

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

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

Clergy: Currently Supply Priests

If you desire a visit from a priest or give you a call, please contact one of the wardens below.

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

SOME THOUGHTS ON LENT

As we enter this most Holy Season called LENT, I ask that you take seriously our call to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We begin on ASH WEDNESDAY, as we remember how fleeting our lives really are. With the ashen sign of the cross from last year's Palms, we are reminded that we try to welcome Jesus into our hearts, but then forget His teachings so easily. We promised to do better.

Next, we travel through the SUNDAYS OF LENT. By giving up something meaningful, or taking on some difficult tasks during these weeks, we take stock of who we are and strengthen our Faithfulness and our Resolve.

On MAUNDY THURSDAY, we sup with Jesus one last time and learn servanthood by washing one another's feet. The Altar is stripped and bare, awaiting GOOD FRIDAY and our re-creation of death and crucifixion.

Only when we take seriously the walking of our ways of the cross with Jesus can we experience the true meaning of RESURRECTION on EASTER DAY.

ALLELUIA!!! ALLELUIA!!! ALLELUIA!!!



Prayer for the selection of a Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



VESTRY MEETING DURING COFFEE HOUR

MARCH 17, 2024

We hope all members can attend as we have not had an in-person meeting in a few months.



CHURCH TERMS AND SYMBOLS CHURCH TERMS: PALM SUNDAY – The sixth Sunday in Lent and the first day of Holy Week. It commemorates Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Liturgical color: **Violet**

EASTER – The "Queen of the Festivals" of the Church Year commemorates the resurrection of our Lord. Its date is variable, and all other movable feasts are dependent upon it. Easter occurs the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, March 21.



6th Connie Beames

7th Nancy Setford and Bobbi Zurn

16th Alan Seacat

25th Jody Proffitt

27th Melrose Kelly

28th Tracey Tallmadge and Laurin Felldin

Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary cttallmadg@aol.com or 607-343-1301

The following is used by permission from Joyful Noiseletter.



Observations on growing old

"Christians, Jews, and Muslims can all trace the origin of their belief systems back to the prophet Abraham. This is the first known case of prophet sharing."

– A Prairie Home Companion

"We must recognize that, as we grow older, we become like old cars – more and more repairs and replacements are necessary."

– Will Rogers



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, Yes, the “zoom” service is different, but change is what life is all about.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Acolytes	
Mar 3	HC	C. Cimini	C. Cimini	B. Vail	
Mar 10	MP	Denise Wieber	D. Wieber	D. Wieber	
Mar 17	HC	Judy Rettberg	J. Rettberg	B. Vail	
Mar 24	MP	Amy Wieber	Denise Wieber	B. Vail/T. Tallmadge	
Mar 31	HC	Amedeo Cimini	A. Cimini	B. Vail	
April 7	MP	Amedeo Cimini	A. Cimini	B. Vail	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Mar 3	HC	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Mar 10	MP	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Mar 17	HC	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Mar 24	MP				
Mar 31	HC	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 147 or 147:13-21	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18
April 7	MP	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
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 10 – C. Cimini

March 24 – B. Vail

April 7 – C. Cimini

Palm Sunday – March 24 – Morning Prayer

Easter Sunday – March 31 – Holy Eucharist conducted by Mother Liz Groskoph



–ALTAR Duty for the month of March is Tracey Tallmadge 607-343-1301.

No Flowers on the Altar during Lent.

St. Ann's Prayer List for **MARCH 2024**

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	Judy	Carol	Cindy	Fr. David Hanselman	St. Paul's Church
MaryAnn		Mya	David	Fr. Steven White	St. Andrews's Church
Bill		Holly	Terra	Pastor Becky	St. Ann's Church
Cheryl		Bonnie	Arthur	Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Peter's Church
Mado Roger		Bobbi	Jason	The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	Zion Church St. Matthew's Church
Barbara (2)		Bishop Michael Curry	Kim	Search for Rector Bishop Michael Curry	Message Ministries
Caroline Edward				The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph	The General Theological Seminary
				Emanuel Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
				Epiphany Church	

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –
Carol Vail 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.*

The following is used by permission from The Joyful Noiseletter.

A Sunday school teacher was discussing with her class of youngsters the difference between right and wrong. "As an example," she said, "if I get into a man's pocket and take money from his wallet, what would I be?"

A little boy raised his hand and answered: "You'd be his wife!"



"At my age 'getting lucky' means walking into a room and remembering what I came in for."

– Josh Billings

Here we are at Lent.

The Last Sunday after Epiphany (and just before Lent) always has a reading from one of the three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, or Luke) of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the Holy Mountain. Often, the rationale for this is explained as giving us hope before we enter the season of Lent, and a foretaste of the resurrection of Easter.

I want to suggest something different. The voice from heaven, when the cloud overshadows Jesus and Moses and Elijah says, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” These are almost exactly the same words spoken at Jesus’ baptism. In the ancient church, and even until today, the church has taught that baptism is adoption, through the Spirit, as children of God. Paul, in the eighth chapter of his Letter to the Romans, says that creation is waiting with eager expectation for the revelation of the adopted children of God, so that it (creation) might come into the glory God intended for it.

The Transfiguration is meant to show us the goal or purpose of our own baptisms; we too are meant to participate in the divine life revealed in Jesus. And in the early church, and even until today, Lent was understood as a season of preparation for baptism, rather than a season of drudgery and sorrow. The Transfiguration is meant to show the catechumens (those preparing for baptism) what is in store for them.

Fasting, in the ancient church, was seen, not as something to induce sorrow, but as a way of preparing for something hoped for. Just as runners will change their diet before a big race to be in their best shape for the race, so Christians would change their diet to be prepared for the glory of Easter. Over and over again, Paul uses the language of an athletic contest to describe his life in Christ (I press on for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ, is one example). And he disciplines his body as well as his spirit to be ready for the contest.

The word in Greek for athletic training or discipline is *askesis*, from which you can easily see the English word asceticism. Lent is not about “giving up” some pleasure, so much as it is about preparing for what awaits us in the Paschal Mystery, our transformation into Christ in his resurrection.

What we should fast from during Lent is anything that prevents us from seeing the glory of Christ in ourselves. Sin is not so much wrong acts as it is whatever clouds our vision of glory or impedes our progress toward Crispification. Sin is whatever draws our attention away from the glory God intends for creation and us, and toward a misuse of ourselves and creation. In other words, only give up chocolate for Lent if your use of chocolate draws you away from God or become obsessive. I once gave up coffee for Lent, and Shelley made me swear never to do that again. I guess I was grumpy, which is exactly the opposite of what a Lenten discipline should be about.

Pope Francis has suggested a good Lenten fast:

- ***Fast from hurting words and say kind words.***
- ***Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.***
- ***Fast from anger and be filled with patience.***
- ***Fast from pessimism and filled with hope.***
- ***Fast from worries and have trust in God.***
- ***Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.***
- ***Fast from pressures and be prayerful.***
- ***Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.***
- ***Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.***
- ***Fast from grudges and be reconciled.***
- ***Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.***

I suspect this list would be harder than giving up coffee.

Borrowed from St. David’s Episcopal Church, DeWitt, N. Y. The Rev. Dr. Daniel Handschy, Rector

HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE

Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God, above politics, above everything. Psalm 46:10 MSG

As we think about the nature of our relationship with God, we remember this: we will always have some type of relationship with Him—it is inevitable that our lives must be lived in relationship to God. The question is not if we will have a relationship with Him; the burning question is whether that relationship will be one that seeks to honor Him.

Have you spent much time lately thinking about your own relationship with God? Or have you been too busy to invest a few moments each day in quiet reflection? When you pause each morning to count your blessings and consult your Creator, you'll find perspective and strength for the day ahead.

Thankfully, God is always available. He's always ready to forgive, and He's waiting to hear from you now. The rest, of course, is up to you.

God has put into each of our lives a void that cannot be filled by the world. We may leave God or put Him on hold, but He is always there, patiently waiting for us.....to turn back to Him. (Emilie Barnes)

Observing Lent and Its Purpose

Many choose to observe Lent with fasting and prayer. Fasting is simply abstaining from something to focus on something else. When we give up something, such as food, social media, or TV, we are given time to reflect on our faith and grow our relationship with God. As we sacrifice something we often turn to, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Fasting and prayer during Lent also symbolize the 40 days and nights Jesus fasted in the desert as the devil tempted him. Through Lent, we come to the realization of our sin, connect with Jesus during his temptation, and experience freedom from sin through his death and resurrection.

The Old Testament and New Testament give us guidelines and examples for fasting. Whether you observe Lent with daily [Scripture](#) reflections or fasting and prayer, we have collected helpful Bible verses for remembering the sacrifice and knowing how to fast. May these Scriptures encourage your faith and strengthen your relationship with Jesus.



SPRING FORWARD to March 10th. Turn your clocks ahead before retiring on Saturday night, March 9th.



❖ Regular Sunday services will start on March 3rd.

March 3rd, 17th and 31st Easter Day
Mother Liz Groskoph will be conducting Holy Eucharist
9:15a.m

The Final Word



SUFFERING: Psalm 126: 5-6 1. When the Lord restored his exiles to Jerusalem it was like a dream. 2. We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy and the other nations said, “what amazing things the Lord has done for them.” 3. Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us exclamation what joy exclamation. 4. Restore our fortunes, Lord, as streams renew the desert. 5. Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. 6. They weep as they go to plant their seeds, but they sing as they return with their harvest.

The Bible does not promise that Christians won't suffer. In fact, the scriptures give much evidence that we can expect to suffer, given the evil that is in the world around us and the sin that is in us. What God does promise in these, and many other hopeful passages is that our suffering will become the catalyst for new growth. God promises to redeem our suffering into his glory. What griefs are you currently suffering? Can you entrust them to God, confident that he will use them to bring new growth into your life question?

NLT-GEZ

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P. O. Box 22
Afton, New York 13730

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AND ACTION

Clergy: Currently Supply Priests

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

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