

The Eagle's Voice

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

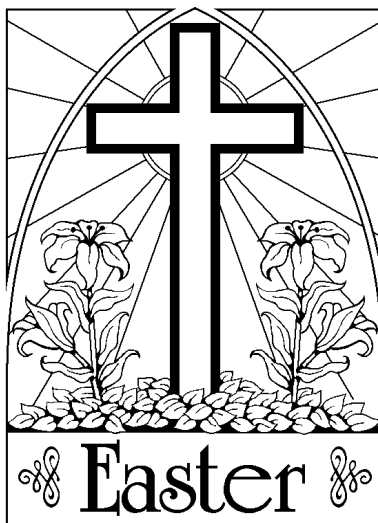
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A Message from

Mother Gerry

You may have heard the story of a town in Texas that was doing the passion play for the fifth straight year. The town had used up all the big men who could play Jesus and who were strong enough to carry the heavy cross. Only one was left – Big John. Big John had made a lot of people in the town mad. They hated to ask him, but, being the only one who was strong enough, they asked him. Things were going well until John came down the street carrying the cross and met someone he had made mad. The crowd was calling out “Crucify him. Crucify him,” when the guy stepped out and faced Big John and spit in his face. The crowd sucked in their breath and waited for John’s reaction. He put the down cross, stepped over to the man, grabbed him by the neck and lifted him up off his feet and yelled into his face: “I’ll see you after the Resurrection!”



He was the wrong person for the job. This humorous story says a lot about human nature. As Christians, we try hard to be like Jesus, but we fail. All of us at some point make a mess of things. We try harder, but still are not successful. But we keep on going, walking in Jesus’ footsteps, asking for forgiveness and for the grace to turn away from those sins that cling so closely to us.

During Holy Week, let us take time to meditate upon our Savior who si-

lently suffered through insults, spitting and jeering, pain and humiliation, as he walked the Via Dolorosa, carrying our sins to Calvary. As we approach Easter, let us remember that we are God’s redeemed people. He did for us what we could not do for ourselves. By his wounds we are healed; by his death we have eternal life.

Today, walk in the presence and the power of the risen Lord.

Mother Gerry

Sr. Wardens Letter

by Ed Tremblay

I just had the opportunity to attend the Alpha Course for the last ten weeks. I had heard a lot about the course when Bishop Herzog was encouraging Parishes to sponsor a course. Mother Gerry has mentioned several times that she would love to host a course. The Vineyard Church and the United Church started a session and I decided to give it a try. Having been raised a

Roman Catholic I was taught from the *Catechism* where we primarily learned about the fear of God and not a lot about the Bible. The Bible was something that your Grandmother used to have on display in the Dining Room. Yes we listened to the scriptures and knew about the old and new testaments. But people that read the bible everyday and could quote the bible for everything going wrong in the world were religious "fanatics".

Alpha is not a bible study; it is an introduction to Jesus Christ. It is a course for people that have not let Jesus into their lives or people that need to get closer to Jesus. Each week we would open in song and then watch a video about a theme. Then we would break into discussion groups. It was very touching leaning about other people's lives and how they have dealt with some very bad times. It was also very rewarding to find how Christ had come into their lives. I found myself getting more into prayer and into reading the Bible on a regular basis.

Toward the end of the course we were discussing the term "born again". And it became very evident

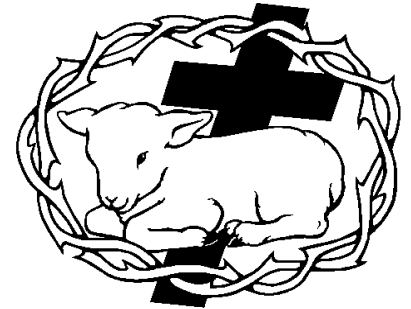
to me that we really all need to be born again. Too many of us look at people that are evangelistic and think that they are just trying to force their beliefs on others. But for those people that are truly "born again" they are moved by Christ to spread his name to others. Many of us are afraid to really accept Jesus Christ into our hearts. We may believe and we may worship but have we really accepted Jesus as our Savior.

On Saturday we were introduced to Fr. Nigel Mumford. Fr. Mumford leads the healing ministry at the Spiritual Life Center. You may remember Fr Mumford as we prayed for his healing last year when he was gravely ill with the Swine Flu. He has a special calling from God and can really make a difference in people's lives. We often forget God's words to his disciples to heal the sick. We are all disciples so we have all been called to do God's word. Prayer is a powerful tool that can produce miracles, and we all have that tool in our hearts.

So as we approach the miracle of Jesus Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday pray for Christ to come into your heart. And pray that this fall we may

be called to do an Alpha course of our own here at St. John's.

Ed Tremblay



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy/Holy Thursday

7:00 PM

Good Friday

Tenebrae
Vineyard Church
noon

St John's
7:00 PM

Easter Sunday morning service 9:30 AM

Lighting of the New Fire

Renewal of Baptismal