

The Messenger - March 2016

St Andrew's Church Episcopal
50 Sacandaga Rd
Scotia, New York 12302
Rector - The Rev'd Michael Neufeld



Office - 374-8391
Rectory - 372-2255
standrewscotia@yahoo.com
www.jesuschristny.org

Parish Mission Statement:

As members of St Andrew's Episcopal Church, our mission is to:

GROW spiritually, rooted in Scripture and Sacraments,

BRING the love of Jesus Christ into the local and wider community

WELCOME all into the healing and worshiping family of Christ's Church

Good News from Fr Mike:

Lent, with its prayer and fasting, is a very important part of our Church year but it is not an end in itself. Lent is meant to prepare us to celebrate the great mysteries of our faith, which are presented to us quite dramatically in Holy Week and Easter. Christ's death and resurrection is truly new life for us and they speak of the power and depth of God's love for us.

I invite you to celebrate the fullness of our salvation, to be present in body, mind and spirit in all of the services of Holy Week. Palm / Passion Sunday is all about the Kingship of the Lord. It begins with hosannas but ends with Jesus mounting the throne of the cross. On Maundy Thursday, the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover, Jesus institutes an entirely new Passover with His blood and with it a New Covenant. After a year's hiatus due to the problems in the undercroft, we will celebrate our Christian Seder this year and I invite all to be a part of this wonderful event. On Good Friday, we join Jesus during His trial, passion, and death. We see the cost that God was willing to make for our salvation and more importantly His love poured out to the very last drop of His blood.

At the Easter Vigil on Saturday night and on Sunday morning, we celebrate Christ's resurrection but we celebrate more. We have risen with Christ in baptism to a new imperishable life. We are new creations because of Him.

I again invite you to be a part of this powerful week, this powerful celebration. The Lord has a tremendous blessing for all of us if we enter the power of these great mysteries with open eyes, with open ears, with open hearts. Be present to Him during this Holy Week but more than this allow Him to be present to you for He has so much to give.

Just a reminder about the Parish Leadership Conference – this year's topic is addictions. The event will be held Saturday March 5 at St George's Church in Clifton Park; beginning at 8:30AM and concluding by 4:00PM. Registration is necessary, as they need a lunch count. Go to the Diocesan website and follow the Conference link [www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org]

Christian Education offerings for all

Church School Class – Sunday at 11:00AM

Adult Bible Studies –

Sunday morning Bible Study – 11:00AM – Sunday Lectionary readings

Sunday evening Men's Study group – 7:00PM (and occasionally at 5:30PM for dinner out)

Wednesday morning Bible Study – 9:30AM – Galatians

Wednesday evening Bible Study – 6:45PM – Mark

Oaks of Righteousness in Troy - from Bob & Pat Hagen

On behalf of Mother Hanna and Mother Christina of Oaks of Righteousness in Troy, we would like to thank everyone for their generous donations this winter of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and skateboards. We will be collecting again next fall.

From the Wardens: *thoughts by Simone Rockwell*

We are well into Lent with Easter and spring on the horizon. We are a very lucky parish in that opportunities for improving our knowledge and our spirituality are many. We have 4 Bible study classes, Monday evening prayer, meetings for prayers for our adult children, Stations of the Cross on Fridays, an opportunity to experience a Seder dinner, and our Lenten services.

In February, the Daughters of the King had a presentation by Bishop Dan Herzog on "Healing" followed by some refreshments. It was very informative and very enjoyable. We had our Pancake supper the Tuesday night before Ash Wednesday. Many thanks to Steve George, Rick and Susan Rapp, Janet Godfrey, Wes and Neil Lavery, Kevin McCarthy and Larry Mose for all their hard work making the pancake dinner a delicious success. A special thank you to everyone else who wandered through and helped with this event.

Thanks to Betsy Baxter, Vicki Ramotar and Carol Kiddle who chaired the chili sale on the February 27. Congratulations to the winner of the "Best Chili" and thanks to the many contributions from our parish cooks. Many thanks to Christine Bissonette and Karen Jarosz for their presentation on the maintenance plans for the grounds around the church at the February Vestry meeting. There will be more info in the weeks to come.

In March, we have the Parish Leadership Conference in Clifton Park on the 5th of the month with the topic of "Addiction". Please contact Gail if attending. On Saturday, March 13, the ECW has their annual Spring Bake Sale. Good opportunity to get some goodies for Easter.

In addition to our Holy Week services, don't forget to sign up to reserve your seat for the Seder dinner on Thursday March 24. Dinner starts at 6:00PM.

Please note – For monthly Vestry minutes and Finance reports, see copies posted on the Vestry bulletin board. As a member of the Parish, you are always welcome to visit Vestry meetings.

Next meeting – Thursday, March 10 at 6:45PM in the lounge.

Contact your Wardens: Simone Rockwell (370-3412; srockwe2@nycap.rr.com)

Marji Edgar (370-1725; medgar2@aol.com)

Vestry members for 2016 – Deb Battista, Agnes Bukhala, Christine Bissonette, Karen Jarosz, Todd Lavery, Claudette Mayer, Kevin McCarthy, Rick Rapp, Jeri Vincent

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St Andrew's

The Spring Bake Sale will be held on Sunday March 13 after both services. Bakers and buyers welcome. This is one of only 2 fundraisers the ECW has, the proceeds of which we purchase altar wine, baptismal candles, stamps for mailings to our shut-ins, and Christmas gifts for our clergy. Thank you for your support of these endeavors.

Reminder – We will NOT be having our luncheons until April. Next gathering is April 13 – noon in the lounge.

Tuesday Morning Eucharist and Breakfast

The group has resumed its gathering on the second Tuesday of each month. Eucharist Service starts at 8:30am followed by breakfast. Next service is March 8.

Church School News – *Jeri Vincent, teacher*

The MS/HS Sunday School class has been on hiatus since Christmas however we will be getting back into the swing of things Sunday March 6. It's been a long break and I look forward to having the kids back.

As mentioned in an earlier note, we will not be having a specific "Confirmation Class". I will be incorporating lessons from that curriculum into my lesson plans, but it is my firm belief that any young person that attends class regularly will be prepared for Confirmation as soon as they're old enough.

I look forward to see all those bright happy faces on March 6!

March Services and Events

See calendars for full schedule of services and events

Any updates and addition will be listed in the Saturday/Sunday bulletin.

Fridays in Lent - 5:30PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 5 - Diocesan Parish Leadership Conference at St George's Clifton Park Carpool at 8AM

Daylight Savings Time resumes at 2AM on Sunday March 13 (hint - set clocks ahead that Saturday evening)

Sunday, March 13 - ECW Bake sale - after both services

Holy Week Services and Events

Sat, Mar 19 - 5:00pm Palm Sunday

Sun, Mar 20 - 8:00am & 9:45am Palm Sunday

Mon, Mar 21 - 7:00am Eucharist Service; 5:45pm Evening Prayer

Tues, Mar 22 - 7:00am Eucharist Service

Wed, Mar 23 - 9:10am Morning Prayer; 11:00am & 5:30pm Eucharist Service

Thurs, Mar 24 - 6:00pm Seder Dinner (reservation sign-up on lounge door)

Fri, Mar 25 - 3:00pm Stations of the Cross

7:00pm Good Friday Liturgy

Sat, Mar 26 - 7:00pm Easter Vigil - *please note time change*

Sun, Mar 27 - 8:00am & 9:45am Easter Sunday

Weekly Eucharist Service schedule -

Saturdays at 5:00PM

Sundays at 8:00AM and 9:45AM

Wednesdays at 11:00AM (in the lounge)

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Disciples Making Disciples