



THE LION'S MARK

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR SAINT MARK'S CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA

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

TEARS FOR FEAR

— FR. SEAN MULLEN —

THE CROSS WILL FOREVER RESIST BEING BEATEN INTO A SWORD,
THOUGH MANY HAVE TRIED TO DO IT.



When the two slender towers fell that had punctuated the southern end of Manhattan throughout my childhood in and around New York City, I was on the other side of the globe — far away from the city and the nation that I loved.

It was nighttime in Perth, Australia, as the horror unfolded and my neighbors — whose kids had all been born in New York — called me up to ask me to come watch the news with them. They didn't think I should be alone. The next day I went to church and kept a stiff upper lip until I walked outside into the bright Australian sunshine where a good friend was waiting for me. As he

wrapped his arms around me to reassure me, I could no longer hold back my tears.

Those tears were not only tears of sorrow, they were also tears of fear. I had to reach back to childhood to recognize the feeling and the taste of them, having thought that grown-ups outgrew susceptibility to such fear. I remember thinking that I had never seen anything so evil in my life as the terror that lit those flames which sent innocent people hopelessly jumping from smashed windows and caused those towers to collapse on themselves in such eloquent destruction. I suppose my fear was somewhat abated since I was on the other side of the world — it was nonetheless real.

continued on page 3 TEARS →



DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

- Sunday 1 Evensong and Benediction, 3pm
- Friday 7 Evening Prayer and Stations of the Cross, 5:30pm
- Friday 13 Evening Prayer and Stations of the Cross, 5:30pm
- Wednesday 18 Simple Supper, 6:30pm
- Friday 20 Evening Prayer and Stations of the Cross, 5:30pm
- Saturday 21 St. James School Service Day for Families
- Wednesday 25 High Mass for the Feast of the Annunciation, 7pm
- Friday 27 Evening Prayer and Stations of the Cross, 5:30pm
- Saturday 28 Lenten Cleanup Day
- Sunday 29 Palm Sunday
Mass at 8am, 9am and 11am

APRIL

- Wednesday 1 Tenebrae, 7pm
- Thursday 2 Choral High Mass for Maundy Thursday, 7pm
- Friday 3 Solemn Liturgies for Good Friday, 12pm
- Saturday 4 The Great Vigil of Easter, 8pm
- Sunday 5 Easter morning:
Mass at 8am, 9am and 11am;
Easter Egg Hunt for families, 10:00am

NEW PROCESSIONAL CROSS FOR FAMILY MASS



On Sunday, February 8, Father Mullen blessed a new processional cross to be used at the 9:00 Family Mass. The cross was given by Mother Takacs in memory of her mother, Cary Takacs, and was commissioned specifically so that Saint Mark's would have a processional cross that could be carried by a child. This beautiful new piece of liturgical art, which was designed and created by parishioners Davis D'Ambly and Micah McGraw, shows Christ the King crowned in glory and was inspired in part by the tympanum above the Fiske Doors.



I suppose it's that same fear that prevents me from ever wanting to watch the videos, that I gather one can watch, of the various beheadings, burnings, and other cruel propagandist murders carried out recently in the name of another religion. The slightest stirring of curiosity in me is immediately countered by a revulsion at the thought of having to live with such images inside my mind. I don't want to know what such cruelty and evil looks like in this iteration. And I confess to an awareness of a certain anger that stirs in me when I read reports of this evil that challenges my pacifist tendencies, and makes a part of me want to wrest vengeance from the hand of the Lord and take it for my own. The anger, I guess, is one way I compensate for the fear of which I am all too aware.

But I don't want to respond to what's happening in the world around me from either anger or fear. I want to respond from love — for from love flows justice, mercy, and kindness. And if I cannot stand for a life that is shaped by justice, mercy, and kindness, then perhaps it is not life worth standing for. It feels melodramatic to write these words, but we live in fast moving, dangerous times, and there is already a lot of anger and fear about. It could prove difficult to swim against the tide when the time comes.

Most of my generation do not carry with us the memories of the cruelties of war, and there is ample evidence that even older generations who are possessed of such memories have not by them become inoculated to the folly of war. We have proven that there is no war to end all wars. So far we are willing to submit to some cyclical pattern of war and peace almost as if such cycles are as inevitable and as uncontrollable as the seasons themselves.

Meanwhile the consumer culture that permeates and envelopes every aspect of American society (including religion) dangerously insulates many of us. It blocks out both noise and heat that we do not wish to hear or feel. It even invites us to choose our information outlets to be sure we get the kind of insulation that suits us best, truth having faltered in the public square.

The Scriptures tell us that war and violence are, alas, a part of how history unfolds. Fear and anger are well established in the unfolding and will continue to be. Sacred texts testify that in warfare someone is always claiming that God is on their side. But if God is Christ and in him there is no un-Christ-like-ness at all (as the great Archbishop of Canterbury Michael Ramsey said), then we have to be deeply skeptical of any claim that God is on the side of war and violence — no matter if that claim comes from people we like and approve of, or from the voices of sinister evil. For Jesus speaks unconvincingly about violence in his service, if you ask me, but with truer authority when he tells the apostolic rock of his church to sheathe his sword.

The employ of medieval methods of torture and terror seem calculated, at one level, to elicit a similarly medieval response. Maybe it is to spark a new crusade. It was a mistake ever to allow the word or the idea of a crusade to find its way back into the contemporary vernacular. Crusades have no place in the world any more. The

Cross will forever resist being beaten into a sword, though many have tried to do it. We should not be mistaken about who we are or what world we live in. For if we are, we are prone to respond disastrously when challenged with such confounding adversaries who are in fact mistaken about who they are and what world they live in.

I feel new tears welling up in me for fear that the taunting violence so effectively deployed will indeed elicit a violent and bloody response. Of course it already has in some quarters. I realize how easily those tears can trigger the impulse to clench my fists and look for a fight. And just as it feels a little melodramatic to write about all this, it feels a bit naïve to conclude that love is the answer, the posture, the attitude that provides the key for learning how to respond to the evil that is shouting, near the top of its lungs, still at some distance, but in measurable proximity to us. Then I remember that early Christian teaching that assures us that “perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18).

And I begin to suspect that this is precisely what we need to learn — how to align ourselves with perfect love — in order to prevail in the face of evil. And I realize that I am not sure yet what that means, but I am certain that Jesus is calling us at Saint Mark's and in every corner of the church to be the kind of community where we can figure it out. I pray he'll teach us day by day — for he alone is our hope and our salvation.

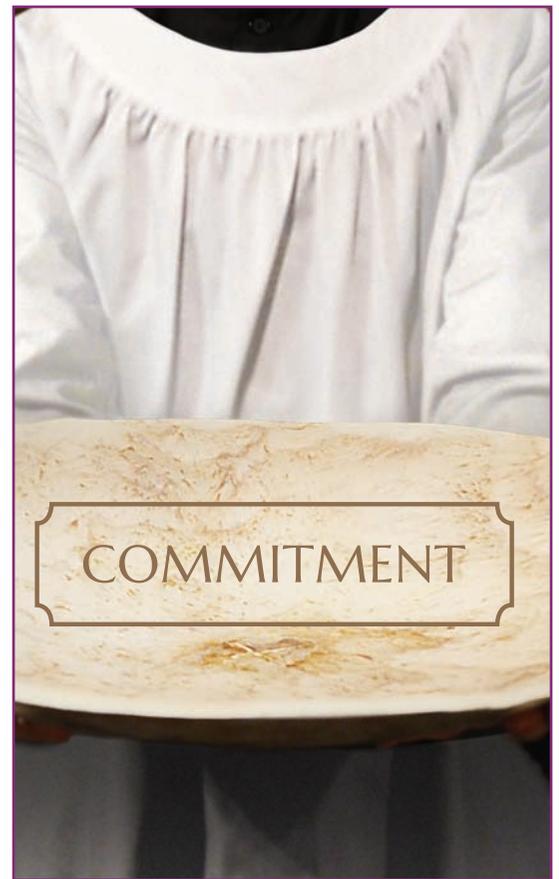


STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN SUCCESS — BARRY LEVIS

The Stewardship Committee thanks all who made the stewardship drive a success this year. A total of \$451,000 was promised by 182 pledging units (that's churches for an individual, family, or household that makes a pledge). Both the dollar amount and number of pledges increased over past campaigns, and both stand at their highest level. That also includes 41 first-time pledges, newcomers or folks who had not previously pledged in the past. We are especially gratified by these new pledges since they represent a healthy growth in our supporters. Undoubtedly this level of financial commitment stands as a testimonial to the mission and ministries of St. Mark's. The vestry now has a clear idea of the resources available for the year ahead and can plan accordingly.

BOTH THE DOLLAR AMOUNT AND NUMBER OF PLEDGES INCREASED OVER PAST CAMPAIGNS, AND BOTH STAND AT THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL

I personally want to thank the tirelessly hard-working members of the Stewardship Committee: Diane Fryer, Pheobe Kornfeld, Roy Clouser, Daniel Austin Green, and Brett Hart. Fr. Mullen has consistently provided wonderful guidance and support. But most of all, our thanks goes to all of you who signed those pledge cards, placed them in the beggar's bowl on Commitment Sunday, and stood by your devotion to St. Mark's. Together we will continue to build Christ's kingdom in our little corner of His world.



KEEPING LENT WITH OUR FAMILIES — ERIKA TAKACS



Over the past several years, Saint Mark's has grown certain traditions around how we keep the season of Lent with our families and children. In the days before Ash Wednesday, we sing every Alleluia song we know and color in the word with the brightest crayons we can find before shutting it away in a big black box, hiding it for the rest of the Lenten season. Each Sunday in Lent, the preachers at our 9:00 Family Mass use that same big black box to reveal something new about the Gospel and our place in the Gospel story. Each week in Schola, we learn songs of the season and prepare for the coming of Holy Week and Easter. We also share our weekly good deeds, placing marbles in a glass jar for each of the acts of kindness and love we've performed over the past week (marbles that miraculously turn into something a little more chocolate and delicious on Easter morning!).

This year, we are adding a new Saint Mark's Lenten tradition. On Palm Sunday, during our normal 10:00 Schola time, our families will be participating in a unique Stations of the Cross, designed especially for children. We will spend this time on this very holy day walking through some of the events of the coming week and talking about how those events impact our own lives. Please join us for this special Schola event!

Also in Lent, our families will be participating in a special service day at the St. James School on Saturday, March 21. We will travel together to St. James to volunteer our time and efforts to help support the good work that is going on there in that holy place in Allegheny West. All children are welcome—we'll have lots of age appropriate activities, even for our youngest disciples.



LITURGY & MUSIC

LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER

MARCH 8TH LENT III

11 AM - CHORAL HIGH MASS

Mass for four voices - Claudio Monteverdi
Deus, deus meus - Roxanna Panufnik
Hide not thou thy face from us,
O Lord - Richard Ferrant

MARCH 15TH LENT IV: LAETARE

11 AM - CHORAL HIGH MASS

Missa in C (Sparrow Mass) - W. A. Mozart
I was glad when they said unto me -
Henry Purcell
God so Loves the World - Hugo Distler

MARCH 22TH LENT V

11 AM - CHORAL HIGH MASS

Missa Mille Regrets - Cristobal de Morales
Judge me, O God - Felix Mendelssohn
O Jesu Christ, mein Lebenslicht - J.S. Bach

MARCH 25TH FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

7 PM - CHORAL HIGH MASS

Missa Virgo Christi Parens -
Jacques Barbireau
Ave Maria - Felix Mendelssohn
Ave Maris Stella - Claudio Monteverdi

MARCH 29TH PALM SUNDAY

8 AM - LOW MASS

9 AM - FAMILY MASS
with Blessing of Palms & Procession
with music by the Boys & Girls Choir

11 AM - CHORAL HIGH MASS

with Blessing of Palms,
Procession & Singing of the Passion
Hosanna to the Son of David
- Orlando Gibbons
Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei
- Eric Whitacre (adapted)
Faithful Cross - Calvin Hampton
Improperium - Orlando di Lasso

APRIL 1ST HOLY WEDNESDAY

7 PM - TENEBRAE

Psalms - Gregorian Chant
Motets - Carlo Gesualdo
Benedictus es - James Testa

APRIL 2ND MAUNDY THURSDAY

7 PM - CHORAL HIGH MASS WITH FOOT WASHING, PROCESSION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & STRIPPING OF ALTARS

PREACHER: FR. MULLEN

Bright Mass with Canons - Nico Muhly / Missa
Pange Lingua - Josquin dePrez
Mandatum - Plainsong
Ubi Caritas - Maurice Durufle
Love, bade me welcome - David Hurd
O Sacrum Convivium - Vytautas Miskinis
Ave Verum - David Carpenter

APRIL 3RD GOOD FRIDAY

12 NOON - THE PROPER LITURGIES OF GOOD FRIDAY WITH THE SOLEMN COLLECTS, VENERATION OF THE CROSS, SINGING OF THE PASSION & MASS OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED

PREACHER: MOTHER TAKACS

St. John Passion - Victoria
Beneath the Cross - Ed Rex
Improperium - Victoria
Crux Fidelis - Glandorf
Crucifixus - Antonio Lotti

APRIL 4TH HOLY SATURDAY

8 PM - THE GREAT VIGIL & FIRST MASS OF EASTER

PREACHER: MOTHER TAKACS

Responsories and Motets; gregorian,
Fauxbourdon, Palestrina, Testa
Messe Solenelle - Jean Langlais
Sing ye to the Lord - Edward Bairstow
Dum Transisset - John Taverner

APRIL 5TH EASTER DAY

8 AM - LOW MASS

9 AM - FAMILY MASS

with music by the Boys & Girls Choir

11 AM - SOLEMN HIGH MASS WITH PROCESSION

PREACHER: FR. MULLEN

Music by the Parish Choir with Orchestra:
Mass in G - Franz Schubert
Sing ye to the Lord - Edward Bairstow
Alleluia - Eric Whitacre



It is sometimes said that Flannery O'Connor perfected her ability to portray characters by working as a cartoonist for her student newspaper at Georgia State College for Women.

It's true that her cartoons, like most, feature small details that are sketched in exaggerated ways.

We are invited to draw conclusions about cartoon figures at a glance. O'Connor's fictional characters are sometimes rendered this way, too. A nose, a grimace, or an awkward way of dressing will loom large in a cartoon, giving us a key to the character's nature. A hat or an affectation will stand in for a whole way of life — a whole set of attitudes.

Lent is supposed to be a time for looking more deeply, isn't it? Why would we want to deal in caricatures during this season?

O'Connor's characters typically suffer from the ability to deal in anything but caricature. They often have fixed ideas about one another, attitudes about race or respectability or family honor that render them unable to see past the surface. But under the surface is where O'Connor locates all the most important energies. In the frustrations that cause her characters to boil over with rage or hatred, in the depressing smallness of home-town life that stifles ambition, in the habitual resentments that bind family members together, O'Connor depicts a thousand missed opportunities to confront reality, and ultimately God. She asks us to see ourselves in these caricatures even as we laugh at the characters who can't see anything else. And once we identify with them, we are headed for trouble along with them.

If you haven't yet had a chance to read any of O'Connor's short stories, I urge you to pick up a copy of *Everything That Rises Must Converge* and see for yourself what the fuss is about.

ONE BOOK, ONE LENT: EVERYTHING THAT RISES MUST CONVERGE

Join the rest of the parish in reading Flannery O'Connor's powerful volume of short stories, first published in 1965. You can participate in conversations about the book during Lent by attending some of the following:

Open Reading Group with Mother Johnson, open to all:
Saturday February 28 at 11am. "Parker's Back"

Open Reading Group with Mother Johnson, open to all:
Saturday March 21 at 11am. "Revelation."



"Do you have any books the faculty doesn't particularly recommend?"

SUNDAY FORUM

ONE BOOK ONE LENT SERIES

MARCH 1

MOTHER NORA JOHNSON, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AT SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, "EVERYTHING THAT RISES MUST CONVERGE."

An educated white liberal son despises his simple-minded Christian mother for her racism, her pretensions, and her determination to sacrifice everything for him. Tensions simmer on a bus ride downtown. We'll talk about seeing ourselves in Flannery O'Connor's deeply flawed characters.

MARCH 8

PHILLIP CARY, PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AT EASTERN UNIVERSITY, "REVELATION."

In this short story by Flannery O'Connor, a self-righteous woman has a vision of souls ascending to heaven and begins to consider whether she is on the wrong path. Join Phil Cary for a discussion of grace and redemption in this ironic tale.

MARCH 15

ROY CLOUSER, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AT THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY, "THE ENDURING CHILL."

A young white writer with a mysterious illness moves in with his mother in the South, and makes painfully awkward attempts to associate with her African-American farmhands. Roy Clouser will lead us in a discussion of Flannery O'Connor's brutal insights into self-delusion and redemption.

MARCH 22: ONE BOOK, ONE LENT

PHILLIP CARY, PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AT EASTERN UNIVERSITY, "PARKER'S BACK."

An unruly young man marries a fundamentalist and ends up bearing the image of Jesus almost in spite of himself. We'll talk about how grace pursues us in the most unlikely places.

MARCH 29: ONE BOOK, ONE LENT

PANEL DISCUSSION: MOTHER JOHNSON AND MEMBERS OF THE SAINT MARK'S COMMUNITY, "WHAT IT WAS LIKE."

An open discussion about what we experienced when we chose Flannery O'Connor for our companion this Lent. Were we "One church?" What does it mean to be one church?





600 POUNDS OF CHICKEN

— JAMES ROLL

SHARE is a food agency we work with and recently called Saint Mark's with a simple question: Do you want some chicken? The obvious answer is, "Of course I want chicken in order to give out to our clients." The logistics of getting the chicken from their warehouse to our freezers was the challenge. One early morning a few weeks back, a friend and I hopped into my car and soon arrived to find a short line of cars waiting for their turn to load. We jumped out to help those before us, and much to our delight (and horror?) the chicken came in boxes weighing 40 pounds each. Once our turn came, we loaded up 600 pounds of chicken into the car and drove back to Saint Mark's where we somehow managed to store all 600 pounds into fridge and freezer. I'll be thanking someone for making me do puzzles, or Tetris — it sure came in handy! I was pleasantly surprised by how quickly the chicken flew off our tables in the Food Cupboard. Moreover I appreciated the gratitude that many exhibited for the chicken — it made the challenge of carrying 600 pounds of chicken worth it.



SAINT MARK'S CHURCH
PHILADELPHIA

1625 LOCUST STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103
WWW.SAINTMARKSPHILADELPHIA.ORG

20S/30S UPDATES

Our next Simple Supper will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30pm, hosted by Mother Takacs at the Marine Club on South Broad Street. All 20s/30s are welcome for an evening of simple and holy worship, lively conversation and laughter, and delicious food. This month in particular we will also be participating in the parish's "One Book, One Lent" by looking at the short story "Revelation" by Flannery O'Connor. To RSVP, and for directions, please contact Mother Takacs.

And here are some upcoming events to put in your calendar: dinner with the Center City Young Episcopalians on Wednesday, April 15 at St. Luke and The Epiphany (330 South 13th Street) and additional Simple Suppers on Wednesday, May 20, and Wednesday, June 17.



SCHOLA

Laura Spagnoli
teaches the Godly
Play story of
Noah's ark