting important things in my life. So, when I pray for help with my memory, I am receiving the Comfort my Father promised me.

But the Holy Spirit is so much more. Consider the above verse. Not only will the Holy Spirit comfort us, but He will teach us and bring into remembrance what they Lord wants us to know. I think that means helping us to understand His words and His plan for us, bringing into our memory and our heart the promises and desires of God.

Now that’s comfort!

Deb Denny

It's a Pundemic!

Here is a little levity to help you through the Season of COVID-19!

There are so many coronavirus jokes out there, it's a "pundemic!" Here's a few of them...

The grocery stores in France look like tornadoes hit them. All that's left is de brie.

I'll tell you a coronavirus joke now, but you'll have to wait two weeks to see if you got it.

Finland just closed its borders. You know what that means. No one will be crossing the finish line.

Did you hear the joke about the germ? Never mind, I don't want to spread it around.

Why do they call it the novel coronavirus? It's a long story....

What types of jokes are allowed during quarantine? Inside jokes!

What's the best way to avoid touching your face? A glass of wine in each hand.

If there's a baby boom nine months from now, what will happen in 2033? There will be a whole bunch of quaranteens.

I ran out of toilet paper and had to start using old newspapers. Times are rough.

What do you call panic-buying of sausage and cheese in Germany? The wurst-kase scenario.

Nail salons, hair salons, waxing center and tanning places are closed. It's about to get ugly out there.

Why don't chefs find coronavirus jokes funny? They're in bad taste.

If coronavirus isn't about beer, why do I keep seeing cases of it?

What did the man say to the bartender? I'll have a corona, hold the virus.

Friday after Easter 3

A reading from an oration of Ambrose of Milan upon the death of his brother, Satyrus



Ambrose of Milan

The Lord shows in the Gospel how a person will rise again. He not only quickened Lazarus, he quickened the faith of us all. For if people believe, as they read, their dead spirits will also be quickened with that of Lazarus. For when the Lord went to the sepulcher and loudly cried out: 'Lazarus, come forth,' what other meaning is there in this act except that he wished to give visible proof of our future resurrection?

Why did Jesus cry out loudly? Was it because he was not used to working through the Spirit, or because he was not accustomed to command in silence? No, he intended rather to emphasize the Scriptural statement that 'in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, the dead shall rise again incorruptible.' For the lifting of his voice corresponds to the peal of trumpets. He added the name of Lazarus lest the resurrection might seem to be accidental rather than something deliberate.

The dead man, therefore, heard and came forth from the tomb. He was bound and his face was covered with a cloth. But he who arose and walked had sight. For, where the power of a diving command was operating, nature no longer followed in its own course, but obeyed the divine will.

If anyone is astonished at this, inquire who gave the command and your astonishment will cease. It was Jesus Christ, the power of God, the life, the light, the resurrection of the dead. The power lifted up a man lying in the grave; the life made him walk; the light dispelled the darkness and restored his sight; the resurrection renewed the gift of life.

Perhaps you are concerned by the fact that Jesus took away the stone and loosened the bands, and you are worried that there will be no one to take away the stone from your grave. As if he who could restore life could not move a stone, or that he who made a bound man walk could not break bonds, or that he who shed light upon covered eyes could not uncover a face, or that he who could renew nature could not split a rock!

But in order that they who had refused to believe in their hearts might at least believe with their eyes, they removed the stone, they saw the corpse, they smelled the stench, they broke the bands. No longer could they deny this man was dead whom they saw rising again. They saw the marks of death and now also they saw the proofs of life.

Ambrose of Milan (c.334-397) *He was of an aristocratic family and was at one time the Governor of northern Italy. He was urged to become Bishop not having even been baptized yet, so he finally became baptized and consecrated. He is credited with being the first person to introduce hymns into Western worship and wrote several hymns himself.*

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A TIDBIT OF OUR HISTORY

from the June 1895 issue of the Gospel Messenger with comments from Joan Green, Archivist, in brackets.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, SYRACUSE

The new transept* and chancel** of St. Mark's Church were used for the first time Christmas Day, [1894] the Rector and the Rev. Mr. Mundy conducting the service. [The original part of the building was opened in 1885.] The church as extended is cruciform in shape, 85 x 56 feet, and will seat 400.

Many beautiful gifts have been made for the adornment of the church. The chancel windows, three in number, are by J. & H. Lamb, and are beautiful. On the Gospel side of the altar the subject is the Angel Gabriel, and on the Epistle the Angel of the Resurrection, while the rose window over the altar bears the Lion of St. Mark. They are in memory of Mr. Terry, the first Warden of the Parish in 1832, [Warden at first temporary location of the Parish] his son and wife, and a granddaughter, the latter the wife of P.S. Knapp. [Mr. Terry is an ancestor of the Rev. Hal Avery.]



The chancel rail, in oak and brass, is a gift of a lady of the parish, the vases are in memory of Mrs. Fox, and the receiving basin is a gift of the Boys of St. Mark. The chancel rail is from the factory of John Williams, the vases and receiving basin from Hogeman. The altar is in memory of a priest of the church, and is the gift of his widow and daughters. [the altar and back wall were carved by an early Rector, the Rev. W.D. Wilson.] A vested choir of girls and men rendered the service, which was J. G. Bennett in D, and was accompanied by a Mason & Risch organ, recently purchased, an instrument of a rare beauty of tone. The West

End of Syracuse is growing rapidly, and a large increase in the parish is looked for.



***TRANSEPT** — In churches, a transept is an area set crosswise to the nave in a cruciform building within the Romanesque and Gothic Christian church architectural traditions.

****CHANCEL**—In church architecture, the chancel is the space around the altar, including the choir and the sanctuary, at the liturgical east end of a traditional Christian church building. It may terminate in an apse.



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:

Service Time

**Sundays:
10 am-Holy Eucharist**

Office Hours

**Tuesday—Friday:
9 am to 2 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.