



St. Marks Episcopal Church
Called into community to do God's work.

July 9, 2021

BETWEEN THE LIONS

Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. -Psalm 85

This week we will hear from the psalmist about two sets of perfect dance partners: mercy/truth and righteousness/peace. Over the last year and half, I have been reflecting on the importance of mercy in relationship to the truth. Some social commentators suggest that it is becoming harder and harder for individuals to discern the truth. I certainly can attest to conversations I have had that have left me scratching my head.

As an example: I have listened to another person proclaim--something perceived to me as deeply false--that they are absolutely holding out as true. Has this happened to you? If so, what is your response?

On my better days, I try my best to step back, breathe and remember that the perfect dance partner of truth is indeed mercy. I find that being merciful really helps to shift my posture and moderate my response--to be less focused on being right and more focused on getting to the truth.

A Boston College Philosophy professor, Peter Kreeft, often liked to say "Mercy is Truth clothed; judgment is Truth naked." I happen to like that quote as it reminds me that God calls us to be merciful--to treat people with kindness and forgiveness : to not be cruel or harsh : to give relief from suffering. It also reminds me that I often asked God to be merciful, but I often fall far short of showing mercy to myself and others. How might mercy help you in daily living?

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday for our first service in the church!

Fr. Ed



Return to Our Sanctuary Sunday, July 11, 10am

This week marks the return to in-person indoor worship. In compliance with the mask guidelines in the state of Massachusetts, we advise all unvaccinated parishioners, and any others who choose to do so, to continue to wear masks if unable to socially distant or while indoors.

As we continue to prioritize the safety of all of our parishioners, we ask that you stay home if you are not feeling well. With these precautions, we can ensure the continued good health of our faith community.

The Rev. Edward M. Cardoza
Rector
 priest@stmarksfx.org

The Rev. Br. Virgilio Fortuna
Deacon
 revbrovirgiliofortuna66@gmail.com

Esther Zabinski
Minister of Music
 ezhope480@gmail.com

Jess Green Charbonneau
Parish Administrator
 office@stmarksfx.org

Scott Manson
Sexton

Vestry Leadership Board

- Amy Van Dell - Co-Warden
javandell@verizon.net
- Melissa Read - Co-Warden
mpread2010@verizon.net
- Russ Montal - Treasurer
- Cheryl Dunnington - Clerk
- Eric Bridgham
- Lisa Conroy
- Tracey DeLeskey
- Tina Shinnick
- Christine Smith
- Rebekah Zabinski

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

116 South Street
 Foxboro, MA 02035
 508-543-8191
 www.stmarksfx.org

Contact us at office@stmarksfx.org

Pastoral Care: If you or anyone you know is in need of help please call or email Father Ed at priest@stmarksfx.org 508 261 4066

or Pat Dent at pjdent@verizon.net 508 404 6550.

Wardens' Update

We look forward to returning to the sanctuary this Sunday for Services. Thank you to the ReGathering Committee for offering their crucial research and guidance based on CDC, state, and diocesan regathering guidelines. And a BIG THANK YOU to the Tech Team who has played a vital role in enabling us to offer hybrid services. Their efforts continue as they work on upgrading both our in-person and online worship experiences.

As we return to in-person gatherings, we continue to prioritize the health and safety of all of our parishioners, working together to discern what actions are best for our faith community. We offer vaccinated individuals the option to wear a mask and ask that if you are not vaccinated, you continue to follow CDC guidelines and wear a mask to protect yourself and others. We hope you will join us as you feel comfortable.

We urge you to SAVE THE DATE – Sunday, September 12th Return to Services Celebration and Fall Kickoff! We are beginning to plan a fun, family-friendly celebration that you won't want to miss – Stay tuned for more details! If you would like to help with these efforts, please contact one of us!

Have you visited our website recently? The Tech team has been working on updates to offer more information to parishioners and offer a welcoming first look for those seeking a faith community.

As we open our doors with in-person Sunday Services, St Mark's is also coming to life during the week as ministry teams, community groups and clubs, and new professional renters utilize our versatile building space. Wednesday afternoons welcome the Bridge Club, and Sunday and Thursday Evenings the undercroft hosts our resident AA groups. We welcomed back the Model A Club recently and anticipate additional groups re-joining us soon. We are excited as we continue to welcome mental health and educational professionals to our renovated Garden Office and Suite (formerly the Music Director's and Priest's offices). Our strategy to expand our building use will offer our community access to vital services while supporting our operating budget. If you know of a mental health or educational professional seeking office space on a part time basis or a community group looking for meeting space, please have them contact office@stmarksfx.org for more information.

As always, please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, concerns or ideas. Our caring and loving community remains strong and resilient through the involvement and leadership of our parishioners. We invite you to become an active part of the good works at St. Mark's.

Blessings,

Amy Van Dell and Melissa Read
War-

dens



Ministry Spotlight

Community Building

Ladies' Group

The Ladies Fellowship Group has historically met monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month alternating between lunch and dinner. This allows for different schedules and offers everyone a chance to join in. We have met at Bertucci's in Mansfield and enjoy our time of friendship and good times. We invite all ladies to come and join us. In addition to dining out together, we have expanded our activities and last year ventured to Tower Hill Botanical Garden in Boylston, MA. We have also enjoyed many fun evenings of Bunko, a very popular and fun activity. Look for announcements of upcoming activities in the Between the Lions and Bulletin Announcements. We are looking forward to gathering again very soon for new adventures! Contact Sandy at sjesmond@comcast.net for more information.

Men's Breakfast

The first Saturday of each month at 8 am, men of all ages have gathered in the Church Undercroft for casual conversation over breakfast. Guests do not need to be a member of St. Mark's. It is a tradition for the group to celebrate the Holiday Season with a field trip to Morin's in Attleboro and enjoyed some laughs over raffle drawing for surprise gifts. Steve Pyne and Rob Decker coordinate the monthly gatherings and appreciate all the help everyone has provided in the past with food, set-up, cooking and clean-up. Look for the announcement of the return of Men's Breakfast. Contact Rob at deckerrob@rocketmail.com for more information.

Book Club

The St. Mark's Book Club has a long history of gathering and discussing a wide variety of contemporary and historical fiction and non-fiction. Club members recommend and vote on which books to read and gather for a potluck dinner to discuss the month's selection and connect with the happenings in everyone's lives. Everyone is welcome to join the group, whether or not you have read the book! Fun, food and fellowship along with a bit of intellectual discussion is the agenda for each of the meetings. If you would like to join in the next gathering, contact Katherine at kwharton9@gmail.com.



Happy summer!



We are updating our demographics for Sunday school religious instruction! If you have a child or children ages 3 years through high school, please follow the QR Code and fill in the accompanying form or you can visit <https://stmarksfx.breezechms.com/form/3d8e9b>

We plan to offer programming for ages 3yrs- 2nd grade; Grades 3-5; Grades 6-8; High school (Confirmation). Please respond by July 16th.

Email office@stmarks.org with any questions. We are planning a re-connecting event in July for parents and kids.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



Backpacks and School Supply Donations Needed!

The Foxboro Discretionary Fund is running their Fresh Start Program, an annual summer collection of backpacks and school supplies for Foxboro students in need. The items collected will be distributed in mid to late August. The items most needed are:

- ****New, full size backpacks !!**
- **Ear buds (wired, not wireless)**
- **3 hole punched folders**
- **binders (any size)**
- **Highlighters**

Many stores begin their Back to School sales soon, so keep an eye out for an opportunity to take advantage of discounts on these items. We have placed a large red and black waterproof box near the front door of the church for collection of your donations. Please contribute to this annual appeal as generously as you can!

Many thanks!

Community Engagement meeting

July 14th 7pm in the Common Room

We are looking for people who are enthusiastic about connecting with the community within our parish, in our virtual community, and in the surrounding towns.

We have “Inward” goals of enriching our current and prospective members by focusing on Faith Formation, Community Building, and Engagement/Inclusion. This includes our WELCOME BACK PICNIC in September!

Our “Outward” focus is on building our relationship with our surrounding communities focusing on Service, and Visibility.

If this work calls to you, please JOIN US!

Feel free to reach out to Lisa Conroy at larssonconroy@yahoo.com if you are interested but are unable to make the meeting.

Charlie Bridgham turns 100!



Come celebrate Charlie's 100th birthday on Saturday, July 24th. It is being held outdoors, at his daughter Judy's home at 4 Mill Street in Foxboro. Drop by anytime any time after 1:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. If you think you will come by, please let eric@bridgham.com know, so he can give his sister a count of the *saintly* St. Mark's folks to expect! Dad's going to love this... **We hope you can make it!!**

If you can't go to the party but would like to give a card to Charlie, they can be dropped off any time in the mailbox

The New Trading Post

SUMMER SALE

July 7th through July 17th
Select Dresses \$8
Shorts and Capris \$4 ♦ Pants \$5
50% OFF ALL Navy and Lavender Tags

Wednesday though Saturday
11am to 2pm

Between the Lions is a bi-weekly newsletter of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Foxboro. If you would like to submit an announcement or information, please email office@stmarksfx.org. Deadline for submission is the Tuesday before the Friday distribution.