



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Christ:

This week's forecast tells a bleak midwinter tale: temperatures in the teens most evenings, with the threat of snow at the weekend – although hopefully not enough to dampen our vigorous chili cook-off competition. But there is no escape from the calendar, and inconvenient weather is par for the course in February. What's unusual is that this year, the sacred and secular calendars converge, and we turn the page to a new month and a new liturgical season on the same day. Lent begins March 1, but we have much to accomplish before we get there.

On February 5 and 19 at 9 a.m. in the rectory, our Adult Education course on Matthew, which began January 22, continues. The purpose of offering a class on Matthew is to help us live more fully into lectionary year "A," which began December 4, during which the readings are from Matthew almost every Sunday. Were it not for Matthew, we would not know about the Three Kings; we would not hear the Sermon on the Mount; we would not identify in Jesus someone for whom fidelity to the law was a priority; nor would we be charged to "go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." Matthew is a huge, foundational building block in our faith, and this course seeks to cover the basics to help us listen to readings from this gospel with keener ears.



Also on February 19, we will formally welcome the newest member of the Clayton family into the household of God. Vivienne Elaine Clayton, who was born on December 9, will be baptized at the 10:00 service. Vivienne has already braved the cold weather to attend church several times, and we are excited for this special occasion to mark her as Christ's own, forever.

Lastly, on February 26, the readings shift a bit away from the Epiphany themes we will have heard for the previous six Sundays, and we will journey with Peter, James, and John to the top of the holy mountain to witness Jesus' transfiguration. As you recall, in that story, Jesus is joined there by Moses and the prophet Elijah – who represent the law and the prophets – and their faces shine, and they wear "raiment white and glistening." In the context of this highly unusual scene, a voice is heard saying, "This is my beloved Son: listen to him" – a message like the one heard at Jesus' baptism. On the last Sunday before Lent, that is our charge: to keep the season holy by listening to Jesus' voice, and amending our lives to be more reflective of his teaching.



As is the custom at St. John's, Lent will not begin without a high-calorie farewell to ordinary time: the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake

and Sausage Supper will run from 4 to 6:45 p.m. on February 28, giving us a chance for food and fellowship on the eve of Ash Wednesday. As you know, pancakes are traditionally eaten at this meal because of a centuries-old tradition of using up savory food items like lard prior to the start of a season of self-denial and fasting. While most of us no longer keep containers of lard around in the kitchen, the symbolism of shifting from indulgence to abstinence by using up certain things remains strong.

There is more on the agenda during this longer-than-usual season after the Epiphany, which you are invited to read about in the pages that follow. I look forward to seeing you for worship, education, and fellowship in the weeks ahead.

Faithfully yours,
(The Rev.) Christopher V. Pyles

SPECIAL FEBRUARY ENVELOPE

On February 12, there is an envelope in our boxes to support of the Thursday morning Breakfast Feeding Ministry. Many of you know that this ministry is not funded through St. John's budget, but instead relies on the kindness of grocery stores as well as individual members of the parish. Although parishioners have been more than generous, these envelopes help to ensure that this ministry always has options, and will never be without what it needs to thrive. Any support is welcome.



COOKOFF! COOKOFF!! COOKOFF!!!

The fifth annual St. John's Chili Cookoff will be Saturday, February 4, from 4 to 7 p.m. Who won't be ready by then to be warmed up by 10 or more of the best chilis in Bellefonte? Last year's contest produced a tie victory between the rector and Junior Warden Charlie Hilderbrand. Will the reigning champs remain undefeated, or will a new chef claim the trophy? Everyone is invited to attend, eat, and vote for their favorite chili. Come, and bring friends!



ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to Charlie Hilderbrand, Jim Jackson, and Bette Shugert for their willingness to serve a second term on the vestry; they were reelected at the Annual Meeting on January 15. Also elected at the meeting were delegates to diocesan convention, which this

year will take place in Hershey on October 14: Larry Roberson, Barbara Roberson, and Keith Cummings. The entire parish is grateful for these representatives, who sacrifice no small amount of time and creative energy in helping to lead the parish forward, and to represent us at diocesan convention. Thanks once again to Charlie, Jim, Bette, Larry, Barbara, and Keith for your willingness to serve!

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS UPDATE

At the January meeting, the vestry accepted a bid from a contractor (the same one who recently completed the entry-way work in the parish hall) to insulate the “addition” to the church (the area where the bathroom, staircase, and working sacristy are).



Many of you are aware of the glacial temperatures in this area during the winter, which are in part a result from there being nothing but cinder blocks protecting us from the outside. Combined with a new heater installed near the acolyte closet, this insulation should help keep the area more comfortable.

Additionally, bids were accepted to replace the rectory cellar door, which is disintegrating, and the parish hall door, which is rusting and splitting. These repairs will be made when the weather permits.

GARDNERS CANDY

Longtime members of St. John’s know that we have several ongoing fundraisers: Weis and Giant grocery cards, and Gardners Candy sales at Christmas and Easter. The profit with the chocolate is FAR better than with the gift cards: Gardners allows us to keep 35% of all sales receipts, so it is to our financial advantage to sell as much candy as we can.



Order forms are now available on the table in the back of the church, and need to be returned by March 20. Chocolate will be in by April 3, nearly two weeks before Easter. Everyone is asked to participate this year to help us to improve our fundraising bottom line. Many thanks!



FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

On February 12, our Sunday school children are sponsoring Coffee Hour with a Valentine’s Day theme. Children will be making placemats and will serve food and clean up; their families will bring in refreshments.

On February 26, there will be a children-in-worship service, in which children take part in as much of the 10:00 service as they can. There will be child greeters, ushers, altar servers, readers, oblation bearers, collection takers, and more. A children’s sermon will be offered on the transitional moment of the day: looking with Jesus from that mountaintop toward the 40 days of Lent about to begin.

Additionally, during Lent, the Sunday school will be making Jared Boxes. These are boxes filled with toys to be given to chronically ill children to provide diversion as they receive chemotherapy or other medical treatments. The filled boxes will be delivered to Mt. Nittany Hospital at the end of Lent.



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

February 5 Charlotte Zmyslo & Goldie Markulin

February 12 Sunday School children

February 19 No Coffee Hour

February 26 TBA

FEBRUARY COLLECTION COUNTERS

Keith Cummings & Charles Hilderbrand

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

8 a.m. 10 a.m.

February 5 Dcn Dyakiw Dcn Dyakiw
Epiphany V C.Hilderbrand

February 12 Dcn Dyakiw Dcn Dyakiw
Epiphany VI K. Grossman

February 19 Dcn Dyakiw Dcn Dyakiw
Epiphany VII C. Fyfe

February 26 S. Mauger Dcn Dyakiw
Last Epiphany T. Quigley

ALTAR SERVERS' ROTA - 10 A.M. MASSES

February 5 Book/Server T. Scott
Epiphany V Crucifer S. Dillon
Torchbearers G.Hilderbrand
C. Holt

February 12 Book/Server C.Hilderbrand
Epiphany VI Crucifer G.Hilderbrand
Torchbearers C. Holt
P.Hilderbrand

February 19 Book/Server T. Scott
Epiphany VII Crucifer C.Hilderbrand
Torchbearers G.Hilderbrand
P.Hilderbrand

February 26 Book/Server C. Hilderbrand
Last Epiphany Crucifer TBA
Torchbearers TBA

BIRTHDAYS

February 1 Dr. John Fusco

February 4 Shannon Hilderbrand

February 8 Judy Hilderbrand

Izzabella Lykens

February 10 Bonnie Snyder

February 11 Betsy Quigley

February 13 Gabe Holland

Michael Fusco

February 14 Paul Fusco

Andrew Pifer

February 16 Rev. John Harwood

February 18 Debra Cree

Susan Hochreiter

February 19 Cathy Fetters

February 27 Goldie Markulin

February 28 Isaac Pifer

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Low Mass with healing in the Chapel 9:30	2 Breakfast Feeding Ministry, 7-9 a.m., parish hall	3 Community Lunch at the Presbyterian Church, 10:30 a.m.	4 Chili Cook-off 4-7 p.m. Fellowship Hall
5 Epiphany V MP 7:45 Mass 8 Adult Class 9 Sung Mass 10 Coffee Hour	6 7 p.m. Men's Group	7	8 Low Mass with healing in the Chapel, 9:30	9 Breakfast Feeding Ministry, 7-9 a.m., parish hall	10	11
12 Epiphany VI MP 7:45 Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 Coffee Hour	13 7 p.m. Men's Group	14 	15 Low Mass with healing in the Chapel, 9:30	16 Breakfast Feeding Ministry, 7-9 a.m., parish hall	17	18
19 Epiphany VII MP 7:45 Mass 8 Adult Class 9 Sung Mass 10 No Coffee Hour	20 Office closed President's Day 7 p.m. Men's Group	21	22 Low Mass with healing in the Chapel, 9:30	23 Breakfast Feeding Ministry, 7-9 a.m., Parish Hall	24	25
26 Last Epiphany MP 7:45 Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 Coffee Hour	27 7 p.m. Men's Group	28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper 4-6:45 p.m.	1 MARCH Ash Wednesday Low Mass in the Chapel, 9:30; Solemn Mass at 7:30 in the church			