

Holy Week 2020



This is what an empty St. Paul's looks like. It's not a pretty picture, because you are missing. On the other hand we are thankful to all those practicing safety in this time of consternation. As Fr. Tom said in his sermon last Sunday, God wishes for us to have courage. As only a few heard this timely sermon because of an audio glitch (since corrected), you can read it on our website, www.-saintpaulsnaples.org, under the Worship tab.

# Not everything's virtual

#### By Ken Eastlack

I suspect the immediate impact of "Staying Safe At Home" would be minimal. Surely year-round residents are accustomed to staying at home for extended periods of time; short term to beat days of heat, humidity and Summer rains, to longer terms while "hunkering down" and sitting out the occasional hurricane.

Granted much of any sense of isolation at such times has been eased by the increased presence and use of personal electronics (cell/smart phones, tablets, notebooks etc.).

Actually, I hold that the increased number of such devices and the seemingly addictive use of them present an evolving sense of isolation in itself. Certainly you have seen evidence of this in the abundance of eyes and fingers of people all around us being fully absorbed in electronic "busyness" while being oblivious to the real world and its happenings all around them. I'd not be surprised to see them break away from their devices momentarily and exclaim, "What isolation?"

However, we are different here at St. Paul's. When advised to remain safe in our homes, we immediately sense a threat of loss.

No more sharing the Eucharist on Sunday with my fellow parishioners? No feeling the warmth of "Passing

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the Peace of the Lord" with one another? No sense of camaraderie while maintaining church buildings and grounds during a God's Gardeners workday? No ECW, Altar Guild, or Choir opportunities to contribute our gifts of time and talent? No coffee and snacks fellowship hour? Even the loss of spending Saturday mornings managing the Farmers' Market, parking cars, manning the Gift Shop & Boutique, and sharing God's love over coffee and hot dogs creates a small but significant emptiness. All this loss is a spiritual definition of isolation and its inevitable trailer. loneliness.

However brethren and sistren,\* the *Pathway* team has dedicated this issue to alleviating this sense of isolation and loneliness.

Should our volunteered quarantine move into a third week or more we suggest considering the following.

1) Intellectual stimulation – not necessarily just reading, since you (Continued next page)

## Not everything need be virtual (Continued from front page)

likely have read yourselves to dozing off enough trying to "catch up" on previously ignored literary offerings. Instead, try writing. Maybe letters at first, to relatives and friends. Try this the classic way instead of those abbreviated notes on Facebook. Then move on to some heavier stuff, like poems. Don't get hung up with trying to rhyme. Poetry is simply writing with your soul about the things in your heart.

- AT THE BEACH
- I saw God's face
- in the rainbow of colors
- painted in a sunset.
- And heard a heavenly chorus
- blowing through the pines
- singing His praises
- at the close of day.

That took little more than a minute to create. It is that simple. Open your soul to your environment, pause and let the moment imprint on your heart, and write the words that come to you. We're not trying to emulate Longfellow here; we are simply tuning in to our Lord's marvelous creation and expressing what we individually feel while doing so. One can choose from spiritual/ aesthetic, social, political, and/or emotional themes to express their unique intimate experience.

How about a love note to your significant other(s)? Or a letter to God; a one-to-one missive where you can converse with Him and get some things off your chest or offer a special thank you. I used to assign clients in their later years to write a letter to their loved ones and friends that was not to be opened until a year or more after their passing. A sharing of final thoughts and thanks or perhaps an opportunity to imprint one last smile or joyful tear.

Or, write a piece for Pathway.

Write in longhand (explain this to your grand kids) first, and then a word processor only if necessary 2

i.e. if even you can't read your handwriting, or you are submitting it to Pathwav.

2) Have some fun with partners and/or family there with you by sharing caricatures of how you see each other when happy, angry, sad, deeply concentrating etc. Sure you can! Heads/faces are round or oval circles. Noses (v) are in the center (more or less) of the circles/ovals and eyes (00) go just above and on either side of the nose. Ears are outside the oval/circle, hair on the top and/or down the sides. For expressions simply use curved lines; turned up for happy, down for angry or sad, squiggly for confused. Apply said lines just below the nose for mouths, and if you wish, smaller ones above the eyes for eyebrows. Or just follow the grand kids' examples. This exercise will tend to lend itself to discourse which is great, but keep it light!

3) If you play an instrument, most definitely entertain those there with you. If not, especially with young ones present, SING! Teach them a round or two. Young ones tend to enjoy this. You do remember, "Row, row, row your boat ... "? If it is just the two of you, or you are sitting this out alone, get out some of your favorite cd's (I'll suggest vinyls, 45's and albums, for a touch of nostalgia), and listen, sing along, and most of all DANCE. If you are alone go ahead and boogie; no one is watching, cept maybe the Lord, in a nonjudgmental way. So set yourselves free, and get down!

4) Worship! I have no idea how many of you have a Book of Common Prayer so we will worship without it or as an adjunct to its use. I doubt that what is suggested here is particularly new to you. However, given our current circumstances, it can help prevent us from getting cabin fever while avoiding the more fatal one, while at the same time save us from "electronic gadgetism" (Lord, I do love making up words). [The Book of Common Prayer can be downloaded (sorry Ken) using a link on our website, www.saintpaulsnaples.org. --Ed.]

Take a walk, and look for evidence of God's presence around you, can you see it in the flora? In a bird's song? Children at play? The elderly couple walking hand-in-hand? When you see His presence, praise and thank Him. There, you have worship. How else might you do so without book and /or building?

There is much to pray for and about. Augment the Lord's Prayer with your own petitions. Know that your prayers for healing and containment of this virus are shared by your fellow parishioners as they would be if kneeling side-by-side.

4) Exercise. No one as yet has demanded that we remain indoors and even though beaches and parks have been closed you can still get outside. Do some gardening, walk and scoop your pets, go for a bike ride, or take an evening stroll and perhaps catch one of His masterpiece sunsets. Greet passersby with eye contact and a smile while maintaining that safe distance.

I have just one last whimsical thought to leave with you. Should "Corona" keep us in isolation for a month or more, I'm predicting a baby boom in nine months. It may not be all that evident here in Naples given the abundance of senior citizens that dwell here. And perhaps even less so at St. Paul's. However, wouldn't it be astonishing; if not downright miraculous, to read in next February's Pathway that, "Bill and Barb Kling are pleased to announce the birth of their new baby girl, Bonnie-Marie." Gen 21:2

I hope you have had a smile or two here and keep smiling through our time apart. Stay safe and well and God bless every one of you.

\* Sistren fell out of use in mid 1500s, but

# **Engaging with Holy Week**

### **By Dan Fischer**

We spend a fair amount of time trying to come up with ways to engage in the Lenten season. Traditionally, giving something up for Lent. In our own faith community we have entered into a 40-day devotional, *Living, The Way of Love*.

Years ago I ran Lenten soup suppers and focused on the stations of the cross.

As Lent comes to a close we begin to focus on Holy Week and Easter. Do we prepare for that or do we go blithely along until Easter Sunday, perhaps distracted only by what we are going to wear? Easters of my youth were always marked by Easter egg hunts, new clothes and a new stuffed Easter bunny from the widows next door. Mom always wore a stunning dress and a grand new hat to go with it.

So that we do not go blithely along and miss the meaning, power and intensity of the whole of Holy week, I have come up with a list of what I could consider my top four ways that we as Easter people can enter into Holy Week and prepare for Easter Sunday.

#4 Spend the week cloistered in silence to listen to what God has to say. The value of Jesus' time in the desert before he began his ministry cannot be diminished. Entering into silence is an excellent way to hear the movement of the Spirit in our lives.

#3 Endeaver to follow the Liturgy of the Hours each day.(www.satucket.com/lectionary) We are commanded to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). This is not only for "me" but also for the church universal. It is both a prayer and a discipline that seems minor compared to what Jesus has done for us.

#2 Use a virtual labyrinth. Close your eyes and imagine tracing the path. There are many ways to "walk" **Palm Sunday** 10 a.m. Live-stream service will include music.

**Maundy Thursday** 6 p.m. Live-stream service. No foot washing but the altar will be stripped and washed. The Sacrament will be placed back on the altar in reserve and will remain on the livestream for one hour after the service concludes for those who would like to keep vigil with the Blessed Sacrament.

**Good Friday** *noon* Live-stream liturgy for Good Friday as found in the Book of Common Prayer.

**Holy Saturday 9 a.m**. Brief but meaningful service from our Prayer Book will be live-streamed from within the church.

**Easter Eve** *8* **p.m.** An abbreviated Easter Vigil will be broadcast from within the church and will include music. Extra hosts will be consecrated for Easter morning.

**Easter 9-11 a.m.** Father Tom will be outside, in the parking lot, to distribute "Drive-thru" Communion. He will deliver the consecrated bread and a blessing.

a labyrinth. For the purpose of Holy week I might suggest that you enter the labyrinth thinking of Jesus' entire life. You enter at his birth and at each twist, turn or corner you stop and contemplate that event. Perhaps when he was displaced from his parents and was found in the Temple. The goal is to enter into His life, His entire life. The center of the labyrinth then becomes the Resurrection, Easter Sunday.

#1 And the number one way to enter into Holy week is . . . Go to your bookshelf and pull down The Book of Common Prayer. Turn to page 270 which begins the Liturgy for Palm Sunday. [A pdf of the BCP is available as a link on our website -Ed.] Each day, you set aside time to enter into the liturgy by yourself or with your family. You might consider Googling what each day means beforehand. What is the significance of Maundy Thursday? This was the day of the last supper.

Jesus knew what was going to transpire. He knew what had to hap-pen and he was very much saying goodbye to his most cherished disciples and friends, people he had ministered to, people he had become friends with, joked with, ate with and mourned with. The hurt that Peter would deny him three times and Judas' betrayal weighed heavy on his human heart. Realize, this is truly, the very last supper. We know how we feel when someone close to us dies and we have to say goodbye.

This is Maundy Thursday. It is also a Passover meal, that too can be explored and appreciated. Lastly, this is the meal where Jesus institutes the Eucharist as well as the Priesthood. This is just an example of how to approach and then enter into one of the liturgies of Holy Week.

There probably was never an excuse not to attend each Holy Week service. In this time where social distancing is a casual phrase and services are cancelled, let us pick up our books and share in the mystery, sorrows and joys of Holy week. God sees what we do in the secrecy of our hearts and homes--and smiles over all of us.

With devotion and thankful hearts we pray.

# Let's all stay in touch; we're family

Ken makes a good point about people alienating themselves from the people they're with while engrossed in their electronic devices. (Story on Page 1). But there's another side to that story.

Charlene and I had dinner with our daughter and her family, and our son and his family. Electronically. Virtually. Call it whatever, but it was a delight to be with Maggie, her husband Kevin and Sophie and Charlotte at home in Jupiter, Fla., and Mike, his wife, Amy and toddler Brynna, in Indianapolis.

Zoom is the technology that al-

lowed us to break bread together and join in a mealtime conversation. I recommend it highly. It's free and is easy to set up. If you are having trouble using it, give me a call and I'll be happy to try to walk you through the setup.

Another way to stay in touch is through social media, such as Facebook. We now have on our own SaintPaulsNaples.org website a feature that is as easy to use as FB, but a whole lot more private and a whole lot less busy. That's because it's for our members only. It's easy to sign up with name, password and email. It's called "Family Ties" and is accessed by clicking on the blue menu bar entitled "Activities." Click there and there will be a dropdown revealing the link.

While you're on the website, look around. Take note that you can read Fr. Tom's sermons, as well as those of others for the past several years. That's under the "Worship" tab.

And if you've forgotten how to get to the live streaming of our worship services, there's a handy link at the top of the page.

-Tom Connolly

## God has not given us a spirit of fear

#### By Laurie Torrelli

"Do not fear." How many times does it say that in the Bible? 365 times according to Google. It must be an important message for it to be repeated that many times. A few weeks ago when the threat of Covid-19 was still a new thing for me someone on Facebook made the comment that this is God's punishment. I had to disagree with that. God's hand is nowhere near this outbreak. But I do think of it as an opportunity to do God's work. I think something like this either brings out the worst or the best in us. I've witnessed or heard about a lot of kind and generous acts since this started. I have neighbors who have offered to go shopping for the elderly in our community, l've read about people helping others with things they can't do themselves. I've read about companies doing all they can to help their employees stay afloat after they have had to shut down. CEOs giving up their salary so their employees have food on their table. I myself am lucky to still be working and for that I thank God every day. I haven't really seen any type of chaos other than the hurry to get in line at Publix the one time I was lucky

enough to find toilet paper. They made us form a line and were handing out the packages one at a time.

With all that said I do know that there are people who are really afraid right now. But I am not afraid. When this started I made a choice to let go of any worry or anxiety and to trust in God's promises. Someone suggested I read the book of Isaiah and there are some very comforting verses. Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 43:1 " Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine." And my favorite verse concerning fear: 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." I smile inside and out when I hear or read that verse.

I so badly want to live up to that spirit of love that He has given me. When that spirit fills my heart there is no room for fear. Our faith in God and the promises he has made to us will get us through this troubling time, we just have to give to him the fear that is weighing us down. Replace those fearful thoughts with His words of truth and sleep peacefully knowing that he loves us and will keep us safe.

## A Coronavirus Prayer

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

# Have you met...?

He an Irish lad born in Fall River, Mass., and she an Irish lass with roots in Clearwater, Fla., destined to meet and go their separate ways as young adults only to reunite some years later, wed, and eventually come to share the "Peace of the Lord" with us here at St Paul's on Sundays. Have you met... Rich and Jan Shea?

A blind date originally brought them together. On the way to that fateful event Rich had grown up and attended parochial grade school in Fall River and Monsignor Coyle HS in Taunton, Mass., before moving on to Holy Cross College for two years and finishing his undergraduate degree at Boston College. Meanwhile, Jan too, had attended parochial grade school but public high school in Burlington, Vt. Following graduation from Burlington High she

matriculated at the University of Vermont. At the end of her sophomore year Jan chose to move to Boston with her best friend.

The stage was set.

Rich's roommate, BJ, knew the two lasses and suggested to Rich that they take them to a Red Sox game - thus the blind date. The date led to the couple seeing each other over a four-month period even though each had a major obstacle to share that would end their budding relationship. Ultimately Rich shared the news that he had been accepted as a Jesuit seminarian, while Jan allowed that she had become engaged to be married (she had been seeing John, her future husband, and Rich on alternate weekends). The stage had indeed been set, but the play had closed... for the time being.

Over the next five years Rich continued his seminarian pursuit and Jan became the mother of two daughters. But, just 2 ½ years into their marriage tragedy struck. In 1967 Jan's husband, John Vandeventer, an Air Force pilot, was killed in action in Vietnam.

Mutual friend BJ alerted Rich of Jan's loss and as Jan recalls, "Rich wrote me a lovely condolence letter that I received right after I moved



into the house I bought in South Burlington."

Rich and Jan met again later that same year (1967) at friend BJ's wedding, but it would be another year before the stage was reset for their ultimate reuniting.

By then Rich had been with the Jesuits for nearly five years. They had begun seeing each other again in Boston, and following a discussion with the Spiritual Director at the seminary, Rich sought and ultimately received Jesuit dispensation to be released from his vows which came in a letter in Latin from Rome.

The play at last had opened and Rich began dating Jan; and her daughters, Elizabeth, then age 4 and Kristin, 3. This then led to their marriage at the Boston College chapel in 1969, and as Rich puts it, he/they



went from, "a vow of poverty to living in poverty."

The newlyweds returned to Burlington; where Jan had previously bought a home. There Jan finished her degree in English; after an eightyear hiatus, Rich served as a high school counselor, and their son, Erich, was born.

Rich then earned a fellowship at Oregon St. University in Corvallis. Following that he became the principal at Albany high school that led to a 21 year stay in the Pacific Northwest. He once again returned to the university to study in the education administration department and became certified as an elementary school principal, and served as the principal of Catholic elementary schools.

Jan, meanwhile, started a foundation for a local hospital, and later worked in community relations for an inner-city hospital in Portland.

A three-year stay in Spokane ensued where Rich reunited with the Jesuits as principal of St. Aloysius School; an adjunct of Gonzaga University.

By now the three children had graduated from college and all

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## Charity vendor's goods available

#### **By Lee Barron**

Are you as sad as I am that we had to end the Farmers' Market a bit earlier this year and therefore you think you can't purchase some of the goodies you spotted there? Well, fear not, there ARE ways for you to purchase some of those items from home, be it near or far, and allow me to share with you how!

Let me introduce you to one of our vendors, Miracles in Action. This booth caught my eye one Saturday because of all the fun items made from colorful beads--be they pins (iguanas/lizards being my favorite), necklaces, bracelets, zipper charms, ornaments, purses, etc. What I found that warmed my heart is "Miracles" is a charity helping poor families in Guatemala.

Guatemalan women handcraft these items, and this provides them with income from home to feed and educate their children. The charity's mission is to empower Guatemalans living in extreme poverty to help themselves through projects that improve education, nutrition, vocational skills, and create jobs.



Penny, on right, founded Miracles in Action to help Guatemalan families such as Tomasa and her son

I first met Penny Rambacher, founder/president, a vivacious lovely lady, who told me her wonderful story and about her travels to Guatemala and the ladies who make the beaded items. A bit later I met David Granfield, a board member who coordinates multiple markets for the charity. He's the man you might have seen with a large green beaded IGUANA on his hat. (At first glance, it actually made me jump backwards, but I'll jump at anything

that looks remotely real--even stuffed toy animals! With him in the photo is Sharen Thomas, a devoted volunteer manning the booth that day--great folks with whom I could have spent hours chatting.

It all began in 1999 with Penny and her mother, Noreen, on missions to Guatemala, delivering aid to families living at the city garbage dump and in remote Mayan villages. On

(Continued next page)

## Have you met...?

found jobs in Washington, D.C. This led to the parents retiring from their careers and joining their offspring in the capital city. However, retirement was put on hold when they chose to start a new business, "At Your Service." It was a concierge type business that became guite successful, providing services such as transporting people to airports, doctors' appointments and meetings. In 2013, the couple began vacationing in Naples primarily to attend the Red Sox training camp. The following year they bought a condo and began staying longer each year. This year they sold their property in D.C. and

became full-time Neapolitans. So how exactly did two Irish

Catholics end up at Saint Paul's?

Well, it all began back in Burlinton. Following their marriage they had been attending a conservative Catholic parish. But each Sunday they "Passed a lovely Episcopal church," and ultimately agreed to "try it." The couple was immediately impressed. "It was as welcoming as St Paul's," From then on it was the faith they would follow.

In Oregon Rich became senior warden, and Jan was on the search committee at St. Peter's in Albany, and in the nation's capital they at-

(From previous page)

tended the venerable Christ Church; Thomas Jefferson's parish.

Then last December they visited our Farmers' Market where Rich got in a conversation with Judy Allen, who urged them to attend one of our services. They did, and remained.

Both volunteer at AVOW hospice. Rich visits with patients and Jan works in the volunteers office.

I am sure some of you have seen them at the 10 a.m. service and coffee hour that follows, but if you haven't been introduced yet, be sure to find an opportunity to personally welcome Rich and Jan Shea to our worship community.

### Charity vendor's goods (From previous page)

9/11/2001, Noreen was diagnosed with cancer, and before she passed away, she wanted to leave a legacy by building a rural primary school. In January 2005, the grand opening of School of Miracles #1 was held (many have been opened since), named after the miracle that extended Noreen's life four years instead of the three months originally diagnosed. Since then, Penny and other volunteers have helped Mayan mothers lift their families out of extreme poverty by earning income making such fun and colorful items



David and Sharen at our market

from beads. Miracles in Action goes "beyond fair trade" to improve their lives with water filters, solar lamps, school supplies, Christmas food baskets, etc. More than 135 Guatemalan artisans are now empowered to help themselves with this work.

You can purchase the same handcrafted goods you've seen at our Saturday morning Farmers' Market on their website:

www.Store.MiraclesinAction.org (also known as Beyond Beads). There is more information there about their work and ways you can help. I purchased a cute, colorful seahorse at the market and have received several compliments asking if I had handmade it: "No..."

If you like colorful beadwork and can't wait until next Fall's Farmers' Market, go to their website and pick up a special handmade gift for someone--or yourself. It's a fun way to help others!

Happy Safe Shopping!



**Judy Allen** was a companion for her parents on a round trip between Toronto and Vancouver via train in the 1990s. While her parents were in a cabin for sightseeing, Judy was invited to ride in the engine with the engineer, who pointed out attractions, such as beaver dams.

**Ken Eastlack** was a disc jockey on Armed Forces Radio while stationed in Kodiak, Alaska. He had a daily program, "Tops in Pops," with a small stuffed teddy bear named Taebo as his partner. Both of them received fan mail! Ken also hosted a weekly program, "Musical Notes and Anecdotes." It was a one-half hour show featuring a single artist's music interspersed with tales about that artist.

**Vera Stegmaier** met Anita Bryant, Miss America at the time, while modeling on a tv show with Anita and Guy Lombardo in Hazelton, Pa. Later, when Vera's son was two, she was on The Price is Right with Bill Cullen and won a collapsible house trailer, \$14,000 cash, silverware, china, crystal, and a child's electric Ford Thunderbird. After she appeared on four or five other quiz shows, she was considered a "star" and told that she had to join the union. If she joined the union, she would not be eligible to appear on quiz shows. End of that career!

-Carol Tracy



### Stations of Cross On YouTube

Fr. Tom's meditations, combined with some special sketches he acquired some years ago, allow for us to ponder any time of day or night on our YouTube channel. It's the same channel you go to for the streaming of live worship liturgies:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCdc6lx-U\_N1X26tkZ7TQ8-A/

Paste that url into your browser address line. If it does not work for you, go to our website and click the link at the top left. Once on our YouTube channel, hit the subscribe button.

It's no surprise that this coronavirus is taking its toll on individuals, businesses and institutions all across the globe. That includes your church, of course. Please support St. Paul's in any way you can.

This newsletter is written and edited by and for the parishioners and friends of St. Paul's, at no cost to the church.

\* prounounced lan-yap, roughly means "a little something extra for you."



The Lord is Risen