



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**“Opening the doors of Christ’s love:
an inviting, embracing and serving community
offering Good News in the midst of a confusing
world.”**

March 12, 2017

From the Rector

Second Sunday in Lent Year A 2017

Our Gospel lesson introduces us to a man who came to Jesus to ask him the question ... Where is God in my life? The man’s name was Nicodemus. He was a leader of the Jewish people, a man of wealth, and, clearly, a seeker after truth. While others were condemning Jesus, Nicodemus, to his credit, wanted to learn more about the Lord and his teachings. Nicodemus came under the cover of darkness, so he would not be seen, but he also came under the darkness of not knowing Jesus. The beauty of our Gospel lesson is that it shows Jesus as one with particular concern for people who are not afraid to ask hard questions. He sought nothing less than a transformation in a person’s life.

Faith is never a once-and-done action of a believing Christian, but instead it is the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit who, as Jesus says, blows where it chooses. Like the wind, faith comes but we cannot see it coming. It is neither a human achievement, nor an intellectual accomplishment. It is a gift from God for Christ’s sake. Finally, our Gospel lesson concludes with that holy text ... God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. God so loved the world . How we need to remember these words when so many want to sit in judgment on others or question the value of people whose faith and culture are a mystery to us. We need to remember that God did not send Jesus to condemn the world, but to save the world, so it is incumbent upon us to be a little less condemning and a little more loving. At this place in our Lenten journey, we would do well to pray that, by the power of the Holy Spirit we might be drawn into that fellowship of those who dare believe in Jesus and, indeed, the whole world that God loves so much!

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services. If you are looking for a church home, or want more information about St. Mark's, please make use of one of our visitor's cards and give to our clergy or place in the offertory plate.

Please pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity, especially in the St. Mark's Parish: Clara Bottner, Beth Oakes, Donna Anderson, Nell Brill, Richard Sparks, Phil Brown, Betty Hughes, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, Sarah Derringer, Muriel Hughes, Mary, Caroline Bradford, Don Lopez, Jeanette Parris, Kimberly Earle, Carol Farley, the Magruder/Vangroll families, the Lewis family, including Tom and Gloria, and Kevan Campbell.

Also for our extended family: Emmett Sims, Liz S., Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Sylvia Valverde, John R., D. Crumel, William Pimental, Rod Pearson, Sr., Richard Stockstill, Betty Bradley, Sandra Robinson, John Gray, Gerry Cox, Col. (Ret.) Don Carter, Tara Wilkins, Gordon Merritt, family and friends of Dennis Yumber, Kent White, family and friends of Angel and Elvia Linare and the families of John Jostin and Clifford Fisher.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way, we lift up Colin Maloney, Robert Payne, Tim, Emily and family, Walter Smiley, Andrew Kley and Pat Foughty. We pray for those of every generation who live with the wounds of war or who have given their lives for this nation.

Announcements

Vestry meeting TODAY at 11:15 am.

Directory Update: The church directory is being updated. Please verify and correct your contact information on the draft directory on the table in the narthex. See Bonnie Wilkins if you have any questions.

E-giving – Earlier this year, St. Mark's introduced e-giving as another option for fulfilling your pledge or making a donation. Now, you can help us track your online giving by placing an "I Give Online" card in the collection plate each Sunday. These cards are available in each pew. Getting started with online giving is easy. Visit stmarksalex.org and click the "Donate Now" link to create an account and make your donation.

First Sunday of the Month, please wear your name tag! If you do not have a name tag or need a replacement, please let us know.

Database Update: If you would like to provide any new information or those who have not provided such information, please fill out a newcomer's card in the Narthex or email Mari at stmarksalex@netzero.net. Thanks.

Daughters of the King will meet in the library following the 10:00 am service today and March 19, 26, April 2 and 9. Our Lenten study will be on "*Shadows, Darkness and Dawn*" by Thomas Steagald.

From The Rev. Donna Foughty: Please note change of address for church emails – Revnum02@hotmail.com. It's that time of year again – time to get our **Shrine Mont** dates set up. Please pick one of the possibilities below or send me a suggestion. August 11-13, August 18-20, August 25-27 or we could choose a fall weekend. **Please get back to Donna Foughty ASAP.**

Can you make a commitment to joining one of our Sunday ministries? We have some wonderful ministries for you to consider joining: Altar Guild – Pat Hoppe, Flower Guild – Delsa Chui, Lay Eucharistic Ministers - Donna Anderson, Lectors – Russ Bradley, Intercessors – Jeanne Shafer, Acolytes – Pam Hamrin, Choir – Tatiana Andronikova, Ushers – Wally Tienken, Greeters – Bonnie Wilkins, Tellers – Karen Ashworth and Daughters of the King – Sheryl Sims. Please consider signing up at <https://goo.gl/forms/5jjpgHi6Ypqv8y452>.

Plastic Easter Eggs and small, wrapped candies are welcome donations for St. Mark's Easter Egg hunt!

Red Tent Weekend, May 12-13. Women only weekend at Roslyn Retreat to nourish the mind, body and soul. \$125 per person. Share wisdom and wine at a BYOB evening around the fireplace. Saturday includes buffet breakfast, nature walk or yoga class (\$10), Set and knit or crochet, creative craft project, lunch in dining hall, massage (\$55+ tip). Call 800-477-6296 to make reservations.

Upcoming Birthdays

3/12 – Pat Drabick and Jeremiah Bradley, 3/14 – John Dell and Wyatt Patterson, 3/15 – Dan Opperman, 3/16 – Kingsley Davis III and Anne Brink, 3/19 – Alexander Kapustin, 3/22 – Susan Hartzell, 3/23 – Kevannah Campbell, 3/24 – Faith Frederick, 3/25 – Fred Landon and Chris Pineda, 3/27 – Margaret Duczakowski, 3/30 – Earl Winsor, 3/31 – Patricia Straley, Quincy Dominic, Ben Miles and Hailey Johnson

This Week at St. Mark's

- Today** 8:00 am HE, 9:15 am Adult Forum, 10:00 am HE, 11:30 am – Daughters of the King (library), 11:15 am – Vestry Meeting, 1:00-4:00 pm San Marcos (Sanctuary, PH, GH), 4:00-6:00 pm Pan de Vida (S)
- Monday, 3/13** 7:00-8:30 pm BSA Troop #4077 (PH)
- Tuesday, 3/14** 10:30 am Bible Study. All welcome! 7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida Bible Study (Sanctuary), 7:00-9:00 pm- GS Troop 4841 (PH)
- Wednesday, 3/15** 10:30 am HE, The Fairfax, 6:30 pm – Pot luck at Olivet, 7:15 pm – Sacred Time and Space in Muslim tradition, 7:00-9:00 pm – San Marcos (PH)
- Thursday, 3/16** 9:30 am – Morning Prayer, 9:00 am-12:45 pm – Biology Class (PH), 10:00 am – Holy Folders, 7:00- 9:30 pm – San Marcos (large classroom), 7:00-9:00 pm – Girl Scout meeting (PH)
- Friday, 3/17** 7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)
- Saturday, 3/18** 6:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)

Forum Discussion Sundays at 9:10 am

- Today The Scriptures of the Day, Seminarian Michaelene Miller
- 3/19 The Scriptures of the Day, The Rev. Donna Foughty
- 3/26 The Scriptures of the Day, The Rev. Cornelia Eaton

Calendar

- 3/15 6:30 pm Lent Potluck at Olivet. Sacred time/space in Islam
- 3/19 Mission Team Meeting, 11:30 am
- 3/22 6:30 pm Lent Potluck at Church of the Spirit. Sacred time/space in Buddhism
- 3/29 6:30 pm Lent Potluck at All Saints Sharon Chapel. Sacred time/space in the Anglican tradition