

# The Messenger

2013, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2013

## COMING EVENTS

Celtic Liturgy and St.  
Patrick's Celebration  
*Mar 16, 4 PM*  
*Parish Hall*

Vestry Meeting  
*Mar 19, 5:30 PM*  
*Parish Library*

Breaking Bread Dinner  
*Mar 21, 5:30-6:30 PM*  
*Parish Hall*

Holy Week Services  
*Details inside*

Spring Yard Sale  
*April 6*  
*Parish Hall*

Vestry Meeting  
*Apr 16, 5:30 PM*  
*Parish Library*

Convocation Meeting  
*April 25, 6:00 PM*  
*Parish Hall*

St. Mark's Feast Day  
(observed)  
*April 28. Eucharist and  
Brunch*

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## The Lord is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Go out and Tell the World!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Christ is risen! Imagine the power in those words of promise.

When the disciples first heard Jesus speak of his death and resurrection, "they kept the matter to themselves" (Mark 9:10). But the news is too good to keep to ourselves. The life of Jesus Christ has been unleashed into the world.

Because Christ is risen, you can embrace life's complexities and uncertainties with a living, daring confidence in God's grace. The risen Christ goes ahead of you, meeting you in the most surprising faces and unexpected places. Christ's resurrection puts us right where God wants us to be -- in the thick of life.

Because Christ is risen, you have a word of hope. To those weary from mourning loss and fearing death, the assurance is given that nothing in all creation will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The life of Jesus, God's own life, has burst into the world, restoring community. At the barriers we erect to divide us, the risen Christ meets us, turning those walls into tables of reconciliation. To those who live in fear and feel unworthy, the promise is given. "You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19).

This is a season of promise based on the assurance of what has been, we set our faces to the future as we seek to bring the message of the Risen Lord to a waiting world.

Beginning with services on Palm Sunday (March 24), we will enter into a solemn remembrance of what God has done for his people. By remembering the last days of Christ's life before his Resurrection, we experience that assurance first hand and prepare ourselves for the mission that awaits us within the promise claimed by all disciples.

Join us for as many of the scheduled services of Holy Week (published inside this newsletter) as you can. Experience the deep tradition of the Church's collective memory of Christ's redeeming acts. Each year at St. Mark's someone who had never attended Holy Week services comments how beautiful and meaningful they are and how more people should experience them.

Plan to be with us on Easter Sunday at 10 AM for a Festival Eucharist steeped in the joy of new beginnings. If you cannot be with us, you might want to join us for the live broadcast of Easter Eucharist on the world wide web. Invite your friends and family in far away places to join us as well. The link to the broadcast can be found on the home page of our website, [www.stmark-lewistown.org](http://www.stmark-lewistown.org).

I look forward with joy to greeting you personally on Easter morning.

With a prayer for your continued growth in the heart of Christ, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

*David+*

The Rev'd Canon David A. Zwifka, JCD  
Rector



# Sinners Repaint!

St. Mark's is getting a new coat and  
we need your help!

Consider donating a "gallon of  
paint." A \$35 donation will help  
to defray the cost of brightening  
our interior

Make a tax deductible donation to St. Mark's Episcopal  
Church and mark "Sinners Repaint!" on your check.  
Just drop in the offering plate or send to St. Mark's at  
the address listed in the newsletter.

## St. Mark's Begins Whole Parish Church School

Beginning on the First Sunday of Lent (February 24th), St. Mark's embarked on an exciting new endeavor—a whole parish Church School. Most people are familiar with "Sunday School" and this effort has some of the hallmarks—like meeting on Sunday morning—but that is about where the similarity ends. St. Mark's Church School employs a deep and meaningful curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*, that attempts to bring the Sunday readings in deep relief with our everyday life. In our Church School, every level is engaged in some form of age appropriate reflection on the Word of God as it is proclaimed in the liturgy to follow. So far our average attendance has been between 25-30, the majority of them adults! Father Zwifka leads the study for the adults in the parish hall, while Deacon Loretta Collins guides the youth level (ages 12 and up). Deb Vaughn and Robyn Wilson tag team the children's section. The children's section will be divided into a younger and older level when numbers warrant. We are looking for youngsters to join our own children in discovering the meaning of the Word for themselves. Be sure to invite families with children to join us to experience this new approach.

## St Mark's Gets a Facelift

In conversations around the parish, Father Zwifka realized that no one could remember the last time the interior of St. Mark's had been repaired and repainted. At an impromptu Vestry meeting (on Shrove Tuesday at the Chicken-n-Waffles Dinner!), with almost no discussion, it was decided to accept a bid obtained for the interior work and painting. There was "no discussion" because all present felt it was a "no-brainer" given the ill state of repair of our beautiful worship space. What also moved the question so quickly was the most reasonable estimate obtained and the known quality of work by the contractor.

Because the opportunity arose and the Vestry chose to "strike while the iron was hot," it decided to ask members and friends of St. Mark's to be part of the project by donating a gallon of paint. What emerged was the *Sinners Repaint! Campaign* that sought to capitalize on the season of the year in which the work was being done: Lent. Our earnest hope is that by Easter Sunday the Church's interior will be bright and new—just like our Easter outfits! So . . . If you count yourself among the sinners for which Christ gave his life and delivered the promise of eternal life in his Resurrection, consider helping St. Mark's look its Easter finest. Be part of preparing ourselves for a 3rd Century of Ministry.

## Hear Ye! Hear Ye!



St. Mark's  
Church School  
will take a brief  
hiatus for Holy  
Week and Easter. There will be  
no Church School on Palm Sun-  
day (March 24) and Easter Sun-  
day (March 31). Church School  
will resume on Sunday, April 7 at  
8:45 AM.

## ***HOLY WEEK and EASTER SCHEDULE***

### **Palm Sunday**

March 24 10:00 AM

Blessing of Palms—Procession — Reading of the Passion — Holy Eucharist

### **Monday and Tuesday**

Mar 25-26

Noonday Prayers 12:05 PM

### **Wednesday**

Mar 27

Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing 12:05 PM

### **Maundy Thursday**

Mar 28

Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Supper 7:00 PM

### **Good Friday**

Mar 29

Ecumenical Celebration 11:15 AM

*Stations of the Cross begin at Sacred Heart RC Church with procession  
through Lewistown to follow*

Solemn Liturgical Celebration of the Lord's Passion 7:00 PM

### **Holy Saturday**

Mar 30

The Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 PM

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

Mar 31

Festival Eucharist of the Lord's Resurrection 10 AM

*Broadcast live on the World Wide Web*

*Link available at [www.stmark-lewistown.org](http://www.stmark-lewistown.org)*

## **Why Holy Week?**

Holy Week is a sacred time of the year since it is when we commemorate and remember the last week of Jesus' life on this earth. These days lead up to the great Easter Feast. The greatest focus of the week is the Passion (suffering) and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the events that led up to it.

Especially important for us is the Easter Triduum. This is the three days just before Easter. On Holy Thursday, we reenact the Lord's Last Supper, which He shared with His apostles on the night He was betrayed and arrested. This is one of the most beautiful liturgies of the entire liturgical year. At the service, the priest will wash the feet of participants, just as Jesus did.

On Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion and death of our Lord, we venerate the Cross. We go forward and kiss the Cross in order to show honor and respect for Christ's sacrifice for our sake. There is no consecration of the Eucharist on this day, and the Communion we receive will be from the night before, which has been reserved.

Holy Saturday is a vigil. We keep watch for the expectant rising of Our Savior. This was the day He went down into the netherworld in order to bring back up with Him into heaven those who had died before His coming. By paying the price for our sins on the Cross, He gained for us our eternal salvation, and heaven was opened for all creation. Also on this night, persons who have spent months of preparation will be received through Baptism and Confirmation into the Church for the first time. It is a joyous occasion.

Those who engage themselves wholeheartedly in living the entire paschal cycle (Lent, Triduum and Easter's Fifty Days) discover that it can change them forever. This is especially so of the Triduum which, standing at the heart of the Easter season, is an intense immersion in the fundamental mystery of what it is to be Christian. During these days, we suffer with Christ so that we might rise with Him at His glorious Resurrection. Holy Week is a time to clear our schedules of unnecessary activities. Our minds and hearts should be fixed on Jesus and what He did for us so that we can share the joy of his resurrection.

## St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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*The voice of the Gospel  
in the Episcopal  
tradition for the Juniata  
Valley since 1823.*

**We're on the web!  
[www.stmark-  
lewistown.org](http://www.stmark-lewistown.org)**

## *Spring Yard Sale April 6*

St. Mark's Spring Yard Sale will be held on SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2013. We have been gathering good for sale since our Apple Fest

last fall. If you have any items that you would like to donate for this year's Spring Yard Sale, please drop them off at the parish no later than Thursday, April 4, 2013. Volunteers are needed for set up and for the sale itself. If you would like to participate, please call the parish office at 248-8327.

