

St. Luke's Parish **Epistle** March 2008 Bladensburg, Maryland

A Message from the Rector

My Dear Flock:

THE MONTH OF MARCH is a sports fan's dream. It's time for March Madness—college basketball's tournament to crown a national champion, and it is the time of spring training—the return of major league baseball. The month is full of hopes and dreams.

As college basketball's regular season comes to an end, we know which schools have distinguished themselves as favorites to be crowned champion of the tournament. But, what makes this tournament so exciting is every school involved has the opportunity to be crowned champion, no matter how small the school, or its regular season record. Everyone has a shot at being crowned.

As major league baseball teams gather in Arizona and Florida for spring training, they do so with new hope and anticipation of the new year. Last year's records and accomplishments mean nothing, all is in the past. They gather with new hope in believing, this year can be different, with more experience, health, hard work and a few breaks, this could be the year they put everything together and win it all. Everyone has a shot at being crowned.

Indeed, March is a sports fan's dream, but one does not have to be a sports fan to be excited about this time of year. Though we could still experience some bad weather, particularly in the beginning of the month, we are well on our way to spring, warmer days, longer periods of sunshine, trees blooming, flowers blossoming, and grass growing. New life is all around us. And this new life and transformation of nature should remind us of the Resurrection of our Lord; for in Him there is transformation and new life for us. This is guaranteed

to us by God, and it is as certain as the changing of the seasons. Spring, (Easter), brings new life.

The new life offered is available to all. No matter what our past record is, no matter how much effort we have put into being a Christian, we have the opportunity to repent, turn toward Jesus anew and have new and everlasting life. Just like the college basketball tournament, our slates (past records) are wiped away, and we begin anew, with the chance to be crowned. And just like the baseball teams, we can all start a new season, spiritually healthier, more disciplined, and determined to meet the goal of being crowned.

The crown we seek is not temporary to be worn for a season, nor is it one we can obtain on our own. The crown we seek is none other than the crown of Jesus. His love for us is so great and mighty, that He desires to share the crown of His victory over death and sin with us.

Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord, brings new hope to us all. This year can be different. We do not have to get side tracked and lose the vision of our goal. We do not have to be misled by false hopes and dreams. Only in Jesus Christ can our hopes and dreams be truly fulfilled.

My dear brothers and sisters, let us come anew to the cross; let us recommit ourselves to Jesus. May we have life anew, and be transformed. And, may we each be faithful to the end, so that He may crown us with His crown and share in His victory.

I will see you in church.
Alleluia, Christ has Risen!!

Mark⁺



PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Men's Fellowship Meeting

The Men's Fellowship is scheduled to meet the second Saturday of every month. We will begin these meetings on March 8th. The goals of the Men's Fellowship are:

- To become the spiritual heads of the parish and our families.
- To have fellowship.
- To support one another.
- To be in prayer for the needs of the parish.
- To grow in Christ.

Upcoming Events

March 5–Stations of the Cross, Benediction and Lenten teaching 6:30 PM

March 8–Men's fellowship 6:30 PM

March–12 Stations of the Cross, Benediction and Lenten teaching 6:30 PM

March 16–Palm Sunday – ANNUAL LENTEN CONCERT 5:00 PM

March 17–Vestry Meeting 7:30 PM

March 20–MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 PM

March 21–GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 PM

March 22–THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER 7:00 PM

March 23–EASTER DAY

March 30–Thanksgiving Offering Sunday; Free Concert given by Alicia Waller, a former choir member.

March 31–St. Joseph (Trans.)

Thanksgiving Offering Sunday

This is new to St. Luke's. The idea is once a month, (the last Sunday of every month), the congregation will have the opportunity to give an additional amount of financial support as a thank offering for what God has done, or is doing in their lives. This thank offering could be for a birthday, anniversary, job promotion, etc. The purpose of this offering is to get us into the habit of thanking God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon each of us.

Bible Study

Our weekly Bible Study will resume after Lent and we will continue studying the Gospel of Mark. Our Bible Studies are very interactive. If you are interested in learning the Bible, learning the faith, or simply desire to have fellowship, the Thursday night Bible Study class is the place for you. The evening begins with the weekly mass at 6:30 PM, followed by a light dinner, (provided by those attending - taking turns), and followed by Bible Study at 7:30 PM. Come join us.

Anglicans for Life

St. Luke's Parish under the leadership of Mr. Gary Schenk, is organizing a chapter of Anglicans for Life. This organization promotes the right of the unborn. This is a worthy cause, and is deserving of your membership. Please speak to Gary for more information. The next Anglicans for Life meeting will be April 22nd at 7 PM.

Mark Your Calendars Now for the Festival of Faith

I am pleased to announce that The Most Rev. Drexel Gomez, Archbishop of the West Indies and The Most Rev. Gregory Venables, Archbishop of the Southern Cone, have agreed to participate in this year's Festival of Faith.

The Festival of Faith will be held **September 13 & 14**. This is a huge event in the life of the parish. I want to encourage each of you to participate. Anglicanism is under attack by revisionist theology, and this theology is in danger of splitting our beloved communion. This is our opportunity to be informed as to what is going on in the communion and what we can do to help keep the faith once delivered to the saints.

Attendance and Giving

We have not started the New Year with proper attendance or financial support. We have a core of people who attend and support the parish weekly. Then we have another group of people who attend regularly, and financially support the parish when they are present. We have another group whose attendance is irregular at best. And finally, we have many who are worshipping God in their beds on Sunday mornings.

If we all committed to weekly attendance, our average attendance would dramatically increase. And, if we all were committed to giving a tithe, that is giving 10% of

Continued on page 5

To Aid Needy Children...

**ST. LUKE'S
Parish
SINGERS**

Presents

Francis Poulenc's

“GLORIA”

Oratorio for Soprano Soloist, Chorus & Orchestra

featuring

World Renown Soprano
Carmen Balthrop

with internationally acclaimed musicians

**Bixia Wu, Soprano Tao-Chan Yu, Violin
Lukasz Szyrner, Cello**

March 16, 2008 at 5:00PM

**St. Luke's Parish
4002 53rd Street, Bladensburg, MD 20710
Tel: 301-927-6466**

Lenten Supper to follow. Admission and reception are FREE

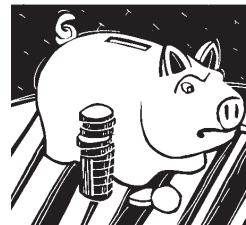
Donations accepted for homeless children

Treasurer's Report January 2008

As you can see, January's operating income is less than we need to keep our church going. We depend on your pledges; please honor your pledges.

	<i><u>YTD Actual</u></i>	<i><u>YTD Budget</u></i>
Operating Income	\$ 10,599	\$ 18,723
Furnace Funds	200	3,125
Improvement Funds	473	1,000
Outreach	396	333
Total Income	\$ 11,668	\$ 23,181
Operating Expenses	13,476	17,534
Outreach Expense	4,479	1,040
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (2,255)	\$ 4,607

Yours in Christ,
Karen King



***Reminder: Please submit your pledges.
The Finance Committee needs our collective offerings
to meet the financial needs of the church.***

What Stewardship Means to Me

To answer that question I would like to ask two questions and I know, or rather have been taught that you don't answer a question with a question. Please permit me to do so in this instance. What does stewardship mean in general and in particular, what does it mean to St. Luke's.

In general it is the contribution we make in time, talent and in money to the upkeep of God's church. It is in fact the pay back we as Christians make for the wise and responsible use of the special gifts God entrusts to us.

Time:

It is priceless; once gone it can never be reclaimed. So make good use of it. Use time to benefit others so you will fulfill God's work.

Talent:

It is amazing the talent we all possess. We have different abilities that can be used to benefit one another. It is up to us to recognize and develop these talents. "As each has

received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God's varied grace..."

Money:

We need people to give until it hurts. In so doing, we feel the pain but we reap the rewards of abundance.

Why is stewardship important at St. Luke's? Because our lives have real meaning only when we use our gifts in accordance with God's will. Our fulfillment lies in responding obediently to God's purpose. As Stewards we can :

- develop our full potential as human beings.
- Show our gratitude for God's many gifts.
- Help restore the world and the human community and, finally
- Grow spiritually and become more like Christ.

Ron Alert,
Vestry member

Events *Continued from page 2*

our income to the church, our financial woes would cease. Church attendance and financial support, a tithe, is not optional, it is our Christian duty!

We cannot fulfill the work God has given us to do if we are not all participating. St. Luke's needs every one of us and each of us has a deep need of her.

Memorial Flowers

If you wish to remember a loved one(s) who has passed into the nearer presence of our Lord, or if you wish to give thanks, you may do so by placing the name of your loved one(s) in the memorial book on the table in the back of the church, or by calling the office, 301-927-6466.

Pray Without Ceasing

Please remember to pray for our sick:

Pearl Edwards,

Edwin Freeman Sr.,

Bill Kendall,

Larry Maske,

Charles and Therese Sommerkamp,

Chet and Espie Stewart,

Millie Burgstresser

Sheila Taliaferro,

Auburn Traycik,

Ovetta Williams,

Bishop Ackerman,

Archbishop Gomez

*and all others who are in
trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity.*

If you learn of any person whom you would like added to this prayer list, please contact Gloria Deigh, tel: 240-687-1647 or email glo4christ@hotmail.com so that these people's names can be included in the next issue of The Epistle or the Sunday Bulletin.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 20, 2008 7:00 PM



MAUNDY THURSDAY – Liturgy and Eucharist, stripping of the Altar, and the Blessed Sacrament taken to the Altar of Repose. The vigil begins immediately following the liturgy and continues until noon on Good Friday

March 21, 2008 12:00 PM



GOOD FRIDAY – The Good Friday begins at 12:00 noon. Please make this Holy Day a day of obligation. Be a witness to your faith, take a day's vacation to attend this most holy liturgy.

March 22, 2008 7:00 PM



THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER – This is the first Eucharist of Easter. It is a most important liturgy in which we recall the saving act of God in the world, renew our Baptismal vows, and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with the first Easter Mass.

March 23, 2008



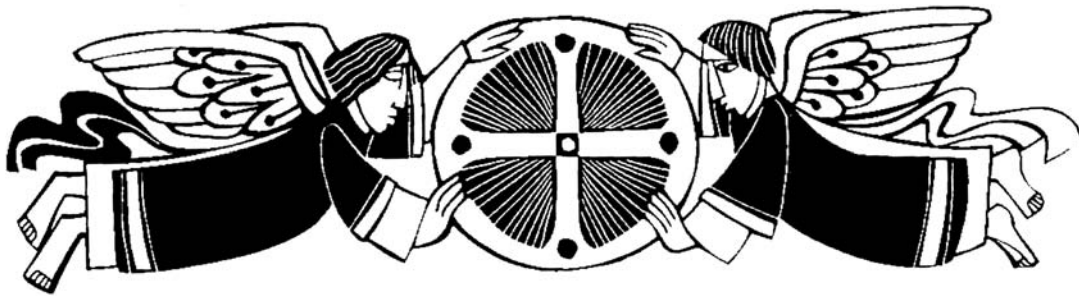
**EASTER DAY–
Mass at 8:00AM
& 10:30AM**

NO MASS WILL BE HELD MARCH 4TH-8TH



St. Luke's has a monthly Requiem Mass. A Requiem Mass is a Mass said in remembrance of those loved ones who have passed on into the nearer presence of Jesus. Usually one remembers a loved one in the month in which they were born, died or on their birthday. The Requiem Mass is held on the second Saturday of each month. Please give Fr.

Lewis a list of loved ones you wish to have remembered prior to the date of the Requiem in which you want them to be remembered.



Choir DVDs Now on Sale

If you could not attend last year's Christmas or Easter concerts, or if you did attend and enjoyed them so much you wish you could hear them again, there is good news. DVDs of last year's Christmas and Easter concerts can now be purchased for \$10 each, or at the special price of \$15 for both. These DVDs would make great gifts. Don't miss out; we have limited amounts to offer. You may purchase your DVD at the church office.

2008 Memorials

Candy Mitchell, the coordinator of memorials, reminds us that:

The Memorial Book at the back of the church is available for requests for flowers, candles & lights.

Ms. Mitchell can be contacted at 240-681-3307.

Memorial items are as follows:

Altar candles
per month \$20

Sanctuary lamp
per week \$3

Bread & wine
per week \$3

Torches
per week \$2

Votive
per week \$2

Flowers
per week \$20



March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 David
2 Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:00AM Low Mass 10:30 AM Solemn High Mass Advent Wreath Making 12:00PM Hispanic Mass	3 John & Charles Wesley	4	5 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross & Benediction 7:00 PM Pot Luck & Lenten Study	6	7 Perpetua & her Companions	8 6:30 PM Men's Fellowship, Undercroft
9 Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:0 AM Low Mass 10:30AM Solemn High Mass 12:00PM Hispanic Mass 5:0 PM Annual Lenten Concert & Reception	10	11 10:00AM Mass with Uncion	12 Gregory the Great 7:00 AM Mass 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross & Benediction 7:00 PM Pot Luck & Lenten Study	13 6:30PM Mass	14 12:00PM Mass	15 10:00AM Requiem Mass Church
16 Palm Sunday 8:00AM Low Mass 10:30AM Solemn High Mass 12:00PM Hispanic Mass	17 Holy Monday 7:30PM Vestry Parish Hall	18 Holy Tuesday 10:00AM Mass with Uncion	19 Holy Wednesday 7:00 AM Mass	20 Maundy Thursday 7:00PM Maundy Thursday April Epistle Deadline	21 Good Friday 12:00PM Mass	22 Holy Saturday 7:00PM Easter Vigil
23 Easter Day 8:00AM Low Mass 10:30 AM Solemn High Mass 12:00PM Hispanic Mass	24 Easter Monday	25 Easter Tuesday 10:00AM Mass with Uncion	26 Easter Wednesday 7:00AM Mass	27 Easter Thursday 6:30PM Mass 7:00PM Bible Study Undercroft	28 Easter Friday 12:00PM Mass 6:30PM Mass	29 Easter Saturday
30 Second Sunday of Easter 8:00AM Low Mass 10:30 AM Solemn High Mass 12:00PM Hispanic Mass	31 St. Joseph (trans)	1	2	3	4	5

St. Luke's Epistle email address: epistle@stlukesparish-bladensburg.org
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 St. Luke's is a traditional Anglican church in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington
 4002 53rd Street, Bladensburg, MD 20710 • 301.927.6466

*Experience beautiful music at our Annual Lenten Concert
on Palm Sunday afternoon, March 16th at 5:00 PM*

Episthe
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4002 53rd Street • Bladensburg, MD 20710

ST. LUKE'S
Parish
Bladensburg, Maryland

**An Anglo-Catholic Parish
in the Diocese of Washington**