

# The Ridge Runner

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And we are right in the Season of Lent! Seems to have arrived without much warning, but we are Christians, we know how this goes!! As a reminder though, please read and take note of what St. Faith's plans for the Lenten and early part of the Easter Season.

## Lent



Reading material for your reflection during Lent, is available at the back of the church. Look for the

booklets: "Ashes and the Phoenix - Meditations for the Season of Lent" in the basket by the Choir stall. A donation of \$5 will help to defray the costs. "The meditations, poems and artwork in *Ashes and the Phoenix: Meditation for the Season of Lent* offer many paths for you to walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem."

• A S H •  
Wednesday



Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, which was a sad day for several reasons, but among them this year was the fact that **this was Mother Reid's last Service at St. Faith's.** Two services were available for the congregation - the 9:30 a.m.

service at East Ridge Retirement Community, and the 7 p.m. service here in the Church. Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes were celebrated at both services. Mother Reid did not forget the "FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA". She made sure she got this in on her final Sunday with us, February 26<sup>th</sup>. More on that later!



**March 5<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday in Lent** - and that's when we will have the first of many Sundays with the **Reverend Michael Picou,**

better known as Fr. Picou. You may remember him as he has filled in at St. Faith's a couple times recently. Let's welcome him, so he will look forward to being with us at least through Lent and Easter.



There WILL BE "Soup and Study" this Lent. **Sessions will be held on four (4) Wednesdays during Lent at 7 p.m., starting on Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup> and going through**

**Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup>.** So - look for the "sign-up" sheets on the notice board, and sign up to bring soup or bread or both. (*Homemade soup please - that's the tradition here.*) The exact focus of the Study part of the Soup and Study, will be confirmed later - so read your bulletins and check the website - that announcement will be out shortly. Each Wednesday, the Study will end with Compline.



**Don't forget - we spring ahead on Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup>.** Daylight Saving Time begins and we move those clocks ahead one (1) hour.

You could do this from Saturday night so we can all get to church on time on Sunday! Then the following week (March 20) is the first day of Spring. I'm sure lots of people are looking forward to that, just not so much Miamians!!

### Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>

The St. Faith's Chapter of the Order of the

Daughters of the King cordially invite you, (everyone: men, women and children) to join them at their Lenten Quiet time event on March 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 9

a.m. The morning will begin with a continental breakfast, followed by the Quiet Period, led by the Rev. Dr. Mary Ellen Cassini, Chaplain of Palmer Trinity School, and her husband, Charles. The topic will be "*Wisdom of the Three Abrahamic Traditions (Christianity, Judaeism and Islam).*" Very interesting and reflective. And remember - its QUIET TIME! The Chapter has invited several other DOK chapters to join them that morning, so they hope to have a great turnout, and look forward to your support



**Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** That's the date and



time you're needed to help with the making of the Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday. Donna Lewis, the resident expert, will be there to teach you how its done. **Anyone with Palms to offer?** Let her know! She promises to feed you, as you work. Easter Eggs

will also be stuffed that evening. **SO THERE IS NEED FOR CANDY TO STUFF THE EGGS (NO CHOCOLATE PLEASE).** You can bring those in any time before April 7<sup>th</sup>.



Holy Week details are still being worked out by the Vestry, Dr. Greco and Fr. Picou. Again, please check your weekly bulletins and the St. Faith's website for information. **HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR:**

**Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion.**



Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> marks the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Holy Week. It commemorates our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey to the shouts of "Hosanna", and with palms and branches being waved before him by the crowds. Little did those crowds know how the week would end.

**St. Faith's will observe the Procession of the Palms, at both the 8 a.m. and the 10 a.m. services, with both services beginning outside and processing into the Church.** It's a really great way to begin Holy Week.

**HOLY THURSDAY (MAUNDY THURSDAY)**



Holy Thursday

We will share in a Pot Luck AGAPE Meal at 7 p.m. on Holy Thursday. "Agape" is the Greek word meaning LOVE, but not just any love. *It's*

*the LOVE which is of and from God, whose very nature is love itself.*" The Agape Meal, or Love Feast, is a Christian fellowship meal. It could be used to describe Jesus' last meal with His disciples. And that's what we at St. Faith's will share on Maundy Thursday. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Notice Board for all who plan to attend, and FOR those who will bring a dish to share (& what the dish is). The ECW is coordinating the Meal. PLEASE LOOK FOR THE SIGN-UP SHEET AT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL, AND SHOW YOUR LOVE BY PARTICIPATING.



Following the Agape Meal, we go over to the Church for the Stripping of The Altar, which is done in darkness, with members of the Altar Guild assisting

the Priest with the task. Stripping of the altar (removing all ornaments, linens, and paraments) is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. **It is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers.** Our Lord had less than 24 hours after the Last Supper before he was betrayed, tried, beaten and crucified on Golgotha.

*"As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolize His*

*purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us."* (unknown). There is no closure at the end of this service, indicating that the service is not concluded. Our worship continues on Good Friday. We leave the church in silence and darkness. How appropriate!



There is usually a 12 noon ecumenical Good Friday Service, held at one of the Churches in our community. As soon as we ascertain what Church it will be held at, we will inform our St. Faiths Parishioners.

**At 7 p.m. on Good Friday, St. Faith's will celebrate the Good Friday Liturgy, venerate the Cross, and meditate upon the journey Christ took to Calvary, by walking the Stations of the Cross. We hope all from St. Faith's will attend this very moving service.**



**SUNDAY APRIL 16.**



Easter Vigil

This year – the Easter Vigil will be held early on **Easter Morning, April 16<sup>th</sup>.** (The exact time will be announced later.) The sun would already have risen, but we know there is still darkness in the world - the darkness that represents all evil. So we strike a light that breaks the darkness – **THE NEW FIRE.** The Light of Christ in the form of the Paschal Candle is lit from the new fire and processed into the community. *"The Light of Christ...Thanks be to God."* We receive its light as each of our candles is lit from the Paschal Candle, and we experience the power of that light as it grows. The lights in the church come on, and we are free to express **"ALLELUIA"** again.



**We will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at the 10 O'clock Festive Easter Mass, with glorious choir renditions and brass instruments. We shout "Alleluia" for joy as Christ is Risen indeed! Bring your friends and neighbors with you to Easter Sunday Service – they will have a glorious time! The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will follow the Service Fun! Fun! Fun!** Easter Season runs for 50 days, until Pentecost, which this year, 2017, is June 4<sup>th</sup>. We can keep wishing everyone "Happy Easter" until then.

**Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

The ECW invite all members (and remember every woman in the Episcopal Church is a member) **TO MEET WITH THE BOARD ON SUNDAY MARCH 26<sup>th</sup> AFTER THE 10 a.m. SERVICE.** They have several



things to discuss, not the least of which is the Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Agape Meal. Please join them.



11<sup>th</sup> plans will be finalized for the QUIET TIME on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Daughters of the King remind all Daughters that they meet every second Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in the Administration Building. At the upcoming meeting on March



ST. FAITH'S MEN'S GROUP

and Tuesday April 11 at Applebee's outside of Southland Mall.

The Men's Group continues to meet on **second Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for Fellowship, a meal, and to discuss any upcoming projects.** They will meet on Tuesday March 8,

### MOTHER REID'S CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY



It was hard saying goodbye to Mother Reid this past Sunday at her Celebration of Ministry Luncheon, held in the Church Hall after the 10 a.m. Service. The Hall was crowded as over 180 of Mother Reid's closest and dearest came to bid her Adieu and God's Blessings in her new life. Mother Reid said her farewells in her Sermon, (*had some of us in tears*) and we, the congregation said ours at the luncheon. An excerpt from her Sermon is included in this [Ridge Runner](#), and the full sermon is posted on the St. Faith's website. Archdeacon Bazin brought greetings from Bishop Eaton, and Presentations were made on behalf of the ECW, the DOK, the vestry and the congregation. Letters from Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden and others, commending her years of service were read, as well as a Proclamation from Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, declaring February 26<sup>th</sup> as "**Reverend Jennie Lou Divine Reid Day**". Individual people had the opportunity to write her love notes which were placed in the Treasure Chest that was one of the Presentations to her. She will view them at her leisure later. Mother Reid touched all our lives and she will surely be missed. Her final Service at St. Faith's was the Ash Wednesday Service. After that, we will not be seeing her in her capacity as Priest for more than a year!

### Status of Replacement for Mother Reid

And while we are on the subject of Mother Reid's departure, we should inform you about the status of acquiring a new Priest for St. Faith's. There is a process, you see, that each Church in the Diocese has to follow before that Church can acquire a new priest. St. Faith's is just getting started. At every step of the process, our Vestry has major input and works closely with the Diocese, so we know we will end up with the very best. First step is the acquisition of a Supply

Priest, and we are fortunate in getting **Fr. Michael Picou**, who will be with us through Easter. Bishop Eaton will meet with the Vestry on March 17 when they will begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> step of the process, which is getting an **Interim Priest**. The Diocese and the Vestry will agree on who this person will be. The Interim Priest will lead the Vestry and congregation in finding St. Faith's new priest. And that's the 3<sup>rd</sup> step in the process – that's when the Search begins in earnest. At a later date, our congregation will be asked to assist with a Survey that will describe what our St. Faith's community wants in a new priest. So please be patient as this will take several months, maybe more than a year. **AND PLEASE BE PRAYERFUL. PRAY THAT OUR BELOVED ST. FAITH'S WILL BE LED BY THE LORD'S WILL FOR US.** *The vestry reminds us that Sunday attendance during this period, is very important! Your support during this time will help the process go more smoothly.*



### *Birthday Greetings*

We send the best of Birthday Greetings to the following whose birthdays are in March & April:

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Cameron MacDonald | 3/17 |
| Marlene Rigg      | 3/17 |
| Norma Salmon      | 3/21 |
| John Monteleone   | 3/22 |
| Hazel Ventura     | 3/24 |
| Evan Alvaranga    | 3/30 |
| Dillon Paul       | 4/13 |
| Maria Monteleone  | 4/28 |
| Christopher Paul  | 4/28 |



There are no flowers on the Altar during Lent, but for Easter, we try to have a truly glorious Altar, with lots and lots of flowers. Your donations will be needed, **so now would be the time to hand in those donations for flower memorials and thanksgivings.** Easter flower donation envelopes have been placed below the Flower Chart – so get them in now. Memorials and Thanksgivings will be published in the Easter Bulletins.



### FOOD PANTRY

Your Food Pantry distributed 418 bags of food to app. 200 families in January and in February. Each month, that impacted close to 600 people who live in those households. We continue to receive monthly donations of food from our friends at St. Luke the Physician, and we recently received a donation of \$300 from the ECW at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Everything helps, and the need is great. Some members of our congregation are great at remembering the Pantry when they go grocery shopping. We hope that more members will do likewise.

Have a blessed Lent and a Happy Easter – **AND WALK GOOD, MY FRIENDS!**