



The Floister
Parish Newsletter of
Saint Mary's Church, Castleton
March 2010



From Fr. John:

During this season of Lent, we are all encouraged to revisit the classic themes, or mysteries, of this season of Lent. The themes of this season include the following:

- Lent is a season of accompanying those who are preparing for their baptism after Good Friday, during the Great Vigil of Easter. At the same time, along with them, we recall our own preparation for baptism and confirmation. In this, Lent alludes to the deep matters of death and resurrection;
- Lent is a season of fasting and repentance. Lent began with the ashing, and with the words, 'Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return';
- Lent is a season of reading, reflection, retreat, and prayer;
- Lent is a season of visiting or otherwise caring for those who suffer: those who are sick, those who are homeless; or those who are in prison
- Lent means the season of spring. Lent is not only a time of repentance, but is also a season of springtime hope. As Lent leads up to the Passover, we are called to remember the Israelites who were delivered from captivity in Egypt.
- So, all the above can be gathered together into the idea that Lent refers to leaving what is behind, a season of forward looking, and anticipation of deliverance and freedom.

There is a great deal to absorb in the above matters that are both simple and yet also profound and deeply searching. May I encourage you, along with myself, to rise to these things to which we are called.

With much love

Fr John Stubbs

From the Vestry

At the March meeting the vestry discussed:

- the schedule for Holy Week (please see below),
- summer Vacation Bible School program,
- proposed Parish Mission Statement,
- Spring Fundraising events (Dinner and Festival), and
- the possible development of a Youth Discussion Group.

The Wardens and Fr. John Stubbs agreed to the extension of Fr. John's Letter of Agreement.

Upcoming Parish Retreat led by Fr. Roy Coles (Rector of St. John's). The retreat will be held at St. Paul's Memorial Church on April 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Theme: Be Courageous! Nothing is Constant Except Change.

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. (Sunday, March 28) begins the solemn observance of Holy Week.

On Tuesday (March 30) we will hold the annual Passover Seder in the parish house. Please reserve your seat today by calling the parish office at 718-442-1527. Thank you to the Bohnenberger family for hosting this special event.

On Maundy Thursday (April 1) we celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. including the observance of the ceremony of the washing of the feet, and stripping of the altar. The sacrament is placed on the altar of repose in the chapel.

Good Friday (April 2) we will host a solemn three-hour observance, beginning at 12 noon. The Staten Island Episcopal parishes are invited to join us as clergy from those parishes preach. This service includes the 'Liturgy of Good Friday'.

In the evening on Good Friday, at 7:00 p.m., Evening Office and the veneration of the cross.

On Holy Saturday we celebrate the Great Easter Vigil (the first mass of Easter) at 7:00 p.m.

On Easter Day we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.



Easter Flower envelopes can be found in the pews or the back of the church. Your generosity and loving memorials will help beautify our church. Please print your loved ones names as you would like them to appear and return your envelope to the parish office, or place in the Alms Bag. You may also call the Parish Office at 718-442-1527 with your information and mail your donation to the church.

The Search Committee

Cathy Carlson

On March 3, the vestry and search committee met with the Rev'd Canon Tom Orso, Canon for Deployment in the Diocese of New York, to discuss the continuing search process and upcoming interviews. The position Rector of St. Mary's has been posted as "open" and the search committee is in the process of receiving resumes from interested candidates. Please note these names are confidential and known only to the search committee. Even the vestry is not privy to this information. The parish will be notified when interviewing begins.

If you have any questions regarding the search process please speak with any member of the Search Committee.

Outreach Committee

Haiti Relief fund. Fr. John, the Wardens and Vestry would like to thank everyone for their generous contribution towards the Haiti Relief Collection. Our parish will donate \$500.00 towards this effort.

Episcopal Charities Sunday- As requested by the Diocese of New York, we will be collecting for Episcopal Charities on Sunday, March 21st. Look for the envelopes in the pews. Episcopal Charities provides funding and support to a broad range of community-based human services programs.

Fundraising

Sally Rizzo is the vestry liaison for fundraising and outreach events. If you would like to organize a fundraising or outreach (community) event, please speak with Sally.

Save the dates: Spring Dinner, Saturday, May 15 & Spring Festival, Saturday, June 19

⇒ This year instead of a single "raffle prize" we hope to have several raffle baskets. If you would like to donate a complete raffle basket, or donate items towards a basket, please speak with Bob Campbell or Cathy Carlson. We will also accept monetary donations towards the purchase of raffle basket items. We look forward to a successful spring event.

Our Parish Family

Celebrate

