

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY

January 21, 2018

*Do not be afraid, for those who are with us
are more than those who are with them;
O come let us worship!*

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalms 96 & 97 | Amos 5:6-24 | St. John 6:41-end

9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit: Psalm 148:1-6:	page 519
The Gloria:	page 86
The Collect:	page 126
The Old Testament Reading:	2 Kings 6:14b-23
Surge Illuminare:	page 28
The Epistle:	page 126
Gradual: Psalm 102:15-18:	page 459
The Holy Gospel:	page 127
The Creed:	page 71
The Homily	
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in thy mercy; C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	page 82
Post-Communion Prayer:	page 85

**9:45 a.m. – Sunday School: Parish Hall
Time with Fr. Stockall**

10:30 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

♪ PROCESSIONAL HYMN:	97 (Dix)
The Gloria:	page 86
The Collect:	page 126
The Old Testament Reading:	2 Kings 6:14b-23
Surge Illuminare:	page 28
The Epistle:	page 126
♪ GRADUAL HYMN:	396 (Cruger)
The Holy Gospel:	page 127
♪ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (refrain only):	747 (Iris)
The Creed:	page 71
The Homily	
♪ OFFERTORY HYMN:	99 (King's Weston 357)
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy; C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	page 82
♪ HYMN DURING COMMUNION:	352 (Lasst Uns Erfruen)
Post-Communion Prayer:	page 85
♪ RECESSIONAL HYMN:	92 (Forest Green 82)

*Please join us in the Parish Hall
following the 10:30 Celebration for
Coffee & Conversation.*

✧

From the Rector _____

Each year the Church remembers one of the early martyrs on January 26th. St. Polycarp was born about AD 70 and was a Christian from childhood, but the Romans didn't get around to persecuting him until he was in his mid-eighties. Whatever the reason for the delay, it is still the first recorded martyrdom in post-New Testament church history.

He lived during one of the most formative eras of the church, at the end of the age of the original Apostles, when the church was making the critical transition to a second generation of believers. Tradition has it that he was taught the faith by the apostle St. John and that he was appointed as bishop

of Smyrna (in modern Izmir in Turkey) by some of the original Apostles. His only existing writing, a pastoral letter to the church at Philippi, in which he encourages the members to remain strong in their faith and to flee from materialism, shows he had little formal education, and was unpretentious, humble, and direct.

Those characteristics are also evident in the account of his martyrdom, which was written within a year of his death. It's not clear exactly why he was suddenly, at age 86, subject to arrest, but when he heard Roman officials were intent on arresting him on the charge of being a Christian, he decided to wait for them at home. Panic-stricken friends pleaded with him to flee, so to calm them, he finally agreed to withdraw to a small estate outside of town. But while in prayer there, he received some sort of vision. Whatever he saw or heard, we don't know. He simply reported to his friends that he understood that he was called to be a martyr. Roman soldiers eventually discovered his whereabouts and came to his door. When his friends urged him to run, Polycarp replied, "God's will be done," and he let the soldiers in.

He was escorted to the local proconsul, Statius Quadratus, who interrogated him in front of a crowd of curious onlookers. Polycarp seemed unfazed by the interrogation; he carried on a witty dialogue with Quadratus until the proconsul lost his temper and threatened Polycarp: he'd be thrown to wild beasts, he'd be burned at the stake, and so on. Polycarp just told Quadratus that while the proconsul's fire lasts but a little while, the fires of judgment ("reserved for the ungodly," he slyly added) cannot be quenched. Amidst an angry mob, the proconsul tried to have pity on such a gentle old man and urged Polycarp to proclaim, "Caesar is Lord". If only Polycarp would make this declaration and offer a small pinch of incense to Caesar's statue he would escape torture and death. To this Polycarp responded, "Eighty-six years I have served Christ, and He never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?"

Polycarp concluded, "But why do you delay? Come, do what you will." Soldiers then grabbed him to nail him to a stake, but Polycarp stopped them: "Leave me as I am. For he who grants me to endure the fire will enable me also to remain on the pyre unmoved, without the security you desire from nails." Steadfast in his stand for Christ, Polycarp refused to compromise his beliefs, and thus, was burned alive at the stake.

Those who have any doubts about the truth of Christ might helpfully reexamine the biblical text in light of the willful deaths of nearly all of its writers, men who were eyewitnesses to Christ's life and ministry. Polycarp, like many other Christians to this day, was only able to die for Christ because he lived for Christ. His life was radically transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit - the desires, worries, pains and fears of this world no longer bound him. He gave his earthly life for Christ, and in the midst of his sacrifice, he gained eternal life.

The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton
THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



Ye have enemies; for who can live on this earth without them? Take heed to yourselves: love them. In no way can thy enemy so hurt thee by his violence, as thou dost hurt thyself if thou love him not. And let it not seem to you impossible to love him. Believe first that it can be done, and pray that the will of God may be done in you. For what good can thy neighbour's ill do to thee? If he had no ill, he would not even be thine enemy. Wish him well, then, that he may end his ill, and he will be thine enemy no longer. For it is not the human nature in him that is at enmity with thee, but his sin.

St. Augustine (354-430)

Priest and Rector

The Revd. Canon Kevin M. Stockall, B.A. (Hons), M.Div.

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Parish Notices and Updates

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH CORPORATION (Wardens and Vestry) are reminded of the meeting today, starting at 12:15 p.m. Those who are unable to attend are asked to convey their regrets to the Rector or the Vestry Clerk.

NEWS! NEWS! Members of the Parish will be very excited to learn that the Rev. Canon Caleb Twinamatsiko has been appointed to the Parish of Pennfield here in the Diocese of Fredericton. He, his wife, Hope; their son Tugaine Treasure; and daughter Kanoel Trust, are expected to arrive on February 1st, depending on Immigration Canada. Fr. Caleb is both a former student of, and for many years, the assistant rector and headmaster of Bishop McAllister College in Uganda, under the direction of the Rev. Canon Paul Jeffries. He and Hope have visited St. Mary's twice in recent years.

WE PLAN ON PRODUCING A REVISED LIST of those who are willing to help with receptions following funerals here at St. Mary's. If you're not currently on the list, please give some thought to whether or not you are called to this important ministry. It's one of the ways in which our St. Mary's Parish Family witnesses to the transformative power of the Gospel. *A signup sheet has been posted in the narthex.* If you're not currently listed, please sign up if you wish to help out! If your name is on the list and would like to step aside, please speak to Jean or Margaret or the Rector

ST. MARY'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY is held every *Friday, starting at 10:00 a.m.* at the Rectory. We're looking at the short but very important Epistle of St. James. Everyone is warmly invited to join us; and if your schedule only permits you to attend occasionally, please plan to join us when you can.

THE FREDERICTON WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL will be hosting a Panel discussion on the Theme "God's Dream for Us: Finding Unity in Diversity" at Holy Family Church, 1500 Hanwell Road, on Thursday, January 25th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The storm date will be Sunday, January 28th at the same time and place. Free will donation will be collected for Liberty Lane, a home for Abused Women.

WE'RE ORGANISING A LITTLE WORK PARTY on *Thursday, February 1st* at 9:30 a.m. to repair some of our well-used copies of the Prayer Book and Hymn Book. We'll supply the book tape, with free coffee, tea and muffins, so come along if you want to help.

THERE IS AN OLD CUSTOM IN THE CHURCH of using the palm crosses from the Palm Sunday of the previous year to make the ashes in advance of the Ash Wednesday commemoration of the following year. If you wish, you are invited to bring your old palm crosses and crosses back by Quinquagesima Sunday (*February 11th*) and place them in the basket provided on the table in the Narthex.

ADVANCE NOTICE! ST. MARY'S ANNUAL SHROVE TUESDAY SUPPER will be held on Tuesday, February 13th from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Hall. *A signup sheet for those who are able to help with this event has been posted on the easel in the Narthex.* The menu will include pancakes, baked beans and sausage; gingerbread and whipped cream. There is no admission charge but a freewill offering can be made. Please plan to join us as we celebrate together before the beginning of Lent.

FOLLOWING UP ON LAST YEAR'S very successful Bowling Tournament, our friends in the Parish of Marysville are challenging the people of St. Mary's, and other neighbouring parishes, to share in their 2nd annual Tournament, this year in support of **Striking out Child Hunger in New Brunswick.** This year simultaneous events will be held in Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John. The event will be held on *Saturday, April 21st*, at Bowl-a-Drome (301 Main Street) starting at 12:30 p.m. It's hoped that St. Mary's can again organise a team, so please speak to the Rector if you're interested. The funds raised at the Fredericton event will go to the Fredericton Community Kitchen to help with their student hunger programme. To help with organisation, our friends at All Saints' would like to know the names of the participants by the beginning of March. *A signup sheet is available on the table in the narthex. Plan to help make this excellent project a success!*



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

JANUARY 24: THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

JANUARY 25: THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

Followed by time for personal prayer in the Church

JANUARY 27: SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

JANUARY 28: SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages!

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

Followed by Coffee & Conversation in the Hall