

February 28, 2018

“Our mission is to celebrate God’s transforming Love in Jesus, by following where Jesus’ Love is calling us to serve the community”

On Sunday, March 4:

- 8 am Said Eucharist
- 10 am Sung Eucharist
- 11:15 Coffee Hour
- Fr Mark Brown will be our celebrant.

Inside this issue:

- Letter from Fr Roy Cole
- Letter from Fr Mark Brown
- Schedule and location of IPC Lenten Study Program groups

Announcements of Events Coming Up:

- Annual IPC Lenten service at Christ Church on March 11.
- St Patrick’s dinner at St John’s

Ascension This Week

A Letter from Fr Roy Cole

Dear Parish Family,

I pray your Lenten journey is off to a good start. May we meet Jesus in unexpected ways as God guides each of us to a deeper knowledge of him and we make our way to the Upper Room, Calvary, and the Empty Tomb of Easter.

I wanted to update you on important developments with the Richmond Episcopal Ministry (REM). As you may remember, the REM is a targeted initiative by our bishops to aid in the revitalization of the ministries and mission of Ascension, St. John's, and, by God's grace, eventually a new Episcopal ministry in Tottenville/St. Stephen's. The plan to move us forward in this ambitious goal has always included adding a full-time priest to the REM. Beginning this summer we are now in a position to do so as the additional funding needed will become available.

The person who will assume this full-time position will build on the good work Brother Mark has accomplished, not only at Ascension and St. John's, but as a valued member of the Staten Island Clericus. (Brother Mark will tell you of his plans for the next phase of his vocation and life at the end of my e-mail to you.)

I have spoken with the Wardens and the model we have been using to support a priest at Ascension will continue as it has been. This includes a cash stipend, housing and utilities. The REM will financially pick up the balance of a full-time compensation package that will include a cash stipend, and the required benefits (medical, pension, etc.). There will be no anticipated change in the financial resources Ascension is now providing as we take our next step in ministry development. In consultation with Bishop Shin and with a prospective candidate for this position we are moving towards making this change beginning June 1, 2018.

There is much more for all of us to explore as we prepare for this next step and the Wardens, Vestry, and I will be sure to keep you informed as we move forward. But for now, I hope we will take the opportunity in small and big ways to express our appreciation to Brother Mark for his faithful ministry to Ascension, St. John's, and Staten Island.

Faithfully yours,
Canon Cole

The Reverend Canon Roy A. Cole
Rector and Canon Missioner
Richmond Episcopal Ministry
St. John's Episcopal Church

A Letter from Fr Mark Brown

Dear people of Ascension,

As you will have seen in Fr. Cole's note, there are big changes ahead for the parish that will move ahead in some wonderful new directions, which you will be learning about. My time with you at Ascension as vicar will come to a close at the end of May. However, my plan is to become a "fixture" on Staten Island! Let me explain...

You are aware that I am currently a member of The Society of Saint John the Evangelist, the monastic community in Cambridge, MA, and that I have been living and working here on a kind of extended sabbatical (technically a leave of absence), which will end this summer. However, I have informed the community of my intention to remain here and to be available to the Diocese of New York. This will almost certainly result at some point later this year in my no longer being a member of SSJE. As you can imagine, this is a big transition, as I have been a member of that community for nearly 21 years.

My current plans are to remain here on Staten Island and to be available for supply work on weekends. I will also have the freedom to focus more on the ministries of spiritual direction and leading retreats, both of which have been a significant part of my ministry these last 21 years. Although taking on full time work with the Richmond Episcopal Ministry was an option presented to me, I declined this invitation because, to put it bluntly, I'm not sure I have the oomph to do that! I will be 69 later this year, and it seems like the right time to step back a bit from the intensity of regular parish ministry and to do more focused work in my areas of specialization.

Someone a few days ago said to me that I have been a healing presence here in the parish. I am deeply gratified and moved to know that. But at the same time I am deeply aware of how you have been a healing presence to me, in ways that may surprise you.

I am deeply grateful for your warm welcome, your many gestures of caring, and the love with which I have been continually surrounded.

Every blessing to you as we all make our way toward the great day of Resurrection!

Fr. Mark



Lenten Series 2018

Groups Meeting This Year Include

Sundays:

Ascension Church	9:00am-9:50am	Undercroft	Charles and Beth Brown, facilitators
Christ Church/New Brighton	11:30am-12:30pm	Vestry Room	Rich Whaley, facilitator
*Christ Church/New Brighton	11:30am-12:30pm	J2A Room	Lisa Rhoades, Catherine Barnett, facilitators (closed gp)
St John's/Rosebank	11:45am-12:45pm	Community Rm	The Rev. Roy Cole, facilitator

Tuesdays:

Christ Church/New Brighton	7:00pm-8:30pm	Vestry Room	The Rev. Trevor Babb, facilitator	1
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Wednesdays:

Christ Church/New Brighton	1:30pm-2:30pm	Vestry Room	The Rev. Dn Novella Lawrence, facilitator
St Paul's Memorial Church Cross 7:30pm	8:00pm-9:00pm	Church	Cathy Carlson, facilitator Stations of the
St Andrew's/Richmond facilitators	6:30pm-8:30pm	Burch Hall	Denis and Marilyn Genovese, Lystra-Ann Lee Sam

Thursdays:

Ascension Church	7:00-8:30	Rectory	The Rev. Mark Brown, Facilitator
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You may attend more than one group if you wish.

Annual IPC Lenten Service:

The Annual IPC Lenten Service at Christ Church will be held on Sunday, March 11, beginning at 4:00PM. Refreshments will follow. Anne Silver, of General Theological Seminary, will give a talk about keeping a prayer journal.

Join Us...
Irish Night
St. Patrick's Day
Dinner
hosted by
St. John's Episcopal Church



Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 6:30 PM

St. John's Church / Canterbury House

1331 Bay Street—Eccelston Hall, Staten Island, NY

\$25.00 per person (includes buffet dinner, dessert, wine, beer & soda)

Music by DJ Stu | Raffle Baskets | 50/50 & more...

Irish Night St. Patrick's Day Dinner Reservation Form

Due by March 11, 2017 | Dinner Chair: Vivian Murray, 917.647.8281

Checks payable to: St. John's Church

\$25.00 per person (adults & children 6 years & up)



Name (s): _____

Contact Number: _____ # of Adults: _____ # of Children: _____



Total Payment Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

