****

**“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”**

**Matthew 7: 12**

**March 12, 2020**

**PRAYER CONCERNS**: Gene Jackson, Donna Boles, Clark Cotner, Shirley Velazquez, Matt Ekis, Kathryn Baker, Harry Erwin, Tommy Dooley, Paul Trawick, Hunter Cooper, Cheri L., Jonnie Stephens, Chris N., Carey Ann, Margaret, Vicki H., Ted R., William Lyons, , Kent Williams, Jack Witt, Christian, and please pray for The Parish Church of the Holy Comforter.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

* March 17th – Holy Communion –Soup & Bread – Anglican Lesson
* March 21st – **Men’s Meeting** – More details to follow
* March 23rd **– Vestry Meeting** – 6pm
* March 24th – Holy Communion – Bread & Soup – Anglican Lesson
* March 31st - Stations of the Cross – Bread & Soup – Anglican Lesson
* April 5, 2020 – **Seder Supper** will be held on **Palm Sunday** at **6:00pm**. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet in the parish hall how many plan to attend from your household.
* April 11, 2020 – **Church Cleaning** – There will be a sign- up sheet in the parish hall for specific duties soon. Please help prepare the sanctuary for Easter.
* April 12, 2020 – **Easter** – There will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** between masses on **Easter Sunday**. We are in need of **small wrapped candies** to place in the eggs to be hidden. There will be a box in the parish hall for candy donations.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

* **Malawi Fund Raising –** For those of you interested in providing funds for Malawi, please indicate on your check whether you want the funds to go to providing water or providing funds for the priests. We appreciated every penny that you can donate as it helps so many.
* We need teachers for **Youth Sunday School**. Because of the mandated numbers ratio for teachers and children, we need volunteers to step up and help with the children. Please see **Erika, Lindsey** or **Maureen** for more info.
* **Coronavirus Guidance**

To prevent the spread of fear and infection, I, with diocesan guidance, have taken the following steps:

* I wiped with disinfectant all “public” surfaces in the Nave and Chancel. These surfaces include: doorknobs, pew packs, and railings.
* I removed all Holy Water.
* I will only offer Communion in one form, the Host.

While avoiding the temptation to panic and overreact, I am contemplating other measures. Nevertheless, I REFUSE to succumb to fear.

**Office Hours**: Erika is here on **Monday, Wednesday** and **Thursday** during the hours of:

**8:30am – 4:30 pm.**

The **Church Insert** and **Dove Tale** are prepared on Wednesday and Thursday. If you have any information that needs to be published, please have it to Erika or Barb before Wednesday.

**On Sundays, the Bible Project/Sunday School Program will be offered from 9:15 am to 10:15am. K.C. Lopez leads the adult session.**

**Serving at Mass:**

**March 15 Third Sunday in Lent**  Altar Guild Team: **Hummel**

8:00 a.m. Low Mass

Lector: Carolyn Myres

Ushers/Oblationers: Stanley/Smith

10:00 a.m. High Mass

MC/Server: Andrew **Keswick**

Crucifer/Thurifer:

Lector: C/S Varner

Ushers/Oblationers: Barber/Keswick

Vestry Member on Duty: Aaron Keswick

Teller: Randy Nance

If you are not able to be at the church to do your appointed duty listed above, you must find a replacement or call Charles Conant.

**Rector’s Grumblings!**

This Sunday’s Old Testament reading relates a story concerning a conflict that arose shortly after the people of Israel were miraculously delivered from their slavery in Egypt. These people had to have remembered God’s mighty acts when he sent the plagues, when he brought them across the Red Sea on dry ground, overthrow the Egyptian army. They also had to remember what it was like being slaves in Egypt. One would think they would have been thankful, that they would have seen enough of God’s ability to save, and thus, trust in him and his representative, Moses. However, we know that was not the case. The people grumbled.

Indeed, the people grumbled! In fact, they went so far as to say that the Exodus was a mistake, that, “if only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt” (Exodus 16:3). So, God in his infinite mercy gave them manna. Yet this was still not good enough. Our story continues in Exodus 17 where the people complained against Moses. Literally, they threated to indict Moses. The word translated “quarrel” or “found fault” is a legal word meaning to bring a lawsuit. Their leader, Moses, had made them thirsty and they did not like it one bit. In fact, Moses justifiably felt that they wanted to kill him. Moses turns to God and God supplies water from a rock. The narrative relates how Moses in the sight of all the people took his staff – the same staff that he used against the Egyptians – and struck a rock and out of the rock came water. God had provided the people water, but also confirmed in the sight of all the people Moses authority. Delving deeper in the spiritual issue behind this story, the narrative tells us that it was the Lord, not Moses, with whom the people had an issue. It was the Lord the people wanted to sue. Their main issue: “Is the Lord among us or not?” (Exodus 17:7)

Well, is he? Our sojourn on earth can be like a wilderness. Yet like God placed his people Israel in a wilderness, to test them, to see if they would so quickly forget his acts of deliverance, even so God may place us in a wilderness, to test us, to see if we so quickly forget his acts of mercy and deliverance wrought on our behalf. What is our response? Do we murmur? Do we grumble? Or do we use our wilderness time to grow, to see the hand of God even in the desert of our lives. God provided water then, he provides water now. Drink with thankfulness.