

Saint Mark's  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CANTON, OH



## The Lion's Pause

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
CANTON, OH



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Normally, I have been reflecting on a Saint or Holy Day that we celebrate during the week. This week, I feel compelled to write about the polarization we are experiencing in our society.

Bishop Hollingsworth hosted a Zoom meeting with the clergy, and during that meeting, he pointed out that one of the American characteristics is denial. When we see the baser instincts of some of our citizens come to the surface, politicians will frequently say something like, “This is not who we are. We are better than this.”

The truth is that this is who we are as a nation right now. I have friends from across the political spectrum, and see their comments on Facebook, or receive texts from them pointing me to a link that I “must see.” My own extended family is deeply divided, and seeing how they attack each other online is painful, because I love them all. I think the most disturbing thing I have heard was the statement, “At least now I know what they really think of me.”

Several people have made that statement to me. It was usually a response to social media posts in which one side demonized the other. The statement has been made to me by people on both the political right and political left.

When you are posting or tweeting, it might be helpful to imagine one of your friends or family members with whom you disagree, and ask the questions, “Is this what I think about

them? Is this what I would like to say about them? Is this what I want them to think I think about them?"

It is interesting to look at who Jesus called as disciples. He called a tax collector, who would have been viewed as a collaborator with the Romans. He also called a Zealot, who would have wanted to overthrow the Roman government. I sometimes wonder if there were some tense conversations between the two. However, as disciples of Jesus, their primary allegiance was to Jesus.

Our primary allegiance is to Jesus. Jesus rejected political violence. Jesus also rejected unquestioning loyalty to those who held power. Part of our witness to Jesus is to show the world that we can love even those with whom we disagree. That does not mean that we must approve of all that they do. Sometimes, we are even called to confront them lovingly, preferably in person and one on one. Blessed are the peacemakers. They shall be called the children of God.

**Fr. RJ**

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**For the President of the United States and all in Civil**

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to thy merciful care, that, being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State (or Commonwealth), and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

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In the coming weeks we plan to begin listing birthdays and anniversaries in both the bulletin and Lion's Pause. If you'd like yours listed, please [email the office](#) with names and dates. Thank you!

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St. Mark's has a Zoom account that may be used by parish groups wishing to set up meetings. If your ministry is interested in learning more, please contact Katie.

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**Wednesday, January 20**  
Evening Prayer, 4 p.m.

[Bulletin](#)  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

*Meeting ID: 972 7008 4331*  
*Passcode: 597002*

**Sunday, January 24**

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m. on Facebook Live

[Bulletin](#)  
[Live Stream](#)

*Katie will be out of the office January 29-February 8.*

[Information for Winter Convocation](#)

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**Sunday School**

St. Mark's Sunday School is continuing with their lessons each Sunday via ZOOM. All of our wonderful teachers are doing a great job keeping the lessons creative in this remote setting. If a child in your life is interested in joining us, please contact Emily Gordon at [ecgordon16@gmail.com](mailto:ecgordon16@gmail.com).

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**Online Giving**

To facilitate stewardship during this difficult time, the Diocese has launched an online giving resource. Simply set up your one-time or recurring gift and select your parish from the pull-down menu (Canton, St. Mark's). The Diocese will transfer your gift to St. Mark's. We thank you for your continued support and prayers.

[Designate a Gift to St. Mark's](#)

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### Third Sunday after the Epiphany

[Read This Week's Lessons](#)

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#### Music Notes with Bob Morrison

John Finley Williamson, a Native son of Canton who went on to worldwide fame as a choral conductor, had a theory about church music. In his father's church, First EUB in downtown Canton, the music was provided by a paid quartet. Williamson came up with the idea that the Christian faith could be taught, not only from the pulpit, but by having a trained musical leader directing volunteers of all ages from the congregation -- a graded choir system.



He promulgated this theory in his Princeton, NJ, Westminster Choir College -- which caught the attention, in 1951, of the new pastor of Canton's downtown First Methodist Church, Roland Gilbert Hohn. The music, ably handled for some 15 years by Don Farley, included a volunteer choir and four paid soloists. Dr. Hohn saw no need for the paid soloists, so he arranged for the four to be paid for another year whether they sang or not (to give them a chance to look for other work), after which they'd no longer be compensated.

The soprano in question was Kathleen Carter Matter, who had studied at Mt. Union and had a regular radio program on

WHBC with Marty Alexander, the parish musician at St. Paul's Episcopal. The alto was Jean McCuskey, McKinley High School librarian. The tenor was Jacques Bartchy, an engineer with Eynon Plumbing, and the bass was Arnold Cheyney. After my appointment to replace Don Farley, all of the paid quartet remained except Cheyney.

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Amelia Rowland, Harry Kit, Ron Brookes, Charlie Becker, Paul Welch, Ron and Peg Hill, Jack and Pauline Briggs

# Prayer Concerns

**Family and Friends:** Caleb (Mandy Pelger's nephew), Jerry Burris (friend of the Thorley's), Paula Temelkoff (daughter-in-law of the Temelkoff's), Erin, Troy, & Trystan (Schutrum family), Linda Kendrick (friend of the Kiesling's), Bridget & Tony (Friends of the Browns), Lesley (family friend of Paulette Frech), Addelyn, Don, (friends of Judy Hixon), Jim Bellamy (friend of Marcia Tirpak), Christine, Anne, & Lynnda Hoefler (friends of Sue Little), Marc Hostetler (brother of Susan Hostetler), Gabrielle Karam (friend of Diana Cornell), Dave Jarvis (family of Ron and Peg Hill), Stacy Biglin (acquaintance of Derek Gordon), Adriana (Pam McCarthy's daughter's friend), Lynn McBride (father of Beth Crowl), Baby David (friend of the Schaub's), Nancy Sauer and Helen Carnahan, Bob Patterson (friends of Diana Cornell), John Streb, Pastor Marilyn Roman (friends of the Mulls), Johnny Willoughby, Bobby Guerin (friend of Pam McCarthy), Jim Mesko (friend of Jim Weaver), Michelle Gibson-Garber (friends of the Gordons) Donald Pentz, Conrad Family, (friend of Bill and Beck Rand).

For all those serving in the Armed Forces.  
For all those who have died.

***Please update Bobbi or Katie on the status of your friends or family members as to when they may be removed from the prayer lists.***

## **PRAYER CHAIN:**

St. Mark's has a group of prayer warriors who pray for specific needs of those on the prayer chain. If you would like to place yourself or a loved one on the prayer chain, please contact Bobbi Gordon at [ggordon24@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ggordon24@sbcglobal.net)

Please note: Prayer requests may be placed on the Prayer Chain in the Prayer Concerns list appearing here, in the

Sunday bulletin, or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference.

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We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.

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