



RECTOR'S LETTER

It may seem early to talk about Lent, but thinking about it now may give all of us more opportunity to have what the prayer book describes as a holy Lent. This will enable us to experience the love of God more fully. Lent is the season when we prepare for the great festival of our Lord's Resurrection by engaging in a serious examination of our sins and undertaking to live a life less cluttered by the cares of the world - though, of course, that is a difficult thing to do! Sin, in my understanding, is anything that draws us away from the love of God, a God who enjoins us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

A good and holy observance of Lent and one that takes the reality of sin seriously might entail no more than a simple and sincere intention to be more patient and loving with those around us. Coupled with this would be an examination of our conscience at the end of the day to determine where we were not more loving and patient. Let me suggest this as a family activity before or after dinner or another convenient time. This would be a good time to begin, if you have not already done so, family prayers before dinner or after all the chores of the day are done. An excellent resource is the "Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families" which begins on page 136 of the *Book of Common Prayer*. There you will find shortened though rich forms of the Daily Offices.

Another practice for Lent might be to do volunteer community work, read a book that informs your spirit, listen to great music, or begin a program of exercise. You also might wish to give up something, such as eating too much or watching too much

television, or worrying, or procrastinating, or a host of other bad habits that we all have.

The point of these disciplines is not the disciplines themselves, though they are valuable. The point is to make more room for God, for the Holy, for Jesus, in our busy and often frantic lives. We are to make more room for Love. We are to make more room for the Love that is immeasurably broad, deep, and high and surpasses all our understanding because its source is an infinitely loving God.

Our Lenten observances will begin on Ash Wednesday with Masses at 9:30 am and 7 pm. Stations of the Cross will be observed each Friday at 5:30 pm. We will continue with our Wednesday Healing Mass at 9:30 am in the weeks following.

Do stay tuned for more opportunities to grow in grace this Lenten season!

Blessings,
(The Rev.) Carlton E. Kelley

VESTRY TRANSITIONS



We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to Betsy Quigley and Keith Cummings, who just completed their second three-year terms on the vestry, and rotated off at the Annual Meeting on January 27.

We welcome back Dr. John Fusco, who is beginning a second three-year term. He is joined by new vestry members Debra Cree and Thomas Quigley. 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. Thanks once again to John, Betsy, and Keith for your willingness to serve!

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE US HAPPY!

Thank you so much for supporting a wonderful place for us to live.

~ The Episcopal Home Residents

CHILI COOKOFF

Warm up on a frigid February day by attending St. John's Chili Cookoff on **Feb. 16** from **4-7**. Multiple varieties of chili will be entered in competition and served, along with toppings, drinks, and dessert. Cost is \$7/person. Voting will take place at the event.



John's Chili Cookoff on **Feb. 16** from **4-7**. Multiple varieties of chili will be entered in competition

NEWS FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the month of January, our youth group's Blanket for Pets project concluded with a trip



to PAWS, our local animal shelter. Each of our young parishioners gave a blanket that they made to a shelter animal waiting for their forever home. Then we

visited cats and dogs that were available for hugs and petting. We felt very gratified that our project really made a difference for these animals. One of



the workers suggested that we make some much needed cat toys, and we are working on that now.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

We are instituting a new Sunday School class for children 4-8 years old. This new class will begin on Sunday, February 24. Older children are always welcome to our Youth Group.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE



Our children have a rare and fabulous opportunity to work with a gifted musical professional, Don Ryno, to prepare a hymn that they will sing during a

10:00 service. Rehearsals will be after the 10:00 service, lasting no more than one-half hour - just enough time for parents to have a cup of coffee. Please let Ellen Dyakiw know if you are interested in having your child participate in this wonderful offer. We are grateful to Don for offering another exciting gift to our church family.



Saint John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January 19, 2019

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The St. John's Vestry and Search Committee are delighted to announce that our next rector will be The Rev. Carlos de la Torre, who will join us on Sunday, May 19. A graduate of Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY, where his parents now live, Fr. Carlos received his Master of Divinity degree at Virginia Theological Seminary and currently serves as Curate of Christ Church in New Haven, CT. He is also Region Missionary for the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and Program Director of Saint Hilda's House in New Haven, which assists its interns in putting their faith into action.



Following interviews with a number of well-qualified candidates, we unanimously chose Fr. Carlos for our new rector. We found him to be exceptionally personable, insightful, energetic, and thoughtful, as well as deeply committed to community service. He will do a great job, we believe, acting as a bridge to the community on behalf of St. John's.

Attached is Fr. Carlos's introductory letter. You may welcome him personally at 1184 Chapel Street, Apt. 10, New Haven, CT 06511; or FatherCarlosdelaTorre@gmail.com.

Yours in Christ,

Larry Roberson, Senior Warden
Members of Vestry and Search Committee



Saint John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January 17, 2019
The Feast of Saint Anthony of Egypt

A Letter from our New Rector

Dear People, Friends, and Neighbors of Saint John's,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is my great joy to be writing to you. I'm filled with excitement and gratitude to serve as your next rector. It was in September that I entered into an intentional time of discernment with your search committee and vestry. From my first conversation with your search committee, your deep love for your parish and community was palpable. During my visit to Bellefonte, I was able to see and experience firsthand this commitment.

I had the chance to spend quality time with your search committee, vestry, wardens, Sunday school director, and parish deacon. Allowing me to hear your joys and longings; your ideas and curiosities; your dreams and challenges. However, in all our conversations your parish's love and trust in God, and your commitment to one another, Bellefonte, and beyond, was at the core. Our shared trust in God and his faithfulness will be at the heart of our time together as we proclaim the love of God through worship, study, and action.

The number of possibilities and opportunities ahead of us not only outnumber the challenges, but invite us to dream and imagine from a place of Christian hope and joy. In due time, we will explore new and ancient ways to share God's love made known to us in Jesus Christ. We will discover ways to grow as individuals and as a community. We will succeed and fail. But at all times we can trust that God will be with us as he has been present with us through this process.

I look forward to moving to Bellefonte in May, and I joyfully await celebrating my first Sunday mass as your rector on May 19. From that day forward, it will be my honor, privilege, and duty to walk with you through the joys of life and through those moments of grief and suffering. I am humbled by your invitation to lead you in the Sacraments of the Church, those sacred acts and rituals that bind us together with one another, the saints and martyrs, and with all those in heaven and on earth. Until we meet in May, you will be in my daily prayers and intentions.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev'd Carlos de la Torre

February 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 Community Lunch 11:30 am Presbyterian Church | 2  |
| 3 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 | 4 7 pm Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg | 5 7 pm Book Discussion Group 8 pm AA Mtg | 6 9:30 Healing Mass -Our Lady's Altar 12 pm AA Mtg | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 | 11 7 pm Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg | 12 7 pm Book Discussion Group 8 pm AA Mtg | 13 9:30 Healing Mass 12 pm AA Mtg | 14  | 15 | 16 4-7 pm Parish Hall  |
| 17 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 | 18 7 pm Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg | 19 7 pm Book Discussion Group 8 pm AA Mtg | 20 9:30 Healing Mass -Our Lady's Altar 12 pm AA Mtg 7 pm Vestry Meeting | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 | 25 7 pm Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg | 26 7 pm Book Discussion Group 8 pm AA Mtg | 27 9:30 Healing Mass -Our Lady's Altar 12 pm AA Mtg | 28 | | |