

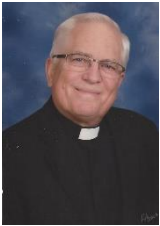


St. Mary's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Mustard Seed Church

The mission of St. Mary's is to invite all people into a relationship with God and each other in Christ.



March 2022



Message from Father Paul Fast and Feast - 2022

As we enter the season of Lent, we usually think of it as a time for fasting – a time for doing without some things to remind ourselves of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

But it is also a time for feasting! A time for feasting on Holy Scripture. A time for feasting on the grace and forgiveness that comes only from God. A time for feasting on the special liturgy, or worship, that calls us to repentance and piety.

With that in mind, I always work on a list of things that I want to try to remove from my life – my **fasting** list. But at the same time, I also list the good habits that I hope will replace them – my **feast** list.

After reading my **Feast** and **Fast** list below, I invite you to work on one of your own.

Fast from blaming COVID for the many things that didn't get done . . . **Feast** on the new opportunities to worship from afar.

Fast from being too busy to be bothered . . . **Feast** on the unexpected blessing of interruption.

Fast from fear of running out of time and money . . . **Feast** on God's promise to always provide.

Fast from finishing the sentences of others . . . **Feast** on the opportunity to hear something new.

Fast from being a stumbling block for my kids . . . **Feast** on being a stepping stone to their future.

Fast from constantly weighing myself . . . **Feast** on a morning walk with God.

And Sherry makes me always include one to improve my driving:

Fast from tailgating the slower car in front of me . . . **Feast** on the extra time to pray for bad drivers.

Finally,

Fast from grouching about getting so old so soon . . . **Feast** on savoring every moment of every day.

May God bless you and keep you always.

Paul+

2022

2022

Fr. Paul Wehner+

The Mustard Seed Church

Sowing Seeds in the Community...

Service Project During Lent

Beginning Sunday, March 6, and running through Sunday, April 3rd, St. Mary's will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable items including toilet paper, paper towels, and diapers, to benefit the Food Pantry at Columbia United Methodist Church. When out shopping, pick up a few extra items and drop them on Sunday in the basket in the Narthex.

Let us share with others who have so little.

San Jacinto Festival

St. Mary's will once again be participating in the San Jacinto Festival held on April 22 and 23. We will be having a booth in the Kid'Zone. More information will be sent out closer to the date.

Right now, a chairman is needed for our booth. The job is not difficult or time consuming. If you are willing to chair this event, please let Dani know. More than one person can fill this position.

This is a great way to serve our community and get the word out about St. Mary's.

Humanitarian Support for Ukraine

Support Episcopal Relief & Development in providing humanitarian aid in response to the crisis in Ukraine. By donating to the Ukraine Crisis Response Fund, you will help meet critical needs for people fleeing the violence including food, cash, blankets and hygiene supplies. Visit episcopalrelief.org/ukraine-crisis.

There are also contribution forms in the Narthex. You can mail the form directly, or place the form with your contribution in the offertory plate and the office will mail it for you.

Lenten Devotional Books Available

On Sunday, February 20th, A Season of Fresh Hope - Daily Reflections, Contemplations, and Prayers will be available in the Narthex and Parish Hall. These booklets are made available by St. Mary's for those who would like to include a daily devotional during Lent.

Adult Sunday School: That the World May Know

Sunday, March 13 – no class – Spring Break

Sunday, March 20: *City of the Great King - Jerusalem*

The history of Jerusalem is the history of our faith. Beginning with Abraham's ascent of Mt. Moriah with his son Isaac; then Israel's greatest kings, David and Solomon; and finally the last act of Jesus' life on earth; Jerusalem was the center of it all. Jerusalem's rich heritage provides an opportunity to visualize more fully God's great redemptive work. The more we learn about Jerusalem, the more we understand about God's power and love, and see how he has worked throughout history to bring his plans to fruition.

Sunday, March 27: *The Lamb of God (Jesus Rides into Jerusalem)*

Having looked ahead and learned more about the city to which Jesus and his disciples are headed, we return to their journey. They have left Caesarea Philippi, where he explained to them what was to transpire, and are focused on what lies ahead in Jerusalem. We will learn about what really happened as Jesus rode the donkey toward Jerusalem on the Sunday before the Passover. The crowds greeted him as their conquering king that was coming to lead them to freedom from the Romans, and failed to hear his message of forgiveness of sin.

Sunday, April 3: *The Weight of the World (Garden of Gethsemane)*

This session will focus on Jesus' final night in Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives before he bore the weight of our sins on the cross. We will also consider other ways that God used the symbols of olives and olive trees to reveal his message. A gethsemane is an olive press with a heavy slab that slowly squeezes the oil out of the olive pulp. The image of the gethsemane provides a vivid picture of the weight of all humanity's sins that pressed heavily on Jesus that night in the garden,

Sunday, April 10: No class – Palm Sunday

Sunday April 17: No class – Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 24: *Roll Away the Stone (Jesus is Alive!)*

Jesus' death and resurrection are the defining events in the New Testament. During this session, we will further explore the significance of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection and what his sacrifice means to Christians today. While we are very familiar with the biblical facts surrounding those events, this session presents cultural details that heighten their meaning to us.

Sunday, May 1: *Power to the People (Empowered by the Holy Spirit)*

Returning to Jerusalem for today's lesson – we consider Jesus' resurrection appearances to the disciples and the mighty acts of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We will consider again the instructions that Jesus gave to his apostles to go out into the whole world to spread the good news of God's love and forgiveness to all.

Sunday, May 8: no class – Mother's Day

Sunday, May 15: *Total Commitment*

King Herod the Great was one of the most powerful people that ever lived in Israel, and he was a construction genius. He used his power to turn Caesarea into one of the most well-engineered and lavish cities of its day. Although Herod had very self-serving motives for his immense construction, God used what he built to give early believers a launching point from which to share the message of Jesus the Messiah in the Gentile world. Caesarea became the gateway through which the gospel went into the rest of the Gentile world. Christians today remember Caesarea primarily as the seaport through which Paul traveled during his missionary journeys.

Common Cup

Father Paul received an email from Bishop Doyle concerning the sharing the common cup. The following is an excerpt from that email.

"People are returning to communing at the rail. People are returning to a shared cup. There is no reason to prohibit the common cup as we now know COVID is not passed by touch or in food."

St. Mary's will once again have the sharing of the common cup beginning on Maundy Thursday. As always, you also have the option of dipping your wafer or not receiving the wine.



EASTER FLOWERS

It is time to order the Easter flowers that add to the beauty of our church at Easter. The suggested donation is \$15 per plant. Please return this form with your check to the church office or drop in the alms basin on Sunday. Call Dani at the church office with questions. (979) 345-3456

Deadline to order is April 13th.

I wish to order _____ Easter Flowers. I enclose \$_____.

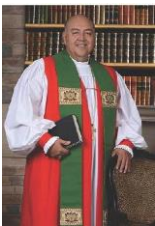
Name _____

Dedications: To the Glory of God and

In Memory of

In Thanksgiving for

Attach extra sheets if necessary. You can print this form and fill it out. Additional forms will be available in the Narthex or church office.



Bishop Monterroso is Coming

Bishop Monterroso will be celebrating the Holy Eucharist at St. Mary's on Sunday, June 12, at 9:00 a.m. If you or anyone you know would like to be confirmed, received, or baptized during this service, please let Father Paul know.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – April 10

The Palm Sunday service will begin at 9:00 AM in the St. Mary's Prayer Garden beside the church. Following the Liturgy of the Palms, the congregation will process into the church, waving palm fronds and making joyful noises. Once most of us are inside, the processional hymn, *All Glory Laud and Honor* will begin. The service includes the traditional reading of the Passion of Christ by members of our congregation.

Maundy Thursday – April 14

The service will begin at 6:00 PM. Maundy Thursday commemorates the first Eucharist, The Last Supper, when Jesus met with his disciples the evening before he was to be crucified. Please come and celebrate this special Eucharist led by Rev. Paul Wehner, as we remember the last days of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the end of the service, the altar guild will strip the altar as a visual reminder of the dark events of Good Friday.

Prayer Vigil - April 14 - April 15

As disciples of today, we are the ones that Jesus asks to stay awake and watch as he prays and suffers in his final hours. Our plan is to do this by taking turns throughout the evening to be present in church with the sacrament of his Body and Blood. There will be a sign up sheet with different times from 7:00pm to 7:00am.

We also plan to livestream the altar and sacraments the first hour of our in-person prayer vigil, and then post it for others to watch as they pray.

Good Friday – April 15

The service will begin at noon. The Good Friday service commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus, the day when our Lord Jesus Christ suffered *“death upon the cross so that we might be saved and become heirs with him of everlasting life.”* The liturgy of the day includes the Way of the Cross (a.k.a., Stations of the Cross), a moving reenactment of the walk that Jesus took from the place of his sentencing to the cross on Calvary. The service continues with intercession known as the solemn collects, and devotions before the cross. The Eucharist is not celebrated; instead, we will consume all of the reserved sacrament.

Holy Saturday – April 16

The morning after the crucifixion, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus and laid him in a new tomb. The liturgy this morning is a short prayer service that reminds us of the contribution of those two secret disciples, and provides an opportunity to reflect on God's mercy in the quiet of a church that is empty of its usual decorations. The service also offers prayers and encouragement for some of St. Mary's important disciples behind the scenes – our Altar Guild.

After the service, the Altar Guild will set up the church for Easter.

Message from Marvin Miller

Chick-fil-A

By Jim Gentil

"I took Stella to Chick-fil-A today. It's our normal daddy/daughter spot. It's clean, so good, and the playground has a tractor beam on her the moment she sees it. When we finished eating and she'd worked up her dessert appetite playing with the other kids, we went back to trade in her toy for ice cream. She wanted to sit at a table to eat the cone (something we usually do in the truck), and I'm so glad she did. We took a booth right next to the spot where you wait for your drink to be "refreshed," and we had a front row seat to this beautiful scene: a homeless traveler had walked in and asked if they had any extra food. Mud was wet and caked on his well-traveled shoes. His hair was matted, and his beard wasn't a statement as much as it was a necessity and a sign that he doesn't get to shave as often as most of us do. People near him kept their distance, but that didn't stop him from being kind. He spoke to people who reluctantly spoke back, and he smiled while he waited on a manager. All I could pick up on of the conversation was the manager saying that he'd love to give him a full, warm meal--not just scraps or extras--, and the only thing he required was that the man let him pray with him.

After the homeless man agreed, there was no waiting for things to die down, there was no scooting anyone to the side. As busy as they were, the manager stopped then and there, laid his hand on the man, and proceeded to pray. I heard love in that prayer. The homeless man wasn't some untouchable stain on business. He was the reason that store opened its doors this morning (or any morning). I asked Stella to watch and she stared. She asked what was happening and when I told her, she bowed her head, too. I realized then and there that Chick-fil-A doesn't simply do business for profits, they truly use business to minister. In a time when companies are trying to win in the market by neutralizing any possibility of offense, CFA is thriving because they unwaveringly cling to their principles and purpose. I love teaching my daughter life lessons, and I also love being there to watch other Christians teach her life lessons. Thank you, Chick-fil-A, for taking care of the latter today."

Changes in the Newsletter

The Bells of St. Mary's, the newsletter will go out in the middle of each month. There are several reports that need to be completed by the church office at the beginning and end of each month, which make getting the newsletter out by the first of each month difficult. If you have an article for the newsletter, please submit it to the office by the 7th of each month.

In addition, reminders will be sent out about important events during the week of the event. Please open these reminders, so the office knows you received them.

Calendar of Upcoming Events and Services

On St. Mary's website under the "Calendar" tap there are events and services under each month. The calendar is kept up to date and edited as new events and services are added. If you click on the event or service, more details will pop up. Our website is stmaryswestcolumbia.com.



Community Assistance

Since February 21, the committee approved funds for 1 family's electric bill and 1 person's rent.

If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Tracy Lane or Jackie Walker.



2022 Flower sign up

The forms to sign up for 2021 flower offerings are in the Narthex. Please stop by and sign up to honor or celebrate special days in your life. The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

For more information call the church office at 979-345-3456.

Congratulations NICE GOING!
GREAT! Way to Go!
Yea! FELICITATIONS
CHEERS Take A BEST
BOW! WISHES!

In February

Grace Culbreath's Tidehaven Choir students received 41 Superior Medals at UIL Region Solo and Ensemble Contest. Six students qualified for the Texas State Solo Contest.

Abigail Roddy received a superior rating for her group twirl performance and 3rd place for her solo at the Marching Auxiliary State Competition.

Braylee Schill made varsity track at Columbia High School. She also earned her certification in Microsoft Word.

Quentin Culbreath received a Superior Medal for his solo at the UIL Region Solo and Ensemble Contest.

Amber Prater oversees the sound board for the Spring play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, at Briarwood School. She serves as the manager for the track team.

Brayze Schill won the San Antonio Youth Rodeo in bareback riding and received a five thousand dollar scholarship. He also placed 3rd in Powerlifting at his first high school meet.

Travis Prater is on the Briarwood Middle School track team and has not yet decided on his specialty.

Hayden Culbreath received a Superior Medal for his solo at the UIL Region Solo and Ensemble Contest.

Invitation from Grace Episcopal Church

The rector, wardens and vestry of Grace Episcopal Church invite you to celebrate the 126th anniversary of the founding of our church. A service will be read from the 1892 Prayer Book. A reception is to follow in the parish hall. Enjoy refreshments, fellowship, memories made and memories remembered.

Sunday, April 3, 2022

3PM

200 West Lang Street

Alvin, Texas



Don't Forget

Remember to keep your empty print cartridges for St. Mary's. All brands and types are welcomed. We have been turning in 10 cartridges a month, earning a \$20 credit. This greatly helps defray the cost of our office supplies.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Special thanks and gratitude to

- Travis Prater, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Madeline Roddy, Jasey Hussey, and Kaylea Anderson for their participation in the *Burying the Alleluia*.
- Jackie Walker, Dan Roddy, Donna Roddy, Gwynne Olson, Bill Olson, Dani Mikel, Brian Lane, Marvin Miller, Theata Miller, Mathew Burris, and Tracy Lane.
- Gwynne Olson for representing St. Mary's in the choir during the Ash Wednesday service held at Columbia United Methodist Church.
- Madeline Roddy for representing St. Mary's in the setting up the altar during the Ash Wednesday service held at Columbia United Methodist Church.
- Tracy Lane and Dani Mikel for reading during the Ash Wednesday service held at Columbia United Methodist Church.
- Theata Miller, Sherry Wehner, Shyanne Roddy, Kendy Hankins, Travis Prater, Tracy Lane, Gwynne Olson, Jackie Walker, Colleen Matocha, Dani Mikel, Bill Olson, AJ Mikel, Dan Roddy, Marvin Miller, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Jennifer Schill, and Adam Schill for serving as Worship Leaders during the month of February.
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to those viewing on-line.
- Gwynne and Bill Olson and Theata and Marvin Miller for providing treats for our January Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Amber Prater and Travis Prater for helping with the children's after church program.
- Dan and Donna Roddy for serving as delegates to the 2022 Diocesan Council.
- Theata Miller for helping fold and staple the Sunday bulletins.

You are awesome, and St. Mary's greatly appreciates all you do.



Prayer Request

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please notify the office by email or phone. The prayer list will be updated each month, so if prayers need to continue for an individual person, please fill out a new card or let

Dani know. Prayers for the sick and those in need are the joyful duty of the Christian community. Help us keep our parish prayer list current by notifying us of those in need of prayer and when those listed are no longer in need.



Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday. You wouldn't want to miss church.

March and April Birthdays

Marglet Arana - March 5

Kurt Hankins - March 12

Jackie Walker - March 17

Doris Grosvenor - March 20

Tommy Cantrell - March 22

Theata Miller - March 24

Braylee Schill - March 28

Maddie Lane - March 30

Saren and Scout Case - April 9

Kip Olson - April 20

March and April Anniversaries

Dorothy & Dick McGuire - April 4

Shyanne and Wade Roddy - April 24

St. Mary's Leadership

Vestry

Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner

Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson

Jr. Warden: Dan Roddy

Clerk: Colleen Matocha

Member: Jackie Walker

Dates to Remember

Sunday services are streamed on St. Mary's Facebook Live at 9:00 a.m.

March 13 - April 17 - Food Drive Benefiting CUMC Food Pantry

March 13 - Daylight Savings (2:00am) Set your clocks Saturday before bedtime.

March 13 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

**March 13 - Sunday Service Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner**

March 13 - April 13 - accepting donations for the Easter flowers

March 14 - 17 - Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)

**March 20 - Sunday Service Holy Eucharist: Rite II with Children's Sunday School (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner**

March 20 - Youth & Adult Sunday School (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)

March 21 - 24 - Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)

March 22 - Vestry Meeting (5:15 p.m.)

February 27 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

**March 27 - Sunday Service Holy Eucharist: Rite II with Children's Sunday School (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner**

March 27 - Youth and Adult Sunday School (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)

March 28 - 31 - Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)

**April 3 - Sunday Service Holy Eucharist: Rite II with Children's Sunday School (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Mark Crawford**

April 3 - Youth and Adult Sunday School (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)

**April 3 - 126th Anniversary - Founding of Grace Episcopal Church in Alvin
service and reception (3:00 p.m.)**

New email address for St. Mary's - stmaryswestcolumbia@gmail.com

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of 16th and Clay Street, West Columbia
PO Box 786, West Columbia, Texas 77486
979-345-3456 stmaryswc@centurylink.net

The Bells of St. Mary's is a monthly newsletter for members and friends of St Mary's Episcopal Church. Submissions for publication should be sent to the church office on or before the 25th of the month prior to the publication.