

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 Betty Vail: 607-639-1201



Say “Yes” to Life

*“I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full.”*

John 10:10

The year ahead is a time of boundless opportunity to do good and to grow spiritually and intellectually. Remember, the future belongs to you, and you can do with it whatever you want to because God has given you freedom of choice.

God, in His grace, gave you life with a sublime purpose. Every day is a gift from the loving hand of God, but you can only live life to the full when you subject yourself to His purpose for your life.

The abundant life belongs to God and, even though He is generous with this gift, He can only give it to those who are willing to receive and use it. So, say “yes” to life: it is your privilege as well as your responsibility.

*Thank You that I may have everlasting life through
Christ’s crucifixion. Not even death can make me tremble. Amen*



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.

MARCH/APRIL 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.

If you desire communion more than once or twice a month, Rev. Geoff Doolittle conducts Holy Eucharist at Zion Greene on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday nights at 5:00 p.m. He conducts Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's in Oxford the 2nd and 4th Saturday nights at 5:00 p.m.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service/Leader	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Acolytes	
Mar 1	ZOOM	Tom Vail	Tom Vail	N/A	
Mar 8	MP/ Betty Vail	Terra Botzki	Terra Botzki	B. Vail	
Mar 15	MP/ Denise Wieber	Stephan Botzki	Stephan Botzki	B. Vail	
Mar 22 Baptism	HC	Denise Wieber	Denise Wieber	B. Vail	
Mar 29 Palm Sunday	HC	Terra Botzki	Terra Botzki	B.Vail/D. Vail	
Apr 5 Easter	HC	Stephan Botzki	Stephan Botzki	B.Vail/T.Botski	
Apr 12	MP/ B. Vail	Carol Cimini	Carol Cimini	D. Wieber	
Apr 19	MP/ C.Cimini	Terra Botzki	Terra Botzki	B. Vail	
Apr 26	HC	Stephan Botzki	Stephan Botzki	B.Vail/T.Botski	
May 3	MP/ D. Wieber	B. Vail	B. Vail	B. Vail	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Mar 1	ZOOM	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
Mar 8	MP/ Betty Vail	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
Mar 15	MP/ Denise Wieber	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Mar 22	HC	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
Mar 29	HC	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66
Apr 5	HC	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-18
April 12	MP/ B. Vail	Acts 2:14a,22-32	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
April 19	MP/ C.Cimini	Acts 2:14a,36-41	Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
April 26	HC	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
May 3	MP/ D. Wieber	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					



ALTAR GUILD for the month of March – Tracey Tallmadge 607-343-1301

ALTAR GUILD for the month of April – Betty Vail 607-639-1201

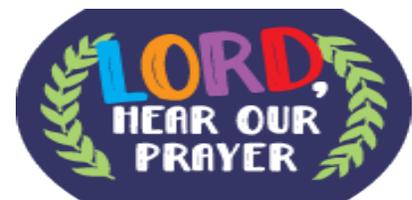
During the period of Lent, there will be no flowers on the Altar. If you desire to have flowers on the Altar in memory of a loved one after the Lenten season, please contact Betty Vail a week in advance.

St. Ann’s Prayer List for March/April 2026

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 we 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			
Melrose	Joe	Mya	Holly	Fr. Steven White	St. Paul’s Church
Gary	Cheryl	Bonnie	Bobbi	Pastor Becky	St. Andrews’s Church
Dorothy	David	Jason	Cindy	Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Ann’s Church
Joanne	Terry	David	Arthur	The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	St. Peter’s Church
Marge	Tyler	Norm	Jason	Bishop Sean Rowe	Zion Church
Steve	Val	Cindy		The Rev. Liz Groskoph	St. Matthew’s Church
Diane	Irene			Deacon David	Message Ministries
Gerry				Emanuel Church	The General Theological Seminary
				Epiphany Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
				Search for Rector	Berkeley Divinity School

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –
Melrose Kelly, Bonnie MacPherson, and Bobbi Zurn



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, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.



St. Ann's returning to in-church services on March 8th.

LETTING GOD DECIDE

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way
you should go; I will guide you with My eye.*

Psalm 32:8 NKJV

Sometimes we all face problems that defy easy solutions. If you find yourself facing a difficult decision, here's a simple formula for making the right choice: let God decide. Instead of fretting about the future, pray about it.

When you consult your heavenly Father early and often, you'll soon discover that the quiet moments you spend with Him can be very helpful. God will quietly lead you along a path of His choosing, a path that is right for you.

So, the next time you arrive at one of life's inevitable crossroads, take a moment or two to have a chat with the Ultimate Advisor. When you do, you'll never stay lost for long.

Are you serious about wanting God's guidance to become a personal reality in your life? The first step is to tell God that you know you can't manage your own life; that you need His help.

Catherine Marshall

God's Little Instruction Book II:

God never asks about our ability or our inability –
Just our availability.

+++

"I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."

Isaiah 6:8



CHURCH TERMS AND SYMBOLS

HOLY WEEK – The week before Easter. On Palm Sunday Christ made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Monday and Tuesday, He taught in the Temple. On Wednesday He rested at Bethany. Thursday He returned to Jerusalem, ate the Last Supper with His disciples, and was betrayed by Judas. Friday He was crucified. Saturday His body lay in the tomb.

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



St. Ann's Episcopal Church Vestry Hi-lites

Vestry Hi-lites

No meeting in Jan/Feb due to ZOOM only service.

Outreach for these months was decided in Dec 2025 and have been sent.

We will have a meeting on March 15, 2026

BAPTISM – On March 22nd a Baptism will take place during the service at St. Ann's. Giulia Evangeline Bonsell was born to Wayne and Gina Bonsell on July 10, 2025. She was welcomed by her two brothers and Grandmother Denise Wieber. We welcome this beautiful baby girl into God's flock at St. Ann's church. Rev. Richard Schall will conduct Holy Eucharist and the Baptism.

Birthdays March

6th Connie Beames

7th Nancy Setford and Bobbi Zurn

27th Melrose Kelly

28th Tracey Tallmadge and Laurin Felldin



Birthdays



Anniversaries

25th Maxwell Harding & Kerri Vail

23rd Denise & Amy Weiber

23rd Mado & Carol Cimini

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

Remember to set your clocks ahead on March 8th as it is Spring Ahead time.



Used by permission



Things I say to my son,
(That I also think God says to me)
By Tanner Olson

Slow down.
Do you see the birds?
Come here, buddy.
Maybe we don't do that.
You can tell me.
Come be sad with me.
That's not for you.
Let's wave hi to our neighbor.
I'm with you.
It's going to be okay.
Let's go out for a walk.
Tell me what hurts.
I'll clean it up.
I am so proud of you.
What are you trying to tell me?
Be gentle.
I love you.
I'm always here for you.



The dot on the top of the letter "i" is called a tittle. That's its title. Its title title.

Dorothy to the Scarecrow: How do you talk if you don't have a brain?
Scarecrow to Dorothy: I don't know, but then some people do a lot of talking without a brain, don't you think?"

Daughter: Dad, I have a flat tire.
Dad: Did you call your boyfriend?
Daughter: He didn't answer.
Dad: You have a spare?
Daughter: He didn't answer either.

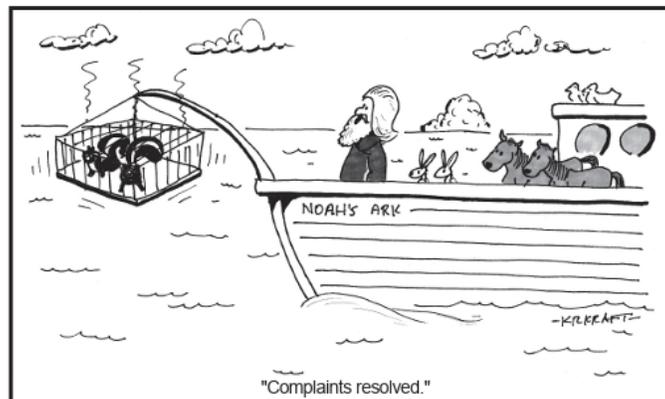
Tsunami: T is silent
Honest: H is silent
Knight: K is silent
Queue: queue is silent

What are the most dangerous canoes?
Volcanoes.
Where is King David's temple located?
Beside his ear.

What did one toilet say to another?
You look flushed.

What has more lives than a cat?
A frog; it croaks every day.

What do you call a fish with no eye?
Fsh.



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The Last Supper for their first Lord's Supper



It was an idea that came to me in my early ministry years, when I had a class of 13 fifth-graders getting ready to take their first communion. During the obligatory visits to the upper room to consider what Jesus did on the night he was betrayed, alongside all of the instruction and Bible study and grace-as-sacrament talk, it suddenly occurred to me that with 13 kids, we could reenact the Last Supper.

So I did, complete with robes, a long table, basic tableware borrowed from the church kitchen, and DaVinci's painting as a model. It was pre-digital, and pre-Photoshop, so the complete project was the best of a roll of film shot with the kids being as patient as could be expected. The result was wonderful, and became a tradition for me.

There was just one problem; none of my other classes had 13 in it. So we improvised; we had nine the next time, so four of them were shot in two different poses; we had them change robes and assume poses and with scissors, I trimmed them and pasted them in.

Once, I had only one in my class, and with the help of her parents, this 10-year-old took every pose, each with a change of costume, and the resulting scissor-work was something even ChatGPT would admire.

This photo was one of those, two photos trimmed and taped (yes, taped) together. Look carefully and you will see eight different students, five of which with two different poses. Oh, and I added the captions just today, for fun, for you.

I know it looks pretty amateur and dated, but I also know that these children of God are now in their early 40s, having thousands of visits to the table of grace between them. I know that now and again God brings us together for a moment that will last a lifetime. You study it, and put in the faces of your peeps, God's peeps, and hear the words, given and shed — for you!

— Lintern

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

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR
 COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY
 AND ACTION

Clergy: Currently Supply Priests
 Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

