

The

Envoy



April 2024

Words from the Father



During one of his pastoral visits to St. Vincent Bishop Dabney Smith commented that if the Church truly wishes to be the Church to her people and to the whole world then she must endeavor to do three things very well: say hello, say goodbye, say thank you. As I write this final article for the parish newsletter I can say with full confidence that this parish has done and will continue to do those things well.

Seven years ago my family were greeted with open arms, enthusiasm, and generous hospitality. We felt welcomed to become part of this worshipping community and to share our story with others. Every person we met understood the importance of greeting one another in Jesus Christ and making room for what the Holy Spirit was about to do through this new relationship.

Seven years later we now say goodbye, or as many people have expressed, “until next time”. Ending a pastoral relationship is never easy. Serving you, walking with you in both your joys and sorrows is a priceless gift that I have treasured. It has made the priest I am today. My family and I appreciate every hug, handshake, tear, and laugh. I know that our departure means that this parish and its ministry will change. But saying goodbye also means that a new hello is on the horizon.

Finally, I appreciate every thank you, every kind word of encouragement and support that you have offered. Hearing the gratitude expressed for the ministry we have done together has helped sustain me through this time of transition. But don’t ever forget that my family and I are incredibly thankful as well. We are thankful for each of you and the opportunity to live out our walk with Christ alongside you.

It is fitting that on April 7th we will continue our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ by hearing the story of St. Thomas the apostles who doubted. The Good News of the resurrection is that it isn’t a secret! Jesus presents himself to his disciples so that they can see, know, and believe. Now, the truth of that miracle has been given to us to proclaim to the world. Let us each go and proclaim that He Is Risen!

- Fr. Alex

THE TRAIN HAS LEFT THE STATION!



You have been hearing and reading about the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), and by now you should have received the link to the CAT. If you haven't already, please set aside 25 minutes of time to complete the assessment. The information gained from this tool will be critical to your leaders as they plan for our future. PLEASE MAKE THIS A PRIORITY THIS WEEK if you haven't already shared your experiences and perspectives by participating in this important process. If you need a paper copy, please stop by the office, and we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed stamped return envelope. If you have questions, please contact

the Senior Warden Jim Frishe 727-480-5901.

Many thanks!

Junior Warden Report

A couple of projects were recently completed, one planned and one unplanned.

- **Unplanned-**

We had to have another pine tree removed due to our ongoing nemesis, the pine beetle. The latest tree that was infected was just inside the fence of the rectory's backyard. This tree was very close to the first two trees that had to be removed a few months ago. We believe this tree became infected during that time but didn't show signs until now. Two very large and overgrown shrubs were also removed that had been planted too close to the house and had started to cause problems with the underground drainage pipes. Future work will most likely need to be done to resolve some pipe deterioration.

- **Planned-**

The memorial Garden area has received a much-needed fresh coat of paint. The curved wall, altar area and cross were cleaned and painted. Many thanks to Dan Simons and Joe Tyler for sacrificing a couple of mornings of their time. Some of the plaques on top of the wall are showing signs of the lacquer finish starting to fade off. This is due to the exposure to the elements and there's nothing that can or needs to be done, it's just a factor of our harsh environment.

We are contemplating adding a solar powered light or two to illuminate the cross area once we find a suitable fixture that will work. If anyone is interested in donating to this, just let Jennifer in the office know.

-Russ Lynn, Jr. Warden





St. Vincent's Episcopal Church

Annual Auction 2024



Saturday, April 13th ~ 5pm-7pm

Auction items include dinners, baskets full of various prizes, artwork & more.



Tickets are \$8 per person in advance or \$10pp at the door, which covers entry along with food, wine, and desert.

**** Donations Appreciated ****

Contact Church Member Carol Ray
for more information—#727-545-2366



FAMILY NIGHT

Join us for a night of
food, family,
and fellowship.

Kids will share in activities
while adults mix and mingle.
This Free event is open to all!

To register, scan QR code
or visit stvinepiscopal.org



6pm on
April 17th



Men's Group Breakfast

Saturday, April 1st, 8am-9:30am

Parish Hall

All Men of the Parish are invited to attend as well as cook.
Sign-up in the Narthex.



Florida Resurrection House

Join us for **New Beginnings 2024**, our annual community celebration and advocacy event, May 16th, 2024

Doors Open 11:30am
Program 12-1pm

The James Museum
150 Central Ave.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Visit www.floridaresurrectionhouse.org.

Image from: motorcyclistsassociation.org



Thrift Shop

Open 10am to 2pm
Wed. through Sat.
5124 22nd Ave. S., Gulfport, FL

Our thrift shop is an outreach of St. Vincent's that has touched thousands over the years and has provided much needed funds for our church ministry and charitable support to our community— but now we are facing a crisis in staffing and quality goods and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Any time you can offer to work a short two hour shift, or by donating clean quality items, would be most gratefully appreciated. Please contact Ruth or Alice at the Thrift Shop #727-321-7215 to set up a time to volunteer. Donations can be taken to the shop directly or bring them on Sunday and leave in the Parish Hall back room. **THANK YOU for your continued support of this most worthy outreach.**

Most Needed Items:

Clothing
Books
Small Electronics
Magazines

Underclothes
DVD'S, CD'S
Small Appliances
Knick Knacks

Shoes
Kitchen Items
Household goods
Lamps & Artwork

Puzzles
Jewelry
Craft supplies
Linens

Saint of the Month

Most of what we know about **Mark** comes directly from the New Testament. He is usually identified with the Mark of Acts 12:12. When Saint Peter escaped from prison, he went to the home of Mark's mother.

Paul and Barnabas took him along on the first missionary journey, but for some reason Mark returned alone to Jerusalem. It is evident, from Paul's refusal to let Mark accompany him on the second journey despite Barnabas's insistence, that Mark had displeased Paul. Because Paul later asks Mark to visit him in prison, we may assume the trouble did not last long.

The oldest and the shortest of the four Gospels, the Gospel of Mark emphasizes Jesus's rejection by humanity while being God's triumphant envoy. Probably written for gentile converts in Rome—after the death of Peter and Paul sometime between A.D. 60 and 70—Mark's Gospel is the gradual manifestation of a "scandal": a crucified Messiah.

Evidently a friend of Mark—calling him "my son"—Peter is only one of this Gospel's sources, others being the Church in Jerusalem (Jewish roots), and the Church at Antioch (largely Gentile).



Like another Gospel writer Luke, Mark was not one of the 12 apostles. We cannot be certain whether he knew Jesus personally. Some scholars feel that the evangelist is speaking of himself when describing the arrest of Jesus in Gethsemane: "Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked" (Mark 14:51-52).

Others hold Mark to be the first bishop of Alexandria, Egypt. Venice, famous for the Piazza San Marco, claims Mark as its patron saint; the large basilica there is believed to contain his remains.

A winged lion is Mark's symbol. The lion derives from Mark's description of John the Baptist as a "voice of one crying out in the desert" (Mark 1:3), which artists compared to a roaring lion. The wings come from the application of Ezekiel's vision of four winged creatures to the evangelists.

Prayers for Healing

Shut-ins:

Leila Burwell, Dante & Rosanna Balzano,
Sybil Mulhauser, Shirley Johnson

Members in Need of Healing:

Hildegard Wackerbauer, The Matta Family,
Deacon Chester Trow, Shirley Bonney, Lisa Youla,
Nancy Teague-Horner, Ken Von der Heiden,
Emily Matthews, Ray Lamberson

Healing for Friends & Family:

Sharon, Johnny B., Cliff, Bill & Dottie, Jimmy, Laura,
Kit W., Randy W., Melissa D., Darrell Blackston, Bill Falin,
Janet Depanoli, Diana, Marion, Sandra Schlage,
Judy Prins Franke, Sharon Stoll, Stephen Prins,
Meg Nolin, Mary Ellen Racine, Jim McKiernan,
Michael Perry, Leo Perry, Scott, Kelly, Norris Family,
Melissa Cercone, Ellie White, Debbie Reeves,
Sean Shannon, Ron & Mary Ebert, Martha Salas,
Lisa Goodin, Gerry, Carol Murphy, Thomas Press,
Brian Hickcox, Katie Grayson, Heidi Meyers, Nancy Fick,
Eric Ramsey, John, Dawn Cantrill, Donald Higgens, Pat,
Ann Monroe, Jack Tyler, Cory Maddox, Connie Rutter,
Evelyn Hill, Bill S., Beth Russ, Kellianne Meinhart,
Jan Meinhart, Chris M., Linda G., Vivi, Tom, Benny, Jack,
Tom Sr., Gailyn, Doris Bishop, Janet D., Karen Campbell,
Mike B., Robert Shaw, Renee, John, Jonathan D.,
Susan F., Michelle Johnson, Frederick Kirwin, Susan Elias,
Steve Norris, Debra Phillips, Kenneth Norris,
Donna Zuben, Laurie Feldscher, Dede Hacking,
Carol Notarianni, Les Shull, Billy Reeves, Curtis, Heather,
Linda, David, Leonard Hadley, Bennett, Pierce,
Karen Smith, Lisa K., Laura Spano, Rosemary McLean,
Bella, Maria Paysan

If you would like someone added to the prayer list, please call or
email the office: 727-321-5086 / officestvin@gmail.com

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to
your servants the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Image from: 4sonrus.com

6 Jim Frishe
7 Garrett Schramek
7 Cheryl Ann Cotton
13 Deacon Chester Trow
18 Jay Racine
19 Eileen Prins

*Happy
Anniversary*

9 Fr. Alex and Roxanne Andujar
13 Russ & Marilyn Jones



Easter Monday, April 1st

Masks are welcome but not required while attending Worship Services.

All scheduled Services and Events are subject to change based on advisories regarding COVID-19 precautions.

St. Vincent's Episcopal Church

April 2024

Image from: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Office Closed</i>	2 5:30pm Girl Scouts	3 10am <i>Healing Eucharist</i> 11am <i>Bible Study</i>	4	5 <i>Office Closed</i>	6 8am Men's Breakfast
7 <i>Holy Eucharist:</i> 10am <i>Rite II</i> 12pm <i>Spanish</i> Farewell Fr. Alex	8	9	10 10am <i>Healing Eucharist</i> 11am <i>Bible Study</i>	11	12 <i>Office Closed</i>	13 5pm-7pm Annual Auction
14 <i>Holy Eucharist:</i> 10am <i>Rite II</i> 12pm <i>Spanish</i>	15	16 5:30pm Girl Scouts	17 10am <i>Healing Eucharist</i> 11am <i>Bible Study</i> 6pm Family Night	18 6:30pm Vestry Meeting	19 <i>Office Closed</i>	20
21 <i>Holy Eucharist:</i> 10am <i>Rite II</i> 12pm <i>Spanish</i>	22	23	24	25	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27
28 <i>Holy Eucharist:</i> 10am <i>Rite II</i> 12pm <i>Spanish</i>	29	30 *Parish Survey Deadline*				



St. Vincent's Episcopal Church

Loving God, Loving our Neighbor, Following Jesus Christ.

5441 9th Ave N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710

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Clergy

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fathalexandujar@gmail.com,

727-201-1891

The Rev. Richard Earle, Assisting Priest

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727-515-4879

The Rev. Hector Chamorro, Hispanic Ministry

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The Rev. Edwin Mata, Deacon

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Vestry 2024

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Sexton

David Moore

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Deanna Wittstruck, Director

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Thrift Shop: #727-321-7215

Hours 10am to 2pm; Wed. through Sat.

5124 22nd Ave. S., Gulfport, FL