



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

As we continue adjusting to our “stay at home” lives, please know that I am praying for each of you. Please join me in praying daily for each other and for the world. Whether we live alone and are feeling isolated, have a family member who is sick or who works in healthcare, or are living with multiple family members having to be online for work and school all at the same time, these are not easy days. I suggest using our Parish Directory as an aide in remembering to pray for everyone. Our Diocesan website <https://dohio.org> contains a multitude of resources and I encourage you spend some time exploring it. There is much that I think you will find to be informative and helpful.

Lent always goes too quickly and next Sunday is Palm Sunday, which will begin our journey through Holy Week and onward to Easter and our celebration of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. It is now clear that our churches will remain closed for the foreseeable future. This may be the first time that the Church has been faced with the challenge of participating communally in the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter without actually being together physically. How can we mark these important events together “in spirit and in truth”? First, remember the online options:

<https://trinitycleveland.org> will take you to our Diocesan Cathedral. Holy Week service schedules should be posted soon, and they will continue to live-stream regular Sunday worship.

<https://cathedral.org> will take you to the National Cathedral website. They will live-stream the following Holy Week services: Palm Sunday at 11:15 a.m., Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m., Good Friday at Noon, and Easter Sunday at 11:15 a.m.

Thanks to Becky Everett, John & Yuri McElliott, John Irwin, and (on Easter) David Ellis, we will record and post the Palm Sunday and Easter Vigil liturgies on YouTube. There is a link on our parish website, <https://stchrisbytheriver.org> that will take you directly to our YouTube channel.

I hope that the palm cross enclosed in this newsletter arrived safely. Place it where you will see it many times each day and use it as a visual prompt to pray the Lord’s Prayer.

On Maundy Thursday, I invite you to eat a simple supper and read the account of Jesus’ last meal with his followers as recorded in the Gospel According to Luke (Chapter 22, verses 14-30). In the Gospel According to John, Jesus gives us a last gift “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” and a new commandment “Love one another as I have loved you.” Allow yourself to be filled with Jesus’ peace and the love that overflows when His Peace replaces our fears.

On Good Friday, read the account of Jesus’ arrest, crucifixion, death and burial as found in the Gospel According to John, Chapters 18 and 19. Pray the Solemn Collects found on pages 277-280 in the Book of Common Prayer or use the Litany on our Diocesan website’s Resources page. Try to have this day and Holy Saturday be days that are quiet and used for prayer and reflection on the cost of God’s gift to us of reconciliation and eternal life. If you are able to, drive down to St. Christopher’s on Good Friday or Holy Saturday, The Cross will be there and words to contemplate and remember will be on the front walk.

On Easter Sunday read the Gospel resurrection accounts found in Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:13-49, and John 20:1-18. If you are able, come down to Church to see the changes that will have occurred.

Remember – “He is risen!” Alleluia!

In Christ’s Love,

Ann+



GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

JESUS SAID TO THOMAS, “DO NOT DOUBT BUT BELIEVE.” (JOHN 20:27)

On Good Friday, offerings are invited from throughout The Episcopal Church to support the ministry of the dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Our contributions are used to assist them to promote peace and mutual understanding through pastoral care and health and educational programs throughout the region.

To learn more, please visit episcopalchurch.org/global-partnerships/good-friday-offering

Donate directly:

<https://episcopalchurch.org/global-partnerships/good-friday-offering>

Donate through St. Christopher’s:

Send a check with ‘Good Friday’ in the memo.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

To my friend, John Irwin:

As the new Senior Warden, I take the liberty of sharing my thoughts about your six years on the Vestry, and especially as our Senior Warden.

You came on the Vestry just as we had called Mother Ann as our new priest.

As a longtime church member, you had witnessed a slow decline in our membership as people passed away, moved, or simply chose to attend a different church. You had witnessed a resulting reduction in annual giving, which put pressure on our ability to deliver an appropriate religious experience in a church terribly in need of refurbishment. Instead of letting this condition continue, you accepted the challenge and became the Senior Warden.

When a new priest is called to a parish, there are challenges in establishing credibility, getting to know the congregation and presiding over the daily operations. Having a confidant can be a great help. John, you have been that confidant.

There are many behind the scene tasks performed by the Senior Warden. You performed them and more.

Despite your busy business schedule, you attended five years of weekly warden and monthly Vestry meetings. You modernized our bylaws, helped plan services, organized social occasions and set up, cooked, and cleaned them. As a Eucharistic Minister you helped at services, led morning prayer and even conducted a funeral service in Mother Ann's absence.

You helped me refurbish the church as we raised money, attended many planning meetings, met with contractors, signed agreements and payed bills. You even slept on the floor in the Guild Room when the fire alarm system was turned off to protect our beautiful building.

Every organization has diverse opinions. Recognizing that debate is healthy, you participated in many discussions, listened to all sides and then articulated a well thought and workable conclusion.

You discovered that Mother Ann had the gift of delivering beautifully organized, inspirational homilies and lamented that many of us could not make it to church every Sunday. So there you were with your tripod and video camera preparing to relay them on our newly designed website.

Should the village have a cub scout pack? Sure. So you helped start one and set it up at our church.

All of these things you have done as Senior Warden, but to me your true character was at its greatest when you were up before dawn getting Mother Ann to the hospital for her operations, waiting for their completion, and then helping her deal with the pain and mental agony surrounding the ordeal.

Finally, John, I know I speak for the entire congregation as we thank you for your dedication, your wise counselling, your articulate announcements and writing, and most importantly for your leadership.

You are my inspiration and my hero.

Your friend - Charley Marston

FAITH FORMATION

www.scribblefun.com/lent-coloring-pages

www.reallifeathome.com/lent-activities

www.crosswordpuzzleprintables.com/lent-crossword-puzzle-printable

www.sundayschoolkids.com/menu-lent-resources.htm

YouTube has some safe cartoon movies. You can search for Easter Story for kids cartoons.

Dear Church School students and families,

We miss you and pray for strength and faith for all of us. Please visit these sites online for some fun activities about Holy Week.

-Blessings, Peggy Reda

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

Becky Everett

What a crazy, scary, trying time this is for us all! I trust that you are staying safe and healthy as we ride out this COVID 19 virus. I have been down to the church a couple of times this week to check on the building and grounds etc. Please know that things continue to be maintained and well cared for in the absence of your presence at St. Christopher's. Some of the daffodils have bloomed today, and Mother Nature continues to bless us with new growth everywhere I look! These things that might have gone unnoticed at any other time, are a true comfort to me as I thank God for all his blessings.



I am the first one to admit that I am not very good at dealing with the change of the daily routine and customs that we are all having to get used to. I don't know about all of you, but this constant uncertainty in day to day life is really tough! But rather

than be angry at God right now, I am trying to have faith that we are all going to learn a lot about ourselves and what is truly important in life having been through this experience. I wish you all continued health and safety. *If you have the desire, I invite you to drive down to the church each Sunday at 10:15 am where I will be playing the bells for 20 – 25 minutes as a way of worship.* It will bring me great joy and comfort each week to play, and I hope it will bring you happiness and peace as well.

I will continue to keep our entire parish in my prayers! My love, support and admiration go out to everyone who is playing a part in keeping our church home running. I would, especially, like to thank Mother Ann for her unwavering leadership and guidance to us all during this crisis. We are so very lucky to have her!

God's Peace to you all!

Vestry

John Irwin	Senior Warden
Becky Everett	Junior Warden
Irene McMullen	Clerk
Mary Murray	Treasurer

Class of 2021

Elise Bennett, David Hauserman,
Sean McMillion

Class of 2020

Becky Everett, Mary Murray,
James Pender

Class of 2019

Mary Holmes, John Irwin, Irene
McMullen

Northeast Mission Area Council

Representatives

Peter Batcheller, 2019
Linda Webb, 2019



All Volunteering and
Food Pantry
Donations are
suspended for April



APRIL BARGAIN BOX CANCELLED

Due to Covid-19 concerns,
our April 24th Bargain Box
Sale has been cancelled. We
hope to be back in
September! We cannot
accept donations at this time.



- 1 Sally Conley
Pauline Marting
Connor McMillion
Ted Ramsey
- 2 Elizabeth Eaton
- 5 Larry Murray
- 7 Brian Wright
- 8 Kathy Vilas
- 9 Alex Bercheck
- 11 Barbara Schulze
- 14 Stuart Bates
Lou Boswell
- 16 Bill Doyle
- 19 Madeline Figgie
- 21 Loni Todd-Lorenz
- 22 Fran Meyers
- 23 Ed Meyers
- 24 Claire Murray
- 27 Judy Eakin
Suzanne Murray
- 28 Diana Treco
- 29 Dan Collister
- 30 Beth Miller

ST. CHRISTOPHER
BY-THE-RIVER
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
www.stchrisbytheriver.org

7601 Old Mill Rd.
PO Box 519
Gates Mills OH 44040

The Rev. Ann Kidder, Rector
stchris.motherann@gmail.com

Sunday Services

Suspended for April.

See our website for a link to on line services.

Parish Office

Closed for the time being.

Please leave a message

440-423-4451

stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

April 2020 Newsletter



St. Christopher by-the-River

All in person services are suspended at this time.
Please watch our web site for up to date information
on when they will resume.

Sundays 10:15 a.m. - Carillon Bells Played



**EVEN THOUGH I WALK
THROUGH THE VALLEY
OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL,
FOR YOU ARE WITH ME;
YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF,
THEY COMFORT ME.**

PSALM 23:4



**Please keep up with
your pledge during this
shutdown**

Even though we are not able to meet in person,
St. Christopher's depends on their members
donations during this time. Checks may be
mailed to PO Box 519, Gates Mills, 44040 or you
may give electronically through our website:

www.stchrisbytheriver.org