

## Sharing God's Love in Our Community Through Prayer, Study and Action

**St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY**  
(Member of the Chenango District)

### **The Parish News**

[www.stannsaftonny.org](http://www.stannsaftonny.org)

The Newsletter of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Afton, NY

**Clergy: The Reverend Fr. David A. Hanselman Cell: 607-761-4601 Office: 607-656-9502**

If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at one of the numbers above.

**In an emergency and Fr. David cannot be reached, please contact one of the wardens.**

**Wardens: Dan Vail: 607-240-9264 Tracey Tallmadge: 607-343-1301**



Happy Lent! Or perhaps I should wish you all - Reflective, Penitent, Fulfilling and Reconciling Lent!

I think most of you know that I'm of two minds about Lent. Part of me sees it as manufactured, self-indulgent exercise in wallowing in our sinfulness. And the language of the Ash Wednesday

service doesn't really help much: the opening prayer and its "...acknowledging our wretchedness" seems a little much.

Moreover, the express historical purpose of Lent – to prepare new members for Baptism and old members who had fallen away for reentry into the community – doesn't really seem to apply to most of us.

On the other hand, it is absolutely and fundamentally important for us to periodically remind ourselves that we do fall short in several ways and to rededicate ourselves to being more faithful. Intentionally seeking new ways to rededicate ourselves is a wonderful opportunity that Lent opens for us.

When it comes down to it, the reason I ultimately embrace Lent is because of one key concept it offers to us – balance (or perhaps "perspective" is a better word). I think the spirit of Lent is captured nicely in a quote from Joan Chittister's *The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* - Joan shares a lesson from the Jewish tradition: "Each of us should have two pockets, 'the rabbis teach. 'In one should be the message, 'I am dust and ashes,' and in the other we should have written, 'For me the universe was made.'"

Also, in reflecting upon what St Benedict teaches about humility, Joan has this to offer: "'If you recognize the presence of God in life, you will soon become more and more perfect.' But this perfection is not in the twenty-first century sense of impeccability. This perfection is in the biblical sense of having become matured, ripened, whole."

Bless you on your journey through this Lenten season!

**MARCH SERVICE SCHEDULE \ SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE**

If you are not currently receiving email Zoom invites, then please send your email address and you will be added to the parish listing. [Bottom415@aol.com](mailto:Bottom415@aol.com), Yes, the “zoom” service is different, but change is what life is all about.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Acolytes	
Mar 5	HC	Amy Weiber	Amy Weiber	Denise Weiber	
Mar 12	MP	Tom Vail	Tom Vail	Betty Vail	
Mar 19	HC	Tracey Tallmadge	Tracey Tallmadge	Tracey Tallmadge	
Mar 26	MP	Carol Cimini	Carol Cimini	Betty Vail	
Apr 2	HC	Judy Rettberg	Judy Rettberg	Tracey Tallmadge/Betty Vail	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Mar 5	HC	<a href="#">Genesis 12:1-4a</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 121</a>	<a href="#">Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</a>	<a href="#">John 3:1-17</a>
Mar 12	MP	<a href="#">Exodus 17:1-7</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 95</a>	<a href="#">Romans 5:1-11</a>	<a href="#">John 4:5-42</a>
Mar 19	HC	<a href="#">1 Samuel 16:1-13</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 23</a>	<a href="#">Ephesians 5:8-14</a>	<a href="#">John 9:1-41</a>
Mar 26	MP	<a href="#">Ezekiel 37:1-14</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 130</a>	<a href="#">Romans 8:6-11</a>	<a href="#">John 11:1-45</a>
Apr 2	HC	<a href="#">Isaiah 50:4-9a</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 31:9-16</a>	<a href="#">Philippians 2:5-11</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 26:14-27:66</a>
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

**MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:**

March 12 - T.Tallmadge/B.Vail    March 26 - B.Vail/J.Rettberg



Altar Duty for the month of March is Tracey Tallmadge 607-343-1301. If you desire flowers on the Altar on a given Sunday, please contact Betty a week in advance. However, during Lent no flowers on the altar.



**SPRING FORWARD** on March 12th. Turn your clocks ahead before retiring on Saturday night, March 11th.

❖ **Regular Sunday services will start on March 5th.**



*Palm Sunday and Easter are early this year.*

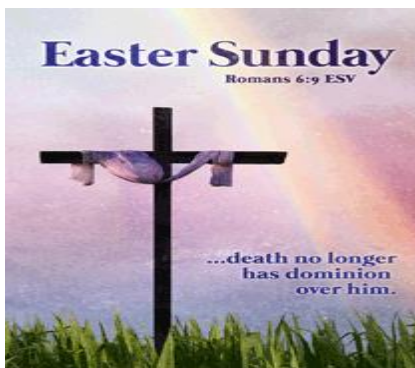


Palm Sunday is April 2<sup>nd</sup> and Father David will be conducting Holy Eucharist at 9:15a.m.

St. Ann's Holy Week services are:

Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 7p.m.

Good Friday, April 7 at 7:00p.m.



Easter Sunday is April 9<sup>th</sup> and Mother Liz Groskoph will be conducting Holy Eucharist at our regular time, 9:15a.m.

## St. Ann's Prayer List for *March 2023*

### St. Ann's Prayer List for March 2023

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. The names listed are not necessarily members of the parish and may include individuals or other requests for which we have been asked to pray. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. We would like to be sure that this prayer list is updated as changes occur and don't want to remove someone that should be on it. Please send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 607-639-1201. Please note that long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names will typically be left on the listing for 3 or 4 months or perhaps longer.

Short Term		Long Term			
Dorothy	Ralph	Carol	Peter	Fr. David Hanselman	St. Paul's Church
Fran	Chris	Joyce	Judy	Fr. Steven White	St. Andrews's Church
Dianne	David	Mya Holly	Bob	Pastor Becky	St. Ann's Church
Anne	Peter	Richard		Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Peter's Church
Gina		Bonnie Hailey		The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	Zion Church St. Matthew's Church
		Bobbi		Bishop Michael Curry	Message Ministries
		Jason Cindy		The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph	The General Theological Seminary
		David Terra		Emanuel Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
		Doc Arthur		Epiphany Church	

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –  
Carol Vail, Joyce Whitney, Grace Affuso, and Bonnie  
MacPherson



The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. The Learning Communities Initiative of the Diocese. The following prayer is from the Evening Prayer service in the Book of Common Prayer: *Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

**RESTORING CONFIDENCE**

*You are my hope, O Lord God, you are my confidence.*

Psalm 71:5 NASB

Doubts come in several shapes and sizes: doubts about God, about the future, and about our own abilities, for starters. But when doubts creep in, as they will from time to time, we need not despair. As singer and author Sheila Walsh observed, "To wrestle with God does not mean that we have lost faith, but that we are fighting for it."

God never leaves our side, not for an instant. He is always with us, always willing to calm the storms of life. When we sincerely seek His presence—and when we genuinely seek to establish a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Him—God is prepared to touch our hearts, to calm our fears, to answer our doubts, and to restore our confidence.

As I have grown in faith and confidence, I have known more and more that my worth is based on the love of God. (Leslie Williams)



6th Connie Beames

7th Nancy Setford and Bobbi Zurn

16th Alan Seacat

25th Jody Proffitt

27th Melrose Kelly

28th Tracey Tallmadge and Laurin Felldin

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

**Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary**

**[cttallmadg@aol.com](mailto:cttallmadg@aol.com) or 607-343-1301**

**CHURCH TERMS**

The Wardens and The Vestry - "The task of leading a parish to fulfil its mission in Christ is challenging. It calls for wholehearted commitment from vestry members. It also challenges them to develop competence in carrying out the various responsibilities that are part of the mission of vestries."



### **Vestry Hi-lights for January**

1. Outreach selections were made in December for January and February, The Afton Community Chest and "RISE."
2. Amy reported on her plans to start "flaming bag food.com." She plans to offer free lunches one day a month starting in February. Vestry approved supporting project financially.
3. Membership in Afton Chamber of Commerce was approved.
4. The parochial report will be due March 1<sup>st</sup>. It is being worked on.
5. Proposed budget for 2023 was presented. After review, discussion, and explanation, it was approved.
6. Thank you letters were read from two of our outreach recipients.

#### **What Portrait's on Your Wall?**

Toward the end of his life, Albert Einstein removed the portraits of two scientists – Newton and Maxwell – from his wall and replaced them with portraits of Gandhi and Schweitzer. He explained it was time to replace the image of success with the image of service.

Whose portraits hang on your wall?



## **Mark your calendar for St. Ann's Community Outreach**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023**

**12:30 – 2:00 'TIL ???**

**SOUP, SANDWICH & FRIENDSHIP**

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

**HOMEMADE BY AMY**

**THE HOST & PROPRIETOR OF FLAMING BAG CATERING**

**A Practical Guide to Prayer**  
**By The Rev. Canon Scott A. Gunn**  
**Executive Director, Forward Movement**

**From: The Way of Love: A Practical Guide to Following Jesus**

When I was a younger adult, I was a bit of a spiritual nomad. I spent several years looking to make sense of the Christian faith. My wandering was all very cerebral. Then one evening, I entered a church with a liturgy that was ceremonially rich and ornate. All my mental circuit breakers were blown – in a very good way. No one rationalized what happened in Holy Communion. Instead, people genuflected in awe at the majestic presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. There was glorious music and the scent of incense, and all of this was happening in a stunning space. I glimpsed heaven. I was swept along into a realm that was much larger than my imagining. I was with people whose physical postures and actions manifested a sacrificial worship of God in Jesus Christ.

Some years later, I attended a different church that offered morning prayer most days. Just a few people – sometimes one or two or three – would gather to say prayers and read scripture. There was nothing particularly glorious or impressive about this, other than the steadfast faith of a group of people devoted to reading scripture and praying. Again, and in a totally different venue, I glimpsed heaven.

I mention all this because worship, whatever it is and however we do it, can never be about merely following the rules and going through the motions. Whether we are large or small, worshiping with simple or ornate liturgy, when we worship, what we are doing is offering our best to God.

You might hear people say that liturgy means work of the people, in the sense that liturgy is about what each person who is present does in the service. But I believe there's much more to it. Liturgy is more like work for the people or work for the common good.

In ancient Greece, when someone donated money for a public building the gift was called a liturgy. That is the sense of what we are doing when we worship together. Sure, each person who is present for the service has a role, but what we are doing is bigger than the people in the room. Our liturgy is an act for the good of the world.

Of course, liturgy has another sense. When we Episcopalians gather, we use The Book of Common Prayer as an order of service (or guidebook) for all the different ways we pray together. The words we say and the directions we follow are also called the liturgy. We pray out of a book because worship is bigger than the ideas that any one of us might have as individuals. The prayers we say connect us to the practice of Christians throughout time and space, across centuries and continents, beyond language and culture.

So "liturgy" helps us remember that worship is not about us. What we do when we worship as a body is done on behalf of the whole world. That's why it doesn't matter if we worship with twelve people in a country church or thousands of people in a cathedral. In worship, we are always joined to a larger community through time and space.

Our fundamental engagement with worship should not be about our personal preferences but rather what we offer to God. That switches our perspectives, so we don't become consumers or idle critics but rather people who are ready to offer sacrificial worship – giving up our wants and our must – haves and taking up God's.

Our question is never, "What is this worship doing for us?" but rather "How is this worship helping us offer ourselves to God?" And then, as a follow up to the second question, we might ask, "How can we offer our best worship to Almighty God?"



## The Final Word

**Promises:** Genesis 12:1-7 – “The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So, Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.”

Have you ever gotten an invitation to a promotional in which you are guaranteed to receive a gift just for showing up? Typically, we don’t trust such promises because we know a heavy sales pitch is part of the deal. But the only way to find out if the promise is true is to respond to the invitation. God offered Abram descendants and land, everything a man in his culture could want. But Abram would have to leave home to receive what God had promised. The promises of God always require a response of faith. What invitations have you received from God lately

NLT – GEZ

**St. Ann’s Episcopal Church**  
**P. O. Box 22**  
**Afton, New York 13730**

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 COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY  
 AND ACTION

**Clergy:** The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

