



The Morning Star

March 2018

Passiontide: Encounters with God

We will soon enter into a period of time known as Passiontide, which is the two weeks between Passion Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Lent) and Easter Day.

As we continue to move forward in this season of Lent into Passiontide, which includes Holy Week, I hope you are well underway on your Lenten journey. Over the course of these weeks many of us will “give something up” or “take something on” in order to help spend additional time with God.

Whichever one you may have chosen, or both, may your action place you in a position of becoming better aware of God’s presence in your life. By recognizing this presence, we take the first steps in a process to hone our skill of listening to God.

During the days of Holy Week, we will seek to encounter Jesus as he makes his final journey into the City of Jerusalem and fulfill God’s purpose for humanity by way of his crucifixion, death, and resurrection.

I commend to you our Holy Week schedule here at the church for prayer and worship. I invite you to participate in the liturgy and encounter God and fellowship in the community.

Administrative Assistant position

The parish seeks an individual for a part-time office position to assist clergy and congregation with the work of a parish church. The position requires an individual who is able to be present in the office during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of the week.

For more information, please visit the office of the diocesan website, www.episcopalchicago.org. At the bottom of the home-page, click *Lay Employee Openings*.

Fr. Jim

Holy Week at Saint Peter’s

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, March 25

7:30 AM Holy Eucharist (Rt. I) and Liturgy of the Palms

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Rt. II) and Liturgy of the Palms

Weather permitting, the 10 o’clock liturgy will begin in Waterman Hall

Monday in Holy Week, March 26

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Tuesday in Holy Week, March 27

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Wednesday in Holy Week, March 28

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Maundy Thursday, March 29

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar

8:00 PM Watch at the Altar of Repose

Good Friday, March 30

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Noon Way of the Cross

12:30 PM Liturgy of Good Friday

7:00 PM Liturgy of Good Friday
with Hymns

Holy Saturday, March 31

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day, April 1

Note special service time

9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Rt. II) and the Lighting of the Paschal Candle

All ages welcome at the service. The Nursery will be open for family use only. No attendants scheduled.

Children’s Easter Egg Hunt follows the service.

Tough Lesson for a Good Lent

*Article from Episcopal Café blogsite: Feb. 19, 2018
by Dana Kramer-Rolls*

Many years ago, in a small Episcopal mission church, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday with pancakes, fresh deep fried donuts, games, and general silliness, until about a minute before midnight. The Vicar stood up, and we all got quiet. “The Lord be with you.” And we prayed. We got very silent, until someone, probably one of our several seminarians, said, “Happy Lent” and we laughed, until some of us cried. And we silently filed out, warmed by the fellowship, and by the deep knowledge that without walking with Jesus, the resurrection and reconciliation in the New Covenant, our Salvation, would not come in our hearts. We were ready.

Here it is, for me Feb. 13, Shrove Tuesday, 2018, for you when this appears, Feb. 19th, and I am home from our Shrove Tuesday. We ate, celebrated, and then we lit the fire and burned the palms from last year to make our ashes. We also buried clay crosses in the hot coals, which will fire over night, which we will collect and share to keep in our pockets to remember who we are and what great gift was given as we walk with Jesus to the cross. “You light the fire that never burns away.”

The lectionary readings for the First Monday in Lent appear to be about rules, doing things, remembering to do things. And my favorite psalm, Psalm 19, without the paean to the Glory of God in Creation, but diving right in to teaching righteousness. The collect for the day says, “Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully increase in us your gifts of holy discipline, in almsgiving, prayer, and fasting; that our lives may be directed to the fulfilling of your most gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”

It is not meant to make us comfortable. But it is also not meant for us to unduly punish ourselves. That can be a kind of pious idolatry. We are invited to share in discipline, the kind that Jesus used to ponder his human life, to hear and obey his Father. Ponder, to consider, perhaps to wrestle, struggle with, perhaps discern. Did Jesus ponder, in his earthly ministry, in the desert, on a mountain, in a garden? That is holy discipline. That used to be secularized by giving up chocolate (or in those days, smoking). That is not holy discipline. That is a diet.

Holy discipline is almsgiving until it hurts, divesting ourselves of the earthly in our incarnate lives, as we reach for the numinous, ineffable Godhead. Holy discipline is praying, regularly, from the Morning and Evening Offices, from a book of seasonal prayers, for some regularized period of praise, confession, and intercession for others as well as ourselves, for thanksgiving. Holy discipline is fasting, being aware of the abundance of God’s Holy Table, and taking less so that we can be filled with gratitude for what we take, so that others may have more. It is being aware, and heeding the will of God.

Leviticus (19:1–2, 11–18) states the theme clearly. A string of thou-shalt-not injunctions, ending with, “I am the Lord.” While some of the six hundred or so Mosaic laws seem silly or gratuitous, this set is a sound foundation for a holy and united people. Do not steal, cheat, render unjust judgment, or favor the powerful. It goes on. Fear your God. For he is the Lord. Laws, yes, but laws that could have come from Jesus’ teaching, and when enflamed by the Holy Spirit are laws of the heart, laws that will bind the people of God, the Body of Christ. That is a discipline for Lent. Mind what you do, thinking about how it affects your neighbor, that neighbor for whom we confess weekly or daily that we have not loved with our whole hearts, as we have not loved God with our whole hearts. Lent isn’t meant to be easy. It is meant to convert the heart. It is meant to hurt if we really grow in love for Jesus in his suffering, his obedience to God his Father, and through him ours. Dig deep. God’s laws are just, God’s commandments are just, God is just, and if the servant is in a right relationship with God, fearing God, obeying God, the servant will be filled with joy.

This is not some ancient injunction for abuse. We get in our own way, putting up barriers between ourselves and God. Being in right relationship with our God through the Spirit, and living with the mind of Christ, we are lifted from sin, reconciled as family with Jesus and to his Father. Walk in righteousness, not for reward, but to receive the Grace and Love freely given, which we cannot touch if we are too full of ourselves to look to God. “Who can tell how often he offends? Cleanse me from my secret faults. Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense,” the Psalmist prays. Our secret faults. Our little hates, carelessness, jealousies, greed, desires. Our presumption that we control our

lives, each other, or the world. They are God's. A good thing to remember for Lent.

My bishop spoke to us the other day about radical reconciliation. Radical reconciliation is not just an exchange, like the horrible model of one sin for ten Hail Mary's that still rings in my ears when I talk about confession. The bishop told the story of African women who met with ex-soldiers who sought forgiveness for killing, killing these women's sons, husbands, fathers. At the end of the meeting, each woman adopted one of these men, and together these new families grew to know God's mercy, true repentance, the men for their killing, the women for their hate. That is what Jesus died for. We have built a society of hate. Leviticus tells us to be fair and good. Jesus tells us that he will not recognize as family anyone who does not treat each soul as if they were looking at him, which they are. We have secret sin, and it is not what is being promulgated on news feeds, social media, and posters at rallies. We are presumptuous, and I pray God protect us from it. Cleanse us of our secret fault, of our sin of arrogance. That is the message of today's lesson. That is the message for a good Lent, a Lent of repentance, of discipline, of love.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

Dr. Dana Kramer-Rolls is a parishioner at All Souls Parish, Episcopal, Berkeley, California.

Spring 2018 United Thank Offering Ingathering April 22nd and April 29th

Spring is here! St. Peter's UTO Spring Ingathering will be held for two Sundays, both at 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services. Thankfulness, when embodied, nourishes our being and in turn allows us to not only offer it to God, but to incorporate it in our relationships in daily life. The United Thank Offering invites us to give thanks that we give a coin as a tangible gift—an offering of ourselves which is given to the work that alters the course of peoples' lives....testimony to God's grace in the world. No matter how we do it, we can always give thanks, because we can always pray. We might sing or dance our prayers, we might kneel, sit, stand or lie down, but no matter how we do it we are called to pray always, anywhere and everywhere, silently or aloud. Our prayers, especially those of

thanksgiving, become a way of life, a daily discipline of responding to God's abundance. The outward and visible sign of our thankfulness is the Blue Box into which coins are placed to accompany our prayers. The mission projects the UTO funds are the result of unnumbered prayers of thanksgiving offered daily by unnumbered people throughout our church. These are people who have opened their hearts to God and who are participating in the mission of the church by offering themselves to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. When we look at a mission project funded through a UTO grant, we should imagine all those invisible prayers and outreaching hands that have been offered from grateful hearts, providing yet another reason to give thanks—again.

UTO Blue boxes are at the back of the church and may be taken as continuing reminders that coins given in thanksgiving are indeed blessed coins. Our second Ingathering for this year will be in the Fall.

UTO gives thanks for each of you and give thanks for the opportunity to be a part of widespread missionary efforts. The Blue Box is a tool we all can use to bring our baptismal covenant into our lives, particularly the promises to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

If you miss our Ingathering and would like to participate, you may take your offering to the office or place it in the office box in Waterman Hall. If I can be of help or answer any questions about the United Thank Offering, please contact me at 899-1124.

In God We Trust, *Cindy Vain,*
UTO Custodian

Christian Outreach Committee

Red Bowl Offering

A check for \$412, \$300 from the Christian Outreach Committee and \$112 from the January Red Bowl Offering, was sent to Pay It Forward House in Sycamore. Thank you to everyone who donated to Pay It Forward, ensuring that rest and support in a home environment will be available to families and loved ones of patients being treated locally in DeKalb County.

There will be no collection during the month of March for the Red Bowl Offering.

Hope Haven Dinners

St. Peter's continues to provide a meal for the community homeless at Hope Haven on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Needed volunteers include a chair for each month in 2018 and persons to prepare or purchase food items. Sign-up sheets for 2018 are located in Waterman Hall. Please help the Outreach Committee provide one meal each month to our area homeless at Hope Haven.

Sycamore Food Pantry

In February we returned to giving our food donations to the Sycamore Food Pantry located at the First United Methodist Church in Sycamore. Food Pantry donations are being stored out of view in the old nursery, in order to keep Waterman Hall tidy. Food donations at St. Peter's have been low this winter. Please bring a can or two of food to church each Sunday during Lent and the Outreach Committee will see that it gets to the Sycamore Food Pantry.

Meals on Wheels

Thank you to the parishioners who volunteered to drive for Meals on Wheels during the month of March.

The "shut-ins" of our community appreciate the warm meal and sack lunch delivered to their front door, and a friendly face checking on their well-being.

DEKALB/SYCAMORE BOOKCASE PROJECT

The DeKalb/Sycamore Bookcase Project provides bookcases and books to the three and four-year olds at Two Rivers Head Start Program. The Bookcase Literacy Banquet on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, will be held at DeKalb High School Cafeteria and allows you to enjoy a meal for the price of a book. Tickets are \$18 a person, or \$140 for a table of eight. Please bring new or "gently used" children's books at a 3-4 year old interest level, and enjoy a great meal and entertainment provided by the DeKalb High School Musical Group. Please help children's literacy efforts by attending the dinner or donating a book. A box will be placed in Waterman Hall for book donations.

OUTREACH PROJECTS

St Peter's parishioners can help small Outreach Projects in a big way by saving and donating these items:

- * Personal items collected from vacations are sent to Safe Passage
- * "Pop Tops" benefit a Ronald McDonald House
- * Campbell Soup Labels are used for books and equipment at local elementary schools
- * Milk carton bottle tops benefit local schools
- * Box Tops for Education benefit local elementary schools
- * Canceled Stamps are sent to a Catholic Native American School in AZ for cleaning and sale to collectors

The next meeting of the Christian Outreach Committee will be held Wednesday, March 14, at 12 Noon, in Waterman Hall. Please feel free to join us!

Lynne Roberts

Parish Notes

A Choir for Easter Day

We would very much like to have a choir to be part of our Easter service on Sunday, April 1. If you would like to raise your voice in song, please attend rehearsals on March 11, 18 and 25. We would like to have all of our singers at as many rehearsals as possible, however, if you are unable to attend every Sunday, please come as best you can. We want to include everyone who has a desire to sing.

We have chosen a very beautiful anthem. If you are able to sing a hymn on Sunday, then you will be able to manage this music.

Any questions you have may be directed to Larry Dirst.

St. Paul's Church Lobster Boil

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 900 Normal Road, DeKalb, will hold its 50th Lobster Boil on May 19, 2018. Live lobsters cost \$18 and can be picked up at 4 p.m.; cooked lobsters cost \$20 and can be picked up at 5, 6 or 7 p.m. To order, visit the church website: stpaulsdekab.org, or phone the parish office: (815) 756-4888.

Please note: Lenten Supper and Study

Due to low attendance for supper and its first session, the Lenten Supper and Study program is cancelled. In conversation with persons, many have scheduling conflicts this year. A service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II (said), will continue to take place in the church Wednesday evenings leading up to Holy Week. The study series will be rescheduled to take place at Adult Education time on Sundays.

Camp Chicago: Now hiring staff!

Chad Senuta, Assoc. for Youth and Campus Ministry with the Diocese, has extended a call for individuals interested in a staff position for our 2018 sessions of Camp Chicago. The camp is seeking staff members who will help to nurture a diverse Christian community for its campers ages 7-17.

Salaries start at \$200 per week (housing and meals provided) and staff members must be able to attend the entire camp session, which includes staff training week June 23-29.

Interested applicants can apply online between now and March 15, 2018: www.campchicago.org

A REMINDER



An up-to-date Parish Calendar outlining events and worship schedule is found on the home-page of the parish website: www.sycamorestpeters.org Vestry approved meeting minutes and a link to our Facebook page is found on this site as well. Please visit our parish website for current information.

Parish Register

Transfer Out
Linda Boynton
Douglasville, GA

Prayer Corner

For the Search Committee

We pray for our Search Committee as they assess the needs of our congregation and evaluate candidates for Rector. Grant them open minds, perceptive hearts, balance and integrity in their work together, responsiveness to all points of view and unity of purpose. Help them to recognize that your guiding hand is in their midst ready to reveal that which they should do. Help them to listen and respond with open hearts, to the honor and praise of your Name. Amen.

For Guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Discernment in Calling a new Rector

Almighty God, look graciously on the people of this parish. Be with us and lead us as we seek the next rector for our church. We ask your direction and guidance for those who shall choose our new spiritual leader, that we may receive an upright and faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Grant us perception, faithfulness and joy, so that we may hear your voice in all our deliberations. Grant us also the desire and the ability to truly hear each other and those who have entrusted us with this process. Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in March

Birthdays

- 6 Linda Hartlep
- 6 Nicholas Klein
- 7 Natalia Glynn Boies
- 8 Kaitlyn Schatteman
- 18 Benjamin Lane
- 19 Sean Burke
- 19 Amanda Klein
- 23 Steven Suh Roberts
- 30 Anne Marie Hulsey

Anniversaries

- 14 Ryan & Trisha Drake

March 2018 Schedule for Nursery and Children Christian Education

March 4: Nancy Franke, Nursery

March 11: Cindy Vain, Nursery;
Jean Evans and Jenny Sidmore, CCE

March 18: Jenny Sidmore, Nursery

March 25: Pat Klein, Nursery;
Jean Evans and Jenny Sidmore, CCE

"Sharing, caring and working together, helping to make the world a better place." "Karer's Kids"



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Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

218 Somonauk Street
Sycamore, Illinois 60178
815-895-2227

www.sycamorestpeters.org

Parish Office Hours: 9am-1pm Monday-Friday Newsletter Staff

The Rev. James Clement Publisher
Jane Ovitz, Barbara Weaver, Carol Quitno,
Pat Burgweger, Helen Beamish, Nancy Franke Circulation

Deadline for Submission of Articles

5:00 PM on the 20th of each month. Please email your articles to office@sycamorestpeters.org. All articles are subject to editing for length and clarity.

Email subscriptions

You may receive the Morning Star by email by sending a message to office@sycamorestpeters.org.

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Rev. James Clement Interim Rector
jclement@sycamorestpeters.org

Larry Dirst Organist

Position open Admin. Assistant
office@sycamorestpeters.org
Days in office: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Jean Erlenborn Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@sycamorestpeters.org
Days in office: Monday, Wednesday

The Vestry of the Parish

Phil Montgomery, Senior Warden 847-702-7445
Anita Biletzky, Junior Warden 815-793-5500
Bronwyn Burgweger 815-761-9866
Judy Dettloff 815-895-4225
Henry Vincent 630-465-1951
John Boies 815-353-9703
Donna Hill 815-739-1493
Barbara Weaver 630-728-8144
John Vain, Treasurer 815-895-4324

The Parish Vision Statement

Red doors open for growth and renewal, where we find ourselves and others transformed.

The Parish Mission Statement

To be an inclusive fellowship growing in the Holy Spirit, nurturing the burdened and the joyous, reaching out to our communities and God's world.



Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles

To dedicate Altar Flowers or a Sanctuary Candle for a Sunday in 2018, please sign up on the reservation sheets on the bulletin board just outside the Parish Office. Then fill out the dedication form and turn it in to the office.

Lectionary Readings and Liturgical Server Schedule: Sundays, March 4-25.

Sunday, March 4: *Third Sunday in Lent*

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

7:30 a.m. – Lector: Jane Ovitz

10:00 a.m. – Acolyte: Henry Vincent

Crucifer-E. Minister: Bill Nicklas

Lectors: Kris Borre/Jim Wilson

Usher: Anita Biletzky

Intercessor: Anita Biletzky

Sunday, March 11: *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

7:30 a.m. – Lector: Lynne Roberts

10:00 a.m. – Acolyte: Anita Biletzky

Crucifer-E. Minister: Bill Nicklas

Lectors: Judy Dettloff/Clara Biletzky

Usher: Judy LaPorta

Intercessor: Clara Biletzky

Sunday, March 18: *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-13

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

7:30 a.m. – Lector: Lynne Roberts

10:00 a.m. – Acolyte: Pat Klein

Crucifer: Phil Montgomery

E. Minister: Barb Weaver

Lectors: Judy Dettloff/Anita Biletzky

Ushers: John Vain and Cindy Vain

Intercessor: Anita Biletzky

Sunday, March 25: *The Sunday of the Passion –*

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

7:30 a.m. – Acolyte: Pat Klein

10: a.m. – Acolyte: Anita Biletzky

Crucifer: Phil Montgomery

E. Minister: Henry Vincent

Lector: John Engstrom

Ushers: Judy LaPorta/Ann Engstrom



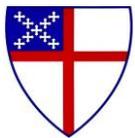
The work in Waterman Hall and the Library continues in order to provide air conditioning for these two spaces. Vestry approved this work, bestowed to the parish by several anonymous donors.

In preparation for this work, an architectural model constructed several decades ago of St. Peter's Church and the Parish Hall was brought out of storage. The model is not only of the two buildings, but also the entire city block. It is a beautiful work of art.

The model will be displayed in Waterman Hall for everyone to view during the next several weeks. Stop by and see!

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
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Sycamore, IL 60178
www.sycamorestpeters.org

Volume 21, Issue 3 — April 2018



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The newsletter of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

"...until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" 2 Peter 1:19