



# THE LION'S MARK

NEWSLETTER FOR SAINT MARK'S CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA

A COMMUNITY THAT GATHERS IN FAITH, SERVES IN LOVE, AND PROCLAIMS HOPE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

## PASSION PLAY

CHILDREN AND THE PASSION & RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

— FATHER SEAN MULLEN —



One of the most notable events of the liturgical year last year was the elaborate production of the story of the Passion that our Ministry Residents organized for the children of the Parish on Palm Sunday. It was modeled partly on the medieval passion plays, and it was a bit over the top. It unfolded in the gardens around the church, as the children went from here to there, clad in elaborate vesture (custom made for the production by our Ministry Residents), and adopting the identities of saints, soldiers, bishops, and many others, telling the story of Jesus' suffering that led to his crucifixion and death. It was an impressive display of devotion to this central episode of the Christian story. I hope it will have made a deep impression on our kids.

The Italian Christian educator, Sofia Cavaletti introduced the idea and the language of "the religious potential of the child" in her important book of that title, and applied a Montessori-style educational approach to Christian formation. She found that children are most compellingly drawn to the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. At first this seems so obvious, since we can easily imagine the Good Shepherd as a puppet in a puppet show, who is surrounded by fluffy sheep, and is easily included in the panoply of children's toys. But part of the point of Cavaletti's work was to remind adults how easily we underestimate a child's experience of the divine, of the holy; and how ready we are to dismiss a child's actual relationship with God. "Does there exist in the child a mysterious reality of union with God? Who would believe that a four-year-old child would be capable of metaphysical intuition?" (p 32). Yes, there does exist such a

reality, and Cavalletti is eager to show us the potential of a four-year-old for such metaphysical intuition.

An essential aspect of the Good Shepherd, according to St. John, is that he willingly lays down his life for the sheep, precisely because there are wolves who endanger his sheep. No doubt those wolves are often disguised in sheep's clothing. It is the church's responsibility to tell the truth - as we know it - about the world and about God. We believe that the truth involves a life-giving encounter with the Good Shepherd who is not merely the caretaker of fluffy sheep, but who lays down his life for his sheep. Indeed, we believe that this Good Shepherd laid down his life for all his sheep decisively once and for all, and that children are perfectly capable of apprehending that story and its import. The Passion Play that our kids enact on Palm Sunday is a culminating moment in which our kids show us the flowering of their own religious potential. And it is gorgeous to behold.

In the church we are always dealing with both religion and faith. We live in a world in which religion is often dismissed as corrupt (not without reason), and in which faith still finds room, so long as it is defined in terms of the spiritual (again, not without reason). The church experiences the tendency to divorce religion from faith as a significant problem, because we see the two as being interdependent. You can see the problem by simply examining the definitions of the two words. "Religion," the Oxford English Dictionary tells us, is "action or conduct indicating a belief in, reverence for, and desire to please a divine ruling power; the exercise or observance of rites or observances implying this." And "Faith" can be defined not only as "belief, trust, confidence," but specifically as "belief in the truths of religion." These definitions reflect the church's conviction that faith and religion are inextricably intertwined, and that this is a good thing, since our belief in, reverence for, and desire to please the God in whom we believe, trust, and have complete confidence ought to be realized in action or conduct.

Children are possessed of an innate religious potential, as well as an inchoate faith. This potential is something like the capacity for learning language, which begins to diminish as a child grows older. And we believe that it is good and right and natural to introduce children to both faith and religion at that time in their lives when their metaphysical intuition is keenly attuned to the presence of the living God.

The Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus are part of a larger mystery of how and why God deals with us the way he does. With maturing faith comes the willingness to live with questions about that mystery. But there is something of great value in the ability to simply accept the mystery of God's love, of God's presence, of God's interest and involvement in our lives with the straightforward simplicity of acknowledging the Good Shepherd in our midst, who loves us so much that he's willing to give his life for us, as children are able to do.

To put it another way, children deserve more at Easter than an Easter Egg Hunt. Children deserve to be welcomed into a church community that recognizes and cherishes the gift of that metaphysical intuition that makes them, in some ways, more ready than we are to engage with the mystery of God's love. Inevitably, when we see children flourishing in the church in this way, it makes it so much easier for adults to be drawn into the mystery of God's love, especially if we ourselves can remember how near God seemed to us when we were children.

## THE BARNABAS SOCIETY



The Barnabas Society was officially launched during Lent at an event for those known to have made plans to include Saint Mark's in their wills. The purpose of this society is to encourage members to make such plans, and to remember how important gifts of this kind have been to the parish in the past, and how valuable they continue to be. Legacy gifts represent an enduring way to support the work and ministry of the Gospel here on Locust Street. If you have included Saint Mark's in your will or other estate plans, or have another kind of planned gift in mind, we'd like to include you in the society. For more information about the Society you can contact the Rector. You can always designate Saint Mark's as a beneficiary in your will, trust, or estate by including language to this effect: "I give, devise, and bequeath to Saint Mark's Church, Locust Street, (insert amount, percentage of estate, nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used at the discretion of the Rector and the Vestry, (or for a designated purpose)."

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## APRIL

- 2 20s/30s Simple Supper, 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Open House for Prospective Choristers, 2 to 6 p.m.  
Choral Evensong & Benediction, 4 p.m.
- 14 Palm Sunday  
*Regular Sunday Mass Schedule*
- 17 Wednesday in Holy Week: Tenebrae, 7 p.m.
- 18 Choral High Mass for Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.
- 19 Solemn Liturgies for Good Friday, 12 Noon
- 20 Great Vigil of Easter, 8 p.m.
- 21 Easter Day  
*Regular Sunday Mass Schedule*
- 22 Parish Office Closed for Easter Monday  
*Low Mass at 10 a.m.*
- 29 Solemn High Mass for Saint Mark's Day, 7 p.m.

## MAY

- 5 Choral Evensong & Benediction, 4 p.m.
- 7 20s/30s Simple Supper, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Youth Lock-in, 6 p.m.
- 27 Parish Office Closed for Memorial Day  
*Low Mass at 10 a.m.*
- 30 Choral High Mass for Ascension Day, 7 p.m.

## JUNE

- 1 Parish Picnic, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
*Gloria Dei (Old Swedes)*  
*Front & Church Streets*

# MUSIC AT SAINT MARK'S

ROBERT MCCORMICK



I write on the second day of Lent, with much to look forward to in the life of the Saint Mark's music program. Nothing is of greater importance, of course, than the regular offering of music in the context of the liturgy, most especially Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. The choral music for Holy Week is, as might be expected, diverse in terms of period and style of composition, but having in common its appropriateness for a particular liturgy. Some of the planned works are offered here nearly every year, among them a setting of the Benedictus Dominus Deus and Psalm 30 by parishioner and skilled composer James Testa, David Hurd's stunning setting of Love bade me welcome, Durufflé's *Ubi caritas*, Victoria's *Reproaches* and *St. John Passion*, and a haunting setting of *Crux fidelis* by Matthew Glandorf, who served here for a decade as Organist and Choirmaster. Works that have been introduced in more recent years including young American composer Zachary Wadsworth's *Beati quorum remissae* (a somber setting of Psalm 32), native Philadelphian Vincent Persichetti's *Mass for Mixed Chorus*, Philip Moore's (retired Master of the Music of York Minster) gorgeous *It is a thing most wonderful*, Nicholas White's *Anthems at the Mandatum*, among others. Music for Easter morning, with brass from the Curtis Institute, includes Stanford's *Festal Communion Service* (with the glorious "Coronation Gloria") in an arrangement for organ and brass by Curtis alumnus Steven Franklin, and Widor's *Surrexit a mortuis*.

Longtime organ curator Steve Emery is managing, on a daily basis, the re-installation of our 1937 Aeolian-Skinner organ. By the end of this month, much of the pipework (there are nearly 6000 pipes!) will have been re-installed, though it is as of yet unclear when some of the larger Pedal division stops will return (a matter that informs when exactly we will be able to return to using the pipe organ for services). We owe Steve an enormous debt of gratitude for his expertise and nearly round-the-clock work to

bring this massive project to fulfillment. Steve is a legend of the organ world and justly so: our organ restoration project could not be in better hands in this home stretch. We are all chomping at the bit to have the organ back, no one more than myself. However, I remain grateful to the Curtis Institute and to Allen Organs' affiliate, Grafton Piano & Organ Company, for the use of the fine digital organ that has served us so well in the past year and a half.

Two upcoming events are fundraisers for the choirs' trip to New York City on the weekend after Easter. By the time this issue is published, we will have held a "Salon Musicale" featuring choristers, adult singers, and a choir parent who is a professional violinist. On Sunday, April 7, following the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses as well as Evensong & Benediction, there will be a Bake Sale. Additionally, on that same day, we will have an Open House for prospective choristers before Evensong, with refreshments to follow. If you know of any potential boy and girl choristers, ages 7 and above, please help us spread the word, and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Finally, though it seems ages away at the moment, our annual Summer Choir Camp will be held from July 29-August 2. The Camp is a means of outreach from the parish, and also is an opportunity for many of our own boy and girl choristers to begin to prepare for the next academic year. This year, a number of our choristers will attend the Wilkes-Barre, PA (King's College), course of the Royal School of Church Music in America the week immediately preceding. This year, I will be the guest director of that RSCM course, so no doubt many of our choristers will have McCormick fatigue! Further details about our Choir Camp may be found elsewhere in this issue.

It is my joy to join my prayers to yours as we contemplate the mysteries of our redemption in this Lent and Holy Week.

DO YOU LIKE TO  
**SING?**



SAINT MARK'S CHURCH OFFERS AN EXCITING CHOIR CAMP FOR TWO AGE GROUPS!

# 2019 SUMMER CHOIR CAMP

MONDAY, JULY 29 — FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

## SCHOLA • AGES 3-7

**Daily from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

*Lunch and snacks provided with extended care 8-9 a.m.*

Spend a week with professional musicians, teachers, and faithful volunteers, exploring the wonders of music. The week includes voice lessons, Bible stories, games, craft projects, and more.

*Early registration by July 1: \$25*

*Regular registration after July 1: \$35*

*Includes lunch and snacks*

*Extended Care available for additional cost (a.m. only)*



### REGISTER TODAY!

**The Rev. Dr. Kyle Babin**

*Priest for Children's Formation*

Father Babin has experience directing chorister programs in a number of parishes. In addition to leading the Saint Mark's Pre-Schola and Schola programs on a regular basis, he also serves as Director of Choral Music at St. James School.

## CHOIR • AGES 8+

*(GIRLS & BOYS WITH UNCHANGED VOICES)*

**Daily from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

*Lunch and snacks provided with extended care 8-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.*

Experience award-winning choral training in the English cathedral tradition along with field trips, bowling, swimming, and other fun children's activities.

*Early registration by July 1: \$160*

*Regular registration after July 1: \$210*

*Includes lunch and snacks*

*Extended Care available for additional cost (a.m. & p.m.)*



### REGISTER TODAY!

**Robert McCormick**

*Organist and Choirmaster*

Internationally known as a trainer of children's voices, Mr. McCormick is a widely-respected concert organist. Young choristers he has trained have performed as soloists with the Washington National Opera, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and other noted organizations.



SAINT MARK'S CHURCH  
Register Today at [SaintMarksPhiladelphia.org](http://SaintMarksPhiladelphia.org)

*Partial and full scholarships available*

1625 LOCUST STREET, PHILADELPHIA | 215.735.1416

# THE ZOE PROJECT



The Saint Mark's Zoe Project team is making significant strides in establishing a regular rhythm of baking at the Church of the Crucifixion. Our team, along with guests from outside Saint Mark's, is baking twice a month.

Since we installed an oven at the Church of the Crucifixion on January 4, we have baked five times at the church. For four of those sessions, we have invited a total of fifteen non-team members to join us in baking and fellowship. The bread baked at these sessions, in addition to being enjoyed by the bakers, has been intentionally given to local organizations that work to alleviate food insecurity in the Philadelphia area, including the Church of the Advocate's feeding program and Broad Street Ministry.

Our Zoe Project is in a testing phase, and this is an important shift in the evolution of this ministry. Now, the rubber hits the road as we attempt to put into place months of organizing, planning, and creative thinking. Even though our Zoe team is still clarifying the structure this ministry will take, we have discovered several important things in our initial testing phase:

- The Holy Spirit is indeed directing our work at the Church of the Crucifixion and is leading us to exciting and perhaps unexpected places.
- Baking bread is lots of fun, and getting one's hands in the dough with other young adults makes for many smiles and great conversation.
- There is budding interest outside Saint Mark's in what our group is doing at the Church of the Crucifixion.

- Challenges we face are actually gifts from God that help us refine our vision and learn invaluable information to clarify our project's goals.

In short, our Zoe team, along with other young adults, is

- gathering regularly to bake bread and enjoy fellowship;
- praying at the Church of the Crucifixion, so that God may show us new paths and new adventures in this project;
- giving bread to local organizations that address food insecurity.

While this is very general information about what Zoe is doing, it will become more specific as we continue to test the core idea of this project. Only then can we truly discern what God is calling us to do in this time and place.

Here are some recent highlights of this ministry at the Church of the Crucifixion:

- On January 26, our team invited young adults from Saint Mark's and St. James School to bake bread, and Madeleine Harris led us in a poetry discussion during the rise time of the bread.
- On February 9, we were joined by five non-team members to bake challah bread, led by Gabi Machado, which we shared with Broad Street Ministry. Jeremy Hutcheson offered a presentation about the Saturday Soup Bowl during the rise time.
- On February 23, we invited two young adult newcomers to Saint Mark's to bake bread with us, and we spruced up the Church of the Crucifixion during the rise time.
- On March 2, five young adults (who were unaffiliated with Saint Mark's) joined us after seeing a flyer in a local coffee shop, and Gabi Machado organized a women's self-defense workshop during the rise time.

Our immediate goals are to continue to expand the number of guests for baking sessions, plan creative events during the rise time, and most importantly, see where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Stay tuned!



Thirteen of our young adults attended an overnight retreat at the Community of St. John Baptist in Mendham, New Jersey from February 15-16. The time was a restful respite from the hectic pace of life in Philadelphia, consisting of free time, structured prayer with the sisters in the community, a guided meditation and Emmaus Walk, and a concluding breadbaking session.

## 20s/30s MINISTRY

On Shrove Tuesday, March 5, many members of the 20s/30s ministry lent their culinary skills to flip pancakes and fry bacon for the Pancake Supper. Thank you to all who brought food and helped with this event!

### UPCOMING SIMPLE SUPPERS

**Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall:** Mother Johnson will join us to lead a discussion about the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. (in a member's home, location to be determined):** This evening will begin with a simple Mass, followed by dinner and fellowship.

Simple Suppers are potlucks! While all are encouraged to bring a dish, you should feel free to show up if your plans change at the last minute and even if you have not RSVP'd. For more information on Simple Suppers or for the address of the May event, please email [20s30s@saintmarksphiladelphia.org](mailto:20s30s@saintmarksphiladelphia.org).

# 10 A.M. FORUM

MOTHER NORA JOHNSON



Would you like to get to know the parish better? Do you have questions about your faith? Join us any Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall for a cup of coffee and good conversation. Please speak with Mother Nora Johnson or email her at [njohnso1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:njohnso1@swarthmore.edu) for more information.

**APRIL 28** Sunday Forum on break following Easter

**MAY 5** Julian of Norwich. Join parishioner and Professor of Philosophy Phil Cary for a discussion of one of the great mystics of the late Middle Ages in England.

**MAY 12** John Gleim, parishioner and doctoral candidate in theology at Fordham University, will lead a discussion on the way we talk about God and how we describe what God does.

**MAY 19** SAINT AUGUSTINE Professor Phil Cary will talk about Saint Augustine of Hippo. What do you know about this foundational Christian teacher?

**MAY 26** John Gleim continues his series on the power and action of God.



## CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

FATHER KYLE BABIN

On Saturday, January 19, some of our Saint Mark's families gathered at the Church of St. James the Less at St. James School to give the church a thorough cleaning. Care for the church and grounds at St. James is heavily reliant on volunteer labor, so the gift of time and effort from our families was much appreciated by the school. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Pancake Races on March 5 was a huge hit this year, with numerous children and families in attendance, including several newcomers! Children participating in the relay races were judged based on speed and on "style." And everyone seemed to relish the pancakes, bacon, veggie sausage, and donuts!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 21 at 10 a.m.** Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m., following the 9 a.m. Family Mass. All are welcome, and you are encouraged to invite a friend(s)!

**May 10 at 7 p.m. - May 11, 9 a.m.** Dinner and Youth Lock-in at the church, concluding with service at the Saturday Soup Bowl. All youth (ages 11 and up) are invited to come at 7 p.m. on May 10 for a pizza dinner and to stay past 9 p.m. for the night, which will include fun activities on the Saint Mark's campus. Youth will wake up early on Saturday morning to serve at the Saturday Soup Bowl. To RSVP, please email Father Babin at [kjbabin@saintmarksphiladelphia.org](mailto:kjbabin@saintmarksphiladelphia.org).

**HELP US STAY IN TOUCH** We are continuing to compile contact information on children and families in the parish, which will help us keep track of children as they progress through our various formation programs. If you have children aged 0 to 18, please be in touch with Father Babin at [kjbabin@saintmarksphiladelphia.org](mailto:kjbabin@saintmarksphiladelphia.org) to ensure that your family's contact information is current. Thank you for your cooperation!

## ORGAN PROJECT UPDATE

Throughout the winter the many parts and components of the historic Aeolian Skinner organ have been being carefully reinstalled, following cleaning and refurbishment. Although behind schedule, we expect portions of the instrument to be functional by Easter—but we don't yet know whether or not enough of the organ will be playable to use for our Easter services. We hope so! You have probably noticed the many planks, boards, tubes, wires, and pipes, bellows, chests, etc that pile up in the West End of the church on their way to re-installation. Re-installation will continue after Easter until completion later in the spring.

We are excited to be able to announce a schedule for rededication recitals next fall and winter. A formal announcement of these performances will be made in due course, but you can mark your calendars now. All performances are on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m.

**OCTOBER 20** Scott Dettra

**NOVEMBER 17** Josh Stafford

**JANUARY 19** Organ with Brass, featuring David Bilger, trumpet

**FEBRUARY 23** Robert McCormick

# THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

SHARON GREY, CHAIR OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

*Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. (JOHN 13:14)*

Approximately 6,000 people experiencing homelessness wander the streets of Philadelphia every day. They weave in and out of the rest of the population that collectively forms the fabric of our city scape. For the most part they are overlooked; invisible to those who are not like them, like a beige backdrop on an otherwise colorful canvas. But some of them, like the mentally ill, leap to the fore briefly gaining our attention as their loud or angry ramblings splash across our consciousness until we pass them by, and their voices fade into the ambient noise of the bustling city streets.

Some of these people experiencing homelessness will come to the doors of Saint Mark's Church on Saturday morning for the Soup Bowl, where they will be warmly welcomed, fed and yes, noticed. For the duration of their meal, they become visible, treated respectfully by hosts and hostesses who are gladdened by the opportunity to serve them, and concerned for the state of their well-being. Here, the host volunteers noticed the persistent inadequacy of foot care and footwear displayed by their clients. Some own a single pair of socks worn continuously and unwashed since obtained, while others had none at all. Shoes barely recognized as such are loosely attached to feet, while some even less fortunate wrapped their feet in rags or went barefooted. The need of these people who spend most of their lives on their feet, outdoors regardless of weather, was indeed urgent.

To address the need for socks, some volunteers had provided them using their own funds. Then they discovered the mission of Bombas Socks to contribute one pair of socks to the those experiencing homelessness for every pair sold. Saint Mark's is now a giving partner of Bombas Socks and in 2018 distributed 3,500 pairs of socks to our guests. This year Bombas has committed to donate 5,000 pairs of socks to Saint Mark's for distribution. The urgency of shoes for those experiencing homelessness was the focus of a presentation developed by the volunteers, and appeals submitted to potential funding sources. The group succeeded in obtaining funding which enabled 170 pairs of boots to be gifted in 2017 and increased to 213 pairs in 2018. This outreach called The Boot Project is now an established component of Saint Mark's service those in need.

The Soup Bowl volunteers continue to grow the mission of Saint Mark's Church as they gather in faith each week and serve those in need in love. Through the gifts of their time, talent, and treasure a beacon of hope shines for the most needy of our community. They are shown that though they may be unkempt or unwashed, they have dignity as the beloved of God and that their health, welfare, and existence matter to the community of his people.



## FACTS OF INTEREST

Average number of people served each Saturday at Saturday Soup Bowl in 2018

**180**

Total served at Saturday Soup Bowl in 2018

**9,359**

Soup served at Saturday Soup Bowl in 2018

**900+ gallons**

Total sock pairs given out in 2018 (including regular Saturday meals, Foot Care Day, and the Boot Project)

**3,500**

Pairs of socks pledged by Bombas for  
**5,000 in 2019 • 1,500 in 2018 • 250 in 2017**

Pairs of boots given out by the Boot Project  
**213 in 2018 • 170 in 2017**

# YOUTH CONFIRMATION

Youth Confirmation classes have begun! Four of our youth have begun the holy journey of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We have recently been joined by a youth from a neighboring parish in the diocese without a regular priest. On May 5, God willing, five youth participating in these classes will be confirmed by Bishop Gutiérrez. These youth are incredibly faithful, extraordinarily intelligent, and are giving many hours of their time to grow in their relationship with Christ. Please keep them in your regular prayers.



## A PROCESS OF REFLECTION ON STRENGTHENING THE PARISH

### A COLONY OF HEAVEN

#### INVITE—WELCOME—CONNECT

Over the past year, various groups in the parish have spent a lot of time thinking, talking, and praying about how we invite, welcome, and connect newcomers to the life of the parish.

The intentional use of Information Cards to gather contact information has been one obvious manifestation of this focus, as well as the ability to send us a selfie through our website.

We will continue to discuss and explore ways that we can be a community that is intentional about being open to the newcomer, the visitor, and the stranger, so that we can be a community that's ready and able to grow. Meanwhile, please remember that the warmest way people find their way to a church for the first time is because someone invites them to come along.

*Will you invite someone to church  
and bring them with you?*



SAINT MARK'S CHURCH  
PHILADELPHIA

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