

WHO'S WHO AT ST. MARK'S

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Downing, Brenda Matthews, John Mentzer,

Brenda Milner, Stephanie Powers, Laurie Voedisch

Clerk to the Vestry: Rebecca Ethier

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PLEASE SEND ALL ITEMS FOR THE MAGAZINE BY THE 10TH

OF THE PRECEEDING MONTH

The views and opinions expressed in the magazine are those of the individuals concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the Rector, the Vestry or the Parish.

St. Marks Magazine



February
2024

Now these three continue . . .



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13



A Lenten Reflection

As we move through the Gospel of John this Lent, we arrive at the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus' friend, Lazarus. This is a tender and human story, revealing a window into the emotion that Jesus feels. Lazarus is not an unnamed person who is brought to Jesus for healing, or someone who encounters him on a road or in a village; Lazarus is a close friend, someone Jesus loves. John includes an unusually personal story in his narrative account of Jesus. Rare for the high view of the Christ that John's Gospel, John unbinds

Just so, Lent is our personal story. Lent asks of us to make a deep commitment to learning, reflection, and walking the hard path. If we take the Ash Wednesday exhortation to heart, the five weeks of Lent will be a powerful, personal journey of discovery and connection. The stories from John's Gospel that

will be proclaimed to us over the season of Lent each start with a difficult question or situation. These long narratives give us

a lot more information than we might need to accomplish the miraculous moment and capture the interaction between Jesus and the ones to whom he is ministering, and I wonder how much value is added to the story through these extra details. When we strip away some of the distractions, we are able to focus on what we observe, hear, feel about the dark story of Jesus' final journey toward Jerusalem. In each of the stories we hear in Lent, the subject is healed, reconciled, or resurrected – unbound by what kept them from being whole. That is a transformative journey.

Historically, the Church has tried to help us achieve this freedom from distraction with the suggested discipline of giving something up, or taking something on, both venerable and worthy practices. But I think that Jesus' final command to the friends and family of Lazarus is an appeal to us this season, as well. Be unbound, freed to reflect on the things that keep us connected to each other, and connected to God.

By: Cn. J. Davey Gerhard



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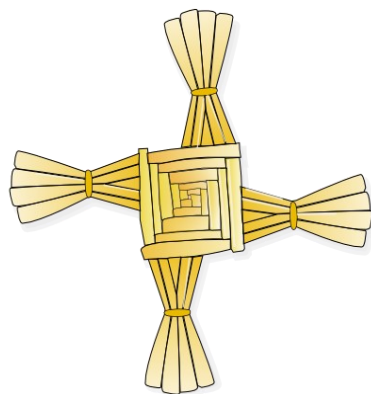
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1st Feb: Brigid of Ireland, compassion and love

Brigid, you could say, was the female Patrick of Ireland.

Historical facts about this first abbess of Kildare (d.c. 525) may be scarce, but her 'Lives', written from the 7th century, tell many anecdotes and miracles which over the centuries have become deeply rooted in Irish folklore. Brigid came from a village near Kildare, of parents of humble origin, and is said to have been baptised by Patrick and became a nun at an early age. She is credited with founding the monastery of Kildare, a powerful influence for Christianity in Ireland.



The miracles attributed to Brigid show her to have been a woman of great compassion and generosity. There are stories of how she could multiply food, especially butter, for the poor. Other stories tell of her changing her bathwater to beer, in order to satisfy the thirst of unexpected visitors. Even her cows gave milk three times the same day, to enable visiting bishops to have enough to drink.

St. Brigid's Cross, made from 4 rushes or pieces of straw is said to ward off evil from the home.

Legend tells that Brigid converted an old pagan chieftain on his deathbed while explaining the meaning of the

Brigid's cult grew rapidly in Ireland, where it became second only to that of Patrick. In England, there were at least 19 ancient church dedications in her honour (the most famous is St Bride's Fleet Street). There is also St Bride's Bay, Dyfed, which underlines the strong connection between Irish and Welsh Christianity. St Brigid is patron of poets, blacksmiths, and healers. She is usually depicted with a cow lying at her feet, which recalls her phase as a nun-cowgirl.

Introducing Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent

This Lent, our parish is entering The Way of Love. We are exploring this through a program called Life Transformed, designed by the national office of The Episcopal Church. Everyone is welcome to participate. Even if you have missed a session or two, you are still welcome to join in. Wednesday nights we explore the way of love over a simple share meal. Thursday morning we explore over our Heavenly Mugs. The whole family is welcome (Rev. Aileen includes children's activities, so far our children have fully entered into the discussions.)

The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. We are baptized into his life, self-giving, and death; then, we rise in hope to life transformed. This Lent, our communities are invited to walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life. Together, we will reflect anew on the loving actions of God as recounted in the Easter Vigil readings. Together, we will walk through the depths of salvation history into the fullness of redemption.

This set of seven Adult Forums ties the Easter Vigil readings to the seven practices of the Way of Love. Drawing on the ancient practice of setting aside Lent as a period of study and preparation for living as a Christian disciple (known as the catechumenate), the forums encourage participants to reflect on salvation history; walk toward the empty tomb; and embrace the transforming reality of love, life, and liberation. As we stand with the three women at the empty tomb, we hear his call to go and live that transformed reality.

After the 40 days of Lent, participants are invited into a 50-day Eastertide "Test Kitchen." During this time, people everywhere will actively "GO" with Jesus from the tomb to bless the world – and then share and inspire each other with accounts of how they are living the Way of Love.

PARISH NOTICES

Wednesday Nights at St. Marks

Starting at 6:30 for Soup & Bread and the Lenten series and Worship. (We will be exploring the Way of Love)

7:15 Eucharistic Service

Heavenly Mugs

Community, Faith and Coffee

Thursday mornings at 11:00am. During Lent, we will revisit the Wednesday Night programming for those who are not able to attend. However, this group is designed to be a year-round group. So please join whether or not you attend WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ ST. MARK'S in LENT.

As always, at St. Mark's everyone is welcome.

Invite your friends.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please join us for Fun, fellowship and PANCAKES!!! Sunday, March 17 in the Church Hall at 8:45 am (in between the 8am and 10 am services)

We will also have a mini raffle

We are seeking volunteers to set-up, cook, clean-up, and prepare Raffle items as well as for food donations

There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in Crocker Hall.

Any questions, please contact Rebecca Ethier

Palm Sunday March 24

St. Mark's
Worship 8am & 10am



St. Mark's
Donuts with the Donkey
Petting Zoo
9:30am-12:00pm



Maundy Thursday March 28

St. Paul's
Dinner 6pm & Worship 7pm

St. Mark's
Overnight Vigil 9pm-9am (Friday)



Holy Week

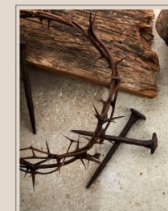
St. Mark's Church
60 West St. Leominster

St. Paul's Church
79 Cross St., Gardner

Christ Church
569 Main St., Fitchburg

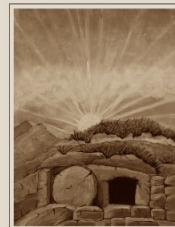
Good Friday March 29

Christ Church,
Worship 7pm



Easter Vigil March 30

St. Mark's
Worship 7pm



Easter Day March 31

St. Mark's
Worship 8am & 10am



Episcopal Churches of North Worcester County

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To Do List
1.



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ST. MARK'S ALL AGES

LEARN TO KNIT
CREATE BEAUTY

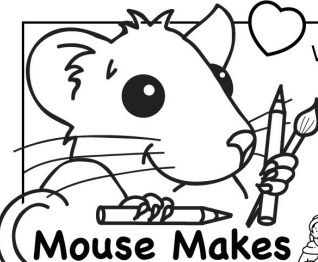
BRING KNITTING
NEEDLES
AND A SKEIN OF
YARN

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

60 WEST ST., LEOMINSTER
SUNDAYS 11:30 AM
STARTING MARCH 3

**A class for children
Adults warmly welcomed too**

*Open to the Community
This is not a child drop-off
event*



Mouse Makes

Who were the first couple?
 _____ and _____
 Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

 Genesis 19:26

Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

 Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

 Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

 Matthew 1:5

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?
 _____ and _____
 Romans 16:3

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
 KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
 MFU OPU NBO
 TFQBSBUF.
 NBSL
 UFO WFSTF
 OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives!
 They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

<p>EEZREELIZABETHR SVQSLRZJIBOADM REBEKAHOJRAOQNO UISAACASAAZPRNS THAQNHZECHARIAH HRUTAENVPOAIEBHI SARAH LTHBMARYSD PRISCILLAQUILA</p>	<p>ABRAHAM ADAM • AQUILA BOAZ • ELKANAH ELIZABETH EVE • HANNAH ISAAC • JACOB JOSEPH • MARY PRISCILLA RACHEL REBEKAH • RUTH SARAH ZECHARIAH</p>
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... I haven't the heart to tell Noah I think he's got the plans upside down!