

SAINT THOMAS TIDINGS



February 2023



Prayers of the People

Pray for anyone who suffers from any kind of grief, trouble or illness especially **Alex, Fr. John & Alec, Bill, Dawn, Nick, Elanor, Tina, Nancy, Nana Jo, Chris, Tyler S., Bob, Diane, Sharron, Terrie & Judy, Tim, Scott, Alec, Roseann, and Nicholas' family: Deliver them from their distress.**

Pray for those serving in our armed forces especially, **Fr. Tony, Mitchell, Emily, Steven, Chelsey, the 200th Red Horse Squadron and the 393rd U.S. Air Force Bomb Squadron and the 983rd Combat Engineering Battalion. Protect, guide and comfort them and bring them home safely when their work is done.**

A Message From Pastor Beverly: History of the Episcopal Church

It would be impossible to write about the history of the Episcopal Church without addressing King Henry VIII and his six wives. Many British school children learn the following rhyme to help them remember the fate of each wife: "Two divorced. One died. Two beheaded. One survived."

Although his wife Catherine of Aragorn gave him six children, only one, Mary, survived into adulthood. Henry's desire for a male heir caused him to divorce Catherine, against the ruling of the Pope, and marry Ann Boleyn. She did not give him a son, but a daughter instead, Elizabeth.

The divorce from Catherine and marriage to Ann caused the Pope to excommunicate Henry and the whole country of England. Thus, Henry appointed himself head of the church, eventually leading to the birth of the Anglican Church.

His third wife, Jane Seymour, would give him a son, Edward, taking the throne at age nine and reigning for only six years. Mary would succeed him and Elizabeth would succeed her.

The desire for a male heir was a motivating factor for Henry, but there was also a political aspect as well. Henry's lifestyle, along with his wars with France and Scotland, led to a lack of money and additional cash was needed.

No longer a Catholic country, Henry dissolved the monasteries. Monastic properties a source of wealth owning thousands of acres of fertile land and abbeys that compared to many castles of that day. With the help of Thomas Cromwell, monastic lands, works of art and buildings were sold off. The wealth taken from the monasteries allowed Henry to establish a modern navy. 80 ships were added to the English fleet and the first dockyard was built at Portsmouth. England was now able to compete with the French and Spanish navy's.

When Henry asked for a divorce from Catherine, he quoted Leviticus 20:21:

"If a man married his brother's wife, it is an act of impurity; he has dishonored his brother. They will be childless."

But, Catherine could counter with Deuteronomy 25:5:

"When brothers reside together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall take her in marriage and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.

Such contradictions in the Bible beg the question: "Which is correct?"

Announcements

Stations of the Cross Lenten Bible Study

Beginning on March 1st and every Wednesday through the season of Lent, Pastor Beverly will be leading worshipers through the Stations of the Cross. Stations will be followed by a Bible Study on the Prophets.

She is an Old Testament Scholar, so she should have many valuable insights into the life and world of these fascinating individuals.

Please donate your used greeting cards

Sue is collecting used greeting cards for a Senior ministry at Rona Community Church in Fairborn, Ohio. This ministry would like the entire card, not just the front. There will be a collection box in the Guild Hall for anyone, who would like to donate.

Ministry Opportunities

Here are some ways to serve St. Thomas and our community.

Knitting Ministry: Tuesdays, February 7th and 21st
All skill levels welcome!

Operation Food on the Table

Dana Riley (419-681-0960) is still looking for volunteers to pick up and delivering bakery items from Kroger. Please text her if you can help.

Operation Food-on-the-Table has a new bigger storage space. Many thanks go to Bob, who cleared away all the junk to make room for the food and to John and Tyler, who put up the shelves and organized the food in our new space.

Thanks also go out to the Port Clinton Lion's Club, who packed bags last month and to the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio and Key Bank for providing grant money to allow us to continue and grow this ministry.

February Community Meal: Thursday, February 16th at 4 PM.

Thanks to all who came and helped out for the January meal. This month's menu will be ham and scallop potatoes.

Ushers, LEMs and Readers: Please contact Pastor Beverly if you are interested in serving: 219-242-4828.

Livestream Technician:

Contact the office for details.

January 2023 Vestry Meeting Details

Treasurer's Report: Y-T-D contributions are greater than budgeted amount the budgeted amount, while investment values are down. The annual budget will be distributed along with the February newsletter (Please see attached).

Pastor's Report: Pastor Beverly recommended that a second hand rail be mounted on the steps leading to the office. Until then, the office door will remain locked and visitors should come in through the glass doors. She also mentioned that St. Thomas May host the Community Good Friday Service.

Food Pantry Report: The vestry discussed making a small donation to another group, who packs and delivers food bags. Dana discussed adding a new site to our food bag delivery ministry.

Other: The church roof has been repaired and the old flagpole light has been replaced with a new LED light. Finally, they discussed dedicating the piano to Julie Quayle.

Birthdays

Sue Hejhal – 1st

Sue Homsy's 90th – 21st

Strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives.



Easy Banana Pancakes

Make these easy pancakes for your Shrove Tuesday meal.

Ingredients:

-2 medium, over-ripe, bananas

-2 tsp baking powder

-2 large eggs

-4-6 Tbsp flour

-butter or oil for cooking

1. Mash bananas in a bowl until only small chunks remain. 2. Add eggs and mix. Then add baking powder and flour. Continue to mix until well combined. 3. Heat a skillet or pan over medium. 4. Add oil or butter, then spoon in 3 Tbsp of batter. 5. Turn your pan down to low, cover (This will allow your middles to cook through) and cook 3-4 minutes. 7. Remove lid, flip, recover and cook 3-4 minutes on the other side. 8. Keep warm on a baking sheet in a 350 degree oven until ready to serve. 9. Serve with your favorite pancake toppings

(Source: minimalistbaker.com).



Why Ashes?

The Imposition of Ashes is an important ritual marking the beginning of the period we in the Church refer to as Lent. Lent is a time of self-examination and repentance that marks 40-days before the celebration of Easter. But have you ever wondered why we use ashes to mark this occasion?

Ashes are an ancient symbol of penance. Many figures in the Old Testament including Job and Daniel wore sack cloth and ashes as an outward sign of grief over their sinful actions. Today, we receive ashes to mark our own sincere efforts to overcome our sinful human natures.

The imposition of ashes also reminds us of the mortality of our bodies and the hope of resurrection. When the priest places ashes on our foreheads, she repeats the missive, "Remember that thou are dust and to dust thou shalt return."

In the Middle Ages, priests would sprinkle a person with ashes as a sign of final repentance shortly before death. He would then ask the person if they were content with ashes as a symbol of their final repentance. The person would then reply. "I am content" and could die in the hope of resurrection. Today, we receive ashes to remind us that we must die to our sinful natures in order to be resurrected anew through Christ and the hope of a reunion with him. (Sources: Saunders, W. (1996) What are the origins of Ash Wednesday and the use of ashes?, Kosloski, P. (2020) What is the symbolism of ashes on ash Wednesday?

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Join us at 10 AM worship on Sundays!
Livestream: episcopalportclinton.org