

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church



The Front Page

February 2020

February 2 brings with it one of the Major Feasts in the Church Year, the Feast of the Presentation. This very early festival, dating back to the 300's, celebrates the event 40 days after Jesus' birth when Mary and Joseph present him in the Temple in accordance with the Mosaic Law. In the Temple are the prophets Anna and Simeon, two elderly people who have been faithfully waiting to see the Messiah. Simeon takes Jesus into his arms and proclaims that now he (Simeon) can die – "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace" – because the Messiah has come. He also proclaims Jesus to be "a light to lighten the Gentiles". This gives this holy day its other name – Candlemas. Processions with candles are held, and in some places the candles to be used in the church for the coming year are blessed.

Finally, Candlemas/The Presentation, being dated from and intimately connected to Christmas, is seen in some traditions as *really* the end of the Christmas celebrations. Decorations can be left up throughout this period and finally taken down on The Presentation. You see? Your neighbors thought you were being lazy, when in fact you were being liturgically correct.

Since February 2 is a Sunday this year, our worship services that day will be in celebration of this great festival of light and recognition of the Messiah. Join us.

Fr. Bill+

WINGS PLANS SPECIAL VALENTINE'S DAY OUTREACH

St. Thomas' WINGS group (Women in Need of Growing Spiritually) will meet one week earlier than usual in February, on **Monday, February 10th**, at 6pm in the parish hall, to prepare Valentine gift bags for our shut-ins. All women of the church are invited to craft homemade Valentines, cook up some delicious candy treats, and assemble the bags for delivery. What a great way to remember those folks whose hearts are with us at St. Thomas' even though they are not able to be here physically.



If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet in the parish hall and indicate what craft item you will contribute for the cards--doilies, stickers, markers, etc.--so that we have a wide array of items available to assemble beautiful, heartfelt creations.

Hope to see you then!

JUST PEOPLE has added juice boxes to its list of needed items. These are appreciated by the children of the families who receive Just People's meals. Don't forget that socks are also being collected during the winter months. All items can be placed in the plastic bins, located in the parish hall beneath the outreach bulletin board. Thanks for your generosity!



RUMMAGE SALE BEING PLANNED

When you clean out your closets as the warmer weather approaches, be sure to save your unwanted clothing for a spring Rummage Sale being planned by WINGS, subject to vestry approval. Clothing, accessories, shoes, and linens (sheets, towels, etc.) will be collected and sold at affordable prices. This is NOT a yard sale, so no "hard" items (dishes, furniture, appliances, games, etc.) will be accepted. A one-day sale is anticipated after Easter, so plan ahead and collect your contributions now. More details will follow next month!

Newsletter Editor: Karen Pare klplamb24@gmail.com

Production Manager: Nancy Burton



Beautiful fresh flowers grace the sanctuary of St. Thomas' Church each Sunday; they certainly enhance the beauty of our worship space. They also provide joy and comfort to those who receive them after the services on Sunday as a part of our pastoral care. Contributions may be made in honor, memory or thanksgiving of loved ones. The name(s) of your loved one(s) will be printed in the Sunday worship bulletin. The donation for altar flowers is \$35. (Please note: there are *no altar flowers* during the season of Lent.)

Anne has the new "Altar Flower Chart" for 2020 in the Rectory, and would be happy to check a date for anyone who so wishes. Each Sunday is on the chart, and names are listed on the chart for a particular Sunday as they are finalized. We only take **one dedication per Sunday**, so it is *first come, first served*. Only when a check is received in the office and the date is confirmed with Anne is your date considered reserved. We ask that you choose an alternate date if your first date is already full.

Altar Flower dedication forms are available in the wooden rack in the Narthex or in the Parish Office. We are now accepting requests for 2020 - so you may reserve a Sunday in 2020 at this time. If you have a specific date in mind, we suggest you act sooner rather than later! If you have any questions, just email Anne at: office@stthomasepiscopalri.org or call the office and leave a message, and we'll get back to you. (949-2260)

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PO Box 505, Greenville, RI 02828

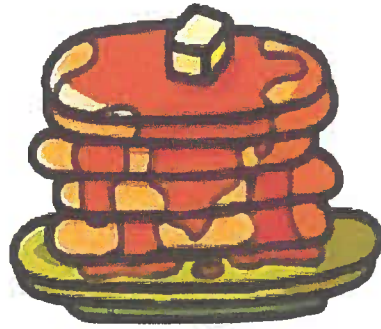
Fr. William Locke, Interim Rector

Telephone: (401) 949-2260

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Website: www.stthomasepiscopalri.org

Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 9am to 1pm or by appointment



All you can eat
**Pancake
Supper**

Tuesday, February 25th

5:00pm – 7:00pm

**Join us in a traditional Shrove Tuesday Dinner:
An “all-you-can-eat” pancake feast!**

**We will enjoy fluffy blueberry and chocolate chip pancakes,
bacon, sausage, Juice, coffee or tea.**

\$6.00 for adults, and kids 12 and under are free!

**There will be a Mardi Gras theme with Zydeco music
and a good time for all!**

**Tickets available in the Parish Hall
Make it a family event – bring as many as you would like!**

Like to bake? Please sign up to bring a dessert.....



Ash Wednesday
Imposition of Ashes
&
Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, February 26th
Noon & 7 pm*

*Note that the 9 am service is canceled for this day.

What is Lent? Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, this year April 11th. The word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means lengthening or spring. The forty days symbolize the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring temptation and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of self-examination and reflection to ready ourselves for the coming of Easter. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today Christians often focus on their relationship with God, and sometimes add meaning to the period by additional time of prayer or service to others, rather than by the former practice of giving something up.

Easter this year falls on Sunday, April 12th.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Samuel Ciotola 2	Shelby Pease 8	Beverly Connor 21
John Gallonio 3	Zoe Pouliot 8	Emily Ritter 21
Erica Pease 3	Janine Boyd 11	Michelle Carrara 22
Joyce Grassel 5	Kaitlyn Turcotte 14	Ann Marie Maguire 25
Lillian Rogers 5	Arlene Garrison 15	Emily Grace 26
Luke Thompson 5	Kirsten Young 17	Connor Kehoe 26
Henry Dziadosz 6	Maxton Marz 18	Donald Parker 27
Nathaniel Whitten 6		Nicholas Ray 28

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph and Deb D'Angelo 1
Lucien and Barbara Tessier 15
Fred and Sandy Leigh 22
Richard and Anita Coyne 24



FROM THE MAILBOX...

Sharon Thompson writes, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many who have shown their loving support to me over the past few weeks. I have been nourished spiritually by your words, hugs, and thoughtful deeds of compassion--I thank you so much for helping me get through what has been a very difficult time. Your presence at my Mum's Memorial Service was truly wonderful and I so appreciated your being there to help me celebrate her lovely life.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart, Sharon"

February 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:00 HE Sunday School 10:00 HE	3	4 6:00-8:00pm Book & Movie Group	5 9:00am Healing service 7:00-8:15pm School for Discipleship	6 10:00-11:15am School for Discipleship	7	8 10:30am Bereavement Group 4:00pm Caregiver Group
9 8:00 HE Sunday School 10:00 HE 11:30am Vestry Meeting	10 6:00-8:00pm WINGS	11	12 9:00am Healing service 7:00-8:15pm School for Discipleship	13 10:00-11:15am School for Discipleship	14 Valentine's Day 	15
16 8:00 HE Sunday School 10:00 HE	17 	18	19 9:00am Healing service 7:00-8:15pm School for Discipleship	20 10:00-11:15am School for Discipleship	21	22
23 8:00 HE Sunday School 10:00 HE	24	25 5:30-7:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 	26  9:00am Healing service Noon Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	27	28	29

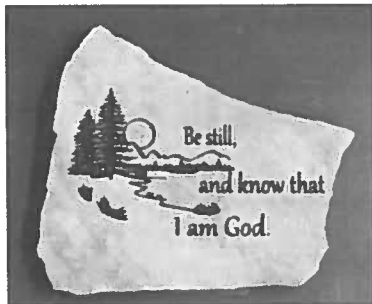
Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church

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The Newsletter of St. Thomas' Church
February 2020

A MEDITATION



All shall be well,
and all shall be well,
and all manner of things shall be well.
For there is a force of love
moving through the universe
That holds us fast and will never let us go.

-Julian of Norwich