



# The Cross

Mission Statement: To come together through Jesus Christ for spiritual growth, in a loving community that reaches out to others

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 31 Issue No. 1 Lent/Easter 2010

Sunday Service:

Holy Eucharist and Sermon 9:30 a.m.  
 Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 a.m.  
 Adult Formation 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Services:

Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.  
 St. James Bible Study 10:30 a.m.  
 Holy Eucharist 6:00 p.m.

Special Services and Events:

Stations of the Cross (Wednesdays in Lent) 5:30 p.m.  
 St. Patrick's Day Celebration March 14 10:30 a.m.  
 Pet Blessing April 25 9:30 a.m.

Briar Place:

Wednesday Crafts 10:30 a.m.  
 Eucharist – Second Thursday of the Month 10:30 a.m.

## All Welcome, Always



**St. Helena's Episcopal Church**  
 7600 Wolf Rd, Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
 (630) 662-5660  
[www.sthelenaschurch.org](http://www.sthelenaschurch.org)

Holy Week Services:

March 28: Palm Sunday Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
 March 31: Stations of the Cross 5:30 p.m.  
           Holy Eucharist 6:00 p.m.  
 April 1: Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.  
 April 2: Stations of the Cross 12:00 p.m.  
           Good Friday 7:00 p.m.  
 April 3: Easter Vigil 8:00 p.m.  
           Reception 9:30 p.m.  
 April 4: Easter Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
           Easter Reception 10:30 a.m.

**The Experience of Holy Week**

Most liturgical Christians experience Holy Week by attending Palm Sunday mass, which now includes the Passion Gospel, and Easter Day, which celebrates the Resurrection narrative. But If you have never experienced the profundity of Holy Week to its

fullest, consider attending the full Triduum (the Three Days), which is really one single services that includes:

- **Maundy Thursday Eucharist**—the celebration of the Last Supper including foot-washing and the birth of the Eucharist;
- **Good Friday**—the Solemn Collects, Veneration of the Cross, and communion from the Reserved Sacrament;
- **The Easter Vigil**—Lighting the New Fire which pierces the the darkness, renewal of baptismal vows, and, this year, the Baptism of Miles Henry Sizemore, son of Matt and Tiffany Sizemore, grandson of Bob and Kay McAuley, and nephew of Eric McAuley.

This is all followed by the **First Mass of Easter**, and it's an incredible experience moving from betrayal through death to new life in the resurrected Christ.

– Fr. Robert Wyatt

### **Lent – Thoughts from a Warden**

At the pancake breakfast so kindly provided by the Scouts for the parishioners, I was talking with David Shangle about the requirement for each Scout to determine something they were going to commit to that would “make a difference” – or at least that is what I understood him to say – and it occurred to me then “Why just the Scouts?” What a wonderful way to spend Lent, looking as we are in Adult Formation at the gifts God has given each of us, or rather, **at the gift that we are**, given to the world by God.

So I thought what I would do this Lent is try to work out my own commitment, my own something that would “make a difference.” At the end of each month/week/year I would be able to look back and think “Yes, the world is better because I did that.”

I very much like the film “Pay it Forward,” which is often quoted but not religious at all. The concept of

recognizing a helping hand or an unexpected bonus in life by passing that on, by helping another as a way of saying thank you, appeals to me very much as the way society should work.

So hopefully by Easter I will have determined what it is I am going to commit to in the coming year, and maybe some of you might like to think about that too; it can be big or little, I am imagining, so long as good comes out of it.... Let's see what we might be!

– Caroline Goldthorpe

### **What are Your Gifts?**

If you have been around St. Helena's lately, you have probably been hearing this question.

We are in an exciting phase of the life of our parish and the giftedness of all our members is a very important step for us.

St. Helena's has adopted a new style of leadership over the last few years. We have been calling it Total Ministry. A parish like ours no longer has a full-time rector that is expected to run everything for us. We have a part-time rector and lots of active parishioners that work on many different ministries. In this model, you will find folks that are doing things for God that make them very happy! It doesn't seem like such a burden when everyone is doing things that they love!

We are in the midst of learning how to decide what our gifts are and what we love to do. **The Adult Formation class** has been meeting for the last two Sundays to discuss questions that help us to get to know each other and help us to hear about our gifts. It has been great fun hearing each others stories and learning about our fellow parishioners

Please join us if you can! Each Sunday's class is not dependent on past attendance. All are welcome to attend one or more classes whether or not you have come in the past.

The questions that we have used are:

- What do you love to do? What is your passion? What comes naturally to you? (*Your needs and desires*)
- What makes you say (or think to yourself) "Someone should DO something about that?" (*Needs of others*)
- What have you enjoyed in the past? Where have you had success? (*Past*)
- Have you had confirmation or affirmation about your gifts and your service to others? (*Community affirmation*)

Please consider joining us for this exciting new Adult Formation experience which will culminate at the Eucharist on May 14th.

God is truly blessing us at St. Helena's!

– Daryce Nolan

**"Someone has to teach people to dream."**

(M. Craig Barnes, *The Pastor as Minor Poet*)

That was the second quote I heard today that triggered something in my soul; the first was in a homily at a funeral. Talking about the woman who had died, the preacher said, "She knew her life was a gift, and she lived her story giftedly."

Those two quotes identify for me the qualities often missing in our lives when we become overwhelmed by the very real needs we have to succeed in so many ways. As family member or parent, as provider, as volunteer, as adult child of aging parents, as caring parishioner, as..... whatever it is, we can so easily get caught up in *what we need to do* that we can forget *who we are*.

It's supposed to be the other way around. As we discover who we are as God's daughters and sons, as we come to recognize that we truly are gifted to be and then do God's calling, as we yearn for and are fed with the wonders of our creatureliness in the

presence of God who loves us, all the rest remains the same but looks, and in fact is, different.

That's why we are inviting you to consider the possibility that availing yourself of some spiritual companioning might be a good thing. Spiritual direction (or soul friending, or spiritual companioning) is not problem solving, therapy, or even counseling as traditionally understood. It is about getting together and listening for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in relationship to our lives as they really are. It's about discovering our own story in the presence of God and a friend who will help us to discern God's word for us.

Actually, it's fun. Fr. Bob and I can schedule individual sessions and start groups of mutual spiritual direction, whatever you might like. We're hoping to partner with the people of St. James and be enriched by the sharing. There will be no charge for the sessions, and we may even qualify for a grant to help to cover whatever costs are entailed. The practical details remain to be discovered; first, though, please pray and share with us what your interests might be. We look forward to getting started!

In Peace,

Pastor Lynn Ramshaw

**Rectory**

Please do still send in your vote, for or against, to authorize the Vestry to sell the Rectory "at an opportune time." We need the votes by the end of March and not voting means a no vote is effectively cast. We are not going to rush into this; in fact we will likely continue to have it occupied at least through the beginning of next year. What the authorization would enable us to do is to explore the various options and requirements in advance, so that we would then be in a position to sell when and if "an opportune time" should arise.

– Caroline Goldthorpe

**Call it Baptismal Ministry, Total Ministry or whatever, it's an ancient way to run the church**

Most of us grew up in a culture dominated by professionalism. University curricula, graduate degrees, licensing boards, and competency criteria came to dominate many fields of endeavor. Specialists ruled the day in medicine, law, business, and even religion. Fee for service became the normative mode of enterprise.

Even the Church became a professionally oriented, fee-for-service institution. If you had children, you paid your pledge and expected the Christian formation director and the staff to deliver quality Sunday School. If you were sick, the clergy were paid to visit you. Clergy were also expected to visit hospital and nursing homes as your surrogate. If you needed therapy with a Christian touch, a specially licensed pastoral counselor was available for a fee. A rector, parish administrator, Christian formation director, sexton and perhaps auxiliary clergy were prepared to be at your service. All of this cost money, and clergy came cheap, often with a full-time wife to serve on the altar guild, play the piano, and teach children.

The notion that the Church consisted of all of the people of Christ and that each was called by baptism to minister to fellow Christians and to the world fell by the wayside. The New Testament Church as described by St. Paul – where all exercised their gifts for the benefit of each and all participated in the ministry of the community – morphed more of a trade association rather than the company of the redeemed, bought by the death and resurrection of Christ and sent into the world as a light to all people.

Necessity may be the mother of invention – or reinvention – but that model is now dead as a doornail for all but the wealthiest parishes. And a good thing, too, for it does violence to the baptismal ministry all are called to.

The model began to expire at St. Helena's a few years earlier than at larger parishes. First, funds ran low and the parish could only afford a half-time rector. When he left, money was insufficient to hire an interim rector. Following the example of Our Lord and the early Church, members of the parish – “ordinary” Christians – stepped forward to administer finances and property, to visit the sick, to feed the poor, to teach the children, to join in fellowship and the breaking of bread.

And when I arrived, it became clear that I could not maintain the illusion of being a fulltime rector – preaching weekly, conducting confirmation classes, counseling, visiting, doing office chores or whatever. Not in 20 hours; not in 30. Not with no paid staff except the choirmaster. So the transition to enhanced baptismal ministry or Total Ministry began.

As a community, we found out that committed lay people can indeed preach, visit the sick, engage in ministry to the poor and needy, run a ministry to youth, develop property and do myriad things in Christ's name. A seminary trained priest is simply not necessary to do many of the things the laity are so gifted at doing. (Yes, I do know Church history and the history of doctrine and the fine points of biblical studies, and that is useful. But it's not a full-time job.)

And I wouldn't have it any other way. I love being part of a team of committed Christians ministering to each other and to the world. I love having dedicated and talented supply priests such as Sam Portaro and Lynn Ramshaw fill in when I am gone. I cherish our companion parish relationship with St. James Lutheran, and the gifts their pastor, Erin Clausen, brings to our congregation. I love sharing our building and property with the Scouts and the Vacant to Vegetables garden for the poor. I thank God daily for our wonderful ministry at Briar Place, created and maintained not by a rector and staff but by Christ's people called by baptism to ministry. I

am blessed by our lay preaching. I am moved by the commitment and pastoral abilities of our care team.

As St. Paul, or more likely one of his disciples, so famously writes in Ephesians 11:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.... The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

– Fr. Robert Wyatt

### **Letter from the Bishop**

Dear Friends,

It has been 27 years since the death of children by violence in the Chicago Metro area became a fixture on newspaper front pages, and the impetus for an interfaith effort to stem the tide and foster peace. The deaths that year of 62 children led to a strengthening of local gun control ordinances, to a nation-wide ban on assault weapons, and to the creation of a memorial cross on our diocesan and cathedral commons plaza. In the decades since, the assault weapons ban has expired, gun manufacturers and gun associations have lobbied and sued for an overturn of common sense gun laws in force in Chicago and San Francisco—succeeding before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2008 on the Washington D.C. handgun ban—and as these efforts against sensible gun policies have

mounted, more young lives have been lost to gun violence.

The toll is not abating. In the 2008-2009 school year, 36 Chicago Public School children died from violence, most of it by gunfire. The previous year it was 31 and the year before that 27. In Illinois in 2006, the most recent year for state-wide figures, 1,036 people died from firearms injuries, 369 of them were children or youth. Chicago now ranks among the nation's five most populous cities which lead the nation in youth homicides.

As we know too well, this tragedy affects urban and rural communities, and families of all income levels and ethnicities, though a disproportionate number of those killed are African American. Halting and reversing this carnage will require the resolve and resources of all those parts of our social fabric: our families, our schools, our police and courts, our churches, and most definitely our state legislators and aldermen. Counseling, community policing, afterschool programs, job training and referral, and gang abatement programs have a significant part in ending the violence, but, in my judgment, must be accompanied by sensible gun violence prevention policies to have a lasting effect.

Some noteworthy steps have been taken, including the two-year-old law requiring more thorough mental health background checks for firearm purchasers. But access to guns remains all too easy. Currently, there are no requirements for background checks for private gun sales; nor are there penalties for selling or giving guns to street gang members. Those who are prohibited from purchasing firearms from a licensed dealer—including persons with severe mental illness, known gang members, and domestic violence offenders—can do so legally through a private seller. A bill (SB 3632) now in committee at the Illinois state senate would bridge these gaps by requiring all persons engaged in the private sale or transfer of firearms to do so at a licensed firearm

dealer who by law is required to conduct background checks. The bill, sponsored by State Senator Dan Kotowski (D-33rd), also applies a Class 1 felony status to anyone knowingly selling or giving firearms to street gang members. The transfer of firearms between family members—spouses, parent to child, or grandparent to grandchild—is not affected.

The outcome for this legislation is uncertain. While an overwhelming majority of Illinois voters favor closing the private seller loophole, the gun industry and its lobbyists are working hard to pressure key Chicago area suburban legislators to vote against SB 3632. Responsible groups like the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, the Legal Community Against Violence, and the Chicago Project for Violence Prevention are working equally hard to educate the public about the need for sensible gun prevention policies, like those put forward in SB 3632. The church's voice must be a part of this effort.

During this Lent, I encourage you to inform your members of the impact of gun violence on our families and communities, and of the remedies available through meaningful gun policy reform, as proposed in SB 3632. Our Commission on Peace and Justice is available to lead workshops on gun violence prevention. The contact information is listed below.

Pray for the persons who are coping every day with injuries and disabilities sustained from being a victim of gun violence, and for the families who have lost a loved one to gun violence. Pray also for our legislators to have the wisdom and courage to support legislation that works to reduce the toll of gun violence, particularly among the most vulnerable, our children.

In Christ,

Jeffrey D. Lee  
Bishop of Chicago

## **Suburban clergy offer ashes to go to Metra rail commuters**

The Episcopal Church had higher than normal visibility on Ash Wednesday thanks to the creativity of several suburban clergy who stationed themselves at Metra commuter rail stations to dispense ashes and prayers.

At the Lombard station, the Rev. Emily Mellott and five of her parishioners, one of whom is a high school freshman, offered the imposition of ashes to people on the platform and to drivers arriving at the station. The response was uniformly positive, reported Mellott, even from those declining their offer. Several people said they appreciated the Ashes to Go effort, a title Mellott borrowed from a St. Louis friend and priest who has done a lunchtime ash imposition for several years, as they didn't have time to attend services in their own church. One person asked for prayers in addition to the ashes. "The most common question was "do these work for Catholics?" or variations on the theme," said Mellott. "One woman stopped her car and jumped out calling, 'Is this for real? Great!'"

Mellott said they imposed ashes on the foreheads of 37 people that morning, out of several hundred arriving to catch trains. One commuter was especially thankful to see the church team there instead of another politician on campaign.

At the Glen Ellyn Metra station, the Rev. George Smith and his associate at St. Marks, the Rev. Elizabeth Molitors, partnered with two Lutheran clergy from Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) to offer ashes and hand out flyers on Lenten programs at the two churches. They set up a table draped in purple on the street across from the station and had a number of people stop by to receive ashes.

In Palos Park, the Rev. Lane Hensley let the Chicago Tribune know about his plans before showing up vested on the Palos Park station of Metra's Southwest Service line. The result was photos and a

short write-up in the Trib and mention in the Tribune religion writer Manya Brachear's blog The Seeker. Like the others he found people very receptive to the ashes-on-the-go ministry.

"I thought people might really be offended or figure out that I wasn't Catholic and get angry. But people were WAY into it. One of the women from the train platform came to church last night because of it, and I've received several e-mails of support," said Hensley.

In fact, he said, more people received ashes at the station than at the Ash Wednesday services at his parish, Church of the Transfiguration. Next year he would like to see Episcopal clergy offering the imposition of ashes on every Metra line and perhaps even every station. And Mellott would like to draft Bishop Jeffrey Lee to offer ashes on Michigan Avenue.

– David Skidmore, *Connect*

### **Cherokee Wisdom**

A Cherokee Indian elder was teaching his grandchildren about life.....

He said to them, "A fight is going on inside me....it is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other stands for joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. This same fight is going on inside of you, and inside every other person, too."

The children thought about it for a minute and then one child asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee replied simply..... "The one you feed."

– Submitted by Marilyn Eshoo

### **Budget**

We have a projected budget for this year of \$104,000 and pledges of \$87,000. How would that work in our own households? We, the current parishioners, have inherited St. Helena's and it is ours for just a little while before we pass it on. We are here for people. We are here for the Scouts, we are here for Baptisms and Confirmations, we are here for Holly and Jim Fiala to come back to, we are here to help the Holeceks. It is our responsibility to make sure we are still here for the next generation.

– Caroline Goldthorpe

### **Food Pantry**

The contributions to our food pantry box have been fairly consistent. As the weather gets warmer, I'm confident the donations will increase. Last weekend the box was overflowing. I am currently delivering the food to the Lyonsville Congregational Church on Joliet Rd. and Wolf Rd. They operate a fairly large pantry in their basement by appointment and are extremely grateful for our donations.

– Marian Higgins

### **Hunger survey uncovers powerful ministry**

The diocesan Hunger Committee has found that diocesan congregations are responding to the problem of hunger in unique and powerful ways. In a survey at last year's Diocesan Convention, 42 congregations described how they were reaching the homeless and hungry through on-site ministries and through partnerships with other congregations or agencies. In a summary report the committee observed: "The respondent from St. Andrew's, Grand Ridge, a LaSalle County congregation open only from Easter to Christmas, wrote 'We are a congregation primarily of farmers who share excess with members of the church and community.' Larger, urban congregations like All Saints,

Ravenswood, Chicago, have a pantry serving more than 300 people per week together with a hot meal program for approximately 150 low income and homeless individuals and families. Whatever the size, location, and/or resources of each congregation, each has sought to respond in a meaningful, powerful way to the needs of our hungry neighbors. All are aware that much, much more needs to be done. The congregations of our diocese are committed to that challenging task."

If you would like to share the work of your congregation or receive a copy of the committee's data to date, please contact Julie Donalek, [jdonalek@rcn.com](mailto:jdonalek@rcn.com). The committee's report has also been posted to the [Hunger ministry webpage](#).

– David Skidmore, *Connect*

### **Thank you to the Cubs and Scouts**

What a splendid (early) Shrove Tuesday we had at St. Helena's on a (late) Scout Sunday in which the Cubs and Scouts treated the parishioners to a delicious pancake breakfast. I think our Scout Sunday service is one of my absolute favorite services, because it is a time when both groups get together. We, the parishioners, think of St. Helena's as ours and welcome the Scout Pack, and the Scout Pack think of St. Helena's as theirs and welcome us. It is a very joyful time as we come together to share our much loved Church.

– Caroline Goldthorpe

### **To Reach Father Bob**

Please phone the church (630-662-5660) and leave a message, which will e-mail him an alert, or e-mail him directly at [robertowyatt@gmail.com](mailto:robertowyatt@gmail.com).

**In an emergency:** Leave a recorded message at 630-662-5660, then press # and follow the instructions. This will page Father Bob, and only he can listen to the message.

### **Altar Flowers**

If you would like to make a donation for flowers (\$50), you can sign up for a specific Sunday and your intention will be included in the Prayers of the People. See the flower chart on the bulletin board. If the Sunday you want is already filled in, you can still sign up for that date or email [cpartsch644@comcast.net](mailto:cpartsch644@comcast.net) with your request. Your donation will help us defray the cost of flowers on a Sunday that was not selected. Flower donations will be listed separately on your parish statement and are tax deductible.

Our beautiful altar bouquets are from **ChaLor Flowers**, located north of St. Helena's on Wolf Road.

### **Holecek Family Fundraiser March 14th**

#### **Hope for the Holeceks**

Sunday, March 14, 2010, 4-8 p.m.

Tailgaters Sports Bar & Grill

431 W Boughton Rd., Bollingbrook

Entertainment by Reckless

Your \$25 contribution to this benefit fundraiser will give you the opportunity to win a cash prize of \$1,250. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold.

If all tickets are not sold, the cash prize will equal 5% of the gross proceed. Winner need not be present.

Linda A. Petrasek has tickets for sale.

### **Please Contribute to *The Cross***

The next issue of *The Cross* will come out the week following Pentecost. Please send submissions to [aliwhite@indiana.edu](mailto:aliwhite@indiana.edu). The deadline is May 10. Comments and suggestions are also welcome. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue!