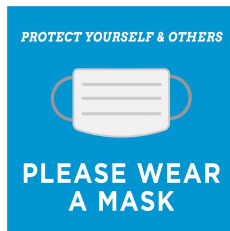




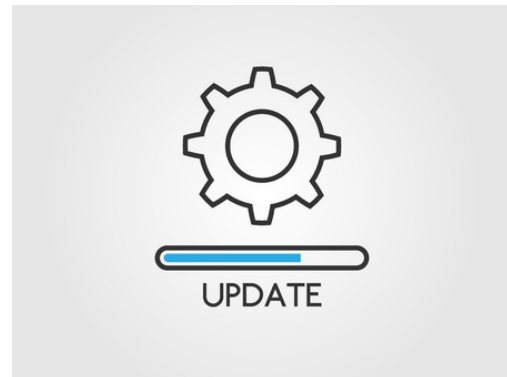
The Lion's Pause

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.

One of the challenges that both Rev. Beth Frank and Fr. Paul Gaston experienced while providing interim ministry at St. Mark's was the noise from the classrooms adjacent to the offices. In recent weeks, I have been learning about compound words with the Weaver Kindergarten class. It has been suggested that one of the compound words I should have learned is freeloader, because I am not paying tuition at Weaver.



This issue is not new. When St. Mark's had a day school, Fr. Sloan had a system installed in the office to create white noise. It sounds like the static from a radio that is not tuned into a station.

When I arrived at St. Mark's, one of the first conversations I had was whether I would want to move the offices. My initial response was to wait to see if the noise from the classrooms would be problematic. It would be difficult to meet with

members of the parish in the office when school is in session, and it is difficult to concentrate to write sermons or create materials for Bible Study.

In consultation with the Vestry as well as Joe Hoot, Geoff Gordon, and Charlie Kiesling, a plan was developed to move the church office to the Nursery and Coat Room. The current Rector's Office can be converted to a Nursery, and a smaller Coat Room can be created between the two new office spaces.

This solution solves a number of issues. First, it will provide a quieter space for the Rector's Office, which will create a more inviting atmosphere to meet with members of the parish. Second, it will provide the Parish Administrator with an office that is free from the interruptions of students coming in for a bandaid, or teachers coming in to speak with the Weaver School Secretary. It will also provide a distinct space for members of St. Mark's to come during the week if they wish to speak with the Parish Administrator.

The Vestry and I believe that this change of facility usage will provide a better atmosphere for the people of St. Mark's as well as for the Rector and Parish Administrator.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this change, please feel free to contact Fr. RJ, John Wise, Senior Warden, or Bruce Hixon, Junior Warden.

Rector's Ramblings

Last week, I wrote about Article VI: Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation. Another of the Articles that is important for the church today is Article X: Of Free Will. The article states:



The condition of Man after the fall of Adam is such, that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and good works, to faith, and calling upon God. Wherefore we

have no power to do good works pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will.

In 1520, Pope Leo X condemned the teaching of Martin Luther. One of the statements Leo X condemned was Luther's assertion that, prior to receiving God's grace, humans are incapable of choosing God. Erasmus, who was one of Luther's chief opponents, wrote that humans have the ability to win grace by doing the best that is within them.

The English Reformers chose to side with Luther, who followed in the tradition of St. Augustine of Hippo. It is important to note that neither the English Reformers, nor Luther, said that humans have no choice. Rather, both stated that God is the one who makes the first move. Humans respond to God's grace.

Popular American culture today often sides with Erasmus in the assumption that humans earn God's grace by doing the best that is within them. In a popular sitcom, "The Good Place", people were chosen to go to the Good Place or the Bad Place based on whether they had done more good or bad in their lives.

The good news of the Gospel is that we do not have to struggle on our own to choose good. Rather, God's grace, given to us, empowers us to choose good. We are accepted by God because of the grace given through Christ. Grace, if it is truly grace, cannot be earned.

Fr. RJ



Sunday, October 3

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](#)

[Live Stream](#)

Wednesday, October 6

Evening Prayer, 4 p.m.

[Bulletin](#)

[Zoom](#)

Vestry, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 9, at 11 a.m.

We will hold a **memorial service** for **Fr. Carey "Dutch" Sloan**.

Book Club has been postponed to November.

Katie will be out of the office October 6-12.

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

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.

Designate a Gift to St. Mark's

Bob's Music Notes

My life in Canton, at first centered around downtown. In my first two years, I lived at the YMCA, and then shared an apartment on 7th Street.



After marrying Kathleen, our first home was upstairs at 222-1/2 Smith Ave SW -- with the provision of no children. When Kathleen became pregnant, the landlord removed that restriction, but we were able, with the aid of two mortgages, to buy a house at 911 Auburn PI NW, across the street from Calvary Presbyterian Church. I remember, on a snowy Sunday, the pastor who lived nearby encountered me as I was leaving for church, and he said "We won't need the extra chairs today, Bob."

This house had been the residence of First Methodist's secretary Clara Gravis. She had a grand piano that had been in the Nusly Piano School studio of Gladys Townsend. When Clara died, the piano went to her nephew. We moved in and started re-papering and renovating -- but no piano.

After a few weeks, we received a phone call from the nephew saying that the piano was simply too big for his apartment and he'd like us to have it -- for \$300.00. He might as well have asked for \$3000.00. I simply didn't have that kind of money.

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: Silvia Batalla (friend of Gene and Sally Little), Yanette Pysher (Vonda Temelkoff's cousin); John Fortney (Cindy Brown's brother); Spc. Nicholas Gable & his Ohio National Guard unit in Louisiana (relative of Peg Hill); Sandy Snyder & Doug (friend of the Rands); 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 (friend 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's); Bob Patterson (friend 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.

Herman Moore

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

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