From: Immanuel on the Green <rector-immanuel@comcast.net>
To: jmea55 <jmea55@aol.com>
Subject: The Curate: February 2020
Date: Fri, Feb 28, 2020 7:30 pm

The Curate:
February 2020

A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Since the end of the fourth century, the Church has set aside these forty days prior to Easter as a time for self-examination, repentance, reconciliation and restoration. In the early Church, baptismal candidates (known as Catechumens) used the forty days for their intense, final preparation for baptism at the Great Easter Vigil. Those who had fallen away from the Church used the same period of time, through acts of penitence and self-denial, to prepare to be restored to the Church. In modern times, through our own period of penitence, fasting, reconciliation and restoration, the season of Lent aids us in preparing to celebrate the mystery of the Resurrection (Easter) and culminates in Holy Week which includes the three most sacred days of the Church year: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

It is fitting then that we commit to making these liturgies a priority now at the beginning of Lent so that by the end of Lent, we are prepared to walk the way of the Cross with Jesus. Sometimes we need to be reminded that while we joyfully anticipate Easter day, attending just that service without having participated in the liturgies of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday is akin to reading only the last chapter of an excellent book or seeing only the final scene of an award-winning play.

My hope is that each member of this community engage in practices that deepen his or her spiritual life over the next several weeks. There are many public opportunities available including Stations of the Cross each Friday at 7 pm beginning next Friday and our customary ecumenical gatherings which take place every Wednesday at 6 pm rotating among the five participating churches in New Castle. There are more private opportunities as well and I would be happy to suggest some to you.

While taking on extra disciplines for Lent may seem like a sacrifice of time and energy, we are in relationship with one another and with our Lord and nobody lives a life in relationship without sacrifice. Sacrifice means that something else is of greater value than our own comfort. If our Lenten focus was just an exercise in humility it wouldn't amount to much, and might even be unhealthy and self-destructive. But with the light of Easter shining on us, undertaking sacrifice – for someone we love, or for furthering God’s kingdom – is the deepest and most joyful way of expressing love and commitment. Sacrifice is not fascination with self-destruction, but is the way in which we come to know that we are upheld by a source that is deeper than our own life. The result is to be truly free and to be filled with confidence and new life. I wish you each a Holy Lent.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Keene

Important Dates

- Ash Wednesday: Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist - **February 26** at 9:30 am and 7 pm
- First Sunday in Lent - **March 1**
- Lessons and Carols for Lent - **March 8** at 4 pm, with the Immanuel Choir
- Lenten Study Series - Details to follow next week
- Stations of the Cross - each Friday during Lent, at 7 pm, beginning March 6th
**Ecumenical Lenten Suppers** - Wednesdays 6pm-7pm
Dinner and reflection hosted by:
- 3/4 - New Castle Presbyterian Church
- 3/11 Hope Lutheran Church
- 3/18 New Castle Methodist Church
- 3/25 St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church
- 4/1 Immanuel Episcopal Church

---

**LITURGY AND MUSIC NOTES**

**Liturgies and Music Notes**

**The Great Litany.**

Following parish custom, we begin today's Liturgy for the First Sunday in Lent with the singing of the Great Litany. This all-encompassing prayer traces its lineage to the very first English Litany of 1544, adapted by Thomas Cranmer—all public worship before that time having been conducted in Latin—so some of its language is even older than the first Book of Common Prayer of 1549. Our use of the Great Litany declares our unity with all who have prayed in the English language for over four-and-a-half centuries. By its comprehensiveness and sheer length, it invites us to remember and take to heart our utter dependence on God in every circumstance of life.

Since the elements of intercession and penitence are so prominent in the Great Litany, when it is used the Prayers of the People and the Confession are omitted.

Another Perspective on the significance of praying the Litany is provided by today's concluding voluntary, "Litanies," by the French organist and composer Jehan Alain (1911-1940). Alain's brilliant and promising career was cut short by his death in combat in the early months of World War II. "Litanies," his most famous composition, is a work of striking originality and powerful emotion, illuminated by the program note the composer himself supplied, which is printed at the end of today's order of service.

Seasonal changes in our Liturgy underline the distinctive tone and mood of each season of the Liturgical Year, as well as help us to experience the rich variety of the Anglican musical tradition. The *Kyrie, Sanctus,* and *Agnus Dei* (parts of the service sung each week, collectively known as "the Ordinary") are from John Merbecke's *Booke of Common Prayer Noted,* published in 1550, the earliest musical setting of the then-brand-new English order of worship. In place of the *Alleluia,* the brief acclamation that precedes the reading of the Gospel, the choir will sing a portion of a Psalm, called a *Tract.* The word "Alleluia" is in fact entirely absent from the Liturgy throughout the season of Lent, so that it may return in its full force and beauty at Easter.

**10 am Hymns:**
- 142 "Lord, who throughout these forty days"
- 448 "O love, how deep, how broad, how high"

Offertory Anthem: "Lord, let me know mine end" - Maurice Greene
Organ Voluntary: "Litanies" - Jehan Alain
A Service of Lessons and Carols for Lent
Sunday, March 8
4:00 pm

Lessons and Carols for Lent takes as its theme the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, whose example provides the pattern for our own journey through Lent. Music sung by the Immanuel Choir, hymns and carols sung by the congregation, readings from Old Testament prophecy and the Gospels, and meditative periods of silence are imaginatively juxtaposed to invite us to enter into the spirit of the Lenten Season. The sacred space of Immanuel Church on the Green provides the ideal setting, in its gracious simplicity, to consider and reflect on the meaning of Lent for our inner life and daily activities and challenges.

We hope you will join us next Sunday, March 8 at 4:00 pm for Lessons and Carols for Lent, as we seek a renewed and refreshed perspective on the Lenten season.

PARISH HAPPENINGS
Mardis Gras

A wonderful time was had by all at this year’s Mardi Gras Brews and Stews Celebration. A huge thanks to everyone who attended, the food was wonderful and Buddy's Immanu-ale was once again a stand out beverage.

Did you take photographs? Send them to the office to be featured in next week's mailer!

Thanks to Fr. Keene and Mark Bacher for these sneak peeks (just look at that masterful cake of Val’s!)
A New Portrait in the Academy

The portrait was painted by Gustavus Hesselius (b. 1682, d.1755) who emigrated from Sweden and worked mostly in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley.
It is of Joanna Williams Ross (b. abt.1688/9 d. 1726) who was the first wife of the Reverend George Ross, the first rector (1705-1754) of Immanuel Church (b. 1679 d. 1754) She is buried in Immanuel Church and her gravestone is attached to the wall of the apse of the church.

They had six children all baptized at Immanuel:
- Rev. David Ross
- Margaret Ross
- John Ross
- Rev. Aeneas Ross (second rector of Immanuel Church)
- Anne Ross
- Jacob Ross

Rev. George Ross married 2nd Catherine van Gezel (1688-1748)
They had seven children all baptized at Immanuel Church:
- George Ross (A “Signer” from Pennsylvania)
- Gertrude (married George Read, a “Signer” from Delaware)
- Catherine
- Elizabeth
- Susanna
- Mary
- James

Sisters Martha (Rodney) Mullen and Ann Rodney (pictured with cousin Mary Davis) delivered the portrait as a gift to Immanuel. While the portrait is of the first wife of George Ross, these three cousins are descended from the second wife through the George Read and Gertrude Ross line.

Thank you, Martha and Ann, for this wonderful gift and for sharing this important piece of Immanuel's history.

- Bob Davis
The New Castle Arts Council proudly presents:

“An Evening of Tragedy and Comedy”

Friday, March 13, 7 p.m.
At Immanuel Parish Hall, 100 Harmony Street

ACT I
A Program of Opera Favorites
Featuring Performers from
“Opera Delaware’s Young Artists”
Led by Young Artist Program’s Music Director, Aurelien Eulert

ACT II
Comedy at Sonora Restaurant

222 Delaware Street
Laugh with award-winning comedians
Guy Schiavi, JW, Danny Madden and Belynda Cleare.

This event is made possible through a generous donation from the
McConnell Development Corporation

The opera performance is a free event, however donations to the Arts Council and tips for the comedians are welcomed.
The church will be closed to the public 9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday, March 2 - 6 while the font is cleaned and stabilized. The church will be kept locked while work goes on, if you need access please contact the office on (302)328-2413.

Next Movie Discussion Night on Saturday, Mar 21

We will gather together for our next Movie Discussion Night at 6 PM on Mar 21. Our host is Nancy Crowder at 42 W 4th St in New Castle. The film to watch before you come is "The Upside". Bryan Cranston portrays a quadriplegic billionaire who offers the job of being his caregiver to a paroled ex-convict, portrayed by Kevin Hart.

Does this relationship work? Bring a dish or refreshment to share and come ready to talk about the social and religious questions raised by the story and the values it highlights.

Something special from WHYY: Highland Orchards are a family farm run by Ruth Linton and family (parishioners you may recognise, Ruth's daughter Katya was a singer with the Ross Choir until recently); they supply the fruit for Emmanuel Dining Room - a long time ministry of Immanuel. For more information on EDR please contact the office on (302)328-2413, and enjoy this behind the scenes look at the farm!
Available Flower Memorial Dates

Memorials can be a Sunday closest to a set date (such as a birthday, anniversary, or passing), or a specific Sunday in the month (such as the 1st Sunday in October), and can be recurring or one time happenings. Please contact the office on (302)328-2413, or Mark on (302)654-2562 or at mbac56@aol.com, if you would like to talk about an offering.

These Sundays are available for dedicated flower offerings:

2020
- March 8
- March 29
- April 19
- May 3
- May 31
- June 21
- June 28
- August 13

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

The Vestry met on Wednesday February 19th. During the meeting, the following topics were discussed:

- The new Vestry met for the first time and welcomed three new members: Stephen Franklin, Jo Harney, and Sarah Garrison.
- The Vestry appointed Felice Lamden as Secretary and Wendy Butler as Treasurer.
- On behalf of the entire Parish, the Vestry expressed its deep gratitude to Barry Hutton, who served as Treasurer for the past 16 years.
- The Vestry approved the operating budget for 2020.

Going forward, minutes of Vestry meetings will be posted on the Immanuel Web site.
SERVICES AT IMMANUEL

Schedule of Services
Immanuel’s sense of community is firmly grounded in our weekly gathering for corporate worship. You are an essential member of that Community! Do plan to join us every week for one (or more) of these services:

Sunday
- 8am - Said Mass
- 10am - Sung Mass
- 7pm - Compline

Wednesday
- 9:30am - Said Mass (postponed until further notice)

Thursday
- 6pm - Said Mass
Compline continues every Sunday at 7 p.m.

Did you know that Compline has been said for 107 consecutive Sundays at Immanuel? Our numbers have ranged from 2 to 17. The regular attendees would love to welcome you to this very special candlelit office. We stand around the altar and say or sing simple responses, a psalm, reading, and prayers. Silence precedes and follows the service, allowing participants to spend time in private prayer for as long as desired. Consider adding this service to your Lenten discipline. The sign-up list for leading Compline can be found here.
Large print bulletins are available.

March Birthdays
- Week 1 - Tom Meyers, Jago Plant, Jeff Knoll
- Week 2 - Mark Bacher, Bobbette Mason
- Week 3 - B.G. Robelen, Lauren Hopper, Doe Irwin, Esther Lovlie
- Week 4 - Katie Meloro
- Week 5 - Jon Barrett, Mary Elizabeth Meyer, Rick Chance, Teddy Kinservik, Chloe Rae Maloney, Dan Wolcott

March Anniversaries
- Week 1 - Jon and Grace Barrett

STAY CONNECTED

The FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) struggle is real. If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram, for memes like this one:

Stay up to date on all the latest happenings by visiting our website.