

March 1, 2020

St. Thomas's Episcopal Parish  
276 S. College Ave Newark, DE  
302.368.4644

weekly newsletter

# The Carpenter's Helper

*This Week...*

## Walking the Way of the Cross

taking this walk out into the community in Jersey City

## Weekly Parish Schedule

Add your group's event to the calendar: email [stthomassooffice@googlegroups.com](mailto:stthomassooffice@googlegroups.com)

## St Thomas' Stations of the Cross

interactive stations

Praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent is a centuries-old tradition that focuses Christians on the path of suffering that Jesus followed to his ultimate sacrifice on the cross. For many Christians, that story is retold in solemn tones inside the walls of a church or chapel.

Some Episcopal congregations, however, have followed the Way of the Cross out the cathedral and church doors and into the community for public liturgies that often connect the details of Jesus' Passion with contemporary examples of injustice and persecution.

This Good Friday will mark the sixth year the three Episcopal churches, and many members of neighboring faith communities in Jersey City will pray at Stations of the Cross that are located at the sites of violence in the city from the past year. The processions have grown to more than 150 people, including members of the Jersey City Police Department, which provides the list of locations.

"What we wanted to do was to figure out a way to have a public witness and also a way to make holy places that had been touched by violence," said the Rev. Tom Murphy, rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. At first, it was difficult to explain to police officials what the churches were trying to accomplish, Murphy said, but the department has become a partner and even participates in the event.

"One of the years, the captain of the precinct was right at the front of the procession, and several times over the course of it he said he could visualize the people who had been killed at each of the locations," Murphy said.

Part of the procession involves a blessing for the police force, and individual officers are invited to step forward to receive personal blessings. This has grown into a bonding interfaith event. Members of many Christian denominations and faith traditions join together for this walk of public witness to their faith.

Murphy describes the day as powerful and moving, made more so by the fact that the procession sometimes has encountered residents who knew the victims of violence highlighted by the route. The message to those residents, Murphy said, is that the church cares and is engaged in the community beyond what takes place in traditional worship spaces.

"On Good Friday, we remember the suffering of Jesus of Nazareth, but if Jesus is really in our brothers and sisters, Jesus continues to suffer in what happens to people on the streets and homes in our city," he said.



When I was a girl the only thing I knew about The Stations of the Cross were vague references from my Roman Catholic friends. Sometimes I would see Roman numerals around the perimeters of Catholic or Episcopal churches and figured out they were for the purpose of marking the Stations.

When I arrived at St. Thomas's I learned that on Good Friday a small group of folks would "walk the stations." But I didn't "get it" until I attended my first National Youth Workers Convention and visited an exhibit in a prayer space that provided INTERACTIVE Stations of the Cross, designed by Lilly Lewin. That's when they became meaningful to me. Each stop of Jesus' journey from where Pilate dismissed him by washing his hands to where he was laid in the tomb was interpreted with an action or space for reflection.

That's when I started to make the connection. You literally wash your hands. You make a cross and carry it. You stop where Jesus stumbled and think on things that make you stumble. Where Jesus met his mother you remember things that are on your heart. You pray for folks who are ill or in trouble at another stop. You make an image of the cross where Veronica legendarily wiped Jesus' face and where he left his image on her cloth. You mourn with the women of Jerusalem and stop to mark hurt places in the world. You drink vinegar and drive nails. You experience the torn curtain of the Temple. You imagine how it would feel to have your dead son laid in your arms. You smell spices at the Tomb. And there is a 15th Station that shows the promise of the Resurrection.

Interactive Stations of the Cross have been installed at St. Thomas's and will remain until the evening of Good Friday. If this sounds like something that you would like to participate in, as a way to mark your Lent, or as a way to think about Jesus' suffering on his way to his death, I urge you to visit them, placed around the edges of the sanctuary. There are ways that groups and individuals can experience this. You can visit anytime the church building is open, before or after worship on Sundays, or during office hours: during Monday – Thursday 9-2. You can make arrangements for weekend or evening visits by calling the church office: 302-368- 4644. You can also ask for someone to be there with you to answer questions or just to be present.

Sally Price, 2018

## PARISH CALENDAR

### Sunday, March 1

- 8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite 1
- 9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
- 9:15am (P) 6-week series  
History of Christianity
- 9:15am (U) Nursery
- 9:30am (U) Children's Worship
- 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship
- 12:00pm (C) CREW Youth
- 2:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 513
- 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

### Monday, March 2

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 7:30pm (GH) Scottish Dance

### Tuesday, March 3

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 4:30pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 719
- 5:00pm (CO) AIDS Delaware
- 6:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 513
- 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance
- 8:00pm (U) KIS AA

### Wednesday, March 4

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 10:30am (C) Lectionary Bible Study
- 12:00pm (N) Intercessory Prayer  
with Holy Eucharist
- 4:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
- 5:00pm (C,K) ECM
- 5:45pm (P) Centering Prayer
- 8:30pm (GH,K) S College Speakers AA

### Thursday, March 5

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 12:00am (C) Property Committee
- 3:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
- 7:30pm (MR) St Gregory's Choir

### Friday, March 6

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 12:00pm (P) Al-Anon
- 6:30pm (P) Women's AA

### Saturday, March 7

- 10:00am (U) Kindermusik

### Sunday, March 8

- 8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite 1
- 9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
- 9:15am (P) 6-week series  
History of Christianity
- 9:15am (U) Nursery
- 9:30am (U) Children's Worship
- 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship
- 2:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 513
- 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

### \*March 15th Annual Meeting at noon

location key:

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| (C) Classroom   | (MR) Music Room      |
| (GH) Great Hall | (U) Undercroft       |
| (N) Nave        | (BO) Business Office |
| (P) Parlor      | (RO) Rector's Office |