



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
405 EAST MAIN STREET
BATAVIA, NEW YORK

NEWSLETTER—FEBRUARY 2017

Candles, Groundhogs and Being Light



My dear friends,

As I write this letter, it is Feb. 2nd—the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, also known as Candlemas and, of course, Groundhog Day. Presentation, Candles and Groundhogs. What these three have in common? It's all about light.

The Feast of the Presentation or Candlemas commemorates Jesus being brought to the Temple in Jerusalem by Mary and Joseph 40 days after he was born. The Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus and his parents were met by Simeon who called Jesus the “Light of the World.”

Why the Name Candlemas? Christians would bring the candles needed for winter to church on Feb. 2nd to be blessed by the priest. It also relates to elements of paganism. Feb. 2nd, midway between the winter solstice and spring equinox, was the pagan Festival of Lights.

Why Ground Hogs? Germans, settling in Pennsylvania, brought to their new home their Candlemas tradition—using an animal to predict how long winter would be. Originally hedgehogs were used, but groundhogs are more plentiful in Pennsylvania, and thus a tradition is born.



It's all about light. Before electricity, candlelight and firelight were the only way to extend the light of day into long, cold and dark winter evenings. Marking passage through winter, toward spring, is an important part of human society. Candlemas and by extension Groundhog Day mark our passage toward Spring, toward warmth and light. It's no accident that we celebrate this journey when Jesus—the light of the world—is presented to the world. For the first time, Jesus goes beyond the confines of his village and family, and is presented in the Temple. He is recognized and named by Simeon and the light of the world is shining out! Jesus is light and we are filled with that light. We let it shine, undimmed. Cold and dark can have no effect on this true and eternal light. So in the dark of winter, we shine with the light of Jesus.

Your sister in Christ,

Mother Bonnie

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:

January was dominated by the Annual Meeting. We had a nice turn out and completed our elections, reports etc. before the whole congregation. Much was accomplished in 2016, but much remains to do in 2017. With God's help and that of the wonderful members of St. James, this year will be more productive than the last.

January also marked the return of Russ, our Junior Warden, from his unfortunate injury. For me, he was a sight for sore eyes! He was sorely missed. Thanks to all who filled in while he was out. Your cooperation was and is much appreciated.

January also meant the arrival of our new Deacon, Diana Leiker. She is going to be a wonderful addition to our St. James family. Welcome Deacon Diana.

This brings me to the last topic for today. How to address Deacon Diana? It is important that we address our clergy with respect and how they wished to be called. I am talking, of course, how we deal with them in public, at meetings, in church etc. In private, one on one, whatever works for the two of you is fine. However, in those more public situations our Rector should always be referred to as "Mother Bonnie" and our Deacon as "Deacon Diana." This is a form of respect for not only the individual and the position they hold in the church, it is also showing respect for the sacrament of Holy Orders.

Those of us who served in the military were used to saluting and calling officers "sir." When I was a Town Justice everyone, including defendants, called me "Your Honor" when I was wearing the black robes. We called our teachers, and even our children's teachers "Mister" and "Misses." We even insist that our children address us and their grandparents by some form of title, endearing as it might be, rather than their first names. I know personally it was difficult to call our Rector Mother when she first arrived. That title had been reserved for my own mother and no one else. However, I soon realized I had called male clergy "Father" for almost 70 years, without diminishing my own father. It is all a matter of respect.

Jim Neider, Senior Warden



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

We pray God's blessing be with you on your special day and every day.

Debbie Barone 2/12 Joe Blatchley 2/12

Jim Myers 2/13 Fran Randaccio 2/25



Soup Sunday—Today, Feb 5th.

Be sure to come to coffee hour to enjoy delicious home-made soup, fellowship, friendship and the Red Bag Mystery Auction.

Everyone is welcome!

Our First Lenten Fish Fry is on March 3rd

Some of our parishioners have already begun baking desserts to be frozen until needed. If you can help with the baking or cleanup on baking days, please see Sue Best. Also, we are beginning to staff the many positions needed to make everything run smoothly. Carol Queal and Theresa DeMars are coordinating the wait staff and bussers; Jim Ellison and Wayne Judkins are finding staff for the rest of the positions. If you have not yet been approached to fill a position, please contact one of the above people to express your interest. We need your help even if you cannot commit to every week.

Epiphany Potluck Dinner and Discussion Group

Singing the Blues with the Psalms

6:00 p.m.—Dinner, 6:45—Clean up, 7:00—Discussion, 8:00—Closing Prayers

Bring a dish to pass, enjoy a delicious supper, fellowship and conversation.

Mark your calendars for Thursdays in Epiphany: Feb 9, 16 and 23.

On Thursday, February 16th our Epiphany Potluck and Discussion group will welcome

The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin, Bishop of the Diocese of Western New York

to lead us in a discussion on our Common Ground.

Enjoy a delicious potluck supper and engage in what is certain to be a lively and informative discussion about our common ground, common goals and common life in Jesus Christ.

FISH FRY DONATIONS - We need your help to make the yummy deserts that are a hallmark of our fish fries. We need pie filling, lemon instant pudding, Jiff or Peter Pan peanut butter, confectionary sugar, sugar and flour. Every Thursday during Fish Fry season we will be baking. Please mark your calendar and let us know if you can help. Thanks, Sue Best.

The 2016 giving statements have been put in the mailboxes in the hallway or have been mailed to your home. If you have any questions about your statement, feel free to call the office at 343-6802.

From the Diocese

Discover Sundays 2016-2017

Explore the splendor of God's natural creation
Revel in some of the best of humankind's achievements
Share the experience with Episcopalians, friends and family
Free and open to all!

February 19, 2017

Film: Amazing Grace, 2006, Rated PG

2:30 p.m. at the Diocesan Ministry Center

This movie is based on the life of antislavery pioneer, William Wilberforce (1759-1833). At the age of 21, Wilberforce was elected to the House of Commons, spending two decades persuading those in power in the English establishment to end the inhumane trade of slavery. Featured actors include Ioan Gruffudd and Albert Finney.

An introduction to the movie will be given by Professor Andrew Nichols of the History and Social Studies Education Department at Buffalo State. Free popcorn, pop and candy.

Register at bit.ly/amazinggracefilm

March 19, 2017

Spring Ahead into Gardening

Have you always wanted a beautiful landscape overflowing with wonderful annuals and perennials? Does that luxurious lawn always seem to be out of reach? Or maybe your vegetable garden just doesn't seem to perform. Gardening expert David Clark will offer tips and techniques to ready our home and parish gardens for the Spring season. A knowledgeable, entertaining, and nationally recognized instructor, gardening expert, florist, and event judge, David teaches horticulture certification classes at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. See David teaching "How to Start a Rosebush from a Wedding Bouquet" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqqTKd-V5I4>

Bring your questions for David to answer! A reception will follow the presentation.

Register at bit.ly/clarkgardening

RECIPE CORNER

CHICKEN POT PIE SOUP

4 chicken breast halves, or 2 cups leftover cooked chicken
Ground pepper and salt – to taste
2 tablespoons cooking oil
1/3 cup butter
¼ cup all-purpose flour
1 quart (4 cups) heavy cream
4 teaspoons chicken base – or per the package instructions
1 tablespoon minced garlic
½ small yellow onion, minced
1 cup frozen green peas, cooked
1 cup chopped cooked carrots
Pinch (about ¼ tsp) fresh grated nutmeg, optional

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. Season chicken with seasoned salt and pepper. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add chicken and sauté until cooked through. Remove from heat and cut into chunks. Alternatively, you may use precooked chicken. Once cooked, remove chicken from pan and set aside.
3. Dissolve the chicken base into 1 cup of water. Stir until fully dissolved.
4. Then into the same large skillet, melt butter and sauté the onions until they soften; about three minutes. Then slowly add flour, stirring until consistency of peanut butter, but do not brown like a roux – you want it to remain a golden color. Slowly add cream and keep stirring. Add chicken base (to taste), and garlic, and stir until thickened. Add peas, carrots, nutmeg (optional), and cut up chicken. Remove from heat. Thin to your desired consistency.

Serves 8 cups

Contributed by Amy Celentano

Service Participant Calendar for February 2017

Also found on the website: www.stjamesbatavia.org

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26	March 5
EM 1	Jeff Gray	Jo-Ann Bestine	Barb Gray	Jim Ellison	Cathy Judkins
EM 2	Cathy Judkins	Jack Kershner	Bonnie Dvoroznak	Theresa DeMars	Judy Essig
EM Chantry	Theresa DeMars	Carol Queal	Cathy Judkins	Jeff Gray	Carol Queal
1st Lesson	Terry McGuire	Diane Cox	Wayne Judkins	Joan Ellison	Keith Price
2nd Lesson	Barb Gray	Jim Neider	Liz Findlay	Jack Kershner	Jeff Gray
Prayers of People	Keith Price	Lilo Townsend	Steve Hawley	Diane Cox	Wayne Judkins
Acolytes	Jaycob Belluscio Alieda Blossom	Diane Cox Scott Essig	Jo-Ann Bestine Keith Price	Jaycob Belluscio Alieda Blossom	Scott Essig Jeff Tress
Ushers	Larry Belluscio Glenn Hammond	Peg & Alan Abrams	Kathy & Larry Belluscio	Dean Perry Don Fox	Diane & Kevin Skelton
Greeters	Wayne Townsend Dean Perry	Barb & Jeff Gray	Cathy & Wayne Judkins	Larry Belluscio Glenn Hammond	Wayne Townsend Dean Perry
Element Bearers	Diane & Kevin Skelton	Donna Kauffman Dean Perry	Diane & Kevin Skelton	Betsy Dexheimer Glenn Hammond	Jolene & Dick Folger
Nursery	Joanne Fleming	Joanne Fleming	Joanne Fleming	Barb King	Joanne Fleming
Altar Guild	Donna Kauffman Joanne Fleming Jo-Ann Bestine	Karen Odell Harold Odell Kathy Belluscio	Pat Roblee Jolene Folger Nancy Harrington	B. Rung C. Queal B. Coughlin R. Geitner	Donna Kauffman Joanne Fleming Jo-Ann Bestine
Coffee Hour	Soup Sunday & Red Bag Mystery Auction	Bonnie Dvoroznak	Jolene Folger	Betsy Dexheimer	Karen & Harold Odell
Flower Delivery	Dean Perry	Lilo Townsend	Liz Findlay	Cathy Judkins	Barb King

St. James Calendar, February 2017

Mon Feb 6	4:30pm – 5:30pm	Finance Committee
	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Genesee Youth Chorale - Music Room
	7:00pm – 10:00pm	Genesee Chorale - Parish Hall
Tue Feb 7	7:00pm – 8:30 pm	Property Committee
Wed Feb 8	11:00am – 11:30am	Holy Eucharist - Chapel
Thu Feb 9	9:00am – 2:00pm	Thrift Shop Open
	2:00pm – 3:00pm	Wardens Agenda Meeting
	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Epiphany Pot Luck and Bible Study
Sun Feb 12	8:45am – 9:45am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00am – 10:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am – 11:15am	Holy Eucharist and Baptism
	11:15am – 12:00pm	Coffee Hour
	11:20am – 12:00pm	Our Faith - Guild Room
Mon Feb 13	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Genesee Youth Chorale - Music Room
	7:00pm – 10:00pm	Genesee Chorale - Parish Hall
Tue Feb 14	1:00pm – 2:00pm	Vestry Reports Due
	2:30pm – 3:00pm	Holy Eucharist @ Genesee County Nursing Home
	5:30pm – 7:30pm	ECW Meeting
Wed Feb 15	11:00am – 11:30am	Holy Eucharist - Chapel
Thu Feb 16	9:00am – 2:00pm	Thrift Shop Open
	2:00pm – 3:00pm	Wardens Meeting
	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Potluck Supper and Common Ground Discussion with the Bishop
Sun Feb 19	8:45am – 9:45am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00am – 10:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am – 11:15am	Holy Eucharist
	11:15am – 12:00pm	Coffee Hour
	11:20am – 12:00pm	Our Faith - Guild Room
Mon Feb 20	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Genesee Youth Chorale - Music Room
	7:00pm – 10:00pm	Genesee Chorale - Parish Hall
Tue Feb 21	7:00pm – 9:00pm	Vestry Meeting
Wed Feb 22	11:00am – 11:30am	Holy Eucharist - Chapel
	3:15pm – 4:15pm	Wardens/Treasurers Meeting
Thu Feb 23	9:00am – 2:00pm	Thrift Shop Open
	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Epiphany Pot Luck and Bible Study
Sun Feb 26	8:45am – 9:45am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00am – 10:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am – 11:15am	Holy Eucharist
	11:15am – 12:00pm	Coffee Hour
	11:20am – 12:00pm	Our Faith - Guild Room
Mon Feb 27	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Genesee Youth Chorale - Music Room
	7:00pm – 10:00pm	Genesee Chorale - Parish Hall
Tue Feb 28	10:45am – 11:45am	Communion at The Manor House
	6:30pm – 8:30pm	Deanery Council at St. Paul's, Stafford



St. James Episcopal Church
405 East Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Weekday Services

Wednesday, 11 a.m. – Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

The Second Tuesday of the Month, 2:30 p.m. – Holy Eucharist at the Genesee County Nursing Home, 278 Bank Street, in the Mall Walk

The Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 10:45 a.m. – Holy Eucharist at The Manor House, 427 East Main Street, in the Grand Parlor

Everyone is Welcome!

The Rev. Bonnie F. Morris, Rector
rector.stjames@outlook.com

The Rev. Deacon Diana Leiker, dllart@aol.com

Choir Director: Theresa DeMars, Organist: David Lange

Administrator: Barbara King, Sexton: Gerrit Wilk

Wardens:

Sr. Warden: Jim Neider, (585) 409-8891, jneider@rochester.rr.com

Jr. Warden: Russ Dvoroznak, (585) 737-1577, bonnie3473@yahoo.com

Vestry:

Diane Cox, Bonnie Dvoroznak, Dorian Ely, Ron Fancher,
Jack Kershner, Barbara King, Dean Perry, Barbara Pierce, Lilo Townsend

Clerk of the Vestry: Cathy Judkins

Treasurers: Jim Ellison and Peter Mark

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