

SAINT THOMAS TIDINGS



March 2023

Prayers of the People

Pray for anyone who suffers from any kind of grief, trouble or illness especially **Alex, Diane, Nana Jo, Patricia K, Terri and Judy, Fr. Johan and Alec, Roseann, Denny, David, Donna 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, Part II

Last month I wrote about Henry VIII and his divorce from Catherine of Aragon which eventually led to Henry being excommunicated from the Catholic Church and the birth of the Anglican Church.

Henry quoted from the book of 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.*" He quoted this to justify his divorce from Catherine. Catherine had first married Arthur. Arthur was the oldest son and was in line to inherit the throne from his father. But Arthur died shortly after they were married. And the throne of England passed to Henry.

And then I wrote that Catherine could have countered with Deuteronomy 25:5: *If brothers dwell together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead shall not be remarried outside of the family to a stranger; her husband's brother shall go into her, and take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.*

Here is another case in the Scriptures where two verses, if read without the context of the rest of Bible, seem to contradict each other. However if you read them in connection with each other you see that the Deuteronomy text is simply one exception to the Levitical text. The exception is based on the brother dying childless.

In the ancient world and even in some places of the world today, having a son to carry on your name or inherit your property was essential. Henry desperately needed a son to inherit the throne and unfortunately Catherine was unable to give him one. At the time Henry ruled England, for a king to die without a male heir would have thrown the country into chaos. Numerous high-ranking families, with legitimate claims to the throne would have stepped forward. Thus, we have the War of the Roses.

So, we are left with a resolution to the two apparently contradictory verses. The Levitical prohibition against marriage to a brother's wife and the Deuteronomic verse that allows for an exception if the brother dies without a male heir.

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.

Slight Change in Service Times

To accommodate Carson Weingart's work schedule, we will not switch to the 9:00 AM service time until the first Sunday in May (May 7th). We will not switch back again to the 10:00 AM service time until the first Sunday in November (November 5th). Thank you for your understanding.

Ministry Opportunities

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

Knitting Ministry: Tuesdays, March 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. She will be supervising the next bag pack on Friday, March 10th at 11:00 AM

March Community Meal

Thursday, February 16th at 5 PM. The menu will be meatloaf and mashed potatoes.

Magee Marsh

Magee Marsh Wildlife Area is looking for summer volunteers to work in their visitors center. There will be an information session on March 25th. Contact Mary Warren: 4149-656-5141 or Sandy Burris: 419-625-2696 if you have questions.

February 2023 Vestry Meeting Details

Here is a summary of the issues discussed at the vestry meeting on February 15, 2023.

Treasurer's Report:

Typical for January, year-to-date contributions are down. Investments are up slightly. Utilities are running lower than is typical for February.

Pastor's Report

The Ash Wednesday service was moved from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. St. Thomas will host the community Good Friday service this year. The vestry and other staff will be attending "safety" training in the coming months.

Food Pantry Report:

Operation Food-on-the-Table received a grant from the diocese. Dana talked about expanding the program to include bag delivery to the low-income housing units at The Vineyard.

Other:

Building and grounds: St. Thomas has made several repairs and minor capital improvements including adding LED lights to the flagpole, new plexiglass window coverings and repairs to the roof. Signs will be posted around the building directing visitors to the office through the glass doors in the Guild Hall.

Other: St. Thomas will be inviting our internet viewers to a Spring planting event. The service times will change slightly. The Spring switch to 9:00 AM will not occur till May 1st to help accommodate Carson's work schedule.

Birthdays

Dana Riley – 1st

Ron Thomas & Ron Uebbing – 17th

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



JOHN THE BAPTIST JOINS THE CLERGY STAFF AT A CHURCH NEAR YOU



Tenebrae

Tenebrae is a Latin word meaning darkness. A Tenebrae service, is typically held on one or all of the days during holy week and marks the anniversary of Jesus' crucifixion.

At the start of the service, a "hearse" holding fifteen candles is placed at the front of the altar. Then, a series of fifteen scriptures is read marking a specific point at the end of Jesus's life. At the end of each scripture reading, one of the candles is extinguished.

After the reading marking Christ's burial is finished, the reader slams his or her book shut symbolizing the finality of death. This ritual also represents the tearing of the veil separating the "Holy of Holies" from the rest of temple in Jerusalem, which is said to have occurred at the moment of Christ's death. The final candle is extinguished and participants are left in darkness to ponder the impact a world without Christ's guiding light as they gather hope anticipating the celebration of his resurrection at Easter.

This year, St. Thomas will host a community Tenebrae service on Good Friday (April 7th at 7:00 PM). Consider joining us as we observe the anniversary of the crucifixion of the death of our Lord.

Contact Information:

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Email: saintthomaspcoh@gmail.com

Join us at 10 AM worship on Sundays!

Livestream: episcopalportclinotn.org