

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, FAITHFULLY ANGLICAN SINCE 2012

"An idol has no real existence," and
that "there is no God but one." 1 Corinthians
8:4

MARCH 1, 2021

Sharing the Good News

Important March Dates: Please add the following to your calendars:

March 14! Spring forward! Be sure to move your clocks forward the before to avoid the risk of arriving at church as communion is being served!

Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, 4 PM Stations of the Cross (There will be no stations on March 31 because of the Triduum which begins the next day with Maundy Thursday.)

Sunday, March 7: 10:30 am Lent 3 Sunday, mass at church and on-line

Food Pantry Sunday

Wednesday, March 10: 10 am Church Council meeting

Sunday, March 14: 10:30 am Lent 4 Sunday mass

Sunday, March 21: 10:30 am Passion Sunday; Eucharist

Sunday, March 28: 10:30 am Palm Sunday; Eucharist at church and on-line

Here are some important news items:

- 1.) Lenten Services.** I was pleased by the spirited discussion that we had last Sunday on "A Way Other Than Our Own" by Walter Brueggemann. There is still time for you to order the book on Amazon (paperback is \$11.89).
- 2.) A reminder regarding our live-streaming of services:** This is a way for us to practice evangelism and to spread our love for Christ throughout the world. (really). In order to make this happen more easily, please become quiet when Fr. Tom goes behind the altar to begin the service. Likewise, please remain silent for 10 seconds after the dismissal giving time for the camera to be turned off. Thank you.

FR. TOM'S
SCHEDULE

Sunday

10:30 AM – Mass

Wednesday

1st Wednesday – 10 AM.

Church council mtg.

Thursday

Office hours 9 to 12 PM

11:30 each Thursday:

Midday Prayer on

Facebook Live

Beginning Jan. 28, I am

once again at South

Park; Prayer service

@1:30; Bingo @2:00

Contact information

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Join us at 122 W. Walnut in

Chatham, IL

Since the Bishop has asked that one person do all the readings each week, our **lector** schedule for the month of February will be:

March 7 – Sylvia

March 14 - Diane

March 21 - Kathy

March 28 – Elisabeth

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

Board Meeting: St. Mary's advisory board will meet Wed., March 10, 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. **Also, please note that, at our February meeting the board decided to move our meetings to the second Wednesday of each month.**

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICAR:

As we begin our Lenten Mass with the Decalogue, it is worth paying attention to the first commandment which forbids the worship of idols, saying, "Thou shalt not bow down to them or worship them". When you think of an "idol", what comes to mind? The dictionary gives "golden calf" as a synonym for "idol". But the dictionary also defines "idol" as "a person or thing that is greatly admired, loved, or revered.

In our culture, with mass media, 24-hour news, and hundreds of TV channels, it is not unusual for people to have sports heroes. When I was younger, because my dad was a golfer, some of my sports heroes were Arnold Palmer (not Jack Nicklaus) and later on, Tiger Woods (not Phil Mickelson).

Obviously, one of the things which prompted this sermonette was the news on Tuesday that Tiger Woods had been involved in a serious car accident, a result of driving at a "relatively greater speed than normal" while descending a steep hill in an area that has a "high frequency of accidents." He said there were no skid marks in the road and no signs that Woods attempted to brake. This was the situation according to the ESPN website on Wednesday morning. More will have been revealed by the time you read this article, I am sure.

There are 2 points that I want to make here. The first is that the amount of news coverage given to this accident was incredible. For me, it seemed that, if Jesus had chosen to have his Second Coming on Tuesday, he would have been hard-pressed to get any news coverage. Far-fetched, I know, but the point is that society seems to focus more on idols than on Jesus Christ himself.

The second is that it is okay to have heroes, but we must not let our "heroes" become "idols". Sooner or later, our heroes will show us that they have feet of clay. Let's keep in mind that in the whole of history, the only person who been proven not to have feet of clay is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Not a golf fan? Choose any field you want. Movies, business, etc. Not matter whom you idolize, they will turn out to have feet of clay. Fr. Tom

Bishop's Lenten letter

My dear brothers and sisters:

PAX!

Each year we begin the season of Lent with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. When the priest imposes the ashes on the faithful he uses any one of these words: "Remember that you are (continued on next page)

dust and to dust you shall return", or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ" or "Repent and believe in the Gospel".

Remembering that we are dust brings us back to creation when God made man and woman from clay and breathed on them the breath of life. It reminds us that we are not invincible. It reminds us that we are mortal. It reminds us of the temporary nature of life. It reminds us that although we were born from our mother's womb, ultimately God gave us life and to God we shall return. Remembering can have a marked effect in our life. Remembering can change the way we view life, the way we live life and the way we give meaning to life.

Change is what "turning away from sin" and "repent" are about. The Greek word for repent is "metanoia". This is a word that means more than just feeling sorry for our sins. It literally means after thought, whereby, the person has a change of mind, a change of heart which leads to a change of how a person thinks.

The Lord began his preaching with the expression: "Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1, 15). We hear these words repeated every Lent. Yes, we constantly need that exhortation because we will never be fully converted. There are aspects of our life that need to be reviewed, purified, renewed. We always need to return to God, change course, face Him and not give Him our backs, because our mentality is almost imperceptibly seduced by behaviors that take us away from the Gospel. So, we need that change of heart.

Often at the beginning of Lent we resolve to be a better person by changing our negative behaviors. This is fine, but we need to get to the bottom of the matter. And it is not enough to settle for compliance with the rules without questioning how our relationship with God is. Authentic conversion places us before the goodness and mercy of God, our Father. We need to reestablish our father-child relationship, recognizing that God has loved us first (Cf. I Jn 4:19), to the point of giving ourselves to his Son, Jesus Christ, dead and risen for us. If we become aware of this great and endearing love - "As a father feels tenderness for his children, the Lord feels tenderness for his faithful ones" (Ps 103, 13) - then we will feel the need to reciprocate His love, with the love of children who seek to please God in everything, without remaining in the cold and superficial fulfillment of his mandates.

The filial relationship with God the Father will open our eyes to our fellow men to recognize them as brothers and sisters and to reestablish with them more authentic relationships that lead us to forgiveness, mercy and mutual help.

With this perspective, the Lenten practices that the Church proposes to us will acquire their full meaning: **prayer, almsgiving and fasting**. Prayer will help us to meet God in order to taste and see how good the Lord is (cf. Ps 34, 9). Almsgiving will open our brotherly hearts to share our goods with those who need it most. Fasting will allow us to renounce our attachments and selfishness that take away time from God and generosity with the most vulnerable. These three practices are interrelated and will be full of authenticity if we live them from their deepest sense. Let us take advantage, dear brothers and sisters, of this Lenten season and let us move forward on this path of conversion that helps us to identify more with Jesus, our Master, in order to be more faithful disciples every day. (continued on next page)

Let us please all stay safe and healthy and let us not forget to keep praying for each other.

In Christ Jesus,

The Rt. Rev. J. Alberto Morales, OSB, DD
Quincy IX

Could you please check over the prayer list below and tell Fr. Tom if there is anyone who needs to be added (or removed)?

Parish Prayer List

For Foley our Archbishop, for Alberto, our Bishop, for Tom, our Priest, and for Deacon Tom

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

For those in need of uplifting prayer: Nancy L., 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 and the pastors

For the growth of St. Mary's Anglican Mission

If by chance you are reading our newsletter for the first time and wish to receive it on a regular basis, please send me an email at the my personal email address on the first page so I can send it to you directly to you next month.
