

## **THE CANTERBURY TALES**

**APRIL 2017**



### **FR. MARK'S MUSINGS**

As you know I often start these letters with some sort of comment on the weather or change of seasons. I won't disappoint you this year either; however, my comparison to the change of seasons is far more theological than I usually am. Typically I use the seasons as a marker for passing time. Today I am seeing it as a metaphor for life and more specifically the life of the church.

The seasons are a wonderful metaphor for our lives and the cycles of our lives. We can live in the darkness and cold of winter with the certain knowledge of spring and summer to come. We know it won't last forever and can take great hope in the fact that it comes to an end every year and the world comes to life again. For some of us though it is difficult to imagine the warmth of summer and find hope when we are in the midst of a cold dark night.

From the perspective of the church looking at the changing world around us, seeing decreasing attendance in church on Sunday mornings and financial struggles, gives us feelings of emptiness, loss of familiar understandings and structures in life, and the vanishing of

enthusiasm. It can be downright depressing. It can be a very dark time but according to Thomas Moore (no relation) in his book, *Care of the Soul*, these feelings can be appropriated and used to give life a fresh imagination. In chapter seven he discusses depression, or melancholy not as a disorder to be fixed, but as part of life from which we can learn and grow. We might look at the church as in a depressed state or perhaps we are depressed about where the church is today. Moore suggests that if we can turn toward learning from our depression, or even take on some of the dark qualities of life as part of our personality, our anxiety about the future seems to decrease.

Sometimes we can only see the dying, the ending of a familiar life and the emptying out of long-held values and understandings. But the dark times will consistently offer a correction of our naiveté and move us to be a more hopeful people willing to embrace where we are, and the possibility of a bright future. In the end it may be that it is our dark times, our depression or melancholy that gives us a strength, firmness and solidity.

I see this idea lived out in the way we worship in Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Lent and Holy Week represent the darker more reflective times, times when we question and doubt our future. They are also times of education and revelation. If we can embrace them and learn from them we can grow into something far better than we could possibly have imagined during darkness.

So I offer a wonderful metaphor for healing and growth in each of us and in the church; Holy Week. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening are a special set of services in which we embrace the darkness, acknowledge our limitations, and feel the helplessness and loss of the comforting order of our regular worship. Just like in our personal lives, we sometimes feel the loss of what we perceive as a better past. But like one of the characters in Moore's book, when he came out of his depression, having learned from it, he began speaking a more solid truth. He said, "I will never again tell another person how to live, I can only talk to them of their mystery." As we, the church, come out of our depression, our dark time, we can learn not to judge but share the forgiving love of Jesus. We can learn to be an example of the love of Christ so that others who witness that love may be moved to faith as well. We can learn to be the very light of the world as Jesus was.

It could easily be said that I want to have a full house for the Holy Week services and that could be said about any Sunday. But my true desire is that everyone share in the learning from those

dark days of Holy Week that enhance and change us into a new creation come Easter Morning. It is an experience through which God can change us. And it is a metaphor for life itself. If we were to stay in the dark times and view them as something to be avoided, we may be doomed to be stuck in them. Only when we truly embrace the dark times can we be changed by them and fully rejoice when we are resurrected into a new life in light. It is a wonderful experience that brings new and powerful meaning to Easter Sunday and the rest of our lives.

I wish and pray for a wonderful Easter that brings hope and joy to you all.

Peace always,

*Fr. Mark*





## DEACON'S NEWS AND NOTES

**April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."**

**- William Shakespeare**

On April 1<sup>st</sup> – April Fool's Day, we had an Executive Council meeting. Really!!!

On April 11<sup>th</sup> the clergy will gather for the Chrismal Mass at 11:00 a.m. at Zion, Oconomowoc. During this service, Bishop Miller blesses the oil used during the year for Baptisms and Confirmations, chrim oil, made from olive oil and balsam, a fragrant resin. He also blesses the oil of catechumens and the oil of the sick. Also important, it is at this service that the clergy and Bishop Miller reaffirm their ordination promises. You are welcome to attend!

The Reverend REGS Scheeler, The Reverend Bob Bagley and I will meet with Bishop Miller after the Chrismal Mass to review the Guidelines Handbook for Deacons we have put together. I am quite proud of what we were able to do in two totally focused meetings.

The week of April 9<sup>th</sup>, we begin Holy Week. A palm, a towel, a nail and a single candle (to be lighted periodically) will sit on the table in my prayer corner to remind me of the powerful moments and messages of those days.

Mid-April I will be cat-sitting Nigel and Noah while their "mom" travels to Nevada and California. (But I won't be moving! Phew!)

**The Living Church** has yet another article in the series on the prayer book revision: *Necessary or Expedient: Finding, Not Fixing*. Again, if you are interested in any of the articles, just let me know.

In the diocesan office, we are gearing up for our own Diocesan Convention October 14, 2017 at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy, Delafield, WI.

I encourage all to consider, at least attending the Eucharist. It is an opportunity to worship and engage with hundreds of members from all over the diocese. Conveniently, it is in our own backyard, so to speak. We promise the assistance of more engaging cadets, shorter lines and HEAT, if needed.

Again, I am at Nicholson House every Friday and encourage you to visit and tour the diocesan office.

**"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month."**

**- Henry Van Dyke**

Peace, love and prayers,

*Deacon Marge*





## **NOTES FROM PAUL STOVING, SENIOR WARDEN**

“The Three T’s? I’ve heard of the Three R’s but what are the Three T’s?”

Those of us that grew up at a certain time may remember the Three R’s from school: Reading, (w)Riting, and (a)Rithmetic. In Stewardship, there are Three T’s: Time, Talent, and Treasure.

As I’ve written in the past, “Stewardship” is one of the three forbidden words in the Episcopal Church. Or, at least, we like to think so. If you’ve been keeping tally, the other two are “Evangelism” and “Change.” Yet, even when we do talk about Stewardship, we seem to focus on only one of the Three T’s, Treasure, and then only around the time of our pledge drive.

We all kind of understand the “treasure” portion. Our church’s main source of income is donations from us. Several places in the Old Testament talk about “tithing,” or giving 10% of your income to the temple. The temple was also the state government in Israel, so tithing was also somewhat of an income tax. Regardless, many churches today use tithing as a standard for giving. But, what is the standard of giving in the New Testament? Simply put, it’s 100%. God wants your all.

But, God doesn’t just want your all in just your treasure. God wants you to be fully committed in your time and talent as well.

Recall the parable of the talents. In this parable, a man gives each of his servants some money, called talents, to take care of while he is away. Two of them handle the talents well, and return a profit to him. A third is fearful of failure, and does nothing with his talent but bury it. It is no coincidence that today we call our skills and gifts “talents,” as this was the origin of the word in

English. All too often we bury our own talents and gifts, for various reasons, such as modesty and fear. We are fearful that our talent is inadequate, or that another is greater. God wants us all to use our talents to enrich our lives and those of others. Since we all have different talents, we must pool our talents together, but, by doing so, we can accomplish a great deal.

Likewise, doing anything requires time. In today's age, I can think of no greater donation than time. Sometimes it feels like we all have so much to do, and so little time. But, it is also important to make time for God. There are so many ways, be they regularly attending church, when possible, or volunteering to serve in a ministry, or developing a talent. Someone wise once warned me that if I was too busy for God, I was too busy. You can donate your time either in church or elsewhere.

How can you best find a way to give of your time or talent at St. Thomas? In a few weeks (stay tuned) we will have a ministry fair after our 10:00 service. Stay for it and look around. Talk with different members of the ministries. Listen to that quiet voice in your head, and see if there is one calling to you to donate your time and talent.

As always, I appreciate your thoughts.

*Paul Stoving*



## LORRAINE HERZSTOCK

On Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, longtime member, Lorraine Herzstock, bid farewell to St. Thomas of Canterbury Church. Lorraine and her husband were one of the founding families of our parish. After 60 years at St. Thomas, she is moving to East Troy to live with her daughter.



Lorraine Herzstock



Fr. Mark blesses Lorraine Herzstock.



Louise Allen hugs Lorraine after the 10:00 AM service.



OFFICERS of St. Clare's Guild of St. Hugh-of-Lisieux Church are shown here. The group meets the third Monday of each month. The group's current leaders are (from left) Mrs. Robert Morgan, 7237 Edgemoor Hill rd., treasurer; Mrs. Edward Laska, 2940 W. Rossen ave., president; Mrs. John Janssens, 7209 Dorchester St., secretary, and Mrs. John Herzstock, 9726 W. Howard ave., vice-president. Village Life photo.

Lorraine was a member of the St. Clare's Guild.



## **PALM SUNDAY 2017**

This year's Palm Sunday 10:00 AM service began with the Liturgy of the Palms which included a scripture reading, blessing and distribution of palms. As the palms were distributed and parishioners processed around the church, choir soloist, Kat Worzalla, sang Hymn #157 as the congregation sang the response, *Hosanna In The Highest*.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew was read. Maggie Stoving served as Narrator, Bridget Done was Jesus, Cat Celsor and Amanda Slyfield read various parts while parishioners took on the responses of the crowd. Instrumental music along with singing from the choir provided a reverent and moving accompaniment to scripture.

The service ended in silence as parishioners moved into the solemnity of Holy Week.



## **GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING**

The history of the Good Friday Offering reaches back to 1922 when, in the aftermath of World War I, The Episcopal Church sought to create new relationships with and among the Christians of the Middle East. From these initial efforts which focused on a combination of relief work and the improvement of ecumenical and Anglican relations, the Good Friday Offering was created.

Through the years many Episcopalians have found the Good Friday Offering to be an effective way to express their support for the ministries of the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Pastoral care, education and health care continue to be primary ministries through which the reconciling spirit of the Christian faith serves all in need.

The generous donations of Episcopalians help the Christian presence in the Land of the Holy One to be a vital and effective force for peace and understanding among all of God's children.

(Resource: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org>)

This year, St. Thomas of Canterbury will be participating in the diocesan Good Friday Offering at the 7:00 PM Good Friday service.



Maundy Thursday Service: April 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM

Good Friday Service: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM

Easter Vigil: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM



## HERE COMES PETER COTTONTAIL . . .



Please join us following the 10:00 AM Sunday Easter service for a children's Easter egg hunt. All children approximately 6th grade and younger may participate. Older children will hunt for eggs more cleverly hidden. We will begin the egg hunt in front of the altar. If the weather does not cooperate, eggs will be hidden inside the church. Any questions please contact Donna Celsor at [414-421-0458](tel:414-421-0458)

The Easter Bunny

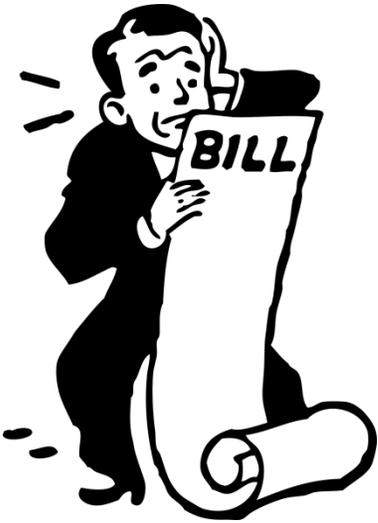


## ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN

*Mark your calendars!!* Father Mark will bless the *St. Thomas of Canterbury Community Garden* on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> after the 10:00 AM Prayer Service.



## **Bills, Bills, Bills!**



It seems like you can never escape bills, and the same is true here at STOC. Starting April 23<sup>rd</sup> you will see some of the bills it takes to keep our building operating posted in the narthex as well as envelopes.

We are asking for your help to pay these bills. If you are able to contribute towards a bill (or pay the whole thing), please put your contribution in the marked envelope and put it in the collection plate or turn it into the office. The money donated will be used to pay that bill (and help us work towards a balanced budget!).

Questions? Feel free to talk with Fr. Mark or Finance/Stewardship committee members Paul Stoving or Margaret Done.

## **APRIL CELEBRATIONS**

### **BIRTHDAYS**



John Cram	April 1
David Radavich	April 3
Mark Slyfield	April 4
John O'Malley	April 6
Sharon Owen	April 10
Dave Luetngen	April 11
Maggie Stoving	April 12
Hannah Luetngen	April 14
Victoria Celsor	April 16
Jack Bauman	April 19
Erika Stoving	April 25
Nancy Grimm	April 27

### **ANNIVERSARIES**



Brian & Mandy Klumb	April 13
Jesse & Kathleen Hein	April 20