

GRACE NOTES—March 2022

MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word...

Every Ash Wednesday we hear this invitation to go deeper for a season. Go deeper into God's Word. Go deeper into the undeniable fact that we will each die. That our time is limited. Go deeper into the question, what in my life matters?



As a child I found Lent to be interminable. The music in church seemed gloomier, the crosses were all covered up, and decorations were removed. We were encouraged to “give up” something for Lent – usually something good, like chocolate or soda. But there were some compensations. A fun weekday afternoon program for children during Lent. Fish every Friday (I love fish!). And most of all, a sense that we who observe Lent were leaning in to the faith we professed all year. A sense that this stuff *mattered*.

I wonder if you have a similar split opinion about Lent? Both the reluctance toward the work of self-examination, self-denial, prayer, fasting etc., and a certain relish that at least for a time, we can try to get back on track toward being who God has called us to be. We will, of course, fall short of this goal, for all kinds of reasons, but chief among them, because we are human. And that too, is a good thing, because we are reminded that we are not God. There is a certain liberation in confronting the fact that God is God and we are not. It means we are not responsible for everything and everyone else. We are not doomed to hold up the whole world, or even our tiny part of it. And for the things we *are* responsible for, we can always rely on the help of God, who loves us beyond measure.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy" followed by a plus sign (+). The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

NEW COMMUNITY PARTNER

Please welcome our new Community Partner, AA Group “Up the Creek”, meeting on Friday evenings at 7:30 PM in the Undercroft. This Friday group needed a new meeting location when their prior hosts needed to reclaim space for their own activities.

FEBRUARY VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Dave Ferrari was approved to use Key Bank credit card for emergencies only (if Mo. Cathy is unavailable) and with a warden's approval.
- Parochial Report for 2021 approved. This includes all the church's statistical, stewardships, and financial realities.
- COVID measures are status quo
- Allen Wolf shared his reaction to the online small church meeting. It stressed stability, obedience and conversion. We need to search outward rather than focusing on what has been done in the past.
- Thanks to all for your generous contributions to the Plaid Purse
- The "Property Guys" have done more wiring for our ever-expanding communications system. Thank you.
- Vestry Day is Saturday March 5

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER!!

Come join us on March 1st in the Undercroft from 5-7pm or our delicious and tasty homemade Pancake Dinner. The dinners will include pancakes, sausage and applesauce with beverages. The prices are \$5/person or \$15/family. This is a perfect opportunity to talk and catch up with parish members you have not seen or talked to in awhile. (Note that masks must be worn except while seated and eating).



COOK OFF!

Get out your measuring spoons and cups, spatulas, wooden spoons, bowls and ingredients. Warm up your oven, stovetop and slow cookers. Dust off those cookbooks and find a delicious treat or food to make at our cook off. This year the



theme is Everything Maple, so time travel back to fall and re-



member if you made anything with maple. The cook off this year will take place after the 11am service on March 27th.

BALDWINSVILLE CHRISTMAS BUREAU



Once again due to the overwhelming generosity of groups and individuals, the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau was able to help 139 families in Baldwinsville have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season! This year, the outpouring of donations was exceptionally generous in a year that has been impacted by the COVID-19 virus! Without your support, hundreds of individuals would not have received a Christmas dinner complete with a turkey, as well as extra food, clothing, coats, boots, hats and mittens, house wares, books and toiletries. Most importantly, Christmas Bureau was able to “assist” Santa Claus by providing toys and a filled stocking for every child! Children under the age 3 received a baby bag filled with items such as blankets, diapers, clothes and toys.

We could never accomplish any of this without you. The entire Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau committee and our parent organization, the Baldwinsville Volunteer Center would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks. Every year, we are amazed at the generosity and compassion of donors such as yourself! We also hope that you will think of us again next year! Please like our Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau Facebook page for information on the 2022 Christmas Bureau! We hope you have a happy and healthy New Year!

Lauri Bernstein, Christmas Bureau Coordinator
msh4225@gmail.com or (315) 727-5437

Janet Thurston, Christmas Bureau Chairperson
Stephanie Pelcher, Christmas Bureau Assistant Co-Chair



THANK YOU!

Parish Life would like to show our appreciation of all the hard work our parishioners do day in and day out. On April 24, we will be offering a to-go ham dinner. If you would like a meal to-go RSVP by calling the church office at (315)635-3214 or email Stacy Wolf at swolf25@twcny.rr.com. Dinners can be picked up after the 8am and 11am services.



DIOCESAN SMALL CHURCH RESOURCE GROUP



New in 2022, our Church Leadership Resource Group will meet every other month to share ideas and tools for leading your congregation. This group is open to all parish leaders: staff, clergy, wardens, vestry members, and other volunteers. The next session on Thursday, March 10th, 6:00 -7:30 p.m., will focus on the topic “**Sources of Transformation.**” We’ll explore areas of ministry where the Church

has found God is reliably transforming lives, and we’ll talk about using areas of strength to help support and grow areas that are less developed in our congregations. Please REGISTER for the Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUoceispjkrGdQ_k9GQwCIYeLC1cv6kfBw2

SPEAK FAITH

St. Francis has been attributed with the saying, “preach the Gospel at all times; use words if necessary.” Our Bishop reminds us that in these times of great change and struggle, using our words to speak our faith IS necessary. At the same time, how many of us struggle to find the words to speak the faith that is in us?



Speak Faith is a safe environment to explore our faith and get courageous sharing it. Five group meetings will focus on the Bible, how we talk about God, Anglican history and identity, and faith and justice. In each session we’ll go deep with a guest teacher and reflection in small groups. Between sessions we’ll stay connected through prayer partnerships, personal study, and fun activities.

Speak Faith is a great opportunity for all Episcopalians to get to know and engage their faith in a deeper way, and can also be part of teen and adult preparation for Confirmation and Reception.

This month they meet on Saturday, March 12, 2022

To be part of the 2022 Speak Faith Cohort, or to learn more about Speak Faith, please visit cnyepiscopal.org/speak-faith.

SUBSCRIBE TO GRACE'S EMAIL NEWS

Want the latest news? We send weekly *Grace Community This Week*, this monthly newsletter *Grace Notes* and periodic other notices. To subscribe from our website, scroll to the bottom of the page, and complete the subscription form. Be sure to reply to the email you receive to complete the process. Unsubscribing is easy, just click the notice at the bottom of any email we've sent you. Contact the parish office with questions..

Sign up

LENT (YES, ALREADY!)



Ash Wednesday, is March 2nd this year. In-person services of Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes are scheduled for 12 noon and 7:00 PM. If you are not comfortable with in-person church, you may make an appointment to receive ashes in your car 11:00 - 11:45 AM, or 6:00-6:45 PM. During Lent it is the custom of many churches to have some kind of additional Lenten worship and/or study. This year we will have a Wednesday Holy Eucharist at 5:30 PM. The Tuesday Forum at 1 PM will be reading Amy-Jill Levine's *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. See article on page 7 for more information about this book. For those who would like to participate, but are unavailable Tuesdays, please suggest a time!

THANK YOU!



Thank you to those who continue to support the church by bringing or mailing in your offerings. For those who would like to make a gift without having to write a check and use the postal system, please consider giving

online by clicking the green button on the home page of our website that says, "Give." It is an easy and safe way to give to Grace. You may also contribute in this way for flowers, or to special efforts like Samaritan Center Meals.

GIVE

SYRACUSE HOME WORSHIP



Next Syracuse Home worship is Evening Prayer at 3 pm on March 20. Readers, singers, musicians, and people to help residents with the bulletin are all needed. Please speak to Mother Cathy if interested in helping out.

OUTREACH EASTER BASKETS!

Looking for something to lift your spirits on these cold winter days? Help Outreach brighten the lives of children by donating items for their Easter baskets.

Next time you are shopping, pick up a few extra items-

- Small toys or games, books, writing tools, paper pads, activity kits, stickers, small bouncy balls, sidewalk chalk, soap bubbles, jump ropes, watercolors, bath toys, --- **anything small and fun for young children!**

- Edible treats are also fine—small cookies, Easter candy, fruit gummies, crackers. (Please make sure these are individually wrapped or in individual packets)



Please deliver your donations to church during business hours by **Monday, April 4** since Head Start starts their spring break on April 11. Our goal is to fill baskets for 20 preschoolers, and we are counting on your generosity. Thank you!!

HUMANE CNY

Dear Church Members,

Thank you for your donation of \$90 made on

[[gifts.ack.date_phrase. We are always grateful for your donation to HumaneCNY. As a private non-profit that focuses on helping local animals in need, HumaneCNY depends on private donations as we are not funded by the state or federal government or associated with any national organization.

To respect your generosity, we will always do everything possible to stretch every dollar we receive to care for homeless cats, dogs, and other small pets. Your gift allows us to continue our lifesaving mission of providing shelter, vaccinations, and medical care prior to finding loving forever homes for each abandoned animal that arrives at our door.

Thank you again for supporting HumaneCNY. Please visit our Facebook page and website



www.humanecny.org for our latest newsletter, upcoming events, and pet adoption information.

Maureen Davison

Director

LENTEN FORUM TUESDAYS AT 1PM

From Abingdon Press--*Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges. In Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. Join us for a lively discussion of this fascinating book. Copies are available in paperback and Kindle from Amazon or your favorite bookseller. Please contact the parish office if you would like us to obtain a copy for you for \$13.19).*

CALLING ALL CHOIR!!

We are looking to have choir for this year's Easter service. Rehearsal dates will be announced soon and will occur after the 11AM service. If you are interested please contact Jeff Wise at music@graceepiscopalbaldwinsville.org.



LENTEN FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Baldwinsville's traditional Lenten Luncheon Series is suspended again this year. However, it's sponsors, Church Women United and the Baldwinsville Ministerial Association, present an alternative- "Food for Thought." Participation is open to all, Share your time, talent and treasure. Give of yourself!

Need an idea? Use your Phone: Check on a neighbor, call a shut-in, run an errand for someone, help someone at the laundromat, donate hygiene items to PEACE, Volunteer- Meals on Wheels need many helpers, send a "Thinking of You" note, Welcome someone new, share a smile, sing a song over the phone, donate to the Food Pantry, add your specialties to these suggestions, share this "Food for Thought!"



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WORSHIP

Sunday Holy Eucharist Rite 1 8:00 A.M.
Sunday Holy Eucharist Rite 2 11:00 A.M.
Tuesdays 12:00 NOON
Wednesdays in Lent 5:30 PM



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