



The Eagle's Voice

The Newsletter of St. John's Church, Cohoes, NY

Volume 20 Issue 1

March, 2016

A Message from

Mother Gerry

When I went to the Holy Land in 2007, I visited the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the central shrine of Christendom. It was an awesome visit. I was surprised to learn that six Christian groups possess bits of it. There are the Latin Catholics, the Greek Orthodox, the Armenians, the Syrians, the Copts, and the Ethiopians, with each group taking pride in their part.

The Church is built over the spot thought to be the place where Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. It is outside the city walls and was the most likely place for the Romans to put their crosses because of the cracks in the hard rocks.

During this season of Lent and Easter, I think about two places in particular that I visited that day in the church. One is the chapel that belongs to the Greek Orthodox. To get to this chapel one must climb the Stairway to Calvary. At the top there is the place believed to be where Jesus was crucified. In this chapel is the Rock of Calvary. Under the altar there is a hole said to be the place where the cross of Jesus was raised.

I went up to the altar with

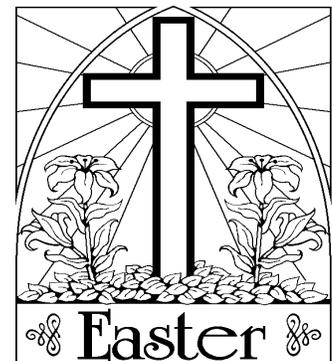
Bishop Rogers who told me to kneel down and put my arm in the hole and touch the Rock. He went first and I followed. When we came out of the chapel, he asked if I had touched the rock. I said no, my arm was too short. He said: "Go back and reach for the rock again, and touch it." I did, this time getting down on my stomach and stretching my arm as far in as I could: up to my shoulder, deep down in the hole. Not only was I in awe, but I was scared. I was scared that I would get stuck and the stern Greek Orthodox priests watching would have to come pull me out. But, I strained to touch the rock and I did and I cried. It was both a sad and joyful mix of tears.

From there I walked to the tomb where Jesus was laid and waited in a long line. Seven people were allowed in at the same time. To enter the tomb everyone had to bend over and stoop down to fit through the tight opening. Inside was a pure white slab of stone believed to be the true stone upon which the dead body of Jesus was placed. Kneeling there with the light streaming down on the white rock, I cried thinking about what our Lord had done for me

and for you.

In these last days of Lent, I invite you to humble yourself before the Lord and walk with him on the Via Dolorosa, from Jerusalem to Golgotha. Imagine walking beside him as he makes his way, carrying the cross, bearing your sins. Think about yourself dying to the world, and living for Christ alone, trusting in him and what he did for you on the cross – and then come and give thanks on Easter Day. Jesus is the Paschal Lamb.

May God bless and keep you,
Mother Gerry



Sr. Wardens Letter

by Ed Tremblay

This is going to be a bittersweet Easter Season, I am excited as we move toward the celebration of the Restructured Christ but sad as it will be Mother Gerry's last Easter with us.

For those of you that have not been with us lately, Mother Gerry will be leaving us this summer when she retires.

It would be wonderful to see the Church full this Easter to celebrate the Eucharist with her.

This will be the beginning of our process to find a new pastor. The official search will be begin after Gerry and Byard move, but the spring and summer will be a time for us to begin praying for guidance and reflection on what our pastoral needs are.

Ed Tremblay

Youth Activities

Our young people wowed the crowd with their outstanding performance at this year's Octave of Prayer. They sang two songs, including, "Build Your Kingdom Here." Two of our teenagers attended the Sunshine Camp at Christ the King Spiritual Life Cen-

ter last month, reporting back that they had learned to use prayer and Scripture to combat stress, peer pressure, bullying, and other difficulties facing our youth today.

There was, of course, also lots of fun and fellowship, and a lot of touchdowns scored. We have a good many youngsters who are excited about attending Beaver Cross Camp this summer. Some of our young people are participating in our Wednesday evening Bible Study of the Gospel of Mark.

Just this past Sunday we had one of our youth gatherings for hamburgers, grilled cheese sandwiches, macaroni and cheese, prayer, Clue, Categories, and a trip to Frear Park. And, our kids are fired up for the preparation for this year's Annual Saint John's Easter Egg Hunt.



Easter Egg Hunt

Our very popular Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday March 26th at 11:00 AM. People are asked to assemble at St. John's at that time and then we will have our search for eggs and prizes on the Church grounds.

This will be followed by a hot dog roast immediately following the hunt.

There is no charge for this event. Thank you to all of the volunteers that make this such a success

As always St. John's will accept donations of non perishable items for our food pantry.

March 20, 2016

Palm Sunday
Holy Eucharist
9:30 AM

Holy Week Schedule

Maunder Thursday
Holy Eucharist
7:00 PM

Good Friday

Veneration of the Cross and
communion from reserved
sacrament
7:00 p.m.

Easter
Sunday morning
service
9:30 AM

Lighting of the New Fire
Renewal of Baptismal Vows

