



About 16 months ago, the outbreak and spread of COVID-19 left the USA and the world in fear. People were quarantined, countries were put under lockdown, flights and large events were canceled. Those living in areas with no known cases of COVID-19 were filled with fear of contracting the virus.

Experts in anxiety management believe that negative news broadcast freely shared are "likely to make us sadder and more anxious." Me mes circulated on social media showed a man watching the news on TV, and he asked how to stop worrying. In response, another person in the room reached over and flipped off the TV, suggesting that the answer might be a shift in focus!

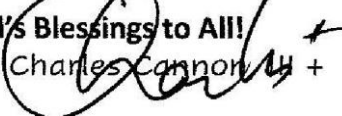
The Gospel of Luke, (the Good News) Chapter 12 gives us some advice to help stop our worrying: "Seek his kingdom" (v. 31). When we seek God's Kingdom, we are naturally focused on the promise that God's followers have an inheritance in heaven. When we face enormous difficulty, we can shift our focus if we remember that God sees us and knows our needs (vv. 24-30).

Jesus often encouraged His disciples saying: "Do not be afraid, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom" (v. 32). God enjoys blessing us! So, let us worship Him, knowing He cares for us more than the birds of the air and the flowers of the field (vv. 22-29). In difficult times, we must read the Scriptures, pray for God's peace, and trust in the faithfulness of God.

With all caution and respect for this virus the Vestry and I offer some updates on our progress toward return to "normal:"

- Masks are still required indoors
- Starting Sunday, May 2nd registration for services is no longer required
- Fr. Charles encourages every member to stay informed about the virus and receive one of the three vaccines to protect against further spread of the COVID-19 virus
- Fr. Charles has begun going outside after Mass to speak with worshippers
- Hymnals and BCPs will be returned to the pews in due time
- Limited Coffee Hour is being planned for a return in front of the church!
- Our Parish Nurses, Lori Uhrig and Mary Saab, have made contacts with the Public Health Department and are planning to provide inoculation for those in need.
- Signs are removed from the pews, BUT please maintain 2 feet of social distance in the pews and aisles when not sitting beside someone in your circle of safety.

"Wear a mask, stay safe, stay home if sick, get Inoculated, pray for a safe return to normalcy!"

God's Blessings to All!
The Rev. Charles Cannon 

Saint Hilary's Episcopal Church
5011 McGregor Boulevard Fort Myers, Florida 33901
(239) 936-1000
office@sainthilarys.org

Phase II Office Hours: M-F, 9:00 AM—3:00PM
NOT CLOSED FOR LUNCH

St. Hilary's prayer list is published once a week, and included in the "Stay Connected" email. If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, please send a request to prayers@sainthilarys.org or call 239-936-1000 by Wednesday before 2:30 PM.

VESTRY

Margi Ehle, Senior Warden, Fred Leffingwell, Co-Junior Warden, Jim Walter, Co-Junior Warden, Margaret Lane, Treasurer and Vestry Member, Ray LaGrange, Assistant Treasurer and Vestry Member, Steve Barchers, Clerk and Vestry Member, Stefani Dougherty, Whitney Kearns, Kelly MacDonald, Ro Mathews, Joann Oxender, Clay Spikes

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith, Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Rev. A. Charles Cannon, III, Rector	frcharles@sainthilarys.org
The Rev. Anne Carlton-Jones, Parish Deacon	santseriol@gmail.com
The Rev. Cynthia H. Montooth, Parish Deacon	chmontooth@earthlink.net
Christine Bielski, Parish Administrator	office@sainthilarys.org
Lester Erich, Choir Director	lestererich@gmail.com
Alena Michel	Organist/Pianist
Abigail & Shawn Allison	Saturday Musicians
Maria Hayes, Finance Administrator	finance@sainthilarys.org
Lori Uhrig & Mary Saab-Baker, Parish Nurses	parishnurse@sainthilarys.org
Stephen Ministry	nickranson@comcast.net
Youth and Children's Ministries	youth@sainthilarys.org

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

The people standing,

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People ***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia***

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. ***Amen.***

The Ministry of the Word

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 8:26-4

Sybil Edgar

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

A Reading from the First Letter of John

1 John 4:7-21

Ron Danielson

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We

love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel

 The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

 The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rev. A. Charles Cannon, III

The Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:*

*by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the Prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

Gene Montooth

The Deacon or other person appointed says

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Lord, have mercy.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Dabney our own bishop, for Francis, the Bishop of Rome, for Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, for Charles our Rector, for all priests and deacons – especially Cynthia and Anne who serve the poor in Christ's name, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Lord, have mercy.

And in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Alban's, St. Pete Beach; St. Alfred's, Palm Harbor; St. Andrew's, Boca Grande; St. Andrew's, Spring Hill; St. Andrew's, Tampa; St. Anne of Grace, Seminole; St. Anselm's, Lehigh Acres.

Lord, have mercy.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land; Joe, our President, Kamala, our Vice-President, and Ron, our Governor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

Lord, have mercy.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Lord, have mercy.

Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Lord, have mercy.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. ***Amen.***

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

The Peace is passed without touching

Blessings & Thanksgivings

The Offertory

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 1

The Lord be with you.
People ***And with thy spirit.***
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People ***We lift them up unto the Lord.***
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People ***It is meet and right so to do.***

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should
at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord,
holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the
company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious
Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus

Celebrant and People
***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

The people kneel or stand.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for
that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus
Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who
made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full,
perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for
the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy
Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that
his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins,
to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept
this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits,
but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;
By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost,
all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world
without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People and Celebrant

***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.*

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Fraction Anthem

***Jesus, Lamb of God:
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins:
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace,
give us your peace.***

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive communion.
Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

People and Celebrant say

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest adds a Blessing.

Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

*The Celebrant dismisses the people
the People respond:*

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH 2021 Financials

Year-to-Date
Revenue: \$137,857
Expenses: \$104,758

Month-To-Date
Revenue: \$34,800
Expenses: \$34,740

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL:

10:00 AM In Person Worship: 69	Live Stream Worship: 200	Total: 269
8:00 AM Easter Sunday: In Person Worship: 30	Live Stream Worship: 128	Total: 158

Youth and Families News: Come to the Table – Bible lessons for all ages. We belong to God through the Holy Spirit! (a Pentecostal experience). Sunday, May 16, 2021. 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM in Browning Hall. Family Groups, Couples or Singles will be instructed in an interactive scripture lesson at fully equipped table, including discussion, craft, snack and a game. Pre-registration required so that we can have your table set for you! Email: youth@sainthilarys.org

COVID VACCINE: The Parish Nurse is working on setting up a COVID-19 vaccination site at St. Hilary's. Right now, she is gathering names of those interested in getting a shot, so the Health Department will schedule a day for us. If you or your children, neighbors or friends are interested, have them contact the Parish Nurse. Her email is parishnurse@sainthilarys.org. Include the name, age and phone number of the person wishing to be vaccinated.

Call for Volunteers: If you missed the article in April's News from the Pews, or just have questions about the various volunteer opportunities at St. Hilary's, please call the office for more information. Anyone wishing to join the Hilary's Angel Crew may add their name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Greeters Wanted: Dear Friends, as we begin to fill our church once again please let me know if you are interested in greeting our parishioners. Greeters need only welcome, show our visitors where things are located, and assist people in finding seats as long as we are social distancing and seats are marked. When we expand to two services I will need to know if you are interested in helping at 8:00 or 10:00 as we resume those services times. I also hope to have a few of you volunteer for the 8:00 Easter service. It will be such a joy to come together once again. A special THANK YOU to those of you who have served religiously week after week during this difficult time of restricted church attendance. We love you. Sue and John

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: The Tuesday Morning Bible Study Class is currently studying the Gospel of LUKE and will continue this session through June 15. The group meets on ZOOM from 9:30 to 11:00 each Tuesday. They also read and discuss John MacArthur's book, LUKE, and view a video by the same name. This is followed by a discussion led by various members of the class. Newcomers are always welcome and may register by calling Mary Richardson at 239-281-2049 or e-mailing her at mcrichardson@comcast.net.

Name Tags: If anyone needs a name tag, please sign up in the Narthex. Name tags cost \$9. Please make a donation of \$5 to help defray the cost. Check or cash in the plate...mark "NAME TAGS" Any questions, call Jim Walter at 570-590-1506 or email jim.walter1946@gmail.com.

Pastoral Counseling: Fr. Charles is available Monday through Thursday to talk face to face (by appointment and with face mask) to help mend your hearts through confidential Pastoral Counseling. Please call Church Office 239-936-1000 to schedule

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles are still available. Cost for Altar Flowers are \$50; Candles are \$20. If you would like to remember a loved one, contact the office at 239-936-1000 or office@sainthilarys.org by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday.

Adopt -A-School: Tice Elementary. Tice Elementary is in desperate need of school supplies, and many of the families cannot afford to purchase them. For a complete list of items needed, see News from the Pews, or call the office. You can bring your donations to the service on Sunday morning; there will be a collection bin in the narthex. Or, you may bring them to the office on Monday – Friday from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. If you are not comfortable going to the store, or coming to the office, you can order the supplies on Amazon (use Amazon Smile! See below) and have them sent to the church. Just send them to the attention of “Christine Bielski – school supplies”. Alternately, you may send a check to the church, marked “school supplies” and someone will do the necessary shopping. There is no deadline: this outreach is ongoing. Thank you for your generosity.

Amazon Smile is a simple way for you to support St. Hilary’s every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com. Just choose St. Hilary’s as your charity of choice. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to St. Hilary’s.

Youth and Families News: Come to the Table – Monthly Bible Lessons for all Ages, 10:30am to 12:00 noon one Sunday a Month tba. Join families, couples and singles in Browning Hall for interactive Bible stories, object lessons, discussion and fun. EVERYONE’s invited. Pre-registration is required so that we have your table ready for you – come to our table!

Blankets of Love is a new outreach ministry for Saint Hilary’s. The goal is to provide quilts to non-profits in the Fort Myer’s area. If you know how to sew and would like to assist in piecing backs or adding labels, your assistance would greatly be appreciated. Also if you have a contact at a local charity that would use quilts in their work, please contact Ray LaGrange, Margi Ehle or Margaret Lane, or just contact the office

Happy Birthday

Shelly Lunsford, Jim Ochsner,
Faith Letts

Happy Anniversary

Peggy and Ron Frieden,
Amy and Dave Doty,
Marci and Dennis Landfried

