

## WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME AT ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN MISSION.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

APRIL 1, 2021

### Sharing the Good News

**Holy Week Schedule:** Please add the following to your calendars:

Wednesday, March 31 – no service

Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday **7 pm**

Friday, April 2 - Good Friday Mass of the Pre-Sanctified

**12 noon** followed by "The Passion of the Christ" (Bring a sack lunch if you wish; the movie is just over 2 hours long)

Saturday, April 3 - Holy Saturday service **12 noon**

Sunday, April 4 - Easter Sunday Mass **10:30 am**

By a quirk of the calendar, **Easter Sunday** is also **Food Pantry Sunday**. As we read in the Gospel of John, Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" When Peter says "Yes", Jesus responds "Feed my sheep." Our Food Pantry is a great way for us to show how much we love Jesus by feeding his sheep. Please see **Thoughts from the Vicar** for more in the above-mentioned Bible passage.

### Here are some important information about Holy Week services:

**Maundy Thursday:** The service ends with the 22<sup>nd</sup> psalm and the stripping of the altar. I would like to ask Deacon Tom to remain in his seat and lead the 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm. If Elisabeth could help strip the altar and we will carry the things to the Parish Center where Sylvia will receive them, that would be great.

The altar table has been moved to the back of the room. With the flowers that are on it, it represents the garden of Gethsemane. Following communion, the extra priest host will be placed in the monstrance and carried to the table, representing the presence of Christ in the Garden.

### FR. TOM'S SCHEDULE

#### Sunday

10:30 AM – Mass

#### Wednesday

Office hours 9-12 noon

2nd Wednesday – 10

AM. Church council

mtg.

Thursday | South Park;

Prayer service @1:30;

Bingo @2:00

#### **Contact information**

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**st.marys.anglican**

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**Join us at 122 W. Walnut in**

**Chatham, IL**

**Good Friday:** We will partake in the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified. This means that we will consume the elements that are left over from **Maundy Thursday**. We do not consecrate the bread and wine on Good Friday.

**Holy Saturday:** This service is quite short. It may take you longer to get here than it will take to do the service. However, if we wish to observe the Triduum, we must observe this service.

Don't forget that there will be an Easter Vigil service at Trinity, Jacksonville, on Saturday at 7:30 if you wish to attend.

Our **lector** schedule for the month of April will be:

**April 1 Maundy Thursday OT Sylvia; Psalm Diane; NT Kathy; Prayers Elisabeth**

**April 2 Good Friday - Diane**

**April 3 Holy Saturday - Sylvia**

**April 4 – Easter Sunday - Elisabeth**

**April 11 - Kathy**

**April 18 - Diane**

**April 25 – Sylvia**

**If you cannot be present on your Sunday, please notify a substitute.**

**Board Meeting:** St. Mary's advisory board will meet Wed., April 14, at 10 am in the Parish Center. Please note that, due to COVID-19 concerns, this meeting is open only to the three members of the advisory board.

**A special thank you to St. Luke's Church in Springfield** for sharing their palms with us. And, **speaking of palms**, all the leftover palms will be available at the Maundy Thursday service on April 1.

Please include those on our parish prayer list in your daily prayers:

**For Foley, our Archbishop; Alberto, our Bishop; Tom, our Priest; and Deacon Tom**

**For those fighting cancer:** Jody, David, Alan, Sherry, Penny, Debbie and Archbishop Ben Kwami

**For those in need of uplifting prayer:** James, Jon, Fr. Larson, Betty, Luke, Bonnie, Jerry, Donna, Jonas, Allan, Kathy, Karl, Michael, Jim, Lois, Russ, Melinda, Sara, Joan, Danielle, Debbie, Kevin, Naomi, Rachel, Francesca, Josh, Carolyn and Gary

**For those in long term care:** Gabriel, Grace, Carol, the residents at Holly Brook and South Park

**For the Church's ministry in Nepal:** Mahendra, Dipendra, Reshma, Tirtha, Purna, their families and Churches; the Transformation Spiritual Church

**For the victims of the COVID pandemic and their families**

**For our sister diocese in Myanmar**

**For the growth of St. Mary's Anglican Mission**

## **THOUGHTS FROM THE VICAR:**

### **JOHN 21:15-17**

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third

time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

For me the above passage is one of the most beautiful and moving narratives in all the New Testament. There are more than a few people who believe that the final chapter of John's gospel was written at a later date than the first 20 chapters. Everyone is familiar with Peter's denials early on the morning of Good Friday. As Jesus had predicted, Peter denied three times that he even knew Jesus. Now, following the resurrection, Jesus appears on the beach as the disciples are fishing. The three times that Jesus asks Peter if Peter loves him correspond to the three denials. The amount of forgiveness given here by our Lord is immense, but notice that Jesus also gives Peter a command. "Feed my sheep" he says. We fulfill this command with our food pantry, to be sure, but Jesus had more in mind than food.

"The Greek words used include the meaning of feeding sheep, tending, furnishing pasture, nourishing, supplying the needs of the soul, and tending to the spiritual welfare. It's an all-inclusive meaning that points to caring with the heart, in all sincerity," says the article "Feed My Lambs" on the website "123hallelujah". "If we're a Christian, this applies to us, whatever our station in life:

friend, employee, employer, parent, neighbor, blogger, author, whatever. We are responsible for rightly caring for the souls and spiritual welfare of everyone around us — whatever their age or position in life might be."

Lent is about repentance, and forgiveness. How blessed we are to have a God who forgives like Jesus forgave Peter; a God who forgives like the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son; a God who will run to us when we seek forgiveness.

Happy Eastertide! Fr. Tom