

The Lion's Pause

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
CANTON, OH



In view of COVID transmission rates in Stark Co. and CDC guidelines, we are requesting that all persons attending services at St. Mark's continue to wear a mask inside the building.

Rector's Ramblings

Articles X and XI of the Articles of Religion both speak of the fact that Christians are saved only by the merits of Christ and the grace of God. One of the preachers who spoke in our



Chapel at Oral Roberts University delivered a profound sermon about the grace of God. Immediately following the sermon, a member of the administration stood up and said, "All of that was good, but you have to live right, too."

In my mind, that event illustrated the long debate regarding the tension between faith and good works. Sometimes, we are afraid to talk about grace without qualifying it. After all, if we are saved only by the merits of Christ, how can we motivate people to do good works?

Article XII ("Of Good Works") addresses this tension. The Article states: "Albeit that Good Works, which are the fruits of

Faith, and follow after Justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgment; yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and do spring out necessarily of a true and lively Faith, insomuch that by them a lively Faith may be as evidently known as a tree discerned by the fruit."

Some of the reformers were accused of being lawless. If we are saved by grace through faith, what was to stop people from doing exactly as they pleased? It is easy to understand why some people accused the reformers of being lawless when Luther wrote things like, "Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong, but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world." What those who opposed the reformers failed to understand was that a person who rejoices in Christ is more likely to do what pleases Christ than to ignore the commandments of God.

We are not, as some contend, initially saved by grace, and then maintain that grace by our good works. We continue to need grace throughout our lives. However, if we truly believe in God's love expressed through the work of Jesus, good works will necessarily spring from that belief. When we lack good works, the problem is not that we rely too much on God's love. The problem is that we do not understand God's love, or are not grateful for what God has done for us.

Fr. RJ



Sunday, October 17

Holy Eucharist in person at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Live Stream at 10 a.m. *(please share to your FaceBook page, too!)*

Bible Study at 9 a.m. between services

Sunday School at 10 a.m.

[Lessons](#) (Track 2)

[Bulletin](#)

Wednesday, October 20

Evening Prayer, 4 p.m.

[Bulletin](#)

[Zoom](#)

MOD Squad, 6:30 p.m. @The Bistro of Oakwood

Thanksgiving Feast for Gibbs Elementary

Fellow St. Mark's parishioners,

My school, Gibbs Elementary in Canton City, is looking for a partner to help us have a Thanksgiving Feast for all 344 of our kindergarten through 3rd grade students. We are hoping to raise \$500 to cover the cost of turkey, side dishes, and desserts to have a meal in each class the week of Thanksgiving.

We would also love to have volunteers come help serve the food to our students. Many of the students in our building will not have a large Thanksgiving feast at home, so this is our way of sharing a special tradition with them.

We have been so thankful for St. Mark's support in the past with our Thankful Thursdays program, but Gibbs has been blessed with another church across the street from the school that is providing food for our families all year. Since we are not in need of the Thankful Thursdays program right now, we hope that you will consider donating and/or volunteering to help make our event a success!

Checks can be made out to St. Mark's Episcopal Church with the memo line "Thanksgiving for Gibbs."

If you would like to make a donation or volunteer, please contact Mandy Pelger at mpelger09@gmail.com

The holiday season is rapidly approaching. We have already received requests from Thanksgiving Baskets Downtown and Community Christmas for financial assistance. Our church family needs to help the less fortunate during this time.

Thanksgiving baskets will provide a voucher for a turkey and a voucher for each family to choose their own canned and fresh vegetables from the newly created Food Bank on Cherry Ave.

Community Christmas will have both family shoppers and vouchers. We have decided not to shop this season, but to send them the money collected. At this time, please consider giving a donation through St. Mark's to these two worthy causes. Unless you designate otherwise, the money will be collected and divided between the two charities. Please make your checks out to "St. Mark's Episcopal Church" and use the memo line to indicate either Thanksgiving Baskets, Community Christmas, or both.

Outreach: Blessing Box at Hope Outreach Ministry

A reminder that we are still providing personal items for the area homeless, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, toilet paper, tissues, hand sanitizer, paper towels, deodorants, band-aids, and other personal care products.



They are also in need of food items, such as cans of fruit, applesauce, tuna fish, crackers, and any ready-to-eat item, since can openers are not necessarily available. Please place items into the Hope Chest located across from the coatroom.

ONLINE GIVING

The Diocese has continued to offer easy online giving. To use this, please select "St. Mark's Canton" from the dropdown, and choose either a one-time or recurring gift. We thank you for your continued support.

Diocesan Youth Event: LGBTQ+Identity, Inclusion, and Allyship

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to attend a weekend of formation, education, and community. The **event** will be held **November 5-7** at St. Michael's in the Hills, Toledo. Topics will include: Terminology and intersectionality; scripture/tradition and spirituality; queer history and advocacy/policy; mental health and allyship; and storytelling with Episcopalian members of the LGBTQ+ community. All loving experiences, identities, and expressions are welcome! More information and registration is available at dohio.org/DYE.

Bob's Music Notes

The winter of 1996 was cold. Kathleen and I had selected our lot in Glenmoor which overlooked the large Timken farm. Our builder had positioned the footprint of the house facing traffic on Hills and Dales Road. Kathleen picked up on that right away and asked him to change the format so that we could see the farmland. And so construction began.



Each day we would drive over to see what was happening and were dismayed to discover that the foundation was going to be deeper than we had thought. The land upon which we were building had started out as the Race Brothers farm which they gave to the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood, the high school seminary for potential priests and brothers -- an order founded by Brunner.

Because the soil had been tilled and planted with produce for a long time, the dirt was quite loose. With every foot deeper the cost was a thousand dollars -- and I complained to the builder, with no response. Finally, they hit the hard clay which would be

the foundation.

My dismay turned to delight upon discovering, after the house was built, that we now had a thirteen-foot high ceiling in our basement!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 W. Robert Morrison

4 Ivy Smith

10 Fr. RJ

18 Bobbi Gordon

21 Tom Burns

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

5 Chuck and Karen Violand

16 Derek and Emily Gordon

Prayer Concerns

Jim Weaver, Jane Schutrum, Ron Hill, Amelia Rowland, Ron Brookes, Jack and Pauline Briggs

Family and Friends: Darlene, Diana (friends of Sue Little), Silvia Batalla (friend of Gene and Sally Little); Yanette Pysker (Vonda Temelkoff's cousin); John Fortney (Cindy Brown's brother); Sandy Snyder & Doug (friends of the Rands); Darlene, Diana, Carol, & Lynnda Hoefler (friends of Sue Little); Sherry, Carson, Noah, Linda Kendrick & Gail (friends of the Kieslings); Hugh Clark (friend of the Hixons & Kieslings); Ray Slinger (friend of Bob Morrison), Janet Sheatzley Morgan (Barb Siegfried's sister); Chuck Schuerer and Beth Conley (friends of Cricket Boyd); Carol Jones (daughter of Buck & BJ Jones); Steve O'Krepki and Corinna (family of Beth Crowl); Dr. Angela Peters & family (friends of the Kennedys); Terry L., Denny Schafer, Judy Evans, & Bobby Guerin (friends of Pam McCarthy); Addelyn (friend of Judy Hixon); Eddie Hornsby (friend of Father RJ); Jerry Burris (friend of the Thorleys); Lesley & Holly (friends of Paulette Frech); Jim Bellamy (friend of Marcia Tirpak); Marc Hostetler (brother of Susan Hostetler); Baby David (friend of the Schaub); Bob Patterson (friends of Diana Cornell); Camila Guzman family and Pastor Marilyn Roman (friends of the Mulls); Johnny Willoughby; Jim Mesko

(friend of Jim Weaver).

For those who have died.

For those in the armed forces.

PRAYER CHAIN:

St. Mark's has a group of prayer warriors who pray for the 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

Prayer requests may be placed on the private Prayer Chain or on the Prayer Concerns list appearing in *The Lion's Pause* and Sunday bulletin or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference. Unless otherwise instructed, names will be listed as we receive them. 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.



Need to update your directory listing, birthday, or anniversary? Update [here](#).



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