

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

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

APRIL 1, 2020 ED. 2, VOLUME 5

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
LORD! Ps 118:26

Sharing the Good

News

Happy April Fool's Day! When I was young, my mom used to wake me up on the day by saying, "It's snowing" or "No school today". Of course, those things were not true as I soon found out. Wouldn't it be nice if we woke up this morning and found out that the news of the last month nothing more than an April Fool's joke?

For us at St. Mary's, this is an extraordinary opportunity to show the world that our church is not a building, it is the family of God. Our online services give us the opportunity to practice virtual evangelism. Here are a couple of examples. After last Sunday's service, we received a "Thank you" from Mahendra in Nepal; he was grateful that we included him on our prayer list. I asked him to join our Facebook group. On Monday, I received a Facebook message from a friend/ former student (Class of '76). He asked about the church and I pointed him to our Facebook page, which he then liked. These two individuals live far away and may never physically attend our church, but they are evidence that we are spreading the Gospel.

Please tell your friends about our Facebook Live services as we pray that those who view locally may want to join us in our church when this is over.

If we do nothing during this time, the church will die. But if we continue to be faithful in all ways, this is a chance for a church to grow, for the **glory of God**.

Schedule change: For obvious reasons, I am not at this time going to Holly Brook and South Park. Beginning today, my office hours at church change to 9-noon on Wednesdays. I will not be going there on Thursdays, but I remain on call.

FR. TOM'S SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:30 AM Bible
Study in Parish Center
10:30 AM – **Mass**

followed by coffee
hour; Mass at Villas of
Holly Brook at 2 PM on
the 1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

Wednesday

Office hours 9 to noon
1st Wednesday – 10 AM.

Church council mtg.

Thursday At his point,
my schedule at South
Park is in flux.

Contact information

Cell/text – 309-798-0739

Email -fathertom28

@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook

stmarysanglicanchatham

Visit our webpage at

saintmaryanglican.org

We're on Instagram at

st.marys.anglican

**Join us at 122 W. Walnut in
Chatham, IL**

Join us on Facebook for Stations at 6:30 tonight and April 8. We'll use the video from March 25 on our Facebook page.

Holy Week Schedule – Holy Week begins next Sunday with Palm Sunday. Here is our Holy Week Schedule:

April 5, 10:30 am Palm Sunday

April 8, 6:30 pm (on-line only) Stations of the Cross

April 9, 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday

April 10, 12 noon Good Friday

April 11, 12 noon Holy Saturday

April 12, 10:30 am Easter Sunday

You can participate in all of these services on Facebook Live. The last four services are part of what is known as the Triduum, which begins with the celebration of Eucharist and ends with the celebration of Easter. All Anglicans should attend the services (on line).

Palm Sunday Our palms have arrived and I will be going to St. Luke's to pick them up when I can meet Fr. Shawn there. It would not be Palm Sunday without the palms. They will be available at church at noon on Sunday (Palm Sunday is one of the longest services of the year). If you don't want to come pick them up, please email me at fathertom28@gmail.com and we will deliver them to you. The palms should be placed in a sacred place at home, such as behind a cross, and returned to church on the last Sunday of Epiphany next year so they can be burned to become the ashes for the Ash Wednesday service.

Outreach – This Sunday, April 5, is Food Pantry Sunday. We will be blessing our donations at Sunday's service before the food is delivered to the local food pantry at a later date. If you wish to make a donation, you can drop it by (literally) church between 9 and noon today (April 1) Please contribute to our donations so we will have a good amount to donate this month.

ACNA Prayer book – We are nearing the end of our trial use of Renewed Ancient Text from the ACNA Prayer Book. We will continue to use RAT through Holy Week. One Easter Sunday we will use AST in traditional language. No decision will be made until after this pandemic has passed.

Bible Study – I have canceled Bible Study for the duration of the CoVid pandemic. I pray that we will be able to resume our study on Revelation soon, as soon as our quarantine time has passed.

Update: Board: St. Mary's advisory board was scheduled to meet Wednesday, **April 8**, at 10 am in the Parish Center. However, it will be necessary to postpone this meeting for the time being.

Thoughts from the Vicar, 8th edition: Lenten Discipline

We are coming to the end of a Lent like no other. When Lent started, we may have each decided what we were going to give up. Maybe it was chocolate or some other favorite food. Little did we know what this Lent had in store for us. We need to remember that, at the end of every Lent, there is a new and glorious Easter. When this current pandemic ends, in God's time, there will be something glorious that results from it, **for the glory of God**. I want to close with the following excerpt from my March 22 sermon:

“I recommend scripture as the best way to gain some solace during this troubling time, and I found 2 verses that I want to share with you, both of them from Romans 8. The first of them is one of those verses that God has given us just for this situation:

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18

And the second, my life verse, reminds us that something good, even great, will come from this:
²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 When this is all over, in

God's time, I am confident that God will make us closer and wiser than before, for His glory! People will be more aware of the needs of people who are old, lonely or ill. We will appreciate to a greater degree the loved ones from whom we are separated. And let us have faith that this pandemic will end for **the glory of God.**
Blessings, **Fr. Tom**

Parish Prayer List

For those fighting cancer: Margie, Jody, David, Muriel

For those in need of uplifting prayer: Dr. Bill, Bruce, Bonnie, Jerry, Donna, Diane, Jonas, Zac, Reise, Allan, Kathy, Bishop Jack, Karl, Tabita, Jim, Melinda, Sherry, Penny, Sara, Joan, Laurie, Maryann, Kevin and all our church members in quarantine

For those in long term care: Grace, Carol, Marilyn, Arie, 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 pastors, and the Transformation Spiritual Church

For the growth of St. Mary's Anglican Mission and St. Peter's Canton

For the repose of the soul of Arie Brown

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 above email address so I can send it directly to you next month.

With Palm Sunday approaching, I thought you might like to re-read the Bishop's Lenten message.

A message from the Diocese: It is not too early to begin thinking and praying about your Lenten journey this year. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26th. It is an ancient tradition of the church, a penitential season of prayer, fasting, repentance, and alms-giving in preparation for Easter.

One of the long-standing traditions of the Lenten season is called the "Lenten Discipline" in which we fast or give up a particular food, drink or activity – something that we enjoy so that it will truly be a sacrifice. When we give these things up, it is a reminder to pray, repent of our idols, and turn our thoughts more fully toward Christ. Lent is also a time to "take on" new spiritual disciplines that will deepen our walk with the Lord and our experience of His grace.

Alms-giving is also an important part of Lent. This is not the normal tithe to the church but sacrificial giving above and beyond the tithe.

Bishop Morales is asking that every person bring their alms on Palm Sunday to be used for the work of the Diocese. This may be a special one-time gift, or it may be the money saved throughout Lent from giving up an activity. Collecting alms during Lent can be a spiritual discipline for the whole family.

In closing, I have been asked to share the following information with you:

Doctors are reporting they now understand the behavior of the COVID 19 virus due to autopsies that they have carried out. This virus is characterized by obstructing respiratory pathways with thick mucus that solidifies and blocks the airways and lungs. So they have discovered that in order to apply a medicine you have to open and unblock these airways so that the treatment can be used to take affect however all of this takes a number of days. Their recommendations for what you can do to safeguard yourself are:

- 1.) Drink lots of hot liquids – coffees, soups, teas, warm water. In addition, take a sip of warm water every 20 minutes because this keeps your mouth moist and washes any of the virus that's entered your mouth into your stomach where your gastric juices will neutralize it before it can get to your lungs.
- 2.) Gargle with an antiseptic and warm water like vinegar or salt or lemon every day if possible.
- 3.) The virus attaches itself to hair and clothes. Any detergent or soap kills it but you must take bath or shower when you get in from the street. Avoid sitting down in your home and go straight to the shower. If you cannot wash your clothes daily, hang them in the sunlight which also helps to neutralize the virus.
- 4.) Wash metallic surfaces very carefully because the virus can stay on these for up to 9 days. Take note and be vigilant about touching hand rails, door knobs, etc. and keep these clean in home.
- 5.) Don't smoke.
- 6.) Wash your hands every 20 minutes with any soap that foams and do this for 20 seconds.
- 7.) Eat fruits and vegetables. Try to elevate your zinc levels.
- 8.) Animals do not spread the virus to people. It's a person-to-person transmission.
- 9.) Try to avoid getting the common flu as this already weakens your system and try to avoid eating and drinking any cold things.
- 10.) If you feel any discomfort in your throat (or a sore throat coming on), attack it immediately using the above methods. The virus enters the system through the throat but will sit in the throat for 3-4 days before it passes into your lungs.

In addition, experts suggest doing this simple verification every morning: Breathe in deeply and hold your breath for 10 seconds. If this can be done without coughing, without difficulty, this shows there is no fibrosis in the lungs, indicating the absence of infection. It is recommended to do this control every morning to help detect infection.

As some of you may know, Sylvia has been making face masks for members of the congregation. Some of you have yours already. I recommend that you wear these when attending church services.

