

SAINT THOMAS TIDINGS



May 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, Scott, Fr. John and Alec, Roseann, David, Michael, Steve and Donna: Deliver them from their distress.**

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

A Message From Pastor Beverly

As some of you know, I love to visit churches when I travel. Many years ago, it was easy to get into churches, but now they are usually locked. And I have been known to wander through old cemeteries that are part of the church grounds. A couple of generations were often buried next to each other and often they had written on their tombstone what they died of, especially the children. Measles, Scarlet Fever, Chicken Pox, and Small Pox were the cause of most children's deaths.

I've often thought: "why do I love to visit churches and old cemeteries?" I think I like to visit churches because I consider them sacred spaces. In some religious traditions, sacred places will be decorated with reminders of what I most valued by that tradition, using various types of artworks. In St. Thomas, the Stations of the Cross that line the walls of the sanctuary remind us of the crucifixion of Christ and his sacrifice. The Dove on the altar piece, behind the altar, reminds us of the flood and God's promise that God would never destroy the earth with water again, as well as a symbol for peace. The altar itself is an ancient symbol of where sacrifices were and are made. Each Sunday as I stand behind the altar, I symbolically recreate the Last Supper.

Symbols are important to us and are used when something visual is used to represent something else and it is the oldest form of communication.

Check out the stained-glass windows and the Altar panel. They represent who we are and what we believe.

Announcements

Please do not forget!! Service times will change to 9 AM on Sunday, May 2nd!!

Spring Planting Day and Lunch

Bring your black mulch, perennial flowers and garden tools to St. Thomas on Saturday, May 20th at 10:30 and help us beautify the church grounds for the summer. Contact Pastor Beverly if you would like to help.

Graduation Brunch

Please join us in the Guild Hall after the service on Sunday, May 21st to celebrate Tyler Rodrigue-Hejhal's high school graduation. Call or text Sue if you have any questions: 419-341-9961.

Wear Red on Pentecost!!

It is tradition to wear red Pentecost Sunday to commemorate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Return of Deacon George

Deacon George will be returning in May. Details to follow.

Ministry Opportunities

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

Knitting Ministry: Tuesdays, May 2nd and 16th at 1 PM. All skill levels welcome!

Operation Food on the Table: We will be packing food bags on Wednesday, April 5th at 11 AM. Text Dana with questions: 419-681-0960.

Final Community Meal of the Season

Thursday, May 18th at 5 PM. The menu will be pulled pork, baked beans and potato salad.

Promedica Senior Care

Volunteers are need to provide companionship to senior citizens. Please contact Samantha or Connie for more information: 419-355-9209.

April 2023 Vestry Meeting

Here is a summary of the issues discussed at the vestry meeting on April 20, 2023.

Treasurer's Report:

Y-T-D contributions are down. Expenses for building, grounds and printing service are up. Utility expenses were lower than expected. Investments values are better than expected thanks to some strategic purchases and sales. The treasurer would like to cut the budget to reduce withdrawals from investments by \$10K. He plans to do this by reducing wages and asking members to volunteer to perform certain tasks such as gardening.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Beverly is planning a Spring planting day in May. The vestry and staff need to complete "safe church" training. The vestry discussed possible candidates to serve in the coming years.

Food Pantry Report:

The advantage and disadvantages with aligning with the Toledo Area Food bank were discussed.

Other:

Building and grounds:

Bob's new shed has been erected.

Other:

History of St. Thomas books will be placed in the narthex for interested parties to take.

Anniversaries

Dan & Dana Riley – May 22nd

May their home be a haven of blessing and peace.



Recipe of the Month: Easy Mother's Day Quiche

Here is a simple quiche recipe to make for your Mother's Day brunch.

Ingredients:

- 1 frozen pre-rolled pie crust
- 2 eggs, plus 2 egg yolks
- 3/4 cup heavy cream
- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 3/4 cup kosher salt
- 1/4 cup freshly ground black pepper
- 6 oz ham steak cut into thin strips
- 3 oz Gruyere cheese shredded
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced chives

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. 2. Cover pie crust with foil and fill with pie weights, beans or uncooked rice. 3. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until the edges are dry. 4. Whisk egg whites in a small bowl. Brush on crust. 5. Bake an additional 5 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside. 6. In a medium bowl, whisk together, eggs, yolks, cream, milk, salt and pepper until blended and smooth. 7. Spread ham and cheese across the bottom of the pie crust. Sprinkle chives over ham and cheese. 8. Pour egg mixture over ham, cheese and chives. 9. Bake quiche for 30-35 minutes until filling is puffed and set with just a slight jiggle when shaken. Allow to cool. 10. Serve at room temperature with a simple green or fruit salad. *Source: delish.com.*

The Fascinating History of Pentecost

We all know about important feast days on the Christian calendar such as Christmas and Easter. However, what do we know about the feast of Pentecost? Pentecost is derived from the Greek word "pentekoste" or 50th, and is celebrated 50 days or seven Sundays after Easter. Pentecost commemorates the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the believers in Jerusalem and empowered them to begin to spread the message of the Gospel. Before that time, these men and women met in secret out of fear of persecution by local authorities. After they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they courageously left their place of hiding and proclaimed the message of the resurrection of Jesus in public.

That day, Jewish visitors from throughout the Roman Empire congregated in Jerusalem. Along with a special boldness, the Holy Spirit empowered the believers with "the gift of tongues," enabling them to proclaim their message in myriad languages, so they were understood by individuals from across the realm. Hearing the Gospel in their own language, many converted.

In England, Pentecost was known as Whitsun or White Sunday, Believers wore white to celebrate their baptisms, which would take place that day. Whitsuntide followed Whitsun, a week that marked the end of Spring chores and the beginning of Summer. Laborers would be excused from their work to participate festivals and other celebrations such as Beltane, the ancient pagan May Day Festival. Whitsuntide was observed in England until 1972, when it was replaced with Spring Break, which begins the first Monday in May.

When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' It is a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway.

- Erma Bombeck

Contact Information:

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Email: saintthomaspcoh@gmail.com

Join us at 10 AM worship on Sundays!

Livestream: episcopalportclinotn.org