



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." Memes 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 optional for all who are vaccinated

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 have been returned to the pews.

Limited Coffee Hour is being planned for a return in front of the church starting June 6!!

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,

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant

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

O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the First Book of Samuel

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)

Sybil Edgar

All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.” But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to govern us.” Samuel prayed to the LORD, and the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and

serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.” So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; [and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers.] He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

[Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship.” So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the LORD, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.]

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

Psalm 138

Bob Eagan

1 I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;

3 For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

4 When I called, you answered me; *
 you increased my strength within me.

5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

6 They will sing of the ways of the LORD, *
that great is the glory of the LORD.

7 Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; *
 he perceives the haughty from afar.

8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.

9 The LORD will make good his purpose for me; *
 O LORD, your love endures for ever;
 do not abandon the works of your hands.

Gospel

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

Mark 3:20-35

The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his disciples could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

People The Gospel of the Lord.
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. Luke's, Fort Myers; St. Margaret of Scotland, Sarasota; St. Mark's, Marco Island; St. Mark's, Tampa; St. Mark's, Venice; St. Martin's, Hudson.

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, Ron, our Governor, and Kevin, our mayor, 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.***

Confession of Sin

Deacon

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Minister and People
Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 II

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,

Celebrant and People

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.***

The people kneel or stand.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in 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

***The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep
your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of
God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be
amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.***

The Deacon dismisses them with these words

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Happy Birthday

Lu Foust, Susan Price, John Burnham, Tahni Carver

Happy Anniversary

Paula and George Kalemeris, Ro and Ed Mathews,
Holly and Tyler Bumsted, David and Megs Singer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL 2021 Financials

Year-to-Date
Revenue: \$176,108
Expenses: \$149,748

Month-To-Date
Revenue: \$38,251
Expenses: \$44,295

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE FOR MAY

8:00 AM In Person Worship: 28
10:00 AM In Person Worship: 72 **Live Stream Worship: 212** **Total: 284**

Come to the Table: Sunday, June 13, 2021, 11:30 - 12:30, Browning Hall. Family groups, couples or singles will be instructed in an interactive scripture lesson at fully equipped tables including discussion, craft, snack and game. Pre-registration appreciated so we can have your table set for you. youth@sainthilarys.org or call the office.

Are you tired and hate to exercise? We need you! We are going to start an exercise/balance program on Monday at 9:00 AM in Browning Hall. Just bring 2 towels, one to sit on, one to dry off with, water and YOU. Please email me at parishnurses@sainthilarys.org or call Chris in the office if you are interested. Tentative start in August.

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 service 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

mrichardson@comcast.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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 oroffice@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.

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.