



# *The Cloister*

## *Parish Newsletter of Saint Mary's Church, Castleton March 2009*



From Fr. John:

### **Purple and White**

*"Every parting gives a foretaste of death; every coming together again a foretaste of the resurrection" (Schopenhauer 1851)*

Lent is a Middle English word meaning "spring", the beginning of life after the death, pain, or hard period of winter. I have just read the very moving account of an individual who must deal with pain, through a very difficult process of personal forgiveness in William Young's book, *The Shack*\*. It ends with great joy. Forgiveness is a subject which affects all of us, and I recommend it for reading this Lent. You will love it.

Recently, we had the honor of a visit by Bishop Roskam, about which Marcia Farrell has written elsewhere. Thanks to Marcia also for contributing so generously to our delicious Shrove Tue dinner, which was a delightful gathering. On Lent 1, Dan Fannon and the choir led us in a beautiful evensong and benediction; and another special during Lent is the laying on of hands at the Sunday Eucharistic services.

There have been several pastoral events: Since January, we have grieved with our families who have lost Fr James Gusweller, Frank Sorenson, Janice Burbank, Holt Meyer, Doris Carr and Gail Hepner. This has been hard – hence my quotations above and below. But God has not neglected us: Congratulations to Kate O'Hara on her reception to the Episcopal Church on Sunday 8 March. We regret that Cris Taylor will be going to Ohio on 9 March, but expect her to visit from time to time. On 21 March we will celebrate the marriage of Jennifer Smith and Russell McKenzie; and on 19 April, the baptism of Christopher Aiden Sorrentino.

Amongst our young people, we had the installation of our four new acolytes: Kevin Carlson, Ryan Lamarche, Allison Bohnenberger, and Emily Prendergast. I delight in the continuing activities of the Girl Scouts at St Mary's, with the leadership of Nancy Nix. Also, we are considering an electronic youth letter for St Mary's.

We submitted our Parochial report, which reflects a stable and positive life in this congregation – but please do submit your pledge, if you have not done so. To tithe first has many salutary effects, one being that God guides you in the use of your finances! Now that would surely be a most reliable and trustworthy financial advisor.

In terms of other congregations and the wider church: Our Diocese continues the process of trimming its budget, as it seems we all are doing. We regret that the Mar Thoma congregation will not be joining us after all, since they require different parking arrangements. At the end of April we will join

the SI Council of Churches Community days with our offering of a special event at Verrazano nursing home in which we are led by Faith Grannis.

Every Sunday we pray for our leaders and the world, as the economic struggle continues in so many suffering households. As China considers the measures it will adopt in terms of this crisis, let us pray for a turning of the tide. In another direction, the clergy conference this year will be on the environment – let us all do what lies in us to care for the earth as God's gift to us.

Much love

*Fr John Stubbs*

*“We end in joy” (Roethke, The Moment 1964)*

*“I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die” (John 11: 25-26)*

\* Young, William Paul. 2007. *The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity*. Windblown: Newbury Park CA

**From Courage to Hope: Music & Musings for Lent**

*Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, March 4th to April 1<sup>st</sup> -  
Church of the Good Shepherd, 240 East 31st Street*

Followed by light supper & conversation

March 18: Mercy & Compassion, March 25: Faith & Wisdom, April 1: Hope

## Bishop E. Don Taylor

On May 16, the Diocese of New York is celebrating a service of Holy Eucharist at 10:30am at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine to honor Bishop E. Don Taylor on the occasion of his retirement. Christ Church has arranged for a 49 seat passenger coach to transport members of its parish and other Staten Island parishes. The bus is scheduled to leave at 7:30 a.m. The cost is \$15 per person. To reserve a seat on the bus, please call the parish office at Christ Church at 718-727-6100. Seats are on a first come first serve basis.

## The Search Committee

Cathy Carlson

Our profile and Church Deployment Office (CDO) profile is near completion and will be submitted for review to the Rev, Canon Thomas Orso, Canon for Deployment. Before we begin the interview process the search committee and vestry will again meet with Canon Orso.

If you have any questions regarding the search process please speak with any member of the Search Committee. Committee members are: Cathy Carlson, chair person; Rupert Blanchette, Robert Bohnenberger, Sylvia Campbell, Patrick Cunningham, Sue Peterson, Sally Rizzo and Mary Logan Zagami.

## From the Vestry

- The vestry discussed the schedule for Holy Week, including the observance of the ceremony of the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday.
- The Shrove Tuesday Dinner, held on February 24 raised \$620. Thank you to Marcia Farrell and Jane Cangemi. Bob Campbell will hold a Fundraising meeting on Sunday, March 22, following the 10:00 a.m. service. All ideas are welcome.
- Several projects are scheduled for the spring and summer including; the installation of new front doors in the church, repair to the rectory exterior, installation of a rail on the steps to the stage and repair of the flooring in the choir area of the church.
- Thank you to Joe Zagami for supplying the church with a handicapped accessible ramp for the front entryway.
- The Wardens and Vestry and Fr. John Stubbs agreed to the extension of Fr. John's Letter of Agreement for a period of one year (March 2010).

VISIT OF BISHOP  
CATHERINE ROSKAM  
TO  
ST. MARY'S  
February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### Bishop's Visit

Marcia Farrell

We at St. Mary's Church, Castleton, have a wonderful friendly group who quite regularly attends Chapel and Bible Study on Wednesday mornings. We celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am in the chapel and after coffee and..... We settle down to the table in the kitchen to study our Bibles – led by Cathy Meyer. Father John Stubbs had remarked several times that Bishop Cathy would like to visit St. Mary's. He told us that he had gone to Seminary with her and that their respective daughters were good friends. Alas, Bishop Cathy's visiting schedule for Sundays was filled into 2010. The suggestion was made to invite her for a Sunday in the future, but to extend a friendly invitation to her to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and to attend our Bible Study group. She accepted the invitation and was able to come at a time when some of our church members were free to come while off from school (Spring break!) and we had a goodly turnout.

After cake and coffee, she stood in front of us and invited questions – anything at all you ever wanted to ask. She was amiable, witty, forthright and completely charming. We look forward to her “formal” visit in the future.



**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.

## Our Parish Family

**Janice Louise Burbank**, dear sister of Marcia Farrell died on February 8th, 2009. Our condolences go out to Marcia, and to her family.

**The Honorable Holt Meyer** (Ret. Family Court Judge), beloved husband of Cathy Meyer died on February 9, 2009. Our condolences go out to Cathy, his two sons, Christopher and Holt, and four grandchildren.

**Frank A. Sorensen**, dear brother of Audrey Ketelsen died on February 9, 2009. Our condolences go out to the Sorensen family.

**Doris Carr**, beloved wife of the late George B. Carr, Jr. (Ret. Battalion Chief NYFD); and the loving mother of Anita Diedrich, Steven and the late George B. Carr III (NYPD) died on February 16, 2009. Our condolences go out to the Carr and Diedrich families.

**Dr. Gail Hepner**, beloved wife of Gregory DeRespino and loving daughter of Jane Hepner died on March 5, 2009. Our condolences go out to Gregory, Jane and Gail's brother Wayne.

## Icons: The Gospel in Line & Color

An exhibition of icons by Fr. John Walsted, Susan Schleck, Ann Sohm and Lydia McKibbin.

From March 8th to April 18th at:  
Trinity Cathedral 801 W. State Street, Trenton N.J.

The Exhibition includes 25 works of Fr. John Walsted, a master iconographer of 14th to 16th century Russian icons and three exceptional artists who have studied with him.

## Celebrate

### March Birthdays



March 3 - Lauren Ventrone; 4 - Kathy Carnegie; 6 - Sister Faith Margaret;  
18 - Brian Cunningham; 22 - Sylvia Campbell; 24 - Theodosia Dempster;  
27 - Lindy Figueroa; 30 - Joanne Cunningham

*If your special day is not in our records, call the Parish Office at 718-442-1527, or send an E-mail to [administrator@stmarysi.com](mailto:administrator@stmarysi.com) so it can be added.*

If you know of anyone who is feeling poorly, or is a shut-in and would like a pastoral visit, please contact Fr. John Stubbs at 347-844-2402 or the parish office, 718-442-1527.

## Fundraising Events

