



THE MANE LION

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works.

A Note from Fr. Hart

My Dear People of the Parish of St. Mark,

We are now officially in Lent, in case there was any doubt. What might have seemed odd to you (or at least it did to me), was the timing of it on the feast of St. Valentine's Day. I do not mean that there was a question in my mind as to which to celebrate at the Parish: the Church has a "hierarchy of feasts", and so there is no doubt that Ash Wednesday was the proper feast to celebrate yesterday. What might have seemed odd is that as the Church celebrated the beginning to the most somber season of the Church Year, the rest of the country was celebrating romantic love with hearts, flowers, chocolates, and the like. They were celebrating something that had started as a Christian observance, although that has largely (if not completely) been lost in the mind of the average American. So while many American couples were out celebrating decadence, many Christians were attending subdued church services, devoid of flowers and bright colors, receiving ashes to remind them of both their sins and their creation: "Remember O man that dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

But upon further reflection, maybe these two celebrations are not so far apart. (I am sitting in my office as I write these words, and one of the neighbors is on the sidewalk playing Bon Jovi's "You Give Love a Bad Name" loudly enough that I can clearly hear every word. I wonder if he is trying to offer me some Valentine's Day inspiration?) Americans give their sweethearts candy, flowers, and Valentines to show how much they love one another. St. Valentine was a real person: a Christian priest ministering in Rome during the third century. Aside from being a Christian, one of the particularly deviant acts St. Valentine committed (by the standard of the Roman Government) was to perform Christian marriages for believing couples. The couples loved one another and God so much that they were willing to chance getting caught by the authorities. St. Valentine was not only willing to chance getting caught, but paid the ultimate price of martyrdom for his love of God. Ash Wednesday, despite its somber tone, reminds the human race of God's love for us: not just in the Incarnation, God coming to earth in human form, but Christ's ultimate gift to us, dying on the cross. This is the greatest love story ever told, between God and mankind. Only God could have created humans from dust; we were created from nothing and the salvation that only Christ offers assures that we do not pass this life into eternal nothingness.

I did not make as many changes to the service schedule for this Lent as I did last year. I have added two opportunities each week for Stations of the Cross: after 12:15 Mass on Friday and after Evening Prayer on Friday. There will be a few minutes between the two services, so you are welcome to come pray the Stations without attending the preceding service. The Stations were developed to give Christians who were unable to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land the opportunity to re-trace the last steps of Christ's life with Him. Whether you are a veteran "pilgrim" or you have never attended the Stations before, I invite you to try them out this year! Attendance last year at the Wednesday evening Lenten programs was sporadic at best, so I have decided to leave the Inquirers Class that is meeting on Wednesday evenings where it is. We can consider re-introducing a weekly Lenten Program again in 2025.

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Below, please find the attendance report for the last week:

February 11th:	Ash Wednesday:
8:00 - 8	12:15 - 11
10:00 - 22	6:30 - 13
Total: 30	Total: 24

Collection from both Sunday services: \$842.07

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about your Lenten Rule. It is not too late to create one!

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Hart+

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- **Friday, February 16: Stations of the Cross** 1:00 PM and 6:30 PM
- **Monday, February 19: Inquirers Class** after 6:00 PM Evening Prayer
- **Wednesday, February 21: Inquirers Class** after 6:15 PM Mass

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Like/Follow St. Mark on Social Media

- **St Mark's has a new Facebook page!** If you are on social media please follow and like our page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheAnglicanParishofStMark>

Food for Lift UP in January



During the month of February, Lift UP is collecting **canned meats (tuna/chicken/turkey/etc)**

The Parish of St. Mark
FEBRUARY 2024 KALENDAR

1. *Parish Office closed; NO MASS*
2. **Presentation; Mass at 12:15**
3. St. Blaise, M; Mass at 8:00 AM
4. Sexagesima; Mass at 8 and 10
5. St. Agatha, VM; Mass at 12:15
6. St. Titus, BC; Mass at 7:00 AM
7. St. Romuald, Ab.; Mass at 6:15 PM
8. St. John of Matha, C; Mass at 12:15
9. St. Cyril of Alexandria, BCD; Mass at 12:15
10. St. Scholasitica, V; Mass at 8:00 AM
11. Quinquagesima; Mass at 8 and 10
12. The Holy Founders of the Servites, CC; Mass at 12:15
13. St. Kentigern, BC; Mass at 7:00 AM
14. **Ash Wednesday; Low Mass & Imposition of Ashes at 12:15 and 6:30 PM**
15. St. Valentine, M (tr.); Mass at 12:15
16. Lenten Mass; Mass at 12:15
17. Lenten Mass; Mass at 8:00 AM
18. Lent I; Mass at 8 and 10
19. Lenten Mass; Mass at 12:15
20. Lenten Mass; Mass at 7:00 AM
21. Ember Wednesday; Mass at 6:15 PM
22. St. Joseph of Arimathea, C; Mass at 12:15
23. St. Peter Damian, BCD; Mass at 12:15
24. **St. Matthias, ApM; Mass at 8:00 AM**
25. Lent II; Mass at 8 and 10
26. *Parish Office closed; NO MASS*
27. *Parish Office closed; NO MASS*
28. Monthly Parish Requiem; Mass at 6:15 PM
29. Lenten Mass; Mass at 12:15

Mass underlined indicates a Sunday.

Mass in bold indicates a Prayer Book Feast Day

Important!! New St. Mark Facebook, Instagram & Emails

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TheAnglicanParishofStMark>

Instagram

TheAnglicanParishofStMark

Fr. Hart's Contact Information

St. Mark's : (503) 223-2383

Cell Phone: (360) 261-9094

E-mail: rector@stmarkportland.org
(personal/private matters with Father Hart)

St. Mark Vestry Contact Information

If you need to contact a Vestry member, click on the link below:

vestry@stmarkportland.org

(direct communication regarding matters for the Vestry, monitored by the Senior Warden)

Other Useful Contact Information

KimBrooksby@stmarkportland (items for the *Mane Lion*)

stmark@stmarkportland.org (general inquiries and maintenance concerns/issues)

publications@stmarkportland.org (for requests for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin)

Diocesan Contact Information

The Right Reverend D.M. Ashman, Bishop Ordinary
Telephone (818) 749-8139 bishopashman@gmail.com

The Right Reverend Peter F. Hansen, Bishop Coadjutor
Telephone (530) 519-2131 augustine.chico@gmail.com

The Right Reverend Scott Mitchell, Bishop Suffragan
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APCK website <http://anglicanpck.org>