



The Evangelist

The Episcopal Church of St. Mark the Evangelist

www.saintmarksftl.com

Spring 2021



LENTEN 2021

Death is when two worlds meet with a kiss: this world going out, the future coming in.

[The Talmud]

During this Lenten/Spring season as the parish of ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST approaches Holy Week/Resurrection Sunday and beyond, we should feel both a sense of wonder and joy. In our liturgical year we are on the precipice of something new – Easter season representing a brand-new start. Coupled with the exciting prospect of our everyday lives normalizing (vaccines continue to rollout – the prospect of “herd immunity”); yet to me the concept of life “going back to normal” seems somewhat foolhardy and shortsighted.

Our lives, both individually and collectively, will never (nor should they) be the same. The experience of CORONA YEAR 2020 has chastened, informed, and now continues to challenge us as we move into a new season of life. This is the time to recognize the joy in the unencumbered breaths that we take, time to put away fear, and yet simultaneously be ever mindful of so much that we have lost.

A new resurrected life awaits us, which will never be the same as pre-pandemic

days, but one that holds promise, maturity, and excitement. I am reminded of Henry F. Lyte’s magnificent lyrics from the classic hymn “Abide with Me” that I hope and pray we will be able to soon collectively sing together. For now, meditate on these words that serve to place our human life through the lens of the One who came to die for our sins:

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death’s sting?
Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

It is indeed in the Easter Season 2021 when we welcome the coming together of our two realities: life and death. Our Savior triumphed over death and has led the way for us.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

[Romans 12:2]

**The Reverend
Johan Johnson, Ph.D.**

Interim Rector

jjohnson@saintmarks.com

LENTEN BEACH MORNING PRAYER

Monday, March 29

8:30 a.m.

at the end of Commercial Blvd.
Lauderdale by the Sea

*This will be a great way
to begin Holy Week!*

LENT 2021 HOLY WEEK

*Services will be live streamed.

PALM SUNDAY*

Sunday, March 28

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. services.

BEACH MORNING PRAYER

Monday, March 29

8:30 a.m.

on Commercial Blvd. east of A1A.

MAUNDY THURSDAY*

Thursday, April 1

Institution of the Lord’s Supper

6:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY*

Friday, April 2

7 Last Words

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY*

First Communion and Baptism

11:00 a.m.

EASTER SUNDAY*

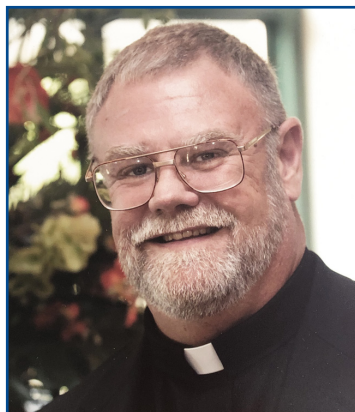
Sunday, April 4

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. services.



Our school will be sponsoring this year’s Easter Egg Hunt! Sections of the athletic field will be sectioned off zones and only so many children per zone allowed at one time, for health safety in accordance with the CDC guidelines. It will be a race per square to see who can get the most. Each child will get a chocolate Bunny (*same size*) to take home. The one with the most eggs will get an extra little something.

The Rev. Ralph Easen Evans, Jr. departed this world to rest in peace and dwell in the Paradise of God on January 27, 2021.



Fr. Ralph was born in Harrisburg, PA on April 4, 1948. He was the son of Ralph, Sr. and Jean Evans, husband to Pat for nearly 50 years, a father to Shannon, Easen and Jonathan, father-in-law to Mark, Juli and Samantha, and grandfather to Andrew, Susannah, Allison, Nyah, Kensi and Benjamin.

Ralph was a graduate of Penn State University and Nashotah House Episcopal Seminary. Before entering seminary, he served in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and was a financial and estate planner in Pennsylvania. As a priest he served congregations in Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Florida. He also served as a Hospice Chaplain for five years after retiring from active service in the Episcopal Church.

Fr. Ralph ministered at St. Mark's from 1990 through 2005. He and Pat often reflected on the time they shared with the St. Mark's family. So many memories – Christmas and Easter Children's Liturgies, Butterfly Releases, Easter Vigil Services, Island Dinners, Thanksgiving Feasts, Christian Education and Vacation Bible School on the Beach, Youth Group Events and Trips, Eucharistic Services, Preaching to the St. Mark's School students, the school's Annual Lessons and Carols Services and dramatic productions, hosting the Diocesan Convention, the wonderful music and dinner show presentations with St. Mark's Choir and their incredible musical offerings at Christmas and Easter, the debut of St. Mark's Story by Barrington Brown, the love and

dedication of the ladies serving on the Altar Guild, the Men's Club Functions, Birthday Luncheons, Mission Trips to Navajo Land, the purchase and renovation of the Stone Campus, and repair of the Memorial Garden crypts. The most special memories come from being a part of the lives of so many wonderful people. Fr. Ralph and Pat felt blessed to be planted within the St. Mark' Church and School community.

Due to the covid pandemic, it was impossible to have the type of service the family wanted to have to celebrate Fr. Ralph's life and include all those with whom he ministered throughout the years. A private service was held on February 20, 2021 at an outdoor venue in Micanopy, FL. It was a glorious sunny day. The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Lord presided at the Rite I Burial Service. Fr. Rob was a friend and colleague from Seminary and had ministered with Ralph in Colorado and Florida. Jonathan organized the venue, reception and recording of the service and with the help of Mark and Andrew set up everything. Mark prepared the music. Easen did the readings. Shannon and Susannah prepared the bulletin. Samantha distributed the bulletins. Juli sang Amazing Grace. The grandchildren made the altar bread and presented it at the service.

We also had choral presentations of; John Rutter's, *For the Beauty of the Earth*, David Clydesdale's, *Holy is He*, Amy Grant's, *In a Little While*, and Bart Millard's, *I Can Only Imagine*. As a symbol of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, butterflies were released at the end of the service as Fr. Ralph did at every Children's Easter Liturgy he celebrated since 1992. It was a very loving tribute to his life and ministry.

Fr. Ralph will be interred at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Longmont, CO at a future date. He was serving as a priest there when they added a columbarium.

Memorial Donations may be made to the following organizations:

Nashotah House Episcopal Seminary
2777 Mission Road
Nashotah, WI 53058

St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital
stjude.org
501 St. Jude Place
Memphis, TN 38105



pictured left to right: Pam and Tom Clark, Pat Evans (Fr. Ralph's widow), Bob and Pam Anderson

DISCERNMENT IN THE SEARCH FOR OUR NEXT RECTOR

As our worship begins returning to normal, the search for our next rector has resumed with a sense of purpose and speed. The rector search committee has accelerated its efforts to finalize a draft of the Parish Profile by the end of March and forward it to the Diocese, subject to the approval of the Vestry. Over the next several weeks the committee will be editing our Church Profile, adding to it and also completing a Ministry Portfolio. The Ministry Portfolio is a comprehensive document that details the basic information about Saint Mark's and the rector's position, responsibilities and terms for the candidates' use. Expect updates over the coming weeks and months.

Terry Gaw and Sarah Weitz
Search Committee Members

SAINT MARK'S



SUMMER PROGRAMS

WEEKLY SESSIONS

June 1 – July 24 (closed July 3)
for students entering PK2 – Grade 6

Counselor In Training Program (Grades 7-8)

Specialty Camps

Musical Theater, Sports,
Engineering and Art!!!

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Water Activities • Field Trips

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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL



GROWING OUTDOORS AND OUTWARD

Just over a year ago at the beginning of Lent we were gathering in numbers inside of St.

Mark's each Sunday morning, and I can recall Father Johan asking, "Who has given up something for Lent?" with many of us parishioners raising our hands. As luck would have it, I was one whom Father Johan called upon to say what we had given up. "Losing my temper," was my reply.

Every Lent I give up losing my temper, and for 40 days I usually do a little better. In practice what I'm actually doing is guarding my tongue because when I'm in private I'll curse away, for example, at the "idiots" who drive their cars faster than I do, or the "morons" who drive their cars slower than I do. Of course, these words "idiots" and "morons" are NOT the ones I'm actually exclaiming within the privacy of my car! In a broader sense, I'm trying to teach myself during Lent not to react so negatively to (the many) things that bother me.

Perhaps as we approach this season we should, instead of giving something up for Lent, actually add something to our arsenal of behaviors or our attitude toward God and our fellows. Here is a very small example: once I was in a hurry (I always am hurrying for some reason) in the supermarket when an elderly lady was standing in front of the yogurts forever (*forever is an exaggeration*) and that temper of mine was boiling as I wished she would just go away so I could reach in and grab my yogurt. But then a better angel tapped me on the shoulder and I asked her if I could help her to find what she was searching for all that time. We found it straightaway.

I wish I realized more opportunities to do minor good deeds such as that one, and I suspect I would have those opportunities if only I looked for them. Mike Mullins and Terry Gaw here at St. Mark's are always finding ways to serve God in their daily lives. Matthew's Gos-

pel tells us that to whatever degree we do something to help another, we have helped Christ. We are also told that Christ will equip us with whatever talent and strength we need to carry out His work. I have witnessed that time and again here in our parish.

When it comes to giving of his talents, few could surpass Chuck Gregory. Chuck serves as senior warden of our vestry as well as the Search Committee. If you've been around a bit, you know his talent as a musician. Moreover, for months last summer he did the broadcasting of our Sunday morning mass during the days of Covid so we could share a contactless communal worship. Alas, Chuck has stripped from me one of my favorite excuses – I used to tell people that I am simply too old to handle the new-fangled technology of our computers and phones, but he does it all with an ease and puts me to shame.

Nowhere is Chuck's versatility seen more than our move this past winter to outside worship services, and you can watch him moving the microphone about and adjusting it throughout the services. But to attribute the success of our drive-in worship to Chuck would be to miss out on the contributions of the many. Or to put it another way, it is astounding how many people put together their skill and good will to create the parking lot worship center each Sunday morning. When I arrive five minutes before worship, someone has set up the chairs, the lectern, the table for the elements, the microphones, the speakers, and so much more. For someone as technologically challenged as I am, I marvel at all of the cords and wires running over the pavement. We are blessed to have Ryan Grille, who is so patient and capable, to broadcast our worship with such finesse. There is Clive Frater who serves us so faithfully and knows us all. I was so thankful for John Mahanna, who moved outdoors with a keyboard to replace his playing the organ and the piano indoors – that is in addition to his singing. God has blessed him with such talent and he has shared much of it with us.

Sunday outdoor worship is quite a complex operation, and no one can

miss the work of Harry Richardson. This small article would run for pages if I began to enumerate all of the ways Harry contributes to our worship and mission at St. Mark's, but his actions alone make the worship run smoothly. As wonderful as Harry's gifts to St. Mark's are, he is in fact, one among many. Have you heard the voice of Karen Nagy when she sings? Then you have been touched by an angel! Look around and see Robin Dreyfuss taking photos for a future calendar. Listen to Lynne Coughlin or Ann Erickson or Gail Cuthbertson or Tracy Beeson (among others) proclaim the word of God. Recognize that none of this happens without the inspiration, coordination, and determination of Father Johan, who came to us as an interim rector yet is seeing us through the most difficult days St. Mark's has faced.

The church fathers of yore would have called these people the saints of the church. In his letters, Saint Paul often uses the analogy of the human body for the Body of Christ being the church. Just as the human body cannot function merely with eyes and legs but not ears and arms (1st Corinthians 12), St. Mark's cannot succeed without lovely music, no scripture, or without clean altar linens nor any bulletins. We are all called by God to fulfill our role. Needless to say, we first must discover that role. Undoubtedly that discovery is ongoing, and Lent is the perfect time to search out ourselves and discover God's purpose for us.

I hope in this season of Lent none of us has determined for ourselves too narrow a role. While giving up chocolates helps us to practice self-discipline, perhaps taking on something new, be it time for prayer or reaching out to isolated fellow parishioners, may do more to advance Christ's kingdom here in Oakland Park and beyond. Through honest soul searching, I hope this Lenten season not merely to hold my temper but to learn the will of God, as opposed to my own desires and preferences, and to discover how I myself can advance His will.

Jim Sentman,
Parishioner

PRAYER AT CHURCH IS MY SUPER POWER



"Fear is the Mind-Killer" wrote Frank Herbert in *Dune*, a great sci-fi novel. I've always loved the quote but realize that he doesn't tell you what to do about your fear. If you focus on it, it gets worse. So no great help, Frank. One sunny Sunday morning in January just before going to church, I read an email that threw me into a paroxysm of anger and fear. I was completely undone. I drove to church so angry and afraid, it was all I could do to put a smile on my face and hide it from other parishioners.

An old difficult client of mine had somehow reached out from the past and pulled one more stunt – denying receipt of funds and refusing to take care of a legitimate renter. This client had been such a bully, so unethical and angry all the time, that we had parted ways. I watched at least a hundred (no exaggeration) YouTube videos on how to deal with toxic people because of this client. And once again, I was in the middle of the mess.

With a racing heart, I sat in the pew, ready to become an angry Valkyrie and fight. As the rhythm of the service commenced, with prayer, music and a sermon, I began to relax. After taking the Host, I prayed hard. I prayed for understanding and peace. And I had a vision, an image, of this client not as the towering snow monster, but as a very small little person curled up in fear in a hole. This image surprised me. But it was the real client I was "seeing", not the blustering person that had driven me to firing him.

And I felt peaceful-the peace that passes all understanding. Surrounded by the congregation, also praying, I felt a force of support. I realized that this client needed my protection just as much as the renter did. I left church in peace, and solved the mess with calmness.

Prayer at church is my super power.

Robin Dreyfuss

Parish and Vestry Member



Explore. Play. Learn.

Thursdays and Fridays

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

For a tour, reservations or more information, please contact:

**Mrs. Francia Willberg,
MMO Director**

954-334-0117

mmo@saintmarks.com



You are invited to join us on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. Parishioners and Friends meet for a scenic walk near the beach – we gather at the corner of A1A & East Oakland Park Blvd. (right across from the Hermitage) – plenty of parking is available diagonally, across the street.

NOT RECEIVING OUR PARISH WEEKLY EDITION?

Contact us at:

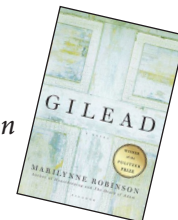
stmarkschurchandschool@gmail.com to be added to our contact list. The weekly edition is distributed weekly on Mondays, except during the months of June and July.

ST. MARK'S BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets on the 4th Thursday of each month from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. If you are interested in learning more about the Book Club please contact Mrs. Dorothy Seibert at (954) 990-7966.

MARCH 25TH

Gilead
by Marilynne Robinson

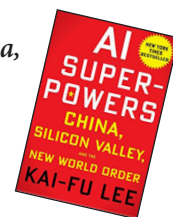


"Gilead is a beautiful work-demanding, grave and lucid . . . Robinson's words have a spiritual force that's very rare in contemporary fiction . . ."

James Wood, The New York Times Book Review

APRIL 22ND

AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley and the New World Order
by Kai-fu Lee



A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) has slowly but surely crept into our lives. Although many dismiss A.I. As some far fetched figment of our imagination which could affect us in the future, A. I. Is already controlling many aspects or our lives . . ." *Amazon Reviewer*

MAY 27TH

Frankenstein
by Mary Shelley



"At once a Gothic thriller, a passionate romance, and a cautionary tale about the dangers of science, Frankenstein tells the story of committed science student Victor Frankenstein. . . ."

Good Reads Reviewer

Have you moved or changed your contact information, please let us know: 954-563-5155 or stmarkschurchandschool@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting St. Mark's Episcopal Church and School.