



The Call



May the words of our mouths and the mediations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight o Lord our strength and our redeemer.

A Monthly Newsletter

February 2023

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God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. -Psalm 86:15

"Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off" Proverbs 23:18 (NRSV)

A new year brings us new expectations and new opportunities. It is from God these many blessings will descend on all his children. St. Mark's family, our little church on the Hill continues to be a blessing to so many. Our membership is growing and are we are baptizing more children than I've seen in a long time. Covid-19 is still present among us, it is important that we stay vigil and be responsible for one another.

The Love of Jesus Christ is still upon each and everyone of us, but the expectation for his children is that we must continue to love one another as he loves us! Our vision for our church Family is to be a better neighbor to our brothers and sisters and be open to share what Jesus has done in your life, to everyone you encounter.

The season ahead of us will be very exciting! Our new Asst. Bishop Jennifer will join us in March for her first visit to St. Mark's. She will Confirm, Receive and Bless many of our church Family members! Also, an exciting Lenten Season is quickly upon us, beginning with Shrove Tuesday and into our Lenten program, where we'll explore Stations-of-the-Cross with soup supper and open discussion.

Let's open our hearts to what God is saying and be more compassionate this year, throughout the various seasons celebrated together!

*Be Blessed my Church Family
Your Rector and Friend,
Fr. Garry*

End of Epiphany into Lent

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany **February 5th** **8:30 and 10:30 am**

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany **February 12th** **8:30 and 10:30 am**

Last Sunday After Epiphany **February 19th** **8:30 and 10:30 am**

Lenten Season Begins

Ash Wednesday **February 22th** **Noon and 7:00 pm**

First Sunday of Lent **February 26th** **9:30 am**

Calendar of the Church Year – Explanation –

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/calendar-church-year/>

RCL Book of Common Prayer Lectionary Year A –

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/08/RCL_pages_for_BCP-cropped.pdf

Liturgical Calendar –

<http://www.lectionarypage.net/CalndrsIndexes/Calendar2023.html>



CELEBRATING

THE LIFE AND WORK
OF BLESSED

Absalom Jones

Priest, 1818

The Collect

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebration of the Feast of Blessed Absalom Jones

The Episcopal Church celebrates Blessed Absalom Jones,
the first Black man ordained in the denomination.

Saturday, February 11, 2023 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Saint Augustine's Chapel

On the campus of Saint Augustine's University The preacher for the service is the Reverend Dr. Allen Robinson, rector of Grace Church in Brooklyn Heights & an alum of Saint Augustine's University.

The service will also be livestreamed on the diocesan [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#)

Fr. Garry will be in attendance

Forward Movement - <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/calendar/absalom-jones>

Lesser Feast & Fast and Commemorations-

<http://www.lectionarypage.net/CalndrsIndexes/TxtIndexLFF.html#February>

Introduction and Discussion-

<https://www.diopa.org/uploads/attachments/cldkqki3w7uxk8mqszkifj6r4-absalom-jones-discussion-guide.pdf>

Bulletin - <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/bulletins/bulletin-insert-the-absalom-jones-fund-for-episcopal-hbcus-february-5-2023/>

The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing- <https://www.centerforracialhealing.org/>

The Church Awakens Leadership Gallery-

<https://episcopalarchives.org/church-awakens/exhibits/show/leadership/clergy/jones>

Self-Guided Introspection

THE WAY OF LOVE *Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. This Lent, you are invited to walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life. Throughout Lent, come along and explore Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent



Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Reflections from "Living the Way of Love" by Mary Bea Sullivan (Church Publishing, 2019). Used with permission.		Feb 22 Rest How do you incorporate rest into your life? Jer. 6:16	23 Worship How does community help or hinder your growing in Christ? Jn. 1:12-13	24 Way of Love Where do you see the seven practices of the Way of Love in this story? Lk. 5:19	25 Rest How might you connect with others in the spirit of renewal? 1 Kings 19:11-12	26 1st Sunday of Lent
27 Bless Who has taught you to live a Jesus-filled life? Who have you taught? 2 Cor. 4:16	28 Pray Go for a walk today and pray with your feet, each step with intention. Is. 2:3a	Mar 1 Rule of Life How can you build pauses into the day to reflect on the work of the Spirit? Jn. 15:5	2 Worship What is most meaningful to you in worship? BCP, pg. 281	3 Go Where can you go and intentionally provide kindness? Matt. 5:4	4 Bless Notice the pattern of your breathing. Pray for awareness of blessings. Gen. 2:7	5 2nd Sunday of Lent
6 Go Where are you being encouraged to "show up"? Matt. 25:44-45	7 Rest How do your creative outlets impact on taking rest? Gen. 1:1-24	8 Learn What passage of scripture is important to you? Why? Is. 40:8	9 Pray Take 20 minutes in contemplative prayer today. Matt. 4:18-22	10 Bless Intentionally smile at least ten times today. Phil. 4:4	11 Turn Today, intentionally listen devoutly to another. Mark 4:23	12 3rd Sunday of Lent
13 Go Where can you seek and serve Christ in someone unlike you? Jer. 30:22, 31:4-5	14 Learn How is the Jesus who walked the earth beckoning you to meet him? Mk. 10:46-52	15 Rest How can you incorporate rest from technology today? Matt. 11:28	16 Pray Try praying with Anglican prayer beads. Luk. 18:1	17 Worship In your prayers today, what new words or thoughts touch you? Phil. 4:6	18 Turn How might you share what brings you great joy with others? Rom. 12:6-8	19 4th Sunday of Lent
20 Bless What challenges are you facing today? Job 11:18	21 Turn Where do you find joy and passion? Luke 24:32	22 Rest What can you say "no" to so you can say "yes" to prayer, rest and joy? Lev. 23:3	23 Learn Practice lectio divina with this scripture. Luke 15:17-24	24 Go Create a prayer representing how you seek to serve God and follow Jesus. Matt. 5:15	25 Rule of Life How do others experience the love of Christ through you? Gal. 5:22-23	26 5th Sunday of Lent
27 Worship What seminal moments have informed a need to return to Christ? Ps. 51:10	28 Rule of Life How has this Way with God impacted your experience of God? John 7:38	29 Learn Slowly read this passage aloud. How does this speak to the world today? Matt. 4:18-22	30 Turn What relationships do you need to mend? Is. 55:6-8	31 Go Where might God be asking you to take your great love into the world? Isa. 48:6b	Apr 1 Pray What are you thankful for? 1 Chron. 29:15	2 Palm Sunday
3 Pray Listen to the daily office today at missionstclair.com Ps. 55:17	4 Worship How do you want to prepare people to remember you? 2 Cor. 1:3-4	5 Bless When you reflect on financial giving, are your palms open? Matt. 12:43-44	6 Learn Who might you have a conversation with to learn about God? Ps. 119:105	7 Turn How did you turn back towards God's love when you made a big mistake? Luke 15:18	8 Rule of Life Who can support you in living a Jesus-centered life? 2 Cor. 3:6	9 Easter Day

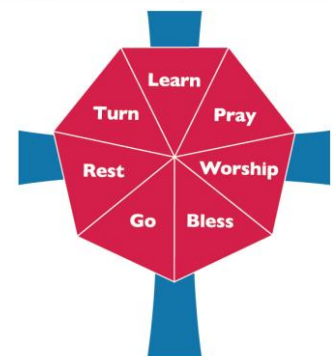
The Way Of Love – Introduction

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/way_of_love_introduction.pdf

Getting Started - <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/getting-started/>

Bulletin Insert of Readings-

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/bulletins/bulletin-insert-life-transformed-week-1-february-26-2023/>



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life



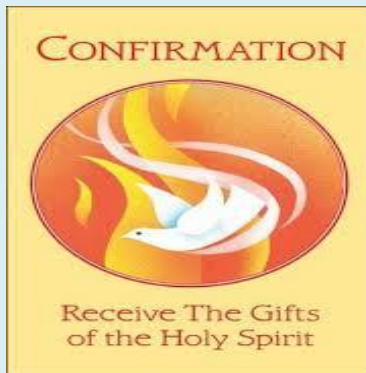
Shrove Tuesday

Join us the day before Lent
February 21st at 6:30pm
in the Rafters
For pancakes and fellowship.
Hosted by the Men of the Church.



Ash Wednesday

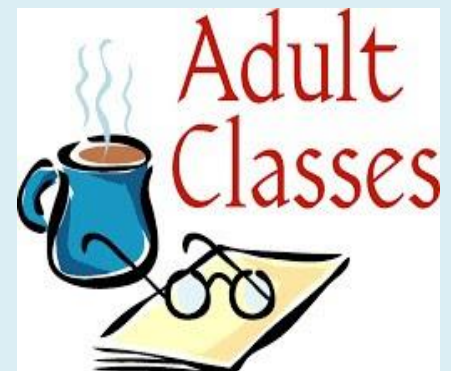
First Day of Lent
February 22nd
Worship services on the Hill
at Noon & 7 pm



Confirmation Class

Resumes February 5th
in-between services
with Father Garry.

Email Brandy Saltzman
at brandysaltzman@stmarksnsc.org
if interested.



Adult Formation

Will resume Sunday, Feb 5th
in between services.

Lead by Dr. Matt Kerlan

Bring them to church.

Saturate their lives with the Word of God. Even if they lay on the floor. Even if they need 437 goldfish and a sucker to be quiet. Even if you stand in the back swaying back and forth holding them. Even when it's hard. Even when your pew looks like a small hurricane just came through.

Bring them to church.

Let them see you worship. Let them see you pray. Let them see you running toward the Savior ... because if they don't see and learn these things from you, who are they going to learn them from? The world will teach them it's not a priority. The world will teach them it's okay to lay out, not to pick up their Bibles. The world will direct them so far off course, confuse them, and misinform them that just being "good" is enough. The world won't teach them about Jesus. That's our job.

Teaching kids is a huge responsibility. We must take it seriously and do it well. Prepare well, speak truth, and remember they are God's kids first

Bring them to church.

"And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me. But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea" Matthew 18:5-6



Children & Youth Formation

Classes resume Sunday 2/5 at 9:30

Save the Dates

Children - 2/2

- 2pm til 4pm - Pottery at Patch's Playhouse

Youth - 2/19

- 4pm til 6 pm - Gathering - Youth Space

Parents of Youth - 2/26

- after 10:30 service - Info session regarding upcoming events & trips.

Questions about Schedules? Curriculum? Future Events?
Contact BrandySaltzman at brandysaltzman@stmarksnc.org



Baked Goods!!!

Cookies, Cakes, Pies & Muffins!!

A Fundraiser supporting our Flyin' Lion's Ministry!

Yummy Treats are available for weekly ordering.
Order by Tuesday and Pick up Friday after 2 pm.
Please use the order form below

<https://stmarksepiscopal.breezechms.com/form/43a79485>



Lunching with the Lions Thursdays at 12:30

*Salmon Chowder
with Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
this Thursday 2/9*

Check Weekly Blast for
New Menu Items and Sign-Up Link!





Birthdays

Marsha Phillips - 2/1
 Kate Lawson - 2/1
 Philip Blythe - 2/2
 Karen Cardenas - 2/2
 Drew Sigmund - 2/4
 Marion Johannsson - 2/6
 John Middleton - 2/6
 Rachel Sparks - 2/6
 Thomas Blythe - 2/8
 Sarah Fahey - 2/10
 Jeremy Michael - 2/11
 Rich Zinno - 2/12
 Sue Basher - 2/12
 Will Blythe - 2/13
 Sydney Bayne - 2/14
 Linda Holst - 2/16
 Miles Bayne - 2/17
 Matthew Kathman - 2/17
 Martin Osborne - 2/18
 Vincent Perrotta - 2/18
 Ben Weeks - 2/18
 Allison Rhinehardt - 2/19
 John Pouliot - 2/19
 Carrick Gambill - 2/19
 Lynnda Jordan - 2/20
 Alice Bayne - 2/21
 Gloria Harper - 2/21
 Ian Kendrick - 2/21
 Jan Daubener - 2/22
 Wendy Kelly - 2/22
 Josh Witt - 2/22
 Rusian Mooney - 2/22
 Ed Reade - 2/25
 Hattie Dubois - 2/25
 Amy Sparks - 2/27
 Marty Fulton - 2/27
 LuLu Thompson - 2/27
 Ebenezer Griffiths - 2/27
 Joe Layman - 2/28



Anniversaries

Thomas & Doris Blythe - 2/2
 Donnie & Charlene Evans - 2/2
 Brett & Allison Rhinehardt - 2/25

Prayers for continued healing

Paul & Michele Cravetz
 Martha Ann Springer
 Marion Johannsson & daughters Betsy & Martha
 Milt Sullivan
 Richard & Mary Beth Masline
 Saunders Black
 Jon & Mary Zacharias
 Jim & Patricia Woolley
 Mike Wilson
 LilyWilson
 Michael Warren
 Justin Wilson
 Pat Fahey
 Angela Worme
 Molly Marshall
 Marcia Nelson
 Marsha Phillips
 Lawson Summerow



**February
W.I.N.E.**

(Women in Need of Entertainment)

Mark your calendars for Monday,

February 20th at 6:30pm

We will have WINE

at the home of Suzanne Ferguson
236 Hawthorne Park Ave., Belmont

Bring a dish to share and or your beverage of choice
(adult beverages and non adult beverages)

This event is for ALL women.

If you don't have time for either just bring yourself.

Contact Allison Rhinehardt with questions
allibrett@gmail.com

Hostess opportunities will be available 2023



Taste of Barbados

scheduled for 5/20

Anyone interested in joining
the Planning Committee?

please contact Delia Roberts
at programcoordinator@stmarksnc.org

***The Rededication
of the Slave Cemetery***

scheduled for 6/19

Anyone interested in joining
the Planning Committee?

please contact Dawn Michael
at dawnemichael@yahoo.com

No Thirsty Thursday
in Month of February

Stewardship Season Continues

"The Faithful Shepherd"

It's not too late.

We ask that all church members that have submitted 2023 pledges faithfully consider increasing their pledge and for those members that have not pledged as of yet to please submit their pledge forms as soon as possible. Thank you.

Please return to the church office, in the offering plate or fill out an online pledge form
[HERE](#)

Financial update as of 1/30/23 -
123 Stewardship packets were sent out this year for the 2023 budget, we have collected 87
pledges totaling \$287,108.00
making the average pledge \$3,373.00.

We have also received 8 additional pledges for the capital campaign totaling \$10,456

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 3



8600 Mt. Holly Huntersville Rd.

Huntersville, NC 28078

704-399-5193

Life@stmarksnc.org

Father Garry Edwards, Rector

ejohngarry@stmarksnc.org

