



Good News

Together, we seek to know Christ and make him known.

Mission Statement

From the Rector

Back to the Garden

“Then can I walk beside you? I have come to lose the smog,
and I feel to be a cog in something turning.
Well maybe it’s just the time of year,
or maybe it’s the time of man,
I don’t know who I am.
But you know life is for learning.”

-From *Woodstock*
Joni Mitchell

In the Garden of Eden, everything made sense. (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7). All of God’s creation lived in harmony - plants, animals, and humankind all lived in a state of grace. God’s creation thrived because the “ecosystem” of the Garden was in perfect balance, with all growth maintained for the abundance of all. That’s the way God created the Garden. Plant, animal, vegetable, and mineral thrived in a state of homeostasis. But just when everything was perfect and God was well pleased, humankind upset the steady-state of the Garden.

Humankind separated itself from the Divine Ecosystem of the Garden and became self-conscious.

With self - consciousness came **uncertainty** (do I still belong to God-no, I think I belong to myself); **insecurity** (do I have enough to make it through the seasons, to be the person I want to be, to live the way I want to live...can I ever have enough?); **desire** (I want to be rich, I want to be beautiful, I want to be loved, I want it all!); then **fear** (I don’t think I have enough, I might lose everything, how can I live if I lose ____, what will happen then?).

I’ll be alone. I might die. I will die.

Once fear takes hold it’s all downhill from there. Our life-giving, life-sustaining homeostasis with all creation is lost, our identity with God our Creator is lost, we are lost.

We’ve got to get back to the garden. This self-consciousness thing is isolating and lonely.

But how can we get back to the Garden with so many choices, so many dangers, and so many ways to rationalize our desire for more of everything (how do we keep uncertainty, insecurity, greed, and fear at bay)?

See: Back page for conclusion



Flowers from the sale are used in the St. Andrew flower gardens and bloom all summer long!

Spring Flower Sale

Get ready for spring planting by ordering flowers from the St. Andrew Spring Flower Sale. Locally grown annuals, vegetables, and beautiful hanging baskets are available to purchase. Order forms for the sale are available in the Narthex or online at www.standrew-mentor.com. Place orders between March 1st and March 29th and plants will be delivered on Friday, May 22nd - just in time for Memorial Day planting.

Not only are these flowers beautiful, they are a great deal! Please share order forms with you family, friends and neighbors! Pick up your flowers on Friday, May 22nd between 1 and 7 PM.

Proceeds from our flower sale support the St. Andrew Youth Sunday School Program.



Dates to Remember: March

- 1 - Food Pantry Distribution, 1-3 PM
- 4 - Lenten Study, 6:15 - 8 PM
- 10 - Food Pantry Distribution, 1-3 PM
- 11 - Lenten Study, 6:15 - 8 PM
- 18 - Vestry Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 18 - Lenten Study, 6:15 - 8 PM
- 25 - Lenten Study, 6:15 - 8 PM
- 20 - Vestry Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 22 - Easter Chocolate Orders Due
- 29 - Last Day to Order Flowers

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

April 5 - 10:30 AM & Noon

Maundy Thursday

April 9

6:30 PM - Agape Meal followed by Maundy Thursday Liturgy

Good Friday

April 10

Stations of the Cross - Noon
Good Friday Liturgy- 7 PM

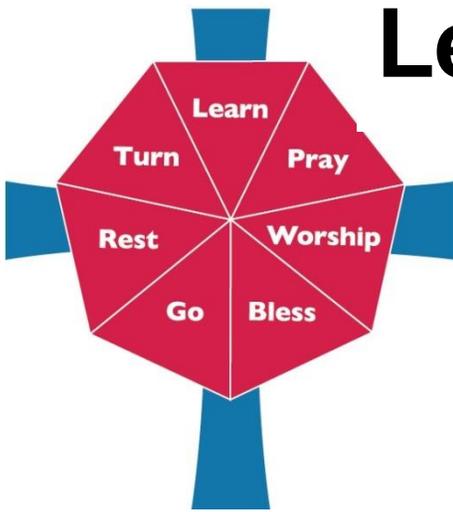
Great Easter Vigil

Grace Episcopal Church
36200 Ridge Road, Willoughby
April 11 - 7 PM

Easter Sunday

April 12 - 10:30 AM
(Kids Egg Hunt follows)

Lenten Learning Group



There is still time to join the Lenten Learning Group as we study "*Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent*" Each week participants will examine an Easter Vigil reading and discuss how it relates to the seven practices of the Way of Love - Turn, Pray, Learn, Bless, Rest, Worship and Go.

The study draws on the ancient practice of setting aside Lent as a period of study and preparation for living as a Christian disciple.

Meeting dates are on Wednesdays, March 4th through April 1st. A simple meal will be available at 6:15 PM and bible study/group discussion will start at 6:45 PM, ending by 8:00 PM.

Sign-up in the Narthex or just stop by and give it a try. All course materials will be provided at no cost. Members who cannot drive after dark, please let Rev. Lisa know, and we will try and arrange a ride.

You can also follow the curriculum online at: <https://www.thehiveapiary.com/wayoflove>

March Celebrations

Birthdays

Connie Schultz 10
Pat Grisdale 13
Dennis Corbett 15
Colleen Garlock 16
Ryan Symonds 16
Nancy Benes 20
Grant Provins 28
Stephanie Clements 29

Anniversaries

Jerry & Kathy King 3
Brian & Sheree Sandacz 17
Todd & Janna Penkowski 23

Don't see your Birthday or Anniversary? Contact the Office at 440-255-8842 and let us know!

2020 Census



Just like Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to be counted, the population in the United States will also be counted this year. Today, census results influence federal funding, which in turn affects the St. Andrew Food Pantry. Much of our food we give away to our neighbors, we purchase at a huge discount from the Greater Cleveland Food Pantry, which relies in part on federal funding. And that's just one of the many social service, education and safety programs that our fellow parishioners, neighbors and community members rely on that are affected by census results. When your census form arrives, fill it out and be counted.



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MARCH 17 ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE



A large voter turnout is expected, and we're having a HUGE bake sale. Please bake to support St. Andrew! We need lots of cakes, pies, breads and cookies for the table. Bake early and put the baked goods in the parish freezer, or bring your baked goods the Sunday before or on the morning of March 17th. All baked goods should be labeled, and please note if your items contain nuts. Proceeds from the bake sale go to our General Fund. *Questions? Contact Michele Miller at 216-403-9102*

A Look Ahead

On Tuesday, April 21st, CarePatrol will be at the church to present a free informative program on "Eldercare Options & How to Pay for Them" CarePatrol is the nation's largest Senior Placement organization helping families find safer care through assisted living, independent living, memory care, in-home care and nursing homes. the presentation is at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to attend and learn!



Thanks to our Flower Guild for their dedication to helping make the church beautiful!

Flower Guild News for Spring

Please join us in decorating St. Andrew for Easter! The flower guild will be decorating on Saturday, April 11 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome to help out and no experience is necessary.

We are also collecting donations for Palms and Easter Flowers during Lent. To donate, please fill out the below form, put "Flower Guild" on your check's memo line and:

- Place it in the collection plate
- Mail it to the church office
- See Janna Penkowski after the 10:30 am service

Given By _____

[] In Memory of _____

[] In Memory of Loved Ones

[] In Thanksgiving (optional for _____)

Amount _____



Easter Chocolates

Our Sanctuary family, Laura, José and Joshua, has been on their own for over a year now awaiting their U-visa. While staying at St. Andrew, Mary Provins taught Laura the skill of making chocolates! If you would like to order some of Laura's homemade chocolates, please pick up an order form in the Narthex. Not only are they very reasonably priced, but they are delicious. Deadline to place an order is March 22nd and chocolates will be delivered for pick up on Palm Sunday (April 5th).



Lenten Meditations At Your Fingertips

Lent is an opportunity for Christians to renew their repentance and faith. As part of our Lenten discipline together, parish members are invited to download the free app: "Reimaging the Examen" from Loyola Press. Begin a unique daily prayer experience based on St. Ignatius's prayer. The app is available to download from the Google Play Store and App Store for you phone, tablet or PC.

The Diocese of Ohio will also be providing daily meditations during Lent. They will be sent out via Constant Contact and posted on the Diocesan Facebook page daily. A pdf of the compiled daily meditations will also be available at <https://www.dohio.org/>.

From the Rector (continued from page 1)

Leaving these questions unanswered, humanity walked the road of fear and excess alone, generation after generation. The Garden began to die.

Than Jesus, by the grace of God arrived He was born in the midst of humanity and lived in our neighborhood. We came to know him as shepherd, servant, teacher, friend, Messiah. Jesus started to lead us back to the garden, into a state of balance and harmony with all creation. Jesus gave us a roadmap to the Garden when he reminded us that we belong to God, and are, each one of us, the beloved of God. Jesus turned our world, the world of a fearful, self-conscious humanity, upside down.

Just before Jesus walked into the desert to fast for 40 days and 40 nights and to be tempted by the Evil One (Matthew 4:1-11), he was baptized in the living water of Creation. By baptism, Jesus received that sacred affirmation that he was "the beloved of God." So, when Jesus walked into that desert, the human Jesus knew who he was. He was the beloved of God. That knowledge made the unbearable, bearable. It turned the torment of temptation into a sacred space of God.

Jesus, our eternal teacher, guide, and friend, was tempted by riches and power beyond all imagining. Jesus confronted all the myriad choices that we face as people of free will, but Jesus resisted the temptations that lead to sin. He resisted evil by remembering, every step of the way, that he was the beloved of God.

The beloved of God acts to heal and save; the beloved of God acts as servant of all; the beloved of God honors and preserves God's creation be it animal, vegetable, or mineral. The beloved of God leaves no one behind.

Jesus reminds us that we too are the beloved of God.

Jesus, the one who was tempted in the desert for 40 days yet did not sin, is ready to lead us back to the Garden. It's time to get back to the Garden.

The road back leads through Jerusalem. Are you ready to follow?



"In the moments of despair, in the moments of the worst darkness, God had done something incredible. God had raised Jesus from the dead."

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry