



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.

THE PEOPLE OF SAINT MARK'S

— FR. SEAN MULLEN —



NEARLY EVERY
INTERESTING AND
IMPORTANT
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AT THE PARISH
HAS TO DO WITH
THE PEOPLE HERE

More often than I should, I make the mistake of telling people that Saint Mark's is the brownstone church on Locust Street, between 16th and 17th Streets. This fact is indisputable, as far as it goes, but it doesn't go far enough: nearly every interesting and important thing going on at the parish has to do with the people here.

This summer, even as we have been wrapping up a construction project that has kept me thinking about stone and slate, it's the people of Saint Mark's (and the way they are being built into an holy temple, as the Scriptures say) that are clearly making this parish the community and the place that it is, thus has it ever been.

It seems to me like the summer has been spent saying goodbye to some and hello to others—a sensation all the more poignant at the first commencement for the founding students of St. James School. We've also said hello or good bye or congratulations to musicians, Ministry Residents, kids at Choir Camp, clergy, couples getting married, and more.

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Sometimes life feels provisional and transient in a city like this, sometimes it seems exciting and unpredictable, sometimes a bit of each. Even just updating the directory, as we are doing this summer, is a reminder of who the living stones of this parish community really are. Most of what I've had to write in preparation for this

newsletter reflects my various preoccupations this summer: the comings and goings of the people of this parish.

Jesus called a community of people into being around himself, and commissioned that community to go, and spread the message about a way of life. We are the inheritors of that commission, and the practitioners of that way of life. We are his people.

Coming and going, growing, living and dying, or just changing addresses, we are his people. It is my joy, day by day, to give thanks for you all, the holy people of God and the blessed community of our Lord that is Saint Mark's. Thanks be to God!

BLESSINGS TO MOTHER MARIE

This summer, Mother Marie Swayze made a gift of a new set of green High Mass vestments in loving memory of her late husband, Richard, a friend to so many of us at Saint Mark's.



At the same time, Mother Marie shared the news that she would be leaving Philadelphia and moving to Massachusetts to live with one of her sons and his wife, who are expecting a child later this year.

Mother Marie served as Interim Rector of Saint Mark's in 1996. She went on to be the Rector of St. Peter's Phoenixville, during which time she co-founded The Clinic, a free medical clinic serving people with no health insurance in the Phoenixville area. When she retired, Mother Marie accepted Fr. Mullen's invitation to be one of the priest associates of the parish, providing pastoral care and liturgical support. Richard had long been a parishioner of Saint Mark's. The Swayzes both poured a lot of sweat and a lot of heart into the founding of St. James School, where they were regular fixtures during the early days. Mother Marie was the founding Chaplain of the school.

Mother Marie has offered many gifts here at Saint Mark's with a spirit of generosity and great faith. We hope she will make regular return visits to be with us. Although we know she will love her new ministry as a grandmother, and whatever else she should decide to take on, we will miss her here.

NEW IN MUSIC AT SAINT MARK'S

INTERIM ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER SIMON THOMAS JACOBS

Early in August the Rector announced the appointment of Simon Thomas Jacobs to be Interim Organist & Choirmaster of Saint Mark's. Mr. Jacobs received his training in his native England, as organ scholar at All Saints, Margaret Street, then at Clare College, Cambridge. In 2009 he moved to the US, to take up the post of Associate Director of Music at Christ Church Greenwich, CT. Since that time, Simon has made America his permanent home holding subsequent positions at Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis, IN and Church of the Ascension, Chicago, IL. Most recently, he completed an Artist's Diploma in Organ Performance at Oberlin College where he was also a graduate teaching assistant. In the summer of 2013, Simon won First Prize and the Audience Prize at the prestigious St Albans International Organ Competition, which set him off on a series of international solo performances. He'll take up his work at Saint Mark's just after Labor Day.



Mr. Jacobs will be the principal musician of the parish, providing leadership for both the adult Parish Choir and the Boys & Girls Choir. He'll be guiding us through a period of transition, with a particular focus on shaping an integrated music program that is itself well integrated in the life of the parish.

A small committee assisted the Rector in the focused search for an interim. That committee (Erika Takacs, David Marshall, Addie Peyronnin, Barbara Mische, Martha Johnson) will continue to provide advice and counsel as a process to discern how to fill the position on a more permanent basis unfolds. We look forward to Mr. Jacobs's first Sunday with us on Homecoming Sunday, 13 September.

BRYAN DUNNEWALD, of Arvada, Colorado, is a student in the studio of Alan Morrison at the Curtis Institute of Music, where he pursues a Bachelor's degree in organ performance. In May 2014, he graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy, receiving the Academy's highest awards in the arts, academics, citizenship and character. Bryan is a composer, having written works for ensembles and soloists alike; he also enjoys improvisation, and has accompanied dance classes (entirely improvised) for the Interlochen Dance Company. Bryan is the 2013 recipient of the first prize, high school division, and the hymn-playing award at the national Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Competition. He has performed solo concerts in many states and venues, and enjoys collaborating with other artists and large ensembles including the Colorado Symphony.



CLARA GERDES, originally from Davidson, North Carolina, is a sophomore at the Curtis Institute of Music where she studies organ with Alan Morrison and harpsichord with Leon Schelhase. She was the winner of the 2014 Albert Schweitzer organ competition and a recipient of the Pogorzelski-Yankee scholarship sponsored by the American Guild of Organists. She is a frequent collaborator and chamber musician, performing with the Curtis Symphony Orchestra and the Curtis Opera Orchestra during the 2014-2015 school year, and was recently one of two organ scholars for the Charlotte, North Carolina Royal School of Church Music summer training course.

SAINT MARK'S WELCOMES A VERGER



NOAH STANSBURY has been appointed to serve as Verger of Saint Mark's, and will be overseeing the logistics of the parish's liturgical life, organizing the upkeep of buildings, and serving as point person for communications. Noah recently finished a term as Volunteer and Church Relations Coordinator at St. James School, where he also incidentally slipped into the role of sacristan and head of the Acolyte

Guild. He has been a member of Saint Mark's since March 2014, having come to Philadelphia at the invitation of the diocese's Servant Year program.

Noah holds a degree in biblical studies from Geneva College in

Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. Noah hails from an Air Force family that managed to stay mostly in the Deep South, and he has lived in seven states and two nations. Although raised as an evangelical and spending some time in the Eastern Orthodox Church, he was received into the Episcopal Church in 2013 after encountering the Anglican tradition in college. Some of his great loves are cats, the city of Pittsburgh, and books he will never have time to read.

Several years ago Saint Mark's had to reduce staff because of budgetary constraints, and eliminated two full-time positions. As Noah helps us shape this new position he is also picking up some of the responsibilities that have been spread amongst other staff and volunteers while we were so short-handed. We look forward to his start in the second half of August.



The SEASONS *of* MINISTRY

A Pattern of Preparation and Thanksgiving for the Ministries of Worship at Saint Mark's

Every autumn in the church we begin the church's program year (that mirrors the academic year), the first of three new years that we will celebrate.

Then, very late in November or early December every year we celebrate the beginning of the church's liturgical year on Advent Sunday. Eventually, on January 1, we will celebrate with everyone else the new year of the secular calendar. In some sense, this pattern means that in the church we function with three calendars operating at the same time, overlaid on one another, and always interacting with one another.

Ministry unfolds within the seasons of these three calendars, and the ministry of a healthy parish church depends on the collective ministry of its people, offering their gifts and using them for the worship of God, service to the poor, the advancement of the church, and the up-building of the kingdom of God. At Saint Mark's a great deal of that ministry is involved with worship, and we depend on dozens and dozens of people to be involved with and committed to their ministries as acolytes, choristers, lectors, ushers, altar guild members, and officiants of the Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer.

This year we are inaugurating a 3-part cycle of recognition, recruiting, and training for all those involved in (or who want to be involved in) the ministries connected to worship in the church: those in the Altar Guild, Guild of Servers (acolytes), Lectors, Ushers, and Officiants. The 3-part cycle will include the following component parts.

SAINT MARK'S ACADEMY SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER, 1 PM

All members of the groups mentioned above are invited to lunch following the High Mass, and asked to gather afterward for a time of preparation for the year that's unfolding, making note of important issues in the life of the church, making sure that all involved are familiar with their duties and responsibilities, checking in to see that problematic issues are addressed. We will also use this gathering as a focal point to which to invite new people to participate in each of these ministries and to incorporate them into the life and work of each one.

THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH (MARCH 19)

This usually falls some time before Holy Week begins. This year Easter is very early and so St. Joseph's Day is the day before Palm Sunday. All members of these ministry groups will be invited to a Low Mass, a short reflection of preparation for Holy Week, and a shared meal together before we set out on to take on all the demanding work of Holy Week.

THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION, MAY 5

This day falls 40 days after Easter. We'll hold a festive dinner for the members of all these ministries following the High Mass, giving thanks to God and to all of you for your wonderful commitment and hard work. We'll ask the Choir to join us on this day too, since their ministry is so crucial to the worship of this parish community.

If you are involved with any of these ministries, please plan on coming to church on Sunday, Oct 18, and staying after the High Mass for lunch at 1 pm, and a time for some organization, training, and preparation for the year ahead of us. We should be concluded by 2:30 that afternoon. The ministries involved: Altar Guild; Guild of Servers (Sunday and weekday masses); Lectors; Ushers; Officiants of the Daily Office



Our choristers sing with guest choir director Sheridan Seyfried



Laura Spagnoli tells a story



Crafts with Matt Fischetti



So proud!

SUMMER CHOIR CAMP 2015

Once again this year Saint Mark's was host to a wonderful Summer Choir Camp, with choristers and campers (from 3-14) spending a week within our walls—singing, dancing, hearing Bible stories, praying, and learning more about themselves and their relationships with God.

JOIN US! 20s/30s SIMPLE SUPPERS

2015-2016 DATES

OCTOBER 21	MARCH 16
NOVEMBER 18	APRIL 20
DECEMBER 16	MAY 18
JANUARY 20	JUNE 15
FEBRUARY 17	JULY 20

Beginning in September, our Saint Mark's 20s/30s group will begin another year of Simple Suppers. These monthly gatherings have become a tradition here, as members of our young adult group and their friends enjoy easy, delicious meals; share in simple worship in one of their homes; and take time to relax and get to know one another.

This year, we will be adding a few elements to our Simple Suppers. Every other month we will be doing something else in addition to eating and praying together. In October, we will spend time talking about the little book *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence. You're welcome to read the whole book (which isn't very long at all!) or a little excerpt that I'll send out in advance of the gathering. In December,

we're going to meet at Saint Mark's to experience a more prayerful, worshipful meal during the holy season of Advent. We're also planning to spend one of our suppers cooking together as we prepare a meal for the Saturday Soup Bowl. Fear not! There will still be plenty of time for fellowship and developing new friendships. And, of course, plenty of good eating.

Our next Simple Supper will be held on September 16 at the home of Corinna Franklin and Rey Ramirez. The full schedule is below. Please contact Mother Takacs for more information or to RSVP to the September gathering.

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

JOSHUA CASTAÑO

In May and June of this year members of the parish came together to reflect on questions about St. Mark's in conversations facilitated by members of the Stewardship Committee. As we come into fall the Stewardship Committee will honor and build on our conversations this year with some exciting events that will be open to all and announced a little later. The time you offered to these conversations, as well as the sincerity and enthusiasm of all who participated is another valuable and generous gift!

St. Mark's is a brief interlude of garden, tower, prayer, and service in the midst of Philadelphia. This outpost on Locust Street is also a household. As spiritual brothers and sisters, we've become part of the same spiritual family, sharing God's invitation to live with Him in our midst and as our heavenly parent. The word economy may seem remote from the patterns of life in our spiritual household, but this word which is so important to our contemporary world, in fact originates from two ancient Greek words that combined mean in their initial form, "household management."

So in this spiritual household, what form of economy organizes our work and relationships together? Well, if the Eucharist is our first indication the God's overwhelming gift of Himself. What follows from that celebration of Thanksgiving for God's gifts is a ongoing and community of incredible giving and sharing -- the meals served on Saturday morning; the children of St. James School learning, laughing, and building a future of brighter hope; helping children be welcomed into the life of the church through song and play; assisting with liturgies that evidence the incomparable beauty of holiness; or individuals finding medical care in a mountaintop village on another continent, and even the men and women who find solace in our parish hall on an average weekday to support their sobriety -- all these and so many more illustrate a powerful type of economy here. We aren't exchanging these good things, these rich gifts of self, service and resources for anything in expectation or return. We are giving away an abundance of God's love and his Kingdom's riches to one another, to strangers, and to the community and world that surrounds us. The economy of God's household, and the parish of St. Mark's is generosity!



FAMILIES AT SAINT MARK'S

SUMMER CHOIR CAMP. THE BOYS AND GIRLS CHOIR. SCHOLA. THE ADVENT PAGEANT.

All of these family activities are new to Saint Mark's within the past few years, and all are thriving. And yet there is much more on the horizon! Below is a schedule of our family activities for the remainder of the year. There are opportunities for getting to know one another, service together as a family, and holy experiences of prayer and worship. I hope that all of our families will put these dates on your calendars and use them as an opportunity to invite a friend or a neighborhood family to Saint Mark's.

September 13	Family Welcome Brunch, 10am in the Church Garden
October 17	Family Game Day, 11am
November 21	Soup Making/Advent Clean-up Day, 11am
December 13	Advent Pageant, 2pm
January 17	Family Brunch, 10am to start the week of Christian unity
February 9	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
March 4	Family Lenten Dinner
March 27	Easter Egg Hunt
April 16	Garden Work Day
May 22	End of Year Picnic



DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST

Saturday 15 Welcome ministry residents arrive (see back page)

SEPTEMBER

Monday 7 Offices closed – Labor Day; daily office read privately, one Mass only, 10:00am

Thursday 10 Choral Mattins Choral Mattins for the British Officers' Club in celebration of the reign of Queen Elizabeth - 11:00am

Saturday 12 St. James 3rd Annual 5k • Kelly Drive, 8am start (more at www.StJamesPhila.org)

Sunday 13 Homecoming Sunday Picnic following 11am Choral High Mass

Wednesday 16 20s/30s Simple Supper - 6:30pm
At the home of Corinna Franklin and Rey Ramirez

OCTOBER

Sunday 4 Choral Evensong & Blessing of the Animals
Animal blessing in garden, 3pm; Choral Evensong, 3:30pm

INFANTS MINISTRY

Pre-Schola will begin this fall on September 20 at 10:00 a.m. in the Saint Mark's Nursery.

Parents (at least one) and children from 0-36 months are welcome to join us for 20 minutes of storytelling, singing, and musical play. All babies and toddlers are most welcome – please contact Mother Takacs for more information.



SCHOLA AND PRE-SCHOLA BOTH RESUME ON SEP 20, WITH FAMILY BRUNCH SEP 13

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On Sunday, October 4, in celebration of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, we will gather in the garden at 3 pm for the blessing of Animals, followed by a service of Choral Evensong at 3:30 pm, sung by the Parish Choir. As always, your pets are invited to come into church and join us for Evensong, as long as they can fit through the west doors, behave themselves in church, and sing more or less in tune.

10:00 FORUM

CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

Every Sunday at 10am, our parish gathers for discussion and teaching on topics that matter to us as Christians. Usually our talks are energetic and fulfilling, with lots of great ideas in the air. But what do we do when we get home? What does it really look like to put Christianity in practice? Inspired by the book *Practicing our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People*, edited by Dorothy C. Bass, this year's Forum will have a special focus on Christian Practices, the things we do day in and day out that shape us and make us Christ-like.

Each month we will look at one area of practice that shapes Christian life, or perhaps should be shaping our lives more than it does. You can see the list below. I know that looking at this list I'm immediately challenged to reflect on my own ability to forgive, to offer hospitality, to speak honestly about God's work in my life, to know how to spend my money. But I'm also excited about deepening my engagement with these crucial aspects of faith. If we don't take Christian practice seriously we cheat ourselves out of a more vivid life with God. But we cheat others, too, out of an experience of Christ.

Here at Saint Mark's we are collectively longing for the transformation of the world. Saint Paul talks about how "the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 8:22-3). I have a hunch that talking about what a Christian life looks like might occasion a few groans. Just how hard is it going to be to live simply or pray regularly? Will it be like going on a (futile, frustrating, hungry) diet? I hope and expect, though, that this focus on material practices will also bring us to transformation and celebration.

Is it possible that we can all know a deeper sense of freedom in being children of God? Maybe this year we can move a little closer to finding out. I certainly look forward to hearing more from all of you about what it means to live as a redeemed believer.

— NORA JOHNSON

SEPTEMBER: SHAPING COMMUNITIES

September 13: Mother Nora Johnson, "A Year of Christian Practices: Shaping our Community." What does it mean to follow Jesus? What do Christians do? What does a Christian community look like? This year, though we'll address many topics, we will keep coming back to the idea of a specifically Christian practice. Join Mother Johnson for an introduction to the year's Forum, with a special emphasis on the things we do that shape our community in sometimes surprising ways.

September 20: School Sunday. Staff members from St. James School, founded and supported by our parish, will come talk to us about the new opportunities and challenges facing this wonderful institution. Here is a great chance to ask questions, get inspired, and get to know people who are doing crucial work to build an educational community in the name of Christ.

September 27: Joshua Castaño, "How Technology Shapes Communities." We know that Facebook helps members of our parish keep in touch, and our webpage helps us communicate with the rest of the world, but how do social media shape our lives together? Come think with Joshua Castaño of Partners for Sacred Spaces about what a technologically-active parish might offer to the world, and what difficulties we may face.

OCTOBER: HOUSEHOLD ECONOMICS

October 4: Mother Nora Johnson, "Christ and Consumers." We live in a culture that urges us to over-consume money, food, drink, time, and everything else we can get. What does Christianity have to say about consuming? What's the relationship between over-consumption and a God who says, "This is my Body. Take and eat?"

October 11: Joshua Castaño, "God and Gifts." One way to talk about God's love for us is to talk about God as giving us a gift. What does it mean to understand ourselves as recipients? Join Joshua Castaño of Partners for Sacred Spaces to talk the relationship between God's gift-giving and our everyday economic lives. What does the recipient of a gift do?

October 18: Stewardship Sunday. Members of the Stewardship Committee at St. Mark's will talk to us about being a community shaped by and sustained by giving.

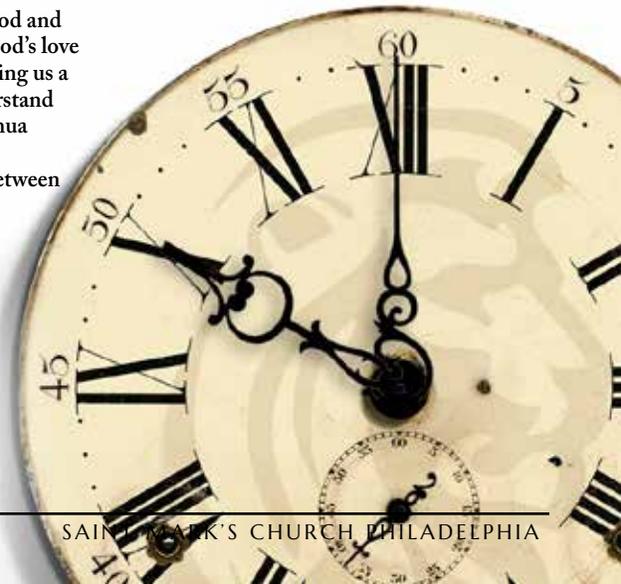
October 25: Mother Nora Johnson, "How Do We Live Simply?" The history of Christianity has included a wide range of financial and material practices. Some pursue wealth, some volunteer for poverty, some are uncertain and plagued by guilt, envy, and uncertainty. This will be a down-to-earth discussion about how we determine what we need and how God calls us to live.

NOVEMBER: KEEPING SABBATH

November 1: Mother Nora Johnson, "Praying With the Kalendar." Saint's days and other commemorations occur throughout the liturgical year, and we are invited to pray along with the Church and this "great cloud of witnesses." This very Sunday is the "Feast of All Saints." How does praying with the saints through the year shape us as Christians? How is it related to the notion of a Sabbath?

November 8: Professor Ellen Charry, "What is Christian Sabbath?" Many of us are familiar with the observance of a Sabbath day in Judaism. Join Prof. Ellen Charry of Princeton Seminary as she talks about the relationship between Christianity and the practice of the Sabbath.

November 15: Professor Phillip Cary, "Sabbath Keeping." Professor Phillip Cary of Eastern University will talk to us about the Sabbath as "a front-line defense against being swallowed up by our work and its anxieties, our inflated desire to lean in, make a difference and change the world." Learn about the Scriptural background for this practice, and its deep importance for us and for the world.



NEW MINISTRY RESIDENTS



PATRICK KEOUGH Archbishop Oscar Romero urged each one of us to be God's microphone; people who work tirelessly to amplify the voices of the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed. As the new Outreach Ministry Resident at Saint Mark's, I look forward to working with the parish to strengthen its outward focus and to continue to grow as a community in the

Body of Christ. I grew up in Massachusetts and recently graduated from Drew University with a degree in comparative religion. I do hope you introduce yourself to me when you see me around St Mark's and I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you as we work together to build up the Kingdom of God.



MARY STRAND Coming to us from Buffalo, NY, Mary has spent the bulk of her life in Western New York State with six years in Central America during childhood. She recently graduated from Houghton College (a small, liberal arts school in Upstate New York) where she explored intercultural studies and psychology, the former allowing her to travel and share the life experiences of people with different cultures and perspectives.

Mary enjoys reading, birding, playing soccer, drinking coffee, and exploring new places. "I already feel grateful to you for inviting me to share in your community," says Mary. "I am incredibly excited for the opportunity to learn, serve, and grow alongside you all. I am especially eager to discover further with you all what Christian living means as I participate in community with those of you who are a part of St. Mark's, as well as the broader community."

A NOTE ABOUT THE PAPAL VISIT

The visit of Pope Francis to Philadelphia this September is expected to cause unprecedented disruptions in travel, transportation and movement around the city. Although we do not believe the Pope has any plans to visit us at Saint Mark's, if he should decide to do so at the last minute we would want him to find his Anglican brothers and sisters here doing precisely what we are called to do: worshipping God in the Mass, in the same ancient tradition that is well-known to him. **All regularly scheduled services will take place during the Papal visit, including all regular Sunday Masses: at 8, 9, and 11 am.** The Boys & Girls Choir will not sing at the 9 am Family Mass. Reduced choral forces will be on hand (if possible) at the 11 am High Mass. We know that many of you may have difficulty making your way to Saint Mark's. If you can't get here, go to church somewhere else, or go to the papal Mass on the Parkway (probably no one will check to see if you are an Episcopalian). Pope Francis has had a remarkable and unusual ministry in the church that many of us regard with deep respect and gratitude. *The occasion of his visit should also be an opportunity for us to remember to pray for him in his important ministry, and for all our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic church, with whom we share one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism.*



SAINT MARK'S CHURCH
PHILADELPHIA

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Homecoming Sunday

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13

The choirs return, 10 am Forum resumes, Schola resumes, with a new Pre-Schola for kids 0-36 months, and a parish picnic takes place in the gardens following the 11am High Mass. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share!