

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2010

Invitation

To all who are lonely and need friendship; to all who are discouraged and need good news; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are tempted and need help; to all who are sinners and need forgiveness; to all who are complacent and need disturbing; to all who thirst for the water of life; to all who love Christ and would follow Christ, this church opens wide its doors and bids you WELCOME!

Today at St. Mary's

7:45 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Rite 1)
8:30 a.m. – Parish Breakfast
9:40 a.m. – Nursery Care
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Rite 2)
10:20 a.m. – Church School
11:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour
12 - 2 p.m. – CnC Class
5:00 p.m. – Family Lenten Program

We welcome all visitors to St. Mary's this morning. Please sign our guest book by the front door of the Church and complete a visitor's card so we will have a record of your presence with us.

Preparing for Worship with a Posture of Prayer

To prepare ourselves for worship each week, we are invited to kneel or sit quietly before the service begins and offer our personal prayers to God. The following is a prayer attributed to Anselm of Canterbury. *O Lord our God, Grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart, so that desiring you, we may seek you and find you; and so finding you, may love you; and so loving you, may hate those sins which separate us from you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

All-Parish Breakfast by the Merrie Men Today at 8:30 a.m.

Please join us for the March All-Parish Breakfast hosted by the Merrie Men today at 8:30. This month's breakfast is created by Chef Greg Kelleher and will honor our faithful **Acolytes**.

Greeters (10:00 a.m.): Pat McKay and Tim O'Donovan

Ushers (10:00 a.m.): Ed Drinkwater, Jon Mieritz, Drew Betten, Joe Dixon

Oblation Bearers (10:00 a.m.): John and Kay Myers

Reader (10 a.m.): – Jeanne Griffin-Greene

Acolytes (10:00 a.m.): Suzanne Smith (MC), Richard Steinhardt (C1), Zach Wetzels (T), Drew Wetzels (T), Emily Steinhardt (C2), Katie Cornman (S), Meghan Ferrara (S), Chris Steinhardt (SD), Jennifer Lurie (Ch).

A Gentle Reminder

To create a prayerful atmosphere before the Eucharist begins and to be respectful of other people's desire for quiet, please limit talking only to what is necessary. We welcome conversations following the Liturgy and at coffee hour. Also, please turn off your cell phone or other electronic devices before the service begins.

Please join us for Coffee Hour, hosted by Katie Ferrara, Allison Devenny, and Jon Phillips, in the Fr. Greene Room, after the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist this

morning. We thank Jennifer Lurie and Marcia Pentz for hosting coffee hour last week.

Today is Nametag Sunday

One way we greet each other is by wearing nametags, so that newcomers and "old-timers" can call each other by name and get to know one another. Today is a **Nametag Sunday**, so we ask that when you come to coffee hour, get your name tag from the rack or fill one out, and put it on. Thanks for helping St. Mary's be welcoming to all.

This Week at St. Mary's

The following activities and meetings will take place this week at St. Mary's:

Mon., March 8 – 5:45 p.m. – Evening Prayer
6:00 p.m. – Soup and Salad Supper
6:30 p.m. – Lenten Program
7:30 p.m. – Stations of the Cross
Tues., March 9 – 8:00 a.m. – Bible study
8:00 p.m. – A.A. meeting
Wed., March 10 – 12:15 p.m. – Holy Eucharist
12:45 p.m. – Book Group
5:15 p.m. – Junior Choir
7:15 p.m. – Adult Choir
Thurs., March 11 – 5:30 p.m. – Holy Eucharist
Fri., March 12 – 9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
Sat., March 13 – 8:30 – Noon – Lenten Quiet Day
10 a.m. – Noah's Ark

Families of the Week

Each week several parish families are prayed for by name at the Sunday and weekday Eucharists. This week's families are:

- * Brian, Mary, Norrie and Kacey Canniff
- * Jason, Amy and Kaley Cava
- * George, Mary Ann, Dillon, Chloe and Travis Chou
- * Pei Chi and Rosalind Chou
- * Celeste Clement

Lenten Programs at St. Mary's

Programs for Mondays in Lent and Stations of the Cross Continuing on March Mondays

This year's Lenten program continues on the Monday evenings in March as follows:

5:45 p.m. – Evening Prayer
6:00 p.m. – Soup and Salad Supper
6:30 p.m. – Program
7:30 p.m. – Stations of the Cross

A simple soup and salad supper will be provided for all who attend at a cost of \$5 per person. The program, led by Fr. Pearson, features a series of short films created and produced by Flannel, a nonprofit organization committed to giving everyone a fresh and compelling look at the teachings of Jesus. Please join us for this series as a special Lenten discipline; you can come one or more evenings as your schedule permits.

Lenten Knitting – A Fast from Busyness Tuesday Evenings at Mother Jane's House

Mother Jane and a group of both novice and experienced knitters are "fasting from busyness" for at least an hour on Tuesday evenings. Gathering to knit is a great way to slow down and make friends. If you're

new to knitting, we'll teach you how. And if you're experienced, you can share your wisdom. Please contact Mother Jane for directions and time.

**Lenten Quiet Day
Saturday, March 13**

The Women of St. Mary's are hosting a Lenten Quiet Day on Saturday, March 13 from 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon. Join us for a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Please sign up on the Parish Bulletin Board.

**Parish Lenten Luncheon
"Walking the Mourner's Path"
Thursday, March 18 at 12 Noon**

Mr. John Schofield, who helps to lead the well-known *Walking the Mourner's Path* course at St. David's Church, Radnor, will talk about grieving. As a normal part of life, grief is something we all deal with at some point. Come for a delicious lunch at Noon, followed by a meaningful presentation. All parishioners and guests are welcome – sign up on the Parish Bulletin Board.

Other Upcoming Parish Events

**St. Mary's Book Discussion Group
THIS Wednesday, March 10, 12:45 p.m.**

St. Mary's Book Group will meet this Wednesday, March 10 at 12:45 p.m. Due to the (snow) cancellation of our February meeting we will discuss our February selection, Buckingham Palace Gardens, and for our avid readers the selection for March is Persian Girls, by Nahid Rachlin. This is a memoir, and I am sure you will find it interesting. Nahid is a young girl growing up in a male-dominated society and resisting it. This true story gives the reader first-hand background into the political and cultural history of Iran.

Noah's Ark Re-opens and Needs Volunteers

Noah's Ark is currently closed for clean-up and **will re-open this Saturday, March 13**. We are still in need of a few volunteers for spring. All members of the parish are welcome to volunteer- male female. You can volunteer singly or in pairs, for one, two, or three days! We have a great group of volunteers that do a great service for St. Mary's and the community. Please consider joining us. *For specific dates needed, see the parish email or next Sunday's announcements.*

"Spring Forward" Next Sunday, March 14

Please note that Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 14 at 2:00 a.m., so be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour (and maybe go to bed a bit earlier!) on Saturday evening, so we don't miss you here at St. Mary's next Sunday morning.

**Altar Guild Meeting
Sunday, March 14, 11:30 a.m.**

Altar Guild members are asked to attend our next meeting on March 14, in the library, following the 10:00 service. The focus will be on the Holy Week schedule.

Church School Work Days

Sundays March 14 and 21, Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Calling all Church School parents and families! Now that the Church School hallways are freshly painted, it's time to clean up and redecorate the halls and classrooms. Two workdays are planned for Sundays March 14 and March 21, Noon - 2 p.m. On March 14 we will focus on cleaning out the classrooms – shelves, bulletin boards, windowsills, etc. On March 21 we will focus on redecorating. **Please sign up on the Church School Bulletin Board and plan to come one or both days.** If you have ideas for arranging furniture,

decorating the bulletin boards, displaying the Saints Banners, etc. please contact Mother Jane or Jill Cutler.

**Confirmation is Coming - Save the Date!
Sunday, April 18, 10:00 a.m.**

Many of you know how hard the confirmation class has been working this year. Confirmation will be on **Sunday, April 18** at the 10:00 service. Please mark the date on your calendar and make it a point to be there. Our kids need to see the community's support for them, and you will find yourselves blessed by them, as well.

Important Parish Dates to Save

Please mark the following dates on your calendar and make plans now to attend these upcoming parish events.

Sunday, April 18 - Bishop Michel's visitation
Thursday, April 22 – Spring Parish Dinner
Sunday, May 2 – Annual Parish Meeting
Saturday, May 22 – Progressive Supper
Monday, June 7 – Deanery Night at the Phillies
Vacation Bible Camp – August 2-6

**Merion Deanery Outing to the Phillies
Monday, June 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

Plans are continuing for a great evening at the Phillies for our whole Deanery on Monday June 7. For all details about the evening and how to join in, please see the March Chimes. **Late Breaking information:** the Deanery is now arranging for a bus to leave from St. David's Church at 4:30 p.m. before the game and returning to that church after the game. The cost will be \$25 per person, and the fare will be collected as the game date approaches.

Parish News and Needs

Stewardship Update

We continue to receive financial pledges for 2010. As of March 4, we have received 140 pledges totaling \$320,580. We are still waiting to hear from several parishioners who made a pledge in 2009 but have yet to do so in 2010. If you are planning to make a financial pledge to St. Mary's for 2010, please be sure to do it as soon as possible. At its January 2010 meeting, the Vestry adopted an operating budget with a deficit of \$54,000. While we began 2009 with a projected deficit of \$35,000, we ended the year with \$6,100 for reinvestment.

Request for Easter Flower Memorials

If you would like to have a loved one memorialized through Easter flower donations, please write their name(s) on the cards marked *Flower Memorials* in the church pews. Then place the card in the envelope along with your donation in the offering plate or mail to the church office **by Palm Sunday, March 28**. If you have any questions, please speak with Susan Huck or call the parish office.

Vestry Nominations Being Accepted

At our Annual Meeting each year we elect five new vestry members. If you want to nominate someone, or if you wish to stand for election yourself, contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Drew Betten, Bob Boyer, Lauren Morabito, Dave Phillips, or John Radford. In order to properly publicize the candidates, all nominations should be completed by Sunday, April 4. The Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, May 2.

Outreach March Request: Containers of peanut butter and jelly for the St. Mary's, Chester food pantry.