



# THE WAY

The Newsletter of  
 St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church  
 1612 W. Genesee St. Syracuse, NY 13204  
 315-488-8511 || [www.stmarkssyracuse.com](http://www.stmarkssyracuse.com)

## Summer 2022



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# Sweet anticipation

## A Message from Fr. Jon White



On Father's Day, my family and I stopped in at the Octagon house for strawberry shortcake. Strawberries are a real favorite of mine and they are only improved by the addition of pound cake and whipped cream! It also doesn't hurt that, as the dad, mine is free.

This little event was one of the first we ever encountered as a family after moving to Central New York several years ago, as our first Father's Day here came just two weeks after we had all moved in.



Of course, during the depths of the COVID pandemic, the Camillus Octagon House didn't have their annual Father's Day event. Like so much of our lives, it disappeared. It was a needful sacrifice as we all did what we could to protect one another, but we missed it. We wondered if it would ever return, but we understood.

This year though, as the signs announcing its return went up, my spirits rose in anticipation of being able to once again partake of this little (and delicious) family ritual. Every day, as I drove my daughter to school, we'd pass by and I'd say, "can't wait to get my free strawberry shortcake." After a week or so, I was regularly met with the kind of rolling eyes that only a teenager can muster.

It wasn't just the anticipation of a free dessert, but the experience of the return of something small but meaningful which had been absent and missed. COVID upended so much of our lives, so much so that I now think of life before March of 2020 as the "Before Times." As this summer gets underway, I can look around see many things, big and small, which had been absent and missed returning into our lives. I can also see though, that much has been altered and will remain so. The "Before Times" are gone for good. Even if much has been restored, a great deal remains lost.

As Christians we are perpetually called into a new future. As followers of Jesus, our lives are journeys and we are constantly asked to leave things behind and move forward, carrying only what is essential. And nothing is more essential than our Christian hope, born of faith in the promises of God. Jesus invites us to set aside our fears and beckons us into the possibility of life in the kingdom of God. Not as merely an anticipation of what may await us on the other side of this life, but to live our lives, each and every day and moment, as though we were already there; making the world we live in just a bit more heavenly in the process.

Enjoy your summers and keep your eyes on the road ahead, for Jesus awaits us there.

Blessings,  
*Jon*



# Fr. Jon celebrates first service with St. Mark July 3

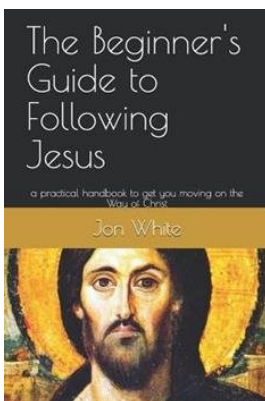
Meet Fr. Jon White, St. Mark's new Priest-in-Charge. Fr. Jon began his tenure with us beginning July 1. On Sunday, July 10, St. Mark hosted a catered luncheon to welcome him and Fr. Jon took time to hold a question and answer session for parishioners to get to know him a little better. We look forward to having him with us and look forward to his experienced and dynamic leadership!



The Rev Jon White grew up in Indianapolis, IN, served in the US Navy and in the Coast Guard Reserve. Prior to ordination he was an engineer with Intel and lived in Oregon.

It was in Oregon that he became a Christian and joined the Episcopal Church, where he was a member of, first, St Michael and All Angels and later of St Gabriel's, where he was Warden. Sensing a call to ministry, he attended Bexley Hall Episcopal Seminary in Columbus, OH. He was ordained in Oregon by Bishop Michael Hanley.

His first call was to St Stephen's Episcopal Church in Beckley, WV. He came to Central New York to serve as Rector at St Luke's in Camillus.



He has served on the Standing Committee of the diocese and as the presiding officer of the Diocesan Board. An important part of his ministry sharing the story of the church and inviting people into following Jesus through writing. He is the online editor of the Episcopal Journal and Café, has written for Forward Day by Day, and is author of the Beginner's Guide to Following Jesus.

He and his wife, Nikki, have been together for 23 years and have two children, Toby, 13, and Patrick, 7.

# Saying Good-bye ... and THANK YOU

On Sunday, June 26, St. Mark the Evangelist said good-bye to its Interim Priest, Fr. Nelson Gaetz, after his nearly four years of service helping us to prepare us as we set forth on a search for a permanent priest. A luncheon was held after his last service on June 26 to commemorate his ministry to us and let him know it was sincerely appreciated and respected.

During his tenure, Fr. G had to not only address the obvious challenges of making sure the church was in good order before a priest could be called, but also was confronted with a pandemic which changed the complete face of what was to what is. For more than two years he meticulously worked to keep up with the ebbing and flowing shape of COVID, constantly delineating the myriad of rules and procedures outlined by the Federal and State government as well as the Diocesan guidelines. Not an easy task, but St. Mark managed to stay up with and even ahead of the curve as he and leadership worked together to decipher, outline and communicate all of the rules, changes and shut-downs our church needed to go through to keep everyone safe yet still connected. And thanks to the knowledge, hard work and guidance from his daughter, Kathryn Woods, St. Mark was able to begin live streaming its services - a valuable resource we will maintain and continue.

Thank you, Fr. Gaetz and family! We wish you all our prayers and the best in whatever you choose to do next!





# From Fr. G...

My Dearest Friends of the St. Mark the Evangelist Family,

I hardly know where to start to thank you for so many things. So, I guess I'll start with the most obvious. The party thrown on June 26<sup>th</sup> was little short of overwhelming with food catered by the Brooklyn Pickle and hosted by the Vestry. Lots of cards and notes. So many wonderful gifts. Many of these gifts made by hand with obvious loving care and such great skill. Others chosen with such knowledge of my interests and experiences in mind. (See below) And then the incredibly generous financial gift.

What I really need to thank you for is the way you welcomed me into your life and ministry. I felt at home almost from the first week. That proved to be the foundation that allowed us to work through an eventful four years. None of us could have ever imagined life coping with COVID to say nothing of that causing the search for a permanent pastoral leader to stretch out over so long a time.

So, now it's time for us all to move on. I know your future will be bright because of the wonderful people you are and missions you engage in with such devotion.

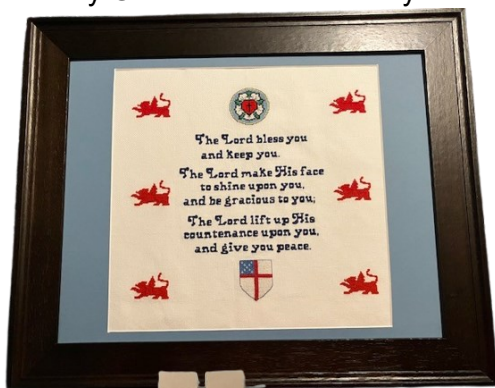
And, as for me, because you have been so inspirational and God has been so good bringing us together, I face the future with anticipation, joy and confidence.

May God continue to bless you in every way.

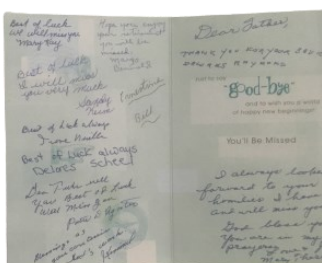
Sincerely,

*Fr. Gaetz*

Nelson W. Gaetz  
Former Interim Rector



The impressive cross stitch in the upper lefthand corner was designed and created by Dana Marzynski who presented it to Fr. G on behalf of St. Mark parish. The beautiful hanging at left was made by Gail Manolescu presented by Phyllis Honsinger, also on behalf of the parish.



# St. Mark & Porter celebrate 25 years of partnership

**T**hursday, June 23rd, was the last day with students for the Porter Elementary School staff. It seemed like an appropriate day to invite them over for a wine & cheese celebration of our 25-year partnership!

Administration and Staff of Porter and Hazard Branch enjoyed Finger Lakes wine, soda and appetizers along with meeting our new Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Jon White. Those attending were also re-introduced to the Undercroft space which, when renovated in 2015, St. Mark envisioned being a place for enrichment and/or school activities. Porter's new principal, Andrew Nolan, and the guidance counselors and teachers expressed their excitement about the space and said they all shared ideas during the entire event about how to best utilize it for their students. They assured us they would be in touch! Thanks to Jim Miller, Outreach and Missions Coordinator, who spearheaded the event, and to all of the volunteers who helped out. St. Mark looks forward to another 25 years in partnership with Porter Elementary and Hazard Branch Library!







## The Undercroft Backstory

In 2014, with the growing use of the Parish Hall by AA, NA and other groups, St. Mark's needed additional multipurpose space for parish meetings and events. The Undercroft was largely used for storage and was rather dilapidated. We applied for a United Thank Offering grant to underwrite the Undercroft renovation and included in the proposal our on-going partnership with Porter and with Hazard Library. The design work was done by our late parishioner Jim Oliver and his firm, Robertson Strong Apgar Architects. It was designed and built to ADA specifications with a ramp entrance, separate restrooms, a kitchenette, and with the small stage saved. The estate of another loyal parishioner, Otis Shuart, was a major supporter of the renovation as well. The Porter staff used the space just one time in 2015. Their administration and staff underwent changes and COVID made its use impossible, so it was time to reintroduce their new administration and largely new faculty to it.



# Thank you for the music and the talent shared

**M**usic is an important part of our worship service. Sunday, June 26, was Warren's last day with us, and on behalf of the parishioners of St. Mark, we'd like to thank Warren Ottey for his music ministry and many years of dedicated service as our organist and choir director.

*May God bless Warren and Cherry*



## Baptisms celebrated at St. Mark



Welcome to Willow Mae Lallier, daughter of Hendrik Lallier & Hailey Gill and granddaughter of Amy Lallier. Willow was born February 15, 2022.



For Meghann and Robert Oliver, the May baptism at St. Mark was a double blessing as their twins boys, Tobias Michael and James William, were received into the church. The boys were born August 23, 2021.



# Successful Ukraine Coffee Hour Held



A coffee hour was held Sunday, April 10, in honor of Ukraine and its people.

Ukrainian desserts were provided and coffee hour donations were collected. The donations were generous and \$624 was raised in support of Ukrainian refugees. It was decided to donate the money locally to Interfaith Works to assist when refugees start arriving in the Syracuse area.





*“God sleeps in the minerals, awakens in plants, walks in animals and thinks in man.”*

-Arthur Young

Your Vestry has been doing much thinking, discussing, and planning to keep us moving forward within our parish and community.

Here are some highlights of our May meeting:

- ▶ Pat Dunn reported that the Good Friday and Blanket Sunday collections were impressive.
- ▶ Committee meetings will be starting with the new priest-in-charge.
- ▶ Pat Dunn has ordered 2 video surveillance cameras with cam plus service. The cost of the service will be approximately \$60/year.
- ▶ Kevin Ward and Phyllis Honsinger volunteered to be delegates for the 2022 Convention in November. The congregation will be asked if anyone would like to be an alternate.
- ▶ Interfaith Works says they'll be collecting the monies raised for Ukraine soon.
- ▶ Jim Miller is busy organizing a Wine & Cheese Meet-n-Greet party for Porter School and Hazard Branch Library staff on June 23rd.
- ▶ A schedule was created for announcing our new priest-in-charge. This schedule included the writing and mailing of an announcement letter to the members and Father Gaetz easing us into an 11 a.m. service for a couple of weeks. Father Gaetz's last service will be June 26th. A luncheon will be held on that day to honor the devoted service of Father Gaetz and Kathryn Woods.
- ▶ At a future meeting, a discussion will be held about naming the Undercroft.
- ▶ As always, we began and ended our meeting with prayer.

Here are some highlights of our June meeting:

- ▶ This was the last Vestry meeting held by Father Gaetz! And yes, he was happy.
- ▶ Father Gaetz strongly recommends that we deal with the condition of the building, especially the roof and foundation. Many recommendations were made in the architect report of 2019. We need to consult this report and begin formulating some type of repair plan.
- ▶ At this time, some shingles will be replaced when we have some decent weather.
- ▶ Pat Dunn has gotten the video surveillance cameras and will be installing them soon.
- ▶ Jim Miller is all set to host the Porter School/Hazard Branch staff Wine & Cheese Party on June 23rd from 2:30 – 5:00. Jim plans on speaking briefly about the partnership and encourage them to utilize the undercroft for a variety of activities.
- ▶ The Vestry discussed holding a Lawn Sale in August to help with the Clothes Closet. Volunteers will be needed to help sort through the items and prepare for the sale. Help will also be needed the day of the sale. If you are able to help, please call the office or see/call Phyllis Honsinger. A schedule will be available soon to sign up.
- ▶ As always, we began and ended the meeting in prayer. However, after our final prayer, we enjoyed some snacks with Father Gaetz.

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

***Faithfully,  
The Vestry***



# CURRENT BUDGET REPORT 2022

**Submitted by: Treasurer, Pat Dunn**

**Reported: 7-7-22**

	Jan - Dec '22	Budget	\$ Over Bud...
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
4000 — Pledges	30,291.20	49,000.00	-18,708.80
4100 — Plate/Loose Offerings	640.70	4,200.00	-3,559.30
4200 — Major Feasts	1,714.00	1,675.00	39.00
4300 — Long Term Inv. Income	20,000.00	48,000.00	-28,000.00
4500 — Diocesan CIF Income	1,850.50	4,000.00	-2,149.50
4600 — Memorial/Donations	500.00	150.00	350.00
4650 — 4650-Flower Fund Dona...	2,095.00	3,000.00	-905.00
4700 — Building Use Or Donation	1,201.00	2,380.00	-1,179.00
4900 — Miscellaneous Income	138.86	200.00	-61.14
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>58,431.26</b>	<b>112,605.00</b>	<b>-54,173.74</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>58,431.26</b>	<b>112,605.00</b>	<b>-54,173.74</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
5100 — Diocesan Support	9,000.00	18,000.00	-9,000.00
5200 — Salaries	41,887.10	83,264.77	-41,377.67
5300 — Rector Benefits	2,953.63	6,250.00	-3,296.37
5400 — Youth Programs/Scholars...	0.00	300.00	-300.00
5500 — Church School	282.71	375.00	-92.29
5600 — Outreach	2,325.20	3,500.00	-1,174.80
5700 — Human Needs	130.00	500.00	-370.00
5800 — Committees	1,063.50	3,150.00	-2,086.50
6000 — Office Operations	4,892.20	13,100.00	-8,207.80
6100 — Insurance	7,565.50	8,400.00	-834.50
6200 — Other Financial Expenses	2,901.33	7,650.00	-4,748.67
6300 — Building Operations	11,229.80	22,950.00	-11,720.20
6400 — Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	100.00	-100.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>84,230.97</b>	<b>167,539.77</b>	<b>-83,308.80</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-25,799.71</b>	<b>-54,934.77</b>	<b>29,135.06</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-25,799.71</b>	<b>-54,934.77</b>	<b>29,135.06</b>

## Special Collections Update:

The special Ukrainian coffee hour collection raised \$624, which is being held at this time until it is needed by Interfaith Works for when refugees start arriving in the Syracuse area.

For Blanket Sunday, \$305.00 was collected and matched by the Church's Erreger funds. \$610 was sent to Church World Service.

For Good Friday, \$190 was collected and matched by the Erreger funds. \$380 was sent to the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Service.



## St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:

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### **Office Hours**

**Tuesday—Friday:  
9 am to 1:45 pm**

### **Service Time**

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

**Visit  
[www.stmarkssyracuse.com](http://www.stmarkssyracuse.com)  
for information regarding  
virtual service and programs**

*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.**