

Wednesday Information - February 24, 2021

Dear friends,

Last Monday I stood outside 804 Garfield Parkway and looked up and down the length of the road, and saw not a single car. It reminded me of what someone said when I first arrived, that in Bethany Beach you can lie down in the middle of the road in winter and not be run over. Year-round local residents are said to prefer this time of the year, when they get their town back after the deluge of holiday makers who pack the town during the summer.

It has indeed been a quiet month, especially in the Bethany Diner. A few weeks ago I was the only patron; yesterday, however, I had to wait for a table. Was it was a sign of the times: are things slowly returning to normal?

We have already experienced a change at St Martha's, in that we are open for in-person worship once more. I am hoping that more of the faithful of St Martha's will venture out and into the church, and experience that sense of liberation and peace which is Christ's gift to us. The life of the church is centered first and foremost around its worship. In the Holy Eucharist we are nourished by the sacrament, taught by the word, and built up into a loving community through the power of the Holy Spirit.

At last night's Vestry meeting, I said we need to give ourselves time to regain our *rhythm*. By that I mean, that we need to rediscover our *rhythm* of church going, and the sense of fellowship it brings. When we re-assemble, we may be a different church, with new people entering the church for the first time. If you meet them, please make them welcome (without overdoing it, of course, like asking them if they want to join the vestry).

In the meantime, I wish you all the blessings of Lent, and look forward to seeing you soon.

Father David

Join us as we worship together in person.

*Second Sunday in Lent
Sunday, February 28, 2021
9:00 am - Holy Eucharist*

**If you are unable to worship in person, please join us as we
livestream.**

To view the livestreamed service please click the Youtube link below.



UPCOMING EVENTS

God and Us

Today, Wednesday, February 24 at 7 pm. “**God and Us**” comprises six online sessions and explores our relationship with God. There will be an opportunity to discuss the course material and the session will end with prayer.

Session One: **God Is**

A link to the course material is [here](#)

Please contact the office for the zoom link.

Life Before Death

Saturday, **February 27** at 10 am. Week Two

We continue with the second session on Saturday February 27 at 10:00am. Participants need to email admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or call Jaclyn at the church office to sign up. Sign up is very important so that we can prepare the handout folder for each person.

Handout material will be in a blue covered file bin located by the red front door of St Martha's. Please make arrangements to pick up your materials that will be used in each session.

Talking with your loved ones

Getting ready for the conversation

Where do you stand on important health decisions

Who, When, Where, and What to say

This can be viewed through the link provided by Beebe Healthcare

In Person Bible Study

Tuesday, **March 2** at 1 pm. A study of the Book of Numbers, Chapters 1, 2 & 6. Led by Dianne Burlew. Meet in the Parish Hall. Masks and physical distancing required. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jaclyn Hickman by email at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or by telephone on 302-539-7444.



Men's Group

Our next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, **March 10** 10, 2021 at 9 am. Our guest speaker will be Rev. David Archibald, Rector of St Mark's, Millsboro.

**(In lieu of Prayer/ Soup & Salad each Wednesday of
Lent sponsored by the Ministerium)**

A Prayer Service will be held in the Parking Lot of St. George's United Methodist Church on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 24 @ 12 noon—led by St. Ann's

Wednesday, March 31 @ 12 noon—led by Ocean View Presbyterian Church

(Sound system available, so you may stay in your car. As in past, a free will offering will be accepted to support the less fortunate that Ministerium provides for).

The Threat to Christianity

The Chinese Communist Party recently reneged on an agreement with the Catholic church, regarding the appointment of bishops. Father David discusses the historic and present dangers of communism. For reasons of length, the article can be accessed [here](#).



Outreach

Community Food Pantry, located at Salem United Methodist Church, is looking for volunteers to help with their monthly Friday food preparation and Saturday drive thru distribution. If you can help March 19th or 20th, please contact Joyce Dennis (302-732-6565) or Myra Bare (302-732-940).

Flower Guild

There are still two Sundays in Lent for which greens may be designated, March 14th and Palm Sunday, March 28th. Please call or email Jaclyn at 302-539-7444 or admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org if you would like to honor or remember someone on one of those dates.

Also, a reminder that donations for Easter Flowers may also be made by calling or emailing Jaclyn. Father David enclosed a donation form with his Lenten letter, which, of course, may be used also.

Donations in any amount are gratefully received, but just for a frame of reference, Sunday arrangements cost \$35; the greens for March 14th, \$25; and an average Easter plant, about \$15-\$25. Checks should have Flower Fund in the memo line and may be mailed to the church or dropped off.



The Seashell Ringers will resume their weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, March 3rd, at 1:00 in the Parish Hall. All necessary COVID precautions are taken to assure everyone's safety. A few new ringers are needed! The ability to read music is not necessary, but the ability to count to four is! Please contact Dave Kemper or any bell choir member for more information.

Prayer List

Bev and Jack Shubert, Marie Hogsten, Harry Burlew, Robert Hicks, Christine Mains, Elsa Fuentes, Elizabeth, Bruce Robson, Carolyn Clarke, Joanne Grant, Ed Kapnic, Craig Brosi, Keith Smith, Jim Lucas, Jane Robbert and Michael Kilakis

For our serving military: Quinn Barber, HM3 Kevin Murphy, Conner Warlow, Daniel Olnick

Prayer LIST – If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List please contact the office at (302) 539-7444 or email admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org. The Prayer List is a way to ask for prayer from the whole congregation for a loved one who is dealing with a stressful issue such as chronic illness, job problem, or other personal problem. Only the person's name is listed. Names stay on the list for one month unless and until renewed.

Prayer CIRCLE – These volunteer prayer warriors pray for a person who has asked for urgently needed short-term prayer for a specific purpose like surgery or an upcoming medical test. These requests are confidential. You can email prayercircle@stmarthasbethanybeach.org for Prayer Circle intercessions. You can also contact Jaclyn at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or 539-7444. Voicemail messages are being monitored and you will receive a return call during normal office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm).

Pastoral CARE –If you have a pastoral care need, please call Elsa or Carol at (732) 216-6875 or contact the office using the email address or phone number listed above.

Pastoral Care EMERGENCY – Please contact Father David Beresford at (302) 468 9062.

Please give by mail or website donate button

Please continue to support our mission work by submitting your pledge to St. Martha's Episcopal Church, PO Box 1478, Bethany Beach DE 19930 or give via the donate button on the website where there is a box to note your contribution purpose: <https://www.stmarthasbethanybeach.org/make-donation-or-pledge/>.

*From your royal throne, O God,
you sent your living Word
to pierce the gloom of oppression;
so, in our souls' night,
come with your saving help
and penetrate our darkness with the
rays of your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Have a wonderful week!

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