



## **What's Happening at St. Mary's March 2018 Edition Bill Haines, Editor**

Lord and Savior, after your baptism you were led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. During those forty days, you stood in the place of sinners, in our place, and resisted every temptation. During these forty days of Lent, we pray that your Spirit will lead us to repentance as we follow your path to the cross. Forgive our sins and help us grow in faith as we anticipate the joy that will be ours when we gather at the empty tomb on Easter morning. Amen

### **Reflections on Lent, Wednesdays, 12 noon - 1 pm**

Saint Mary's is offering us many opportunities to grow our faith during this Lenten season. New this year, organist, David Condo and Fr. Gorman are collaborating to offer us a Wednesday noontime happening. Beginning at 12pm, David will explain and play a series of compositions. I don't know if Cheryl Barton will be a weekly participant, but on the first Wednesday of the series, she shared her talent on the flute with us. We then go into the parish hall for soup and bread and dessert. Fr. Gorman titled his study and discussion, "Giving Up Something Bad." It was a great hour of music, education, discussion, and of course, food. Feel free to join us on Wednesday. Growing our faith can be fun!

St. Mary's outreach ministries at The Branches and the Thrift Shop are on-going. Instead of giving something up for Lent, try taking something on - like volunteering a few hours a week at either The Branches or the Thrift Shop. It's been a hard winter for The Branches. Code Blue seemed to be a daily occurrence. Sandra and her dedicated crew would appreciate your time. The Thrift Shop is the funding source for St. Mary's outreach ministries, so your time could translate into money.

### **Adult Forum Sundays, 9 to 9:45 am**

If you're not free on Wednesdays, Adult Forum between services on Sunday is another offering. Fr. Gorman is leading the discussion on The Last Week written by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan from 9 to 9:45 in the chapel. The book traces Jesus' last week on earth - Palm Sunday through Easter. You don't need the book, you're

probably familiar with the story of Holy Week, but the discussions might give you a new insight into Jesus week in Jerusalem. We're never too old to learn.

### **St. Mary's Seniors Luncheon Club, Thursday, March 8th**

The month of March is full of choices for you to be involved in the life of St. Mary's. Do you know March is Woman's History Month? For our edification, Sue Dowling has arranged a guest speaker for St. Mary's Seniors Luncheon on March 8 at 11 am. Pary Tell, Director of Divisions of Cultures and Heritages of Cape May City and former Director of Cape May City Museum will address the group on "Women in World War I." The program will begin promptly at 11 am. Lunch and fellowship will follow.

### **SWEEP, March 14, 6:30 pm**

SERVICE, WORSHIP, EDUCATION, EVANGELISM, PASTORAL CARE, known as SWEEP is a new group being formed under the direction of Fr. Gorman and myself. Fr. Ken contacted me and asked if I would like to join him in this endeavor. Members are not elected, chosen, nor appointed, but want to serve the parish in vitalizing our common life. Using the five categories above, we suggest you write down ministries or activities that you know St. Mary's is involved with. if you would like to share how we could improve or add ministries or activities join us on Wednesday, March 14 at 6:30 pm in the chapel. We plan to meet monthly, with an agenda for the meeting, and the meeting will end in an hour. We want to plan ahead, so if you have suggestions for Holy Week, Easter, spring, or summer, join us on March 14.

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

No April Fools joke, Easter is on April 1. Attending services during Holy Week is another opportunity to grow our faith.

Services at St. Mary's will be held as follows:

March 29, Maundy Thursday, 7 pm

March 30, Good Friday, 12 noon

April 1, Easter Sunday, 8 AM and 10 AM

Personal Note. Janice and I thank you for your prayers, cards, and dinners throughout her knee operation and recovery. Her physical therapy is progressing and she is able to attend church services and functions. It's a blessing to us to be members of St. Mary's family. Bill & Janice