

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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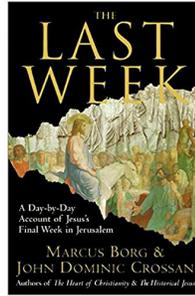


Congratulations and God's Blessings to the Dowling Family.

Grace and Gregory Dowling were born on March 14th.

Their parents are Gregory & Erinn Dowling, big sister, Elizabeth and grandparents, Matt and Sue Dowling.

ADULT FORUM - Today we get a day closer to the final day in *The Last Week*. It's the boring day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday when we are...waiting. Good Friday is full of mournful music, gut-wrenching Gospel readings, and prayers full of sorrow. And that's followed the next evening with late-night readings, baptisms, lots of candles, alleluias, and maybe even some bunnies of one kind or another. We know Jesus was crucified on Good Friday and rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. But what happened to him on this in-between day, this day of waiting for us, but apparently not for him? The day has a number of names, the most common is 'Holy Saturday.' What happened during that day? What was Jesus up to? According to tradition he descended to the dead, often called "the harrowing of hell," portrayed in art with dramatic images of Jesus breaking down the doors of Hades and in vivid poems like those of Dante. What happened has raised all kinds of questions that have perplexed theologians as learned as St. Augustine and prodded some Protestants to advocate even editing the Apostles' Creed, one of Christianity's oldest confessions of faith. Holy Saturday has posed lots of interesting questions. So, it may not be boring after all. Frankly, I can't wait to hear what this morning's (9-9:45) Adult Forum's response is to all of this. *Ken Gorman*



GOOD FRIDAY—Christians have been practicing a devotion called the Stations of the Cross (also known as The Way of the Cross) since the early centuries of Christianity. The term "station" comes from a Latin word meaning to stand, halt, or take up a position.

There are fourteen stations consisting of nine gospel scenes and five from popular tradition. This tradition is celebrated in many churches during Lent, but especially on Good Friday. The stations are illustrated on the walls of our church. On Good Friday (March 30th) at 7 pm, we will offer a unique enactment of this tradition. Some of our youth, accompanied by a few adults, will represent characters from the Passion of Jesus at each station. The observance takes about an hour. We invite you to join us for this special event.

Priest in Charge

The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter B. Stube

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This week at St. Mary's, March 18, 2018

TODAY 9 AM Adult Forum

FAMILY PROMISE families arrive

7 PM Movie Night at The Branches

MON 11 AM Eucharist at The Branches

7 PM Vestry Meeting

TUES 8 PM AA meeting

WEDS 12 noon "Giving Up Something Bad," Lenten Music and Lunch in chapel

5 PM Choir

FRI 10 AM Alanon

SUN 9 AM Adult Forum

PALM SUNDAY 8 and 10 AM

Giving Up Something Bad for Lent.



There is room in all of our lives to say goodbye to a limiting habit and adopt a new and healthier one. Yet making and keeping a commitment can be challenging. Stepping up to the plate to create real change takes more than just courage. It takes realism, openness to discovery, and a willingness to explore the underlying issues. No one can expect that in an hour program (even with some music and discussion), we will be able to rid ourselves of some unhealthy habits, but we will at least pinpoint a few and see what our faith has to say about them. That has been our Lenten theme for the Wednesdays of Lent. Unless you don't have any bad habits, you might like to join us at 12 noon to 1 pm. *This week, we will meet in the church and have our discussion and lunch in the chapel.*

Service
Worship
Education
Evangelism
Pastoral care

The SWEEP group met this past Wednesday. In keeping with their topical agenda - service, worship, education, evangelism, pastoral care – their discussions touched on a variety of matters. Green Faith, a possible parish involvement. A Saturday service, needs more exploration. Easter outdoor banner, let's do it. Brunch of sorts after both Easter services, great idea with backing. Nursery sitter(s), a real need and some urgency. A Painting Party in summer, we're going to pursue this fun activity. Eucharistic ministers, recruit and build upon this important calling. Two Baptisms at the Branches, talk about evangelism. Just a snippet. This very brief review does not do justice to the interest and engaged conversation, just over an hour. More to come. Next meeting April 11th. You are invited.

MOVIE NIGHT at The Branches
 Sunday, March 18th at 7 pm

"Taking Chance" starring Kevin Bacon This true story tells of the volunteer who accompanies 19-year-old Marine Chance Phelps's body to his hometown in Wyoming after his untimely death.

This film is Not Rated

Questions: contact Kevin Loftus 609 385 7231 or loftirish@hotmail.com



BACH BIRTHDAY BASH is today's concert in the St. Barnabas Concert Series. They invite you to join them at 3 pm to hear some glorious music by the immortal Johann Sebastian Bach as they celebrate his 333rd birthday (no presents, please). The concert will feature some of the area's finest musicians, including Judy Ann Curtis, soprano; John Curtis, organ and harpsichord; Marcia Kravis, harpsichord; Teri Hislop and Cheryl Barton, flutes; and David Condo, organ. Admission is free, a reception will follow the concert and yes, there will be birthday cake! 13 West Bates Ave., Villas, 886-5960



St. Mary's is the host church for the 7 Mile Island churches who serve the Family Promise program. Our co-host churches are Our Saviour Lutheran,

St. Brendan the Navigator RC church, and Avalon Methodist. **One family—Mom and 2 toddlers - will arrive this afternoon, and will make our parish hall their home for the week. St. Mary's days to provide for this family are Sunday, March 18, Wednesday, March 21, Thursday, March 22 and Saturday, March 24.** Volunteers are needed to provide a simple dinner, for social time—spending some time playing with the children or talking with the mom— and overnight stay. Sign up sheets are on the parish hall bulletin board along with suggestions for dinner. Questions? Please talk to Joan Langston, our coordinator, 827-6686 or email jjlang@hotmail.com, or stop by during the week after 5 pm to see first hand what Family Promise is all about. *We also need help today after the 10 AM service, to set up the parish hall for their stay. Thank you!*



Holy Week Palm/Passion Sunday,

March 25

Liturgy and Eucharist, 8 AM and 10 AM with choir

Maundy Thursday, March 29

Liturgy and Eucharist 7 PM with choir

Good Friday, March 30

Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion with Eucharist 12:00 noon with choir

Stations of the Cross led by St. Mary's Church School Children 7 PM

Easter Day, April 1

Ecumenical Sunrise Service

30th Street and Beach, Avalon, 6:45 AM

Festive Easter Eucharist at St. Mary's Church 8 AM and 10 AM Rite II with choir

*An Easter Potluck Brunch will follow both services.



NURSERY HELP—We would like to provide a nursery for parents with children on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. If you can help, please let the church office know. 368-5922

Birthday Blessings to Cassidy Moore on March 18, and Andrew Schellenger on March 23!