



The Lion's Tale

MARCH/APRIL 2026



From your Rector...

Rector Reflection

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word."

These words were spoken on Ash Wednesday, as we began the season of Lent with a specific invitation. Through this liturgical language, we were given the tools we need to pattern our lives in Lenten discipline: self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting, self-denial, and time spent in scripture. I wonder, as you read these words, which stand out to you as particularly appealing, and which cause you wriggle with discomfort. It can be easy, in a society like ours, to forget that this invitation comes to us in the context of corporate worship and communal response. It is not up to each of us to do everything, and it is certainly not the intention of this invitation that we would each be engaged in these practices as individuals. Rather, these words come to us as the gathered body of Christ, calling us to a season of Lenten practices **together**.

What could it mean for St. Mark's to spend this season in self-examination, noticing how we have fallen short of God's hopes for us and where the Spirit may be nudging, both individually and corporately? How might this practice of honesty and repentance lead us into new pathways of faith? When we gather for worship and Bible study, we are engaged in meditating on God's holy Word together with one another, and by reading scripture in community, the Spirit of God inspires new interpretations we may not find on our own. Instead of looking at self-denial as "giving up sugar for Lent," how might a parish community practice self-denial by thinking first of our neighbors, and seeking the wellbeing of all rather than one? Lent is a season which offers God's people space to reflect and engage our faith in meaningful ways. As you find your way this season, I hope you will notice the people of God here at St. Mark's and beyond walking alongside you.

Delaney+

Diving into Baptism

Did you know Lent is historically the time of year when new Christians prepared for baptism? This process was traditionally called the catechumenate, leading up to baptisms at the Easter Vigil. This year, this season of reflection and renewal is coming to St. Mark's. If you are interested in diving deep into our baptismal covenant, the promises made at baptism and affirmed at confirmation, join us after worship in the parish hall each Sunday in March. On Palm Sunday, our learning will culminate with a visit from the bishop and the rite of confirmation during worship.

If you are interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church during Bishop Deon's visit, please speak with Delaney+!

Godly Play

The class continues to explore the book of Genesis in the Old Testament and learn more about the great family. They enjoy taking turns telling Bible stories to each other. Throughout the year, they create greeting cards, especially for our friends who are no longer able to attend church services in person. The class learned about this year's two celebrations that rarely start on the same day, Mardi Gras and Lunar New Year. The children love birds and animals, so to help feed them during the colder months, they create treats with peanut butter, nuts, seeds and more. They even smashed last year's pumpkins for the squirrels to enjoy.





FROM YOUR DEACON ...

Jesus, God incarnate, walked this earth at a time and place when the power elite of empire and religion oppressed and marginalized the masses of people. Jesus lived his life showing that active love and compassion for all, with no exceptions, operated as resistance to a society that was not how God intended for God’s people to live. And the early followers of the way of Jesus continued his ministry as and to the downtrodden. Then with Emperor Constantine in 313 CE, a cosmic shift in Christianity occurred – the cross became a sign of temporal power of the ruling class. This was the original

Christian nationalism.

Many women and men found the worldly dominance of Christianity as destructive to their living the gospel of Jesus. They responded by retreating to the deserts of Egypt, Palestine, Syria, and Arabia to live as hermits and monastics, away from all worldly values. They found the desert as a place of resistance, refuge, and revelation. In the desert, they learned how to die to aspects of themselves that were preventing them from experiencing an intimate relationship with Jesus in a mystical dimension.

That brings up the questions to us: Can we let go of all that keeps us from the single-minded pursuit of God without having to abandon our everyday world to become a hermit? Can we disrupt being controlled by the values of the world to make room for the awareness of the divine within us to grow while remaining in the world? Our Lenten practices are intended to do just that. On Ash Wednesday, we were invited “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.” These Lenten practices are a part of a lifetime of striving to re-direct every aspect of our body, mind, and soul to God, to expand our love for all creation. The real test of our spiritual growth isn’t whether it works on an isolated mountaintop cabin or a refreshing retreat center. The real test of our spiritual growth, especially during Lent, is whether we have been transformed so that our closeness to God plays out as servant ministry in regular life.

May we experience such a holy Lent.

In Christ, Deacon Jerre

Meet your new Vestry

At our Annual Meeting on February 15th, we elected two new vestry members and agreed to an additional one-year term for another. In a separate Vestry Meeting that took place after the Annual Meeting, Vestry positions were elected. Here’s your new Vestry.

Sr. Warden-Ellen Jeffery
Jr. Warden-Margaret Hvatum
Vestry Clerk-Tom Bradley

Term Ends January 2027
Sandra Olmsted
Lynn Heritage

Term Ends January 2028
Ellen Jeffery
Margaret Hvatum
Marilyn Wiethop
Tom Bradley

Term Ends January 2029
Melissa Edwards
Cindy Schroeder



Holy Week 2026

March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday
Worship at 10:00am with Rt. Rev. Deon K Johnson, Bishop Diocesan

April 2, 2026 Maundy Thursday
5:30pm Soup Supper
7:00pm Worship

April 3, 2026 Good Friday
12:00pm Worship
7:00pm Worship

April 4, 2026 Easter Vigil
7:30pm Sundown Worship
Beginning on the Plaza

April 5, 2026 Easter Sunday
10:00am Worship and breakfast

St. Mark's Events



Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings time is March 8th this year. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour.

Peace Meal

Are you interested in serving your neighbors? Consider joining St. Mark's at the Peace Meal at St John's Church on March 7th. We need volunteers for the first afternoon shift for cooking from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and the 2nd shift from 3:45pm to 5:30pm to serve and clean up. Your help is greatly appreciated. Please notify Marti Robards or Diane Nienkemper if you would like to help.



Maundy Thursday Soup Supper April 2nd at 5:30 p.m.

Join us in the Parish Hall from 5:30 to 7:00p.m. April 2nd for the annual Maundy Thursday Soup Supper. Soups and bread will be served before the service. Please sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall if you plan to attend so we know how many to prepare for. The meal and fellowship are free, but donations to benefit St. Mark's outreach programs will be accepted. If you would like to help by making soup or with set-up or clean-up, there is a separate sign up sheet or contact Susan Goen at susangoen@sbcglobal.com or 314-374-2152.

Coffee Hours

Coffee Hours continue into the spring! Come spend time with fellow St. Markans and Delaney+, catching up and getting to know one another over coffee.

Wednesday, March 11 10-11:30am
Espresso Yourself
5351 Devonshire Ave, St. Louis, MO 63109

Saturday, April 18 10-11:30am
Maypop Coffee & Garden Shop
803 Marshall Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119

Take me out to the Ballgame 2

St. Mark's at the Ballpark is happening again this year. The game will be the St. Louis Cardinals vs. Kansas City Royals on Sunday May 17th. Game starts at 1:15pm. Tickets will be \$20-\$25 per person (based on interest). Sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall. Contact Margaret Hvatum for more information.

Playground Task Force

We are reigniting the conversation about installing a Playground on St. Mark's property. If you would like to be part of that conversation, please sign-up in the Parish Hall. **No commitment required.**

Choir Call



If you enjoy singing but aren't able to sing with the choir on a regular basis, please consider joining us for Holy Week and Easter. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 p.m. and will sing for the services on Palm Sunday (3/29), Maundy Thursday (4/2), Good Friday (4/3), and Easter (4/5). If you'd like to sing with us for some or all of these services, please be in touch with Barbara Raedeke (braedeke@aol.com). We would be delighted to have you join us! Barbara Raedeke

Time Away

Rev. Delaney will be away on vacation April 22-29. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please contact Deacon Jerre.

Diocesan Events

2026 Women's Retreat

Mercy Conference and Retreat Center
Retreat Theme: I Will Call Upon the Lord
 2039 N Geyer Rd,
 St. Louis, MO 63131



Join us on **March 6th and 7th** at Mercy Center for a Spiritual Retreat! Inspired by the book of Psalms, this retreat invites you into a reflective journey of prayer, song, and sharing. Participants are encouraged to bring not only their voices but also the story of their name, a meaningful way to explore identity, faith, and belonging together.

Retreat Leader We are pleased to welcome The Reverend H. Elizabeth Back Becker, known to many as Heather, as our retreat leader. For questions, please contact Lindsay or Debbie at ParishLife@csmsg.org.

Gun Violence Prevention

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, April 7**, and consider joining a large diocesan contingent at the **Moms Demand Action Advocacy Day** in Jefferson City. As in past years, we will follow the leadership of Moms Demand Action in responding to gun-related legislation and will gather to speak directly with legislators and their staff about these critical concerns. Additional details about Advocacy Day participation will be shared through www.mochristian.org, upcoming **Proclaim** emails, and parish bulletins. If you are interested in helping coordinate a carpool from your congregation, please email gunsafety@diocesemo.org to connect with your parish representative.



GEORGE HUBER MANNA MARCH AWARD

FEED MY PEOPLE PRESENTS: MANNA MARCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 1-3PM

Jefferson Barracks Park at the GOLD STAR PAVILION
 345 North Road

1 MILE WALK AGAINST HUNGER

Walker Registration \$30 includes T-shirt and Lunch

To register visit WWW.FEED-MY-PEOPLE.ORG

MUSIC AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL PRESENTS

PERGOLESI'S **STABAT MATER**
The sorrowful mother standing and watching

EXPERIENCE CHRIST'S PASSION THROUGH HIS MOTHER'S EYES

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 11:00 AM PRINCIPIA COLLEGE MCVAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS 1 MAYBECK PLACE ELSAH, ILLINOIS	SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 3:00 PM ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 10 EAST THIRD STREET ALTON, ILLINOIS
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, NOON CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL 1210 LOCUST STREET ST. LOUIS	SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 3:00 PM ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 808 N. MASON ROAD CREVE COEUR

WITH BAROQUE ORCHESTRA FROM EARLY MUSIC MISSOURI
 Keith Wehmeier, Countertenor & Ashley Fabian, soprano
 Dr. Connor Scott, director

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays 7:00pm

Thursdays 7:30pm

Fridays 7:00pm

March 8th

March 11th

March 16th

March 29th

March 29th

April 2nd

April 3rd

April 4th

April 4th

April 5th

April 18th

April 20th

April 22nd-29th

AA Meeting in Parish Hall

Choir Practice

SMART Recovery Group in Parish Hall

Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)

Coffee Hour with Delaney +

Vestry Meeting (Zoom)

Bishop Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson Visit

Palm Sunday and Confirmation Worship 10am

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper 5:30pm Service 7pm

Good Friday Service Noon and 7pm

Easter Vigil 7:30 Sundown Worship begins in plaza

Champagne and Bon Bon Reception after Worship

Easter Sunday Worship, Reception and Egg Hunt

Coffee Hour with Delaney +

Vestry Meeting (Zoom)

Delaney+ out of town

Lent and Easter

This season we gather together in worship and observance of Lent, which began with Ash Wednesday on February 18. Join in worship and reflection this season with St. Mark's, and mark your calendar for Holy Week worship:

March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday
Worship at 10:00am with Rt. Rev.
Deon K Johnson, Bishop Diocesan
April 2, 2026 Maundy Thursday
5:30pm Soup Supper
7:00pm Worship

April 3, 2026 Good Friday
12:00pm Worship
7:00pm Worship
April 4, 2026 Easter Vigil
7:30pm Sundown Worship
Beginning on the Plaza
April 5, 2026 Easter Sunday
10:00am Worship and breakfast



The Lion's Tale is published bi-Monthly by St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Melissa Engle-Editor

To submit an article email it to parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org.
Deadline for article submissions are listed below.

April 24th Deadline for May/June Lion's Tale

July 27th Deadline for July/August Lion's Tale

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

4714 Clifton Ave St. Louis, MO 63116

www.saintmarks-stl.org