

# THE LION

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## *Message from the Rector*

*“You will be sorrowful,  
but your sorrow will turn into joy.”*

**St John 16:20**

I am writing this just after the beginning of Lent. The rest of the country is still gripped in either snow or otherwise unpleasant winter weather, but today – again – there is not a cloud in the sky, and trees are budding, and the weather app on my iPhone reads 73 degrees. How on earth is it even possible to think of Lent at a time like this?

Perhaps I have been somewhat spoiled by having grown up here in Vero Beach. Even during our coldest winters, the cold days soon turn to cool days, and the cool days turn to comfortable days...all leading up to a day like today: a beautiful day. And I can't remember it ever having been any different.

But perhaps I need to experience the long, gray, cold of winter to better appreciate what 73 degrees and 52 percent humidity in the middle of March is really all about. In other words, how can I truly appreciate something that I haven't longed for, like the people in the frozen North and Midwest seem to long for days like today? That's a good question. And there is a direct relationship between it and the manner in which we keep the forty days of Lent.

For instance, if I don't keep the Lenten fast in a truly sacrificial manner, will I really appreciate it when Easter Sunday finally comes around and it is time to break that fast for yet another year? And if I haven't spent time examining my life and then truly trying to remove the sins that I find there, will I truly appreciate it when I reflect on what our Lord did for us on Good Friday afternoon, and rejoice with a heart that is overflowing with joy on Easter Sunday morning? I guess what I am really asking is this: Will I truly appreciate what Easter Sunday and the entire Easter season means if I haven't kept Lent the way I should?

I suppose it is a lot like me walking to the mailbox to get the mail under a clear-blue sky and with a warm ocean breeze blowing in my face: how can I really appreciate this if I haven't experienced the other?

By the time you read this, we will be nearing the end of Lent. If you haven't yet kept a sacrificial Lent, why not do so for what is left of it? That way, when Easter Sunday finally does come around, and we all say “Good-bye” to Lent for another year, we will be ready to both see it go *and* ready to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday morning. We really can't appreciate one without the other. Amen.

*n.b.* As I write, this is also the first of the three Ember Days in Lent. As you may remember, the Ember Days are three days – Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday – that have been set apart four times per year as days on which the Church prays for vocations. As you may also remember, the Vestry has budgeted a curate's stipend in our current operating budget. Please join me in praying that our search for the right candidate to fill this curacy will be successful. You will find the prayer for vocations on page 260 of your prayer book.

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## *Confirmation... for the Confirmed*

Beginning in late fall or early winter, Fr. Mike will once again hold a Confirmation class for all those who are in need of the Sacrament of Confirmation. All who have not been Confirmed by a Bishop in Apostolic Succession (i.e., Anglican/Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, or Eastern Orthodox) are strongly encouraged to attend. Fr. Mike will schedule an Episcopal visit by Bishop Grundorf once the class is completed.

As he has done in the past, Fr. Mike will hold this class during the adult Sunday School hour (9:00 a.m.). He also encourages all who have been Confirmed, but would like a refresher on our tradition, to attend the class as well.

The material used for this class will be new to us. Special thanks to Bishop Stephen Scarlett for permission to use his inquirer's class/Confirmation manual. If you would like to get a head start, you can download the manual at <http://www.stmatthewsnewport.com/resources/inquirers-class>. More information will follow.

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## *Music Notes*

Kathleen Knott, Music Director

*When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves  
no room for pride, it is as if the whole creation cried Alleluia!  
Hymn # 420 Verse 1 1982 Hymnal*

I thought it appropriate to recognize St. Mark's hard working choir during this busy part of the liturgical year. Our small but mighty vocal choir represents a variety of ages and backgrounds. Every week they come together as a choral unit for Wednesday night rehearsal and for Sunday service to praise God and enhance worship.

Since she was a young girl, Sherry Garrett has been singing in a choir. She has a wealth of knowledge about our Anglican tradition and the 1940 Hymnal. With this knowledge, she helps me with hymn selection each month. Sheila Ward comes from a Baptist background and is always willing to use her beautiful voice to sing alto or soprano. She is a continual source of calm, strength and worshipfulness in our small group.

Though Sara Ward is only nine years old, she has the voice and focus of a much older child. We are blessed by her presence and vocal ability.

Paul Dodson and Mel Knott hold down the back row in our choir. Paul is always upbeat and willing to work hard to learn parts. He started singing and playing guitar in the 60's in a rock and roll band and has since evolved to church musician. Mel Knott sang as a choir boy in the Catholic Church. He is vocally gifted and dedicated. He is also the "work horse" of the group. He sets up and cleans up every week.

I would be remiss not to recognize our newly formed handbell choir. There will be more to come about this group in our next issue. In addition, we still miss Jack Haley. He, along with Sheila Ward, was one of the original members of the St. Mark's choir. He recently retired after many years of experience in various choirs. I listen for him in the congregation. Please remember to give thanks for these dedicated musicians in your prayers.

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## *Lay Pastoral Care*

Lay Pastoral Team

This group is continuing to read the book; Can the Pastor do it Alone? by Melvin Steinbron. This book, as well as the related video, is used to guide their discussion, education, and discovery. We ask that you continue to pray for God's blessing, wisdom, and clear direction.

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## ***Women's Bible Study***

Linda Philpott

The women's bible study group has just wrapped up a study on the first book of Samuel and is studying the second book of Samuel until April 31. The class members have been inspired by the word of God revealing the exploits of real people, their successes and failures, and the divine influence God had in their lives. We welcomed Ann Dozetos and Wanza Murray as first time class members and Lisa Brenemann as a returning member. At the suggestion of one of the class members, we will study the book of Luke for the entire year, beginning in the fall.

This ministry has meant a great deal to me for two reasons: it was my Damascus road experience and it exposed me to one of my spiritual gifts. I did not encounter a dramatic reawakening of my relationship to God, but rather, the opportunity to participate in an in-depth study of God's Word, heightened my understanding of the Lord, His Word, and my place in His family. After participating in Bible studies for a number of years, I was asked, along with several other ladies, to lead classes at my church in Virginia, as our leader felt led to pursue some other ministries. Reluctantly, we went to leader training, not sure what path we would be taking. But God opened the door for me to co-lead with another class member, Mary Jane Thompson. It came as a great surprise that I had the gift of teaching, but this gift became clear as Mary Jane Thompson and I led classes for ten years. It has been a privilege to lead the ladies here at St. Mark's. I also thank Father Mike for his ongoing support of this ministry.

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## ***Daughters of the Holy Cross***

Carol Strong, President

Sheryl Vittitoe, Secretary

We want to thank all who have joined us for coffee and refreshments in February and March. We have enjoyed good fellowship and it has been a wonderful opportunity to meet a number of visitors. We would like to invite you for coffee and refreshments following the 10:00 a.m. service on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

We are interested in expanding this chapter; a new member's class is forming for this summer. If you would like more information or would like to join, please contact Carol Strong (cstrongmom@aol.com) or Sheryl Vittitoe (ssvittitoe@yahoo.com).

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## ***"...To the Least of These..."***

Charlie Garrett

For over thirty years I have been involved with youth organizations (sports, Boy Scouts, counseling, etc.) as a coach, official, leader and administrator. Success was often measured in terms of numbers enrolled, games played, number of participants, etc. However, there was not a complete sense of fulfillment.

Three years ago, I became a volunteer child advocate with the Guardian ad Litem Program. As such, I have an opportunity to advocate for children that are in the court system due to abandonment, abuse and/or neglect. These children and the events leading to their situations are not "front page news" until something goes wrong. Otherwise, they are not in the forefront. I felt that they were some of the "...to the least of these..." that Christ spoke of as related in Matthew (25:31-46). With a leap of faith, I began a very strengthening journey.

This journey has been frustrating at times (test of faith?); however, the measures of faith that I have received far exceed the tribulations. Any measure of success is in knowing that a child is safe, cared for, and nurtured. The memories are not of frustration with the court system, but the big 'knee hug' by a two year old. Armed with faith and the grace of God, I feel that this is truly a ministry for me.

Anyone interested should contact Gail Griffith, Guardian ad Litem volunteer recruiter, at Gail.Griffith@gal.fl.com or (772) 871-7225.

*"You never stand so tall as when you stoop to help a child".* Attributed to Abraham Lincoln

## *Altar Guild*

Michelle Cook

As some of you already know, Mary and John Rosebrough have moved from the Vero Beach area to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Mary has been with St. Mark's Anglican Church for over ten years and she will be dearly missed. Some of the Altar Guild ladies joined Mary for a farewell luncheon, wishing her a safe and happy trip to South Carolina. In attendance were Mary, Shelia and Sarah Ward, Charlotte Hyzer, Susan Chenault, Mitzi Owen, and myself. We all enjoyed lunch overlooking the warm Atlantic Ocean, sharing conversations of Mary's happy memories at St. Mark's. We are all very blessed for having known both Mary and John. They were a very important part of St. Mark's Congregation.

I would also like to thank all the Altar Guild ladies who have chosen this ministry and continue to prepare The Lord's Table each and every week. St. Mark's Anglican Church and the whole congregation are very blessed to have this ministry and the wonderful, dedicated women who partake in it. I am grateful to be a part of it.

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## *Upcoming Holy Days*

April/May/June

April 14 – 16 (noon) – Holy Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

April 17 (7:00 p.m.) – Maundy Thursday

April 18 (noon) – Good Friday

April 19 (4:00 – 5:00 p.m.) – Sacramental Confessions

April 21 – 22 (noon) – Easter Monday, Tuesday

April 25 (noon) – Feast of St Mark the Evangelist

May 1 (noon) – Feast of St Philip and St James, Apostles

May 29 (noon) – The Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ (Day of Obligation)

June 9 – 10 (noon) – Monday, Tuesday in Whitsun Week

June 16 (noon) – Feast of St Barnabas the Apostle

June 24 (noon) – Feast of St John the Baptist

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## **St. Mark's Anglican Church**

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**Rector**

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