

The Net

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

March 15, 2020

A note from Fr. Ron about the parish response to COVID-19

With public schools being closed for the next three weeks, and numerous events and public gatherings canceled, we know that many of you have questions about the church's response to the current COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak. While Governor Mike DeWine's ban on gatherings of more than 100 people exempts religious gatherings, attendance at a single service at St. Andrew's seldom exceeds 100, so we are planning to hold Saturday and Sunday worship services as scheduled.

Please turn to the inside



St. Andrew's was privileged to help open the Common Ground Free Store's new satellite location to shoppers for the first time last Saturday. Above, Pat Schmitz rolls racks of clothing from storage to the shopping floor at Press Church Outreach Center, 425 S. Sandusky St., Delaware. While both the satellite and main store are among the services that will be closed through April 4 as the coronavirus outbreak continues to impact our communities, steps are being taken to assure that shoppers who depend on Common Ground for meals will still have access to food. Read further details under the "News" heading on the main page of our website, standrewspolaris.org.

Lenten Study Program falls to coronavirus

The Standing Committee of the Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes is recommending that congregations consider suspending church meals, small groups, and other non-Sunday meetings until the coronavirus threat passes. Accordingly, St. Andrew's will regretfully cancel the remaining three sessions of the 2020 Lenten Study Program. While the Wednesday prayer service and the Friday Stations of the Cross were still on the schedule as of Saturday, please continue to check your email and our website for updates.

Living Our Faith: Appalachian mission trip planned for fall

The past couple of years have seen several members of St. Andrew's serve on mission trips in the United States and abroad. This fall, the rest of us will have an opportunity to follow in their footsteps, serving as the hands and feet of Christ in the central Appalachian region of the country.

Pat Schmitz is organizing a mission trip to Jonesville, Virginia through Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Oct. 15-18, with the goal of sending two teams of five to seven people from St. Andrew's. Adults, as well as high school and college students, *Please turn to the inside*

If you have not received email from St. Andrew's in the past week, it's because we don't have an updated email address in our system. Remember to go online to update your Member Connection profile if your contact information changes, or contact Judy Baird at jbaird@standrewspolaris.org or 740-548-5112, ext. 3. If you have a cell phone, please make sure that number is also on your profile, as we will send a parish-wide text message in the event that worship services have to be canceled at the last minute.

Memorial for Janet McNelis postponed

The Liturgy of Christian Burial in memory of and thanksgiving for the life of Janet McNelis, originally scheduled for Saturday, March 21, has been postponed.

The family will re-schedule at a later date to allow people who wish to attend but might be unable to travel or be in larger gatherings due to the current coronavirus outbreak to do so. We'll let you know as soon as the new date is set.

Prayers for the Church

Anglican Church in North America: Bishop Steve Wood, his wife Jacqueline; Bishop David Bryan, his wife Nancy; Bishop Thad Barnum, his wife Erilynne; and the clergy and people of the Diocese of the Carolinas.

According to the diocesan website, nearly two decades ago, the Rwandan Church sacrificially responded to the spiritual turbulence taking place in America by offering refuge and hope to orthodox Anglican churches. This unselfish and bold act of the past has been a foundational part of the global church's ongoing renewal. The movement fostered by the Rwandan Church, the Anglican Mission in the Americas (AMiA), was one of the founding members of the ACNA in 2009.

The dioceses and churches springing from the Rwandan mission initially had dual citizenship in the ACNA and the Rwandan Church. However, in 2010, the AMiA announced its decision to transition from full membership in the ACNA to being a missionary partner of the ACNA. In 2012, Archbishop Robert Duncan, then head of the ACNA, announced that the AMiA had lost its missionary partner status with the ACNA. Also in 2012, clergy and laity in the Carolinas were meeting to plan for a new diocese there. The Diocese of the Carolinas was approved as a diocese by the ACNA Provincial Council in 2012.

After 2012, the Rwandan mission gathered its adherents under PEARUSA (Province of the Anglican Church of Rwanda USA—the acronym is taken from the French name for the Rwandan Church: Province de L'Eglise Anglicane au Rwanda, with "USA" appended to indicate the site of the missionary work. French is the primary language in Rwanda.) Discussions between the ACNA and PEARUSA continued, as PEARUSA transitioned into three dioceses. In 2016, the Anglican Church of Rwanda released all of the PEARUSA churches and dioceses into the Anglican Church in North America. Two of the three PEARUSA diocese became dioceses within the ACNA, while the third was folded into existing dioceses within the ACNA. One of those existing dioceses was the Diocese of the Carolinas. Strong ties remain between the Diocese of the Carolinas and the Rwandan Church.

The Diocese of the Carolinas now has 34 parishes in the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky. (*Sources: Diocesan website, Wikipedia.*)

Please pray especially for church planting and joint missionary efforts with the Rwandan church.

Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes: Fr. Rick Leone, Fr. Skip Bayer, and the people of Risen Savior, Huntington, Indiana.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: Dan and Robin Field; Bonnie Freeman; the Sisters in the Spirit Small Group; and our Prayer Ministries.

Mission trip

Continued from the front

may participate, with a minimum of two adults per team.

Teams will work on light construction projects, completing tasks such as nailing, sanding, and painting.

The cost of the trip is \$70 per person per work day, for a total of \$140, which includes supplies, food, climate-controlled lodging and programing. The daily cost is equivalent to \$1.35 per week; less than a cup of coffee!

ASP was founded as a Christian ministry in 1969 to help provide adequate housing for low-income families. In a typical year, more than 16,500 volunteers work with ASP, assisting more than 400 families.

Please see the insert in today's bulletin for additional details and a registration

The Daily Lectionary

Week of the Third Sunday in Lent • March 16-21

Sunday, March 15 — A.M.: Psalms 32, 36; Exodus 22; Matthew 21:23-46
P.M.: Psalm 38; Proverbs 14; Colossians 3:12-25

Monday, March 16 — A.M.: Psalm 37:1-17; Exodus 23:1-13, 18-30; Matthew 22:1-33 P.M.: Psalm 37:18-41; Proverbs 15; Colossians 4

Tuesday, March 17 — A.M.: Psalm 40; Exodus 24; Matthew 22:34—23:12
P.M.: Psalms 39, 41; Proverbs 16; Philemon

Wednesday, March 18 — A.M.: Psalms 42, 43; Exodus 25:1-23, 31-40; Matthew 23:13-39 P.M.: Psalm 44; Proverbs 17; Ephesians 1:1-14

Thursday, March 19 (Feast of St. Joseph) — A.M.: Psalm 45; Exodus 26:1-10, 15-16, 29-37; Matthew 24:1-28 P.M.: Psalm 46; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 1:18-26

Friday, March 20 — A.M.: Psalms 47, 48; Exodus 27; Matthew 24:29-51
P.M.: Psalm 49; Proverbs 18; Ephesians 2:1-10

Saturday, March 21 — A.M.: Psalm 50; Exodus 28:1-6, 15-21, 29-43; Matthew 25:1-30 P.M.: Psalm 51; Proverbs 19; Ephesians 2:11-22

Next Sunday, March 22 — A.M.: Psalms 52, 53, 54; Exodus 29:1-18, 35-46; Matthew 25:31-46 P.M.: Psalm 55; Proverbs 20; Ephesians 3

Next Sunday's Lectionary March 22; Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (5 p.m. & 9 a.m.); Ephesians 5:1-14 (11:15 a.m.)

Psalm 23 (5 p.m. & 9 a.m.)

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:1-14 (5 p.m. & 9 a.m.)

Gospel: John 9:1-13, 28-41

Encouragement for your time with God

God wants to hear our recognition of our sins, and our desire to repent. "Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy." (*Proverbs 28:13*) "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." (*2 Corinthians 7:10*) — *From the St. Andrew's Prayer Ministries Team*

St. Andrew's COVID-19 response

Continued from the front

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that those over 60 and those suffering from underlying compromised immune systems are more at risk of becoming seriously ill from this virus. The older or more compromised a person is, the greater the risk becomes. Please take these warnings to heart in considering your exposure to the public.

We are also taking these additional precautions:

- After further research and consideration, we are asking parishioners to refrain from intinction throughout this current coronavirus outbreak, as the hands are a primary vehicle for the spread of viruses.
- As we've mentioned previously, the best information we have from the CDC is that the risk of transmission of disease from the use of a common Communion cup is "very low." The risk is further diminished by appropriate safeguards, such as wiping the interior and exterior rim and rotating the cup between communicants, and the use of a clean cloth for each service. These are all practices that we follow. We've received no further directive from the CDC. If you are in any way uncomfortable receiving from the common cup, we assure you that receiving just the bread is a complete and valid communion. If you don't wish to receive the wine, simply return to your seat after receiving the bread.
- Clergy and chalcists will wash their hands thoroughly before the service and use hand sanitizer prior to administering Communion.
- We ask that you refrain from making physical contact during The Peace for the duration of the coronavirus outbreak. A smile or a verbal greeting will be most appreciated.
- We have removed the holy water stoops inside the doors to the sanctuary for the duration of the outbreak, as the water, while changed frequently, is stagnant.
- We continue to make recommended virus protection supplies—tissues, hand sanitizer, and trash cans—available throughout the building.
- We will be offering pre-packaged goodies at coffee hour, and are asking those preparing the coffee and other beverages, and handling coffee supplies, to wear gloves.

We cannot stress enough that individuals who are sick, or have compromised immune systems or underlying health conditions, stay home during this outbreak. If you have a fever, we also ask that you not attend church services or events until you have been fever free for at least 24 hours. If you contract the COVID-19 virus, please abide by the quarantine conditions.

If you're unable to attend services in person, remember that our 11 a.m. service is live-streamed weekly on YouTube. You can find our livestream feed by clicking on "Our YouTube Channel" under the "Media" drop-down menu on the main page of our website, standrewspolaris.org.

Please also endeavor to keep your giving current while you're unable to be in church, as the parish's expenses continue. You may give online, or mail your gift to the church at 7521 S. Old State Road, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035.

I also want to encourage you to pray to our Lord Jesus Christ during this trial. Especially pray for those who are most at risk and for those who are under duress because of the many closings and cancellations. This is a time when our faith can provide great comfort to us as we are struggling with these changes.

St. Paul reminds us that it is when we are weak that we are strong. (*2 Corinthians 12:10*) We know that all things work for good to those who love the Lord (*Romans 8:28*), so we place our trust in his fatherly care. We will get through this together and will be stronger for it as long as we follow our medical professionals' recommendations and trust in God to guide and protect us.

Please watch your email, our website, and social media for any further updates. And, as always, please let us know if you have any pastoral needs by calling the parish office at 740-548-5112, or contacting one of our clergy directly. Their contact information is available on the Member Connection.

In His holy name, Fr. Ron Baird

Additional recommendations from the CDC

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (long enough to sing "Happy Birthday" twice, or "Jesus Loves Me" once), especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow. Dispose of used tissues in a waste can.
- Contact your health provider if you have a fever, cough and shortness of breath.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow the CDC's recommendations for using a facemask: The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.

Private Confession a channel of God's grace

By Fr. Ron Baird

The sacrament of Penance, called the Reconciliation of a Penitent, is undoubtedly one of the least used sacraments available to Anglicans. Many rumors and innuendos have circulated in the Church about this sacrament, none of which have been good. For some it evokes memories of old Roman Catholicism and forced confessions. Others ask, "Why do I need a priest to confess my sins? Why can't I confess directly to God?"

It is obvious that we not only can, but should, confess our sins directly to God on a regular basis. I encourage and practice daily confession of sin to God, as well as the general confession we use on Sundays. What I hope to do here is not to coerce you into going to confession, but rather to help you see private confession as a channel of God's grace. I hope you will see it for what it is—a sacrament *for* you.

I have made private confession because I have discovered in it the incredible power of reconciliation to God. Often, during Lent, I take the time (or make it) to examine my life; to look closely at the direction in which it is heading. Am I being obedient to God's call in my life? Am I even asking what it is? What things have I done contrary to that call?

The point of confession is not to berate yourself in front of another person. It is to look at your life and your obedience or disobedience to God in order to be restored to newness of life in him, and to be empowered to turn away from sin, which leads you away from God in disobedience. That is the power of the sacrament and is the reason why you "need a priest."



The seal of the confessional is absolute. A priest may not mention your confession to anyone else, or even to you ever again. In fact, the priest is best served by trying to forget it altogether once it is finished. This is because the priest's role in the confession is to be a mediator of the sacrament, not to sit in judgment of the penitent.

Very few of us take the time to actually confess our sins. We are good at acknowledging that we are sinners, but we rarely get specific about what our sins are, not only with others, but with ourselves. The sacrament provides us the opportunity to really discover our own sinfulness and the incredible power of God's love and forgiveness in our lives. Sometimes we may need to avail ourselves of the sacrament because the burden of guilt is too great to bear. We can discover the power of God by making an appointment to make our confession on a regular (perhaps yearly) basis.

Holy Week, this year April 5-11, is an especially appropriate time to make a private confession. If you would like to make a sacramental confession during Lent, please contact me at 740-548-5112, ext. 2, or see one of our other priests.

Study of Epistles of John underway

The Adult Forum began a new Bible study of the Epistles of John last Sunday. Fr. Ron Baird is facilitating the study, which will run through Lent.

Thought to have been written between AD 85–100 by the same author, these three letters encourage early believers in their faith; and admonish the faithful to walk in truth, avoid false teachings, resist evil and do good. Second John and Third John are two shortest books in the Bible.

Join us in the Sanctuary from 10:15 to 11 a.m. as we delve into these three Johannine epistles, and consider who wrote them, what their purpose was, and what they mean for us today.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew on hiatus

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will not be meeting during Lent. We plan to resume our regular meeting schedule on Tuesday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish House Conference Room.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study canceled

The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study will not meet until further notice, in light of the current coronavirus outbreak. Please watch "The Net," your email, and our website to learn when the group will resume.

Stations of the Cross offered Fridays in Lent

Fr. Wil Verhoff is offering the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent. This traditional Lenten service of prayer will start at 7:15 p.m. in the St. Andrew's Sanctuary. All are welcome.

The Stations of the Cross—also known as the "Way of the Cross," the "Way of Sorrows" or the "Via Dolorosa"—is an ancient service commemorating the events of Christ's Passion. The service, which replicates the walk made by Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land as early as the 4th Century, features 14 meditations on the traditional events surrounding Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion and burial.