

# The Grapevine

March 2008

March is a funny month. “March goes in like a lion and out like a lamb”. (I remember making lots of lion and lamb arts and crafts projects in grade school in the month of March.) I think the whole country knows that saying, but with the way weather happens in Syracuse this month, I wouldn’t be surprised if the adage began here. It always seems like the worst of winter hits us in the beginning of March – just when we feel the most worn down by winter, just when we’re starting to get our hopes up every time the breeze feels more balmy than bitter. Our worst blizzards happen in March. Can you remember a St. Patrick’s Day parade without being bundled up in our woolies? But, we can be sure, by the end March that the worst is past and Spring is on its way.

In some ways, we’re fortunate that the weather happens this way. It seems to always parallel our Lenten journey. During Lent, we can look outside – and it looks like Lent! The snow on the side of the road is no longer charming, fresh and white, but rather worn-out, icy, and grey. When we’re outside, we truly know what it means to long for resurrection, to long for the new life that God brings in the spring. We try to train our eyes to catch even the faintest glimpses of hope – a green bud on a tree, an early-bird robin. By the end of winter – we’d even take a flooded basement if it meant that the snow was melting away for good!

Toward the end of the season, Lent can start to wear on us too. In the beginning of Lent, it all seems new and doable. We even welcomed the break in our liturgical rhythms. We devoted ourselves to our Lenten practices and mentally rehearsed omitting the “alleluias” from our worship. But, we were made to praise God and rejoice in God’s creation. As our Lenten practices have drawn us closer to God, we long for the end of Lent when we can let loose a mighty “ALLELUIA!” in thanksgiving for all the blessings we’ve experienced along our way.

Or maybe we’re frustrated; maybe our Lenten journeys haven’t yielded the fruit we’d hoped they would. (Warning: God often works ways quite different than expected!) Perhaps we’re down on ourselves for not living up to our expectations, or down on God for the same thing.

I think at this time of year, most, if not all of us, suffer from some sort of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) – also called Winter Depression. It’s real disorder that some people really suffer through, but I wonder if it might effect us all in some way. The remedy for SAD? Get into the light. What a metaphor for our Christian journey! When we’re depressed, weary, or down --- get into the light! Doctors tell people with SAD to walk in the sunshine, and if you can’t, bring the light to you – get a sun lamp.

What can we do to inject light into our Lenten season? Find light and go to it. We’ll keep going with our Lenten practices, and also find ways to inject a little more light into our season.

- We can pick up a new (spiritual) book. (What are our friends reading?)
- We can add in another worship experience – can you make it to a weekday service somewhere? (I can help you find one!) How about Stations of the Cross?
- We can spend some time with a “soul friend”, someone who lifts our spirits and reminds you that God – and life – is good.
- We can open up our bibles and draw inspirations from the stories that have shaped the faithful for generations.

- You can even invite your favorite priest or deacon out for a cup of tea – we’ve been known to be helpful for folks going through “sad” times.

No matter how we get ourselves through the end of the end of winter, and the end of Lent, we know that by the end of March, we will experience resurrection. We will experience new life. One resurrection will come in small ways at first, a tiny green bud on a tree, a bold crocus in the garden, the smell of mud. The other Resurrection we await will trample death and burst from a tomb and make all things new – not only for Mary and the disciples 2000 years ago, but this Resurrection continues to make all things new, even this day, all over God’s good creation.

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### HOLY WEEK



**SCHEDULE  
of SERVICES**

**MARCH 16<sup>th</sup> - SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY**

8:00 am – *Liturgy of the Palms, Dramatic Gospel & Holy Eucharist*

10:15 am – *Liturgy of the Palms, Dramatic Gospel & Holy Eucharist*

**APRIL 19<sup>th</sup> - WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**

12:00 Noon – *Holy Eucharist*

**MARCH 20<sup>th</sup> - MAUNDY THURSDAY**

7:30 pm – *Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar*

9:00 pm – *Vigil of The Cross – until 11:00 am on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>*

*(Sign up for shifts)*

**MARCH 21<sup>st</sup> - GOOD FRIDAY**

12:00 Noon – *Ecumenical Service at Liverpool First United Methodist*

*Church, 604 Oswego Street, Liverpool*

7:30 pm – *Tenebrae Service at St. Matthew’s*

**MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup> - HOLY SATURDAY**

6:00 pm – *Easter Vigil at St. Paul’s Episcopal, 204 Genesee Street, Chittenango. Mother Carrie preaching*

7:00 pm - *Easter Vigil service at St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral, 310 Montgomery Street (corner of Fayette Street), Syracuse*

**MARCH 23<sup>rd</sup> - EASTER DAY**

8:00 & 10:15 am – *Festal Holy Eucharist*

***The celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day is greatly enhanced by participating in the services of Holy Week.***

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## “FIRST FRIDAY’S”

Please join us for our Adult Education “First Friday” program at St. Matthew’s. We’ll gather on **Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, from 12:10 – 1:00 pm** in the Conference Room for a Bible Study. In March, we’ll look at Mark’s account of Jesus’ final days. Perfect for folk who work near the church with flexible schedules, and those who find it hard to make our evening offerings. Bring a friend!

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### DON’T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD!

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Remember to reset your clocks before going to bed Saturday night.

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During my traveling days, I often found myself out of town on Ash Wednesday and so looked for a local Episcopal Church where I could attend services. Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia was one such church. Very historic; George and Martha worshipped there.

Arriving early, I chose to sit in one of the “historic” pews, those with little doors on the aisles. Not for long, though. I heard a bit of shuffling coming down the aisle and a vintage usher (probably ushered Martha) came to inform me that I was in someone else’s pew and that I belonged “over there” with the “others.” Warm and fuzzy? Not!

I thought of this quote from James. “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” No, I don’t qualify as an angel.

This brings me to Mother Carrie’s sermon of a few weeks ago, the one about leaving our favorite pew space and wandering in the “wilderness” as Jesus did after his baptism. Gordon, who has sat in the same pew since day one, has begun his journey and it has been rewarding in several ways. It has shown me that my spiritual life is not located in any one place at St. Matthew’s. Sitting with others expands my faith family beyond the “Peace.” I’m certain that my wife, Sandy, from the choir is playing “Where’s Waldo (Gordon)?”, as she looks out over the congregation each Sunday. This has also made me more aware that I’m not the greatest greeter at coffee hour, too. Something I’m working on.

I’d like to make a suggestion. Fellowship is not my favorite word. I like hospitality better. One cannot be fellowshipable, but certainly can be hospitable. Nice word!

So let us continue our pew journeys beyond Lent and make hospitality our watchword.

Peace, Shalom, God Bless,  
Gordon

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### THE HOUSE AT 807

St. Matthew’s will be preparing the noon meal for the residents of The House At 807 each Sunday during the month of March. The hours are 11:00 – 1:00 pm and we need two people for each Sunday. The meal is already prepared and we only need to warm it up, serve it and clean-up following the meal. The residents help by setting the table and the meal time is used for fellowship with them. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the kitchen. If you can spare a couple of hours on a Sunday, please consider this rewarding outreach project. If you have questions, please see Bill Boylan. Volunteering is a blessing! Thank you in advance.



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**ADULT EDUCATION FOR THE WINTER**

Our Adult Education theme for the 2007-2008 program year is:

*A Year of Exploration*



Upcoming Offerings:

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

**Stations of the Cross**

*We've included two dates for the Stations of the Cross, so that people will be more likely to be able to attend. We will use a different form on the second night. Those who came to the first offering may want to come again.*

\*April 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 8:30 pm \* Date Change

**Exploring the Bible: The Book of Ruth**

*Join us for a discussion of the Old Testament book of Ruth.*

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:30 pm

**Patterns of Prayer: Exploring Prayer as a Pattern in our Daily Lives**

*We find ourselves busy, distracted – yet longing for a rich prayer life. We'll discuss practical ways to fit prayer into our often hectic lives.*

Please look for sign-up sheets posted near the kitchen. There is a minimum class size of 5 for the classes. There will be no sign-up sheets for the Stations of the Cross.

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**EASTER FLOWERS**

I wish to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a memorial in memory of: (please use given names)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

or as a thank offering for: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: March 16, 2008**

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**PALM SUNDAY**, April 16<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Vine Street invites us to come to "The Way of the Cross". 7 interactive experiences for individuals invite people to ponder the story of the crucifixion and our own journey with Christ. Allow 30 minutes for the experience. The sanctuary will be open 5:00-8:00 pm, and Pastor Wheatley will be available to provide orientation and chat afterwards with those who wish to share. (Geared toward adults and older youth – 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up)

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## IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER ONE!

A reminder to all. The second St. Matthew's sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive for 2008 is scheduled for Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. The location is, as always, in the Parish Hall of our church.

The date of March 15<sup>th</sup> this year is the day before Palm Sunday. And, we think it is most fitting to have this drive during the period of the activity culminating in the resurrection of our Lord and King. Consider this; if Jesus offered himself for us, is it not worthy that we also give, if we are able, one unit of our life sustaining blood for our fellow man?



At our drive in January, we collected 56 units of blood – a record for us. We are truly thankful, yet hopeful to continue to gain. And the only way to realize this gain is with your participation as a valued donor. In addition, volunteers to help in the day's activities are always welcome. If you wish to consider volunteering, please contact Bill Boylan at 454-0451 or Milt Oatman at 457-9578.

Join us on March 15<sup>th</sup> as we gather to respond to the need of our fellow man. **GIVE BLOOD AT OUR DRIVE. Please see the enclosed article "The Art of Giving (Blood)" by Dr. Isadore Rosenfeld.**

Bless you,  
Bill and Milt

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Mother Carrie gave me a copy of a service when she first came to St. Matthew's when we were talking about Advent Lessons and Carols. It's a Meditation on the Passion of Christ, with Carols. I have wanted to do this service since I saw it, and on Lent 5, March 9<sup>th</sup>, we will finally be giving it a try. The Ministry of the Word is divided into three parts: Gethsemane, the Trial, and the Crucifixion. Each "chapter" begins with some sentences followed by a prophetic Old Testament reading. The choir sings a carol, and then there is a Gospel reading followed by a hymn. The Prayers of the People, the Confession and the Peace follow, and then the service continues with the Eucharist as we do every Sunday. This is a very moving meditation, and the choir and I look forward to allowing everyone to experience it.



Something else that I am going to try for the Easter season is having the Family Choir sing the Sunday after Easter (March 30<sup>th</sup>) when the Parish Choir has the Sunday off. At my winter choral workshop, I found an anthem by Cindy Berry called *Listen to the Bells*. I hope to feature Mallorie O'Brien playing the bells on the organ as the Family Choir sings. We haven't had a choir on the Sunday after Easter except for the first Sunday I played at St. Matthew's many years ago. It will be good to hear joyous singing and bells ringing to celebrate the Resurrection.

The Family Choir will rehearse on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> following the 10:15 service. We will also begin working on an anthem for May 4<sup>th</sup> which is the next Youth Sunday. As there is Sunday School on March 30<sup>th</sup>, I will ask the Family Choir to come in to the sanctuary around 9:45 am to run through the anthem before the service.

The Parish Choir will be singing for Maundy Thursday, and I will ask them to come in at 6:45 pm for warm-up. As I mentioned, they will not sing on March 30<sup>th</sup> and will have the previous Wednesday off (March 26<sup>th</sup>), as has been our tradition.

I will be playing the organ for the procession at the 8:00 am service on Palm Sunday, and there will be music at both services on Easter Day. The choir members are in the process of finalizing their plans for Easter Weekend, and at this point, I'm not sure how many choir members will be present. We'll come up with something joyous with those who can be there.

Sue Parsons  
Music Director

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## THE EMPTY BOWL

On Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, I had the opportunity to participate in a Lenten Labyrinth Retreat Day at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fayetteville. It was facilitated by Emily Wilmer of Ithaca, NY. She presented a very moving program.

Lent is a time for examination, reflection, prayer, emptying out, becoming new, moving toward wholeness, seeing what lies within, and becoming more fully aware of who we already are – God’s beloved.

The program was based on three stories:

- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Gospel of John 2:1-11   | Wedding at Cana                 |
| Gospel of John 12:1-7   | Anointing at Bethany            |
| Gospel of Luke 22:39-46 | In the Garden (Mount of Olives) |

Music background was very relaxing and was St. Patrick’s Breastplate. Emily spoke of the Labyrinth, stating that there was no wrong or right way to walk it. Some think of the center as the “New City” or “New Jerusalem.” There are different types of Labyrinths and the one we used was based on the Notre-Dame de Chartres in France. Points to remember when using the Labyrinth are:

- A. Use of Holy Water upon entry
- B. Bless yourself, box and hesitate as you enter
- C. Give others respect, distance and allow them to pass.
- D. Find your own pace and be patient. You will get there.
- E. Wait at the center. If it is full, allow others their time – yours will come.
- F. Most important – this is not a maze. You will not get lost.

I had walked the Labyrinth many years ago, but in the excitement of it all, I failed to recognize the full potential of the Labyrinth. My reaction to the first walk around the Labyrinth was newness. During my second journey around the Labyrinth, I realized the turns and curves did have meaning. I thought of the turns in my life – the ups and the downs. The times lead astray. I also noticed there were short straight paths and longer ones. This was a reminder of the length of time that I was astray; some long, some short. During my third walk around the Labyrinth, I found myself telling God how sorry I was each time I came to a turn or curve.

Everyone has a different reaction to the Labyrinth Walk, so there is no set belief or feeling. If you have never walked the Labyrinth, I urge you to take the opportunity. You will be amazed at the experience.

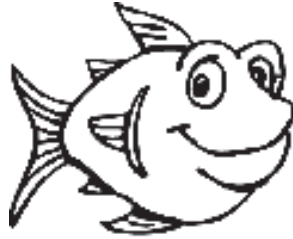
I did a great deal of research on Labyrinths. An interesting fact is that there are 1,954 currently in the United States. 793 of these are located within churches – yes, in churches or on church grounds. I randomly scanned 300 of these and here is the number of each denomination that has installed a Labyrinth on these premises.

Baptist	3	Presbyterian	24
Catholic	28	Unitarian	16
Church of Christ	9	United Methodist	39
Episcopal	88	Unity	13
Lutheran	17	Undefined	63

Aren’t you proud to be an Episcopalian? There were 1,161 Labyrinths at health/medical centers, spas, retreats, private residences, parks, etc.

If you would like more details on Labyrinths, contact me.

God bless,  
Bill Boylan



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***LENTEN FISH DINNERS***

(Available: Soup, Fried or broiled fish, french fries, cole slaw, rolls, beverages & desserts)

**ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
904 VINE STREET, LIVERPOOL  
457-4633**

**EVERY FRIDAY  
THROUGH MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**\$8.00**

**\$7.50 SENIORS**

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

**TAKE-OUT  
FISH SANDWICHES**

# CHILDREN'S MENU

**PLEASE JOIN US!!**

## OUTREACH NEWS

A long overdue thank you to everyone who participated in sending Christmas cards to our veterans that remained in the VA hospital over the Christmas season. We were able to deliver almost 50 cards! Continue to keep them in your prayers.

Vera House - White Ribbon Campaign will be held March 28<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>. This campaign raises awareness in issues of domestic violence and supports the many programs that Vera House Foundation offers to families. White ribbons and wrist bands will be available following both services on March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>. The suggested donation is \$1.00.

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## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EUCHARISTS

Mark your calendars! We have some exciting Community Eucharists coming up:

### **Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – Healing Service**

*This service focuses on the need for healing we all have in our lives and in the world. Special healing prayers and anointing with Holy Oil will be offered.*

### **Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – “U2charist”**

*Featuring the music of the Irish rock band, U2, this Eucharist draws our attention toward global reconciliation, justice for the poor and oppressed, and the importance of caring for our neighbors.*

## **Things to know about U2 for the uninitiated**

Things to know about U2...The one paragraph version: They have always been a Christian band, but avoided signing with a Christian label because they didn't want to preach to the choir. "You" in their songs is often God. Sometimes it is God addressing us. There was an on line attempt recently to come up with one song by U2 that wasn't referring to things spiritual and no one was able to do so... The image of God as lover, luring us closer, or our desire and hunger for God are regular themes. So are themes of social justice and doing our part to bring about the reign of God.

### **GOOD BOOKS TO READ:**

*Get Up Off Your Knees: Preaching the U2 Catalog* (Maynard, Whiteley, Eds. Cowley Publishing)

*One Step Closer: Why U2 Matters to those Seeking God*, Christian Scharen

*Walk On: The Spiritual Autobiography of U2* (Steve Stockman, Relevant Press, re-released)

*Conversations with Bono* (Michka Assayas)



## **BOOK CLUB**

After her conversion from Orthodox Judaism to Christianity, Lauren Winner found that her life was indelibly marked by the rich traditions and spiritual practices of Judaism. She set out to discover how she could incorporate some of these practices into her new faith. Winner presents eleven Jewish practices that can transform the way Christians view the world, and God. Whether discussing attentive eating, marking the days while grieving, the community that supports a marriage, candle-lighting, or the differences between the Jewish Sabbath and a Sunday spent at the Mudhouse, her favorite coffee shop, Winner writes with appealing honesty and rare insight. Join us on Thursday night, **April 24<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00-8:30 PM to discuss: *Mudhouse Sabbath: An Invitation to a Life of Spiritual Discipline* by Lauren F. Winner. Bring a friend!

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## **A CHRISTIAN RETREAT OPPORTUNITY**

For many years, people from our diocese and from all over the country have gone to “Cursillo” retreats for a time to refresh their spirits and renew their faith. The Cursillo group in our Central New York diocese is working with the Bishop to provide meaningful retreat experiences for people in our diocese. The next Cursillo retreat will be held May 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> at the Casowasco Retreat Center, located on the west shore of Owasco Lake near Moravia NY.

“I can say that my Cursillo weekend was truly a faith building experience for me and a major stepping stone on my Christian journey. I met some wonderful new people, ate way too much food, learned some great new music, and got not nearly enough sleep. I wouldn’t change anything for the world and I wish I could do it again.” – Marge Newhart, Lay Director of Cursillo #48, St. Matthew’s, Moravia.

From our parish, Deb Smith, Stacey Balduf and Debbie Miller have all gone on this retreat. If you’re interested, they’d be happy to talk with you about their experiences. If you’re interested, please see Mother Carrie for more information.

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## **SEASON TO CHERISH THE HEART**

Michael Leunig

We give thanks for the blessing of winter:  
Season to cherish the heart.  
To make warmth and quiet for the heart.  
To make soups and broths for the heart.  
To cook for the heart and read for the heart.  
To curl up softly and nestle with the heart.  
To sleep deeply and gently at one with the heart.  
To dream with the heart.

To spend time with the heart.  
A long, long time of peace with the heart.  
We give thanks for the blessing of winter:  
Season to cherish the heart.  
Amen

Source: *The Prayer Tree*

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## MINISTRY AND MISSION FAIR

**Saturday, May 17, 2008**  
**Bishop Grimes High School, East Syracuse**

Workshop topics in Christian Formation, Congregational Development, Youth Ministry, Music Ministries, Vestry Leadership, Stewardship, and much, much more. Something for everyone! More details will follow soon.

We would like to have as many people as possible go from our parish. **Mark your calendars.**

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## FROM THE SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CENTER...

### PRAYING WITH JULIAN OF NORWICH

Julian of Norwich was a 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic, hermit, spiritual guide and the author of an inspiring spiritual classic, *Revelations of Divine Love*. Her experiences with God, her tender love for Jesus, and her conviction that in God “all shall be well” have fed generations of believers.

Come to the Spiritual Renewal Center, 1118 Court Street, Syracuse, on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm to learn and be blessed by Julian’s wisdom, which speaks to us powerfully across the centuries. The presenter is Emily Wilmer, director of The Julian Group, a ministry of spiritual direction, retreats, workshops and consulting in Ithaca, NY. Emily was trained as a spiritual director at the Shalem Institute in Washington, D.C. and also performs a one-woman play Julian.

If you are not familiar with Julian of Norwich, this event will introduce you to a holy woman of God who will be your friend forever. If you already know Julian, you’ll learn to appreciate her insight even more through this evening of renewal. Contact the Center, 472-6546, to register. We ask a \$15.00 fee, or whatever you can afford.

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### LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO ON A FRIDAY EVENING?



Join us at St. Paul’s Cathedral in Syracuse for a thought provoking film shown in our sanctuary. Enjoy a cup of tea or fair trade coffee. Admission: \$5.00 goes to the Millennium Development Goals. Help end extreme poverty by 2015! Onsite childcare provided: \$2.00 per child (come a little early).

#### 2008 Schedule:

Good Friday, March 21: GODSPELL 7:00 pm  
April 18: FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO 7:00 pm  
May 16: THE PAINTED VEIL 7:00 pm

For more info go to [http://nooutcasts.org/?page\\_id=41](http://nooutcasts.org/?page_id=41) and click on the movie titles for movie descriptions and trailers.

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## **CYBERSPACE AND PRAYER**

by the Rev. Craig Swan  
Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Camillus NY

Very recently I heard a statistic that the websites most often sought out on the internet were sites of prayer and pornography. The prayer sites are number one. What does this mean? Sr. Marise May OSJ suggests that this means people are seeking relationship in both healthy and unhealthy ways and that the primary relationship they seek is with God. The question worth asking then; can the internet be a source or avenue towards a deep and abiding relationship with God?

As a priest, my first reaction to this is an unqualified NO. After all, we believe that the fullest and most abiding relationship with God can only be found within the context of Christian Community. But does this mean that the internet has no place in the spiritual lives of clergy and laity? To say no, means discounting what has become an integral part of modern life and a resource that contains huge untapped potential of reaching the youth of today. To say yes, feels threatening to what for centuries has been the tried and true ways of prayerful study and discipline.

Over the past couple of years I have researched many "prayer" websites. I have visited the sites that provide a variation of traditional life. After all, you can find the Daily Offices with readings at several sites. Useful, convenient, but I have yet to find staring into a computer screen while sitting at desk conducive to focused meditation. And then there are the sites I have deemed "Hallmark" sites, they provide divine inspiration in the form of a Thomas Kinkade painting. For many they stir the emotions but rarely challenge us to go deeper with God.

The website I have found to be the best is [www.prayasyougo.org](http://www.prayasyougo.org). This website is maintained by the Jesuits of Great Britain and provides daily podcasts. Monday through Friday each week prayerful meditations on scripture complete with musical selections from different parts of the world, are provided in a well structured ten – fifteen minute program.

I have found these ten to fifteen minute meditations have greatly enriched my spiritual life and daily meditation. As the sole priest and full-time employee of the parish, I have found it difficult to maintain a discipline of Morning Prayer, with out others to share in the experience, and at times it has become rote and dry. The Pray as you Go Pod Casts, set the pace, and with the varying voices from week to week give the "feeling" of praying in community with guidance into deeper communication with God.

While internet worship may not be for everyone, and may not always provide solid spiritual guidance, prayasyougo.org is worth taking the time to check out and if not for you, it can be an excellent resource for parishioners seeking a daily discipline of prayer that is not as intimidating as the daily office.

-- Fr. Craig Swan

Other Prayer Websites:

[www.missionstclare.com](http://www.missionstclare.com) -- praying the daily office  
[www.forwardmovement.com](http://www.forwardmovement.com) – offers a daily meditation  
[www.explorefaith.org](http://www.explorefaith.org) – spiritual guidance for anyone seeking a path to God



## **SOUND BITES**

**PASCHAL CANDLE** – In a completely darkened church on the Saturday night before Easter Day, the congregation waits in silence. The ministers are outside the nave, striking new fire. The fire is blessed and holy water is sprinkled on it. In the full ceremony, the celebrant takes a large candle and carves on it a Greek cross, the Greek letters alpha and omega, and the calendar year in Arabic numerals. The celebrant inserts five grains of incense into the candle, symbolizing the five wounds of Christ. The celebrant then lights the candle from the new fire. The deacon takes the lit candle and leads the ministers into the darkened church. He stops three times and sings the “Lumen Christi” – The Light of Christ – in successively higher tones, to which the congregation responds, “Thanks be to God.” The candle is then placed in its own candlestick, usually on the Gospel side of the altar, where the deacon chants the Exsultet, one of the most ancient hymns of the Christian Church. The other candles in the church are then lit from the flame of this candle.

This is the paschal candle. The word “pascha” comes from the Hebrew “pesach” which refers to the Passover. It connects us with the remembrance that Jesus is, for us, the Paschal Lamb. It also recalls the pillar of fire which led the people of Israel through the wilderness by night.

The use of lights (candles and lamps) in connection with the Easter Vigil dates from the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The striking of new fire arose in the Celtic Church and was known to St. Patrick. Until this century, the paschal candle was lit on Easter Eve and burned at all services until Ascension Day. Now it burns until the Day of Pentecost, which is the end of Eastertide.

The American *Book of Common Prayer* restored this ancient practice in the Proper Liturgy for the Great Vigil of Easter. In addition to its role in Easter, the paschal candle is used at baptism and burial. At Holy Baptism, a small candle is lit from the paschal candle, standing near the font, and handed to the newly baptized or the sponsors.

At a burial service, the paschal candle may be carried into church before the body and placed near the coffin during the service.

The paschal candle burning through the Great Fifty Days of Easter is a witness to the presence of the Risen Christ on earth. The paschal candle burning at Holy Baptism symbolizes the Light of Christ which has triumphed over the forces of darkness in the world. The paschal candle burning at the Burial Office symbolizes the work of Christ in conquering death and reconciling humanity to God.

Reprinted from *Church Words*, by Stephen E. Moore  
Published by Forward Movement Publications  
412 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 USA



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Henry, Carla J.	21	Stace, Karen	13
Jacques, Dr. Raymond	13	Sullivan, James	03
Miller, Mark	03	Thackston, Gary	30
O'Brien, Tyler	26	Townley, Kelley	19
Pickard, Patricia	31	Vigliotti, John	30

(If anyone has been omitted from this list, please call the office)

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*IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS..*

- |                  |                    |                         |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Sue Allidi       | Sheila Hughes      | Paul Rill               |
| Andrea           | Jodi and Amelia    | Robert Roach            |
| June Balduf      | Joell              | Victoria Roach          |
| Sylvia Boylan    | Bobby Kayne        | Lorene "Doug" Schneider |
| Thomas E. Boylan | Joanne Kepley      | Herb Smith              |
| Bill Campbell    | The Rev. Jeff Knox | Stockwell Family        |
| Betty Clarke     | Terri Kobo         | Maureen Suatoni         |
| Marie Corl       | Gloria Miller      | Jennifer Sullivan       |
| David Delaney    | Howard Miller      | Mary "O" Taber          |
| Eleanor Duke     | Rena Miller        | Richard Walter          |
| Jason Garafalo   | Mardie Ninno       | Kristen Wildrick        |
| Nancy Geaslen    | Joe Piraino        | Emily Zemenz            |
| Henry Family     | Ellen Pugsley      |                         |
| Laura Jean Hoyt  | Edythe Reardon     |                         |
| Pete Hudson      | Rebecca            |                         |



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**SHOPPING CART SUNDAY**



*March 16<sup>th</sup>*

**April Grapevine**


**Deadline**

***THANK YOU!***

**March 16<sup>th</sup>**

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# MARCH 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*A.A. Meets Monday – Friday – 6:45 – 7:45 AM in the Conference Room °HB: Holy Baptism +HE: Holy Eucharist						1 <b>Youth Bowling Event</b>
2 8:00 AM-HE+ 9:15 AM-Choir Warm-up & Sunday School 9:30 AM-Adult Forum 10:00 AM-Nursery 10:15 AM-HE+ 11:00 AM-The House at 807 Meal 12:00 Noon Worship Commission Meeting	3 *6:45 AM-AA Mother Carrie's Day Off 5:00-7:00 PM Weight Watchers	4 Clergy Quiet Day	5 12:00 Noon HE+ 7:15 PM-Choir Rehearsal	6 5:00-7:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:30-7:00 PM Outreach Commission Meeting	7 Parish Office Closed 12:10 – 1:00 PM "First Friday" Adult Education 5:00-7:00 PM Fish Dinner Diocesan Lock-In at St. John's, Ithaca →	8 CHANGE CLOCKS
9 <u>Lenten Lessons &amp; Carols</u> 8:00 AM-HE+ 9:15 AM-Choir Warm-up & Sunday School 9:30 AM-Adult Forum 10:00 AM-Nursery 10:15 AM-HE+ 11:30 AM-Family Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM-The House at 807 Meal	10 *6:45 AM-AA Mother Carrie's Day Off 5:00-7:00 PM Weight Watchers	11 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross	12 12:00 Noon HE+ 7:15 PM-Choir Rehearsal	13 5:00-7:00 PM Weight Watchers	14 Parish Office Closed 5:00-7:00 PM Fish Dinner	15 8:00-1:00 PM Blood Drive in Parish Hall
16 <u>Palm Sunday</u> 8:00 AM-HE+ 9:15 AM- Choir Warm-up & Sunday School 9:30 AM-Adult Forum 10:00 AM-Nursery 10:15 AM-HE+ 11:30 AM-Family Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM-The House at 807 Meal Shopping Cart Sunday Grapevine Deadline	17 <u>St. Patrick's Day</u>  *6:45 AM-AA Mother Carrie's Day Off 5:00-7:00 PM Weight Watchers 7:00-9:00 PM Cursillo	18	19 12:00 Noon HE+ 7:15 PM-Choir Rehearsal	20 <u>Maundy Thursday</u> 5:00-7:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:45 PM-Choir 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday HE & Footwashing 9:00 PM Vigil of the Cross →	21 <u>Good Friday</u> Parish Office Closed 12:00 Noon Service at Liverpool First United Methodist Church, 604 Oswego Street 7:30 PM Tenebrae Service Until 11:00 AM	22 6:00 PM Easter Vigil service at St. Paul's, 204 Genesee Street, Chittenango 7:00 PM Easter Vigil service at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, 310 Montgomery Street, Syracuse
23 <u>Easter Sunday</u> 7:30 AM-Choir Warm-up 8:00 AM-HE+ 9:00 AM-Breakfast for Service Participants No Sunday School No Adult Forum 9:45 AM-Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM-Nursery 10:15 AM-HB° & HE+ 11:00 AM-The House at 807 Meal	24 *6:45 AM-AA Mother Carrie's Day Off 5:00-7:00 PM Weight Watchers	25 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	26 12:00 Noon HE+ No Choir Rehearsal	27 5:00-7:00 PM Weight Watchers	28 Parish Office Closed New Beginnings (3 -28 thru 3-30)	29

Tellers

Commissioning

8:00 AM-HE+  
No Parish Choir  
9:15 AM Sunday  
School  
9:30 AM-Adult  
Forum  
9:45 AM-Family  
Choir  
10:00 AM-Nursery  
10:15 AM-HE+  
11:00 AM-The  
House at 807 Meal

