The Light



*Good News from*

*St. Mark’s Episcopal Church*

*Warwick, RI*

June-July 2023

**Mother Susan’s Last Service before her retirement**

**June 4 at 9:00 am**

**Followed by a**

**Farewell Gathering**

**after the service**.

If you are planning on attending, please see a member of the Vestry to RSVP.

Cards and notes for Mother Susan are greatly appreciated.

**Please note!**

![C:\Users\St. Marks\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\R14L89JV\6327101586_50e749e86a_b[1].jpg]()

On June 4th we will begin having one Sunday service at 9 am and will continue through Labor Day.

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Mass on the Grass services will begin on June 11 at 5 pm, weather permitting.

**Beginning June 5th**

**In case of emergency:** If you have a pastoral need for a priest (illness or death are two examples), contact Deb Bergeron, Senior Warden, on her cell phone: 401-744-5456:

For any other questions, email her: dbergeron15@verizon.net

**April Financials**

Revenues: $16,322.91

Expenses: $15,953.52

**From the Rector**

Unlike Greek, which has multiple words for the same thing, fleshing out an idea’s many nuances (as you’ve heard me preach over and over again), English has only one way to say “Thank you,” and it is insufficient to express the deep gratitude I have for my time at St. Mark’s and for each and every one of you!

For me, the past fourteen years have been nothing less than a gift from God and I will be eternally grateful. The people of St. Mark’s have supported my ministry in ways too many to enumerate. You have made me the priest I am today through your patience, kindness, and love.

I have been privileged to offer you the sacraments of the Church, preside over your life events, support you through illness and other of life’s adversities, and share in your joys. I have no doubt the Holy Spirit led me to St. Mark’s and I have no doubt the same Spirit will lead this faithful community of Christians into a bright future where you will find new ways to Be the Church in this community.

“Parting is such sweet sorrow,” says Shakespeare. Sorrow because this good-bye is sad. Sweet because the time we have had together is full of so much joy.

God bless you all as you continue your journey of faith. You will always be in my prayers.

Mother Susan+

**From the Parish Register**

**Baptism**

 April 16, 2023 Anthony Carl Clifford

**Burials**

 April 17, 2023 Mark Wilmot

 May 13, 2023 Gordon Earle, Jr.

**Confirmations**

 April 25, 2023 Chris Coates

 April 25, 2023 Victoria Wagner

**Receptions**

 April 25, 2023 Adam Chirico

 April 25, 2023 Kaitrin Chirico

 April 25, 2023 Thom Mathews

**Vestry Notes**

Saying good-bye is never easy. Especially when it is someone you care about very much. I am sure you all have been reflecting about this since Mother Susan announced her retirement in January. Each of us has our own personal relationship with Mother Susan. She has been our pastor, of course, but also a friend, confidant, spiritual advisor, and teacher. Mother Susan is an educator at heart and we have all been the recipients of her wonderful teaching abilities.

Whether by her weekly sermons, Bible Study groups, EFM classes, what it means to be an Episcopalian classes, Lenten programs, ECC retreats, Saturday morning Children’s Story times, along with other programs too numerous to mention, she has created countless opportunities for us to learn more about our faith.

She encouraged us to “Be the Church” in all that we do. Thus, began the food pantry and luncheon over ten years ago, for those in need in our community. Through Mother Susan’s efforts, we have received annual grants from the City of Warwick and other civic organizations which support the food pantry ministry.

There are so many ways Mother Susan has helped us to be better Christians and we, as members of St. Marks church, will move forward stronger because of all she has taught us. I think that has been her greatest gift to us. And even though saying good-bye is sad and emotional for us all right now, we will always have the gift she instilled in us all.

Mother Susan will begin her much deserved retirement knowing she has prepared us for the future.

I know that all members of St. Mark’s Church wish her a wonderful retirement. We will all miss her dearly and always keep her in our prayers, but mostly we will be forever grateful that she decided to make St. Mark’s her home fourteen years ago.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Monica

**Please Note: The June Vestry meeting has been changed from Tuesday, June 13 to Wednesday, June 14 at 7 pm.**

**From the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island:**

**Upon the Departure of Clergy**

Our diocese, and the entire Episcopal Church, recognizes that the departure of clergy is a significant event for both the clergy and the parish to whom they are saying good-bye. The future of both depends on a healthy departure and the Episcopal Church has created parameters to which the clergy and parish (via the vestry) agree to abide.

The Covenant of Departure which Mother Susan, the Wardens, and Bishop Knisely have all signed states the following:

Upon the departure of clergy

* No contact for pastoral care, advice, or counsel shall be sought
* Departing clergy will be absent from the parish through the interim period plus at least one year into the newly called rector’s ministry
* The departing clergy will remove his/her self from parish social media
* If parishioners reach out, the departing clergy will redirect them to current parish leadership
* The departing clergy will decline and redirect invitations to officiate

All of this is designed to promote healthy space for transition and needs to be respected by all parties.

**Questions about the future of St. Mark’s?**

Canon Dena Bartholomew-Cleaver will be preacher and celebrant on Sunday, June 18. She will hold a question & answer session following the 9 am service.

**Parish Activities**

**Cribbage**

**Saturday, June 17, 2023**

**7 pm**

$5 per player – all levels welcome!

Light refreshments will be served.

**Paint Night**

**Saturday, June 24**

**7-9 pm in the undercroft**

All supplies provided,

refreshments will be served.

Tickets must be purchased in advance through JJ Artworks at [https://bit.ly/StMarksPaintParty](https://bit.ly/StMarksPaintParty?fbclid=IwAR3CR74WaB7bcwTrmIJaFxvCau25w_8oZnbhLRyueo9SEezcORS4PWw658M)

**Mark your Calendars**

Father Misgivings returns on September 16. More details in the next issue of the Light and in our weekly E-News.

**Donations for Lawn Care**

Grass-cutting season is upon us and we hope you will be able to donate toward the care of our lawns using the green-bordered envelopes in the pews. Thank you!

**Outreach**

** June**

**Food Drop off: Food Pantry:**

Saturday, June 17 Saturday, June 24

from 11am - 1pm from 11 am - noon

 **July**

 **Food Drop off: Food Pantry**:

 Saturday, July 22 Saturday, July 29

 from 11am - 1pm from 11 am - noon

**Newsletter Deadline** The deadline for the **combined August/September 2023 Light is July 15, 2023.** All articles should be submitted to the office. You may drop them off or send them by email to: office@stmarkswarwick.org

**St. Mark’s Episcopal Church**

111 West Shore Road

Warwick, RI 02889

(401)737-3127

[www.stmarkswarwick.org](http://www.stmarkswarwick.org) Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday – 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Parish Administrator Sally North office@stmarkswarwick.org

Director of Music Joyce Bernau

 musician@stmarkswarwick.org

Sexton Eric Queenan

**Vestry Members 2023**

Deb Bergeron, Sr. Warden – 744-5456 dbergeron15@verizon.net

Ron Bailey Jr. Warden – 837-6806 r\_bailey89@cox.net

Shirley Kolarik, Treasurer - 463-3480 sakjjk@verizon.net Jeanne Soares, Asst. Treasurer - 263-5231 jsoares428@gmail.com Tammy Chauvette, Clerk – 578-0784 chauvettet@mtstcharles.org

Kim Cabral Laurie Connors Bill David

Sandy Hardwick Thom Mathews Robin Monica

 Linda Rinn Neil Tack Jon Van Loon

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**Services**

Saturdays Holy Eucharist 5 pm

Saturdays from June 11 to Labor Day Mass on the Grass 5 pm

(Weather permitting)

Sundays Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 am

Sundays on Facebook LIVE 8 am

Sundays from June to Labor Day Holy Eucharist 9 am only

Sundays on Facebook LIVE from June to Labor Day 9 am

*Holy Days as Announced*

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**

**US POSTAGE**

**PAID**

**WARWICK RI**

**PERMIT NO. 840**

**St. Mark’s Episcopal Church**

**111 West Shore Road**

**Warwick, RI 02889**

***Return Service Requested***