

## Sharing God's Love in Our Community Through Prayer, Study and Action

**St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY**  
(Member of the Chenango District)

### The Parish News

[www.stannsaftonny.org](http://www.stannsaftonny.org)

The Newsletter of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Afton, NY

**Clergy: The Reverend Fr. David A. Hanselman Cell: 607-761-4601 Office: 607-656-9502**

If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at one of the numbers above.

**In an emergency and Fr. David cannot be reached, please contact one of the wardens.**

**Wardens: Dan Vail: 607-240-9264 Tracey Tallmadge: 607-343-1301**



Lent seems to be tailor-made to accentuate the fact that we are imperfect. It opens the opportunity to dwell on our imperfections. And yet, as easy as it is to fall into the trap of numbering our sins, rehashing in our minds the many ways in which we fall short, shouldn't we at least try to understand what it would be to be perfect? Ah, "perfection". What comes to mind when you hear that word? For me, it would be an extraordinarily wealthy, physically, emotionally, and spiritually very healthy, smart, generous person. In a word, Superman, I suppose. But what does perfection really mean? Tradition (derived from Greek philosophy) speaks of God's 4 "Omnis" – Omnipotent, omniscient, omnibenevolent, and omnipresent. That is, all powerful, all knowing, all loving and all present. As we dig deeper into those concepts, however, we soon discover that we really don't know what they really mean. For instance, by the Middle Ages, thinkers already realized that "all powerful" brings up the logically impossible situation of "creating a stone too heavy to lift". There seems to be fundamental and unavoidable inconsistencies in working out the details of otherwise seemingly sensible concepts like "all powerful" and "all knowing" (let alone an "all loving" God which allows children to die of cancer). But we have some other resources available to consider what perfection might mean. I'd like to share an extended excerpt from a book that I've been regularly reading for years. I've mentioned it before – Joan Chittister's "The

Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". Well, in reflecting upon what Benedict says about cultivating true humility, Joan writes: "The chapter on humility is a strangely wonderful and intriguingly distressing treatise on the process of the spiritual life. It does not say, 'Be perfect.' It says, 'Be honest about what you are, and you will come to know God.' It does not say, 'Be flawless and you will earn God.' It says, 'If you recognize the presence of God in life, you will soon become more and more perfect.' But this perfection is not in the twenty-first century sense of impeccability. This perfection is in the biblical sense of having become matured, ripened, whole." "The entire chapter is such a no mechanistic, totally human approach to God. If we reach out and meet God here where God is, if we accept God's will in life where our will does not prevail, if we are willing to learn from others, if we can see ourselves and accept ourselves for what we are and grow from that, if we can live simply, if we can respect others and reverence them, if we can be a trusting part of our world without having to strut around it controlling it, changing it, wrenching it to our own image and likeness, then we will have achieved 'perfect love that casts out fear' (1 John 4:18). There will be nothing left to fear – not God's wrath, not the loss of human respect, not the absence of control, not the achievements of others greater than our own whose success we have had to smother with rejection or deride with scorn." "Humility, the lost virtue of our era, is crying to heaven for rediscovery. The development of nations, the preservation of the globe, the achievement of human community may well depend on it."

I don't know about you, but I am amazed and fascinated by considering the completely unapproachable notion of "perfection" in terms of humility. Perfection – something so far beyond me – may very well be attainable through working towards becoming humble. It's going to take quite a while to let that really sink in! May God bless you abundantly!



*Don't forget to set our Clocks  
ahead  
1hr  
on Saturday night March 12, 2022*



### MARCH SERVICE SCHEDULE \ SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

If you are not currently receiving email Zoom invites, then please send your email address and you will be added to the parish listing. [Bottom415@aol.com](mailto:Bottom415@aol.com). Yes, the “zoom” service is different, but change is what life is all about. BEGINNING in March, St. Ann's will resume In-Church services at 9:15a.m. every Sunday. On March 2nd, there will be an Ash Wednesday service at 7p.m. with imposition of Ashes. Father David will conduct Holy Communion.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Eucharistic Minister or MP Leader	Acolytes
Mar 2	Ash Wednesday HC				
Mar 6	Lent I HC	D. Wieber	D. Wieber	No Euch. Min.	B.Vail
Mar 13	Lent II MP	T.Tallmadge	T.Tallmadge	J.Rettberg/C.Cimini	T.Tallmadge
Mar 20	Lent III HC	J.Rettberg	J.Rettberg	No Euch. Min.	D.Wieber
Mar 27	Lent IV MP	B.Vail	B.Vail	D.Vail/T.Vail	B.Vail
Apr 3	Lent V HC	D.Wieber	D.Wieber	No Euch. Min.	T.Tallmadge
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalms	New Testament	Gospel
Mar 2	Ash Wednesday HC	<a href="#">Joel 2:1-2,12-17</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 103 or 103:8-14</a>	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 6:1-6,16-21</a>
Mar 6	Lent I HC	<a href="#">Deuteronomy 26:1-11</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16</a>	<a href="#">Romans 10:8b-13</a>	<a href="#">Luke 4:1-13</a>
Mar 13	Lent II MP	<a href="#">Genesis 15:1-12,17-18</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 27</a>	<a href="#">Philippians 3:17-4:1</a>	<a href="#">Luke 13:31-35</a>
Mar 20	Lent III HC	<a href="#">Exodus 3:1-15</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 63:1-8</a>	<a href="#">1 Corinthians 10:1-13</a>	<a href="#">Luke 13:1-9</a>
Mar 27	Lent IV MP	<a href="#">Joshua 5:9-12</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 32</a>	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 5:16-21</a>	<a href="#">Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</a>
Apr 3	Lent V HC	<a href="#">Isaiah 43:16-21</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 126</a>	<a href="#">Philippians 3:4b-14</a>	<a href="#">John 12:1-8</a>
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					



Altar Duty for the month of March is Tracey Tallmadge 607-343-1301. During the Lenten Season, flowers are not placed on the Altar until Easter Sunday.

**MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:** March 13 - J.Rettberg/C.Cimini  
March 27 - D.Vail/T.Vail

St. Ann's Prayer List for *March 2022*

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. A current listing follows. The names listed are not necessarily members of the parish and may include individuals or other requests for which we have been asked to pray. The clergy persons of the Chenango District are included. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. *"We are trying to be sure that our prayer list is as updated as possible and don't want to remove someone that should be on it."* Send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 639-1201. Please note long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names for two/three months unless updated.

SHORT TERM

Raevin  
Eileen  
Anne  
Pat  
Melrose  
Ralph George

LONG TERM

Fr. David Hanselman  
Fr. Steven White  
Deacon Kay  
Pastor Becky  
Fr. Geoff Doolittle  
Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe  
Bishop Michael Curry  
The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph  
Emmanuel Church  
Epiphany Church  
Zion Church  
St. Paul's Church  
St. Andrew's Church  
St. Matthews Church  
St. Peter's Church  
Carol Cindy  
Peter David  
Joyce Jason  
Mya Dakota  
Bonnie Hailey  
Richard Joan  
Nate Bobbi  
Marion Thurston  
Marsha Terra  
Bill  
Tyler

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –  
Pete and Carol Vail  
Joyce Whitney  
Marion Diehl  
Grace Affuso  
Bonnie MacPherson

The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. The Learning Communities Initiative of the Diocese. The following prayer is from the Evening Prayer service in the Book of Common Prayer: *Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.*



### Birthdays

6 th Connie Beames

7 th Nancy Setford and Bobbi Zurn

16th Alan Seacat

25th Jody Proffitt

27th Melrose Kelly

28th Tracey Tallmadge and Laurin Felldin



We have received word from Judy Rettberg that her granddaughter Mya is attending school in Utica, NY. Mya will be happy to hear from her parish family and her new address will be: Mya Boston, House of the Good Shepherd, 1550 Champlin Avenue, Utica, N.Y. 13502. We wish her many blessings in her new environment. Please keep her in your prayers.



### CHURCH

**CHURCH TERMS:** **Quadragesima** – Latin, “Fortieth.” The name of the first Sunday in Lent, forty days before Easter.

**Quasimodo Geniti** – The Sunday after Easter. Also known as Low Sunday. Named from the first words of the Introit in Latin.

### TERMS



~~Tom, Ron, and Erin~~

Your Love, Care, Compassion and **WARMTH** for St. Ann's is Unmeasurable and MUCH Appreciated by ALL.



February 20, 2022

1. Mado Cimini thanked for handling the zooming of services over the internet. Also to Gary Zurn for his technical assistance.
2. Letter from UTO thanking St. Ann's for our fall ingathering for the United Thank Offering.
3. Parochial report has been completed and vestry approved its filing.
4. Our Exceptional Student scholarship for a graduating Afton Central student was approved.
5. Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and Easter services were discussed. The Rev. Liz Groskoph will officiate at the Palm Sunday and Easter services.
6. The church heating system froze partially during the recent 5-hour power outage. Many thanks to Ron Sherman for his help in thawing the pipes, fortunately nothing broke. Also, thanks to Ron Sherman and Erin Noone for installing plug ins so that a generator can be connected to both furnaces in the event of another power failure in cold weather. Anti-freeze will be placed in the system.
7. The LED sign in front of the Church was originally installed in 2008 and like all electronic devices has reached the age where it is no longer supported by the manufacturer. In addition to being used by St. Ann's, it is used by several community organizations, which makes it a form of outreach. St. Ann's has received an offer from an anonymous individual to pay for one half of the cost of installing a new, up to date system. The proposed updated sign would have state of the art optics, be full color, be compatible with Windows 10 or 11 and be accessible by Wi-fi, plus several other updated features. After the "pay one half" offer, our share would be less than the original sign cost. It was decided to proceed with the purchase of the updated sign.
8. If anyone would like to contribute towards the Church's share of the cost, see the article elsewhere in this newsletter.



*Hopefully we will begin having warmer weather and the ice and snow will depart so that we may return to in-church services. Vestry made the decision in November to Zoom church services at home during the months of January and February returning in March as Lent begins.*

*It was a good decision on the part of Vestry as we had some very bitter days. It is hoped that we will all gather once again and have some time at coffee hour to visit with one another.*

*The Diocese, located in Syracuse, has stated that we must continue to wear masks whether vaccinated or not.*

### *Diocesan mask requirement remains in place*

*In line with CDC guidance, masks are required for all individuals participating in indoor in-person activities on church property and in any parish-sponsored indoor gatherings. This requirement applies regardless of gathering size, vaccination status of individuals, or gathering purpose.*

*The [CDC continues to recommend](#) that all individuals wear masks indoors in public in areas of "Substantial" or "High" community transmission of COVID-19. The [CDC's COVID-19 Data Tracker](#) indicates that all counties in the Diocese are at "High" levels of community transmission.*

*As a Diocese, we desire to protect and welcome the most vulnerable members of our communities. Therefore, we will typically take precautions beyond what is required by state regulations to slow the spread of COVID-19.*

*Please continue to watch diocesan communications for updated COVID-19 guidance, and visit [cnyepiscopal.org/covid-19](https://cnyepiscopal.org/covid-19) for updates and resources.*

*At our February meeting, St. Ann's Vestry was informed that we can no longer get parts for the electronic sign in the front yard. The software to run it will soon be obsolete as well. Two anonymous donors have generously offered to pay for half the cost of a new sign which is \$21,400 and it would be equivalent to a high definition tv. It would continue to be available to other community groups. The church has the funds to pay for the remaining half, but we thought it would be appropriate to ask if anyone else would like to contribute toward it, either anonymously or not. Thank you and feel free to contact either of us with any questions.*

*~Tracey and Dan~*

### *Our Greatest Refuge*

*It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.*

God is our greatest refuge. When every earthly support system fails, God remains steadfast, and His love remains unchanged. When we encounter life's inevitable disappointments and setbacks, God remains faithful. When we suffer losses that leave us breathless, God is always with us, always ready to respond to our prayers, always working in us and through us to turn tragedy into triumph.

Author and speaker Patsy Clairmont observed, "If you are walking toward Jesus to the best of our ability, he will see you through life's unpredictable waters—but you must risk launching the boat." And that's sound advice, because even during life's most difficult days, God stands by us. Our job, of course, is to return the favor and stand by Him.

*Whether our fear is realistic or out of proportion in our minds, our greatest refuge is Jesus Christ. (Luci Swindoll)*

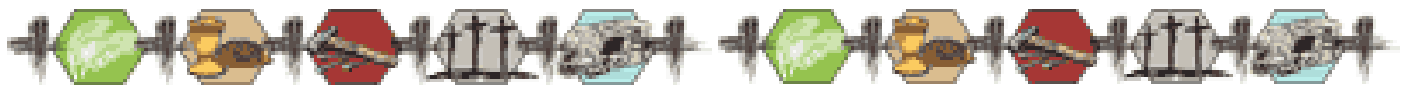


## A New Year's prayer to end all epidemics

The following prayer was put together by a Lutheran, a Methodist, an Anglican, and a Catholic, four editors of The Joyful Noiseletter.

Dear Lord:

- *We pray to You to put an end to the COVID-19 epidemic, as You have put an end to the many pandemics of the past centuries. We mourn the loss of so many of our friends and neighbors.*
- *Help us to lead holier and healthier lives to strengthen our immune systems against all diseases.*
- *Put an end to the epidemic of pollution of our air and water, and the pollution of our foods with killing pesticides.*
- *Put an end to the epidemic of endless wars and killing fields.*
- *Put an end to the epidemic of senseless, demonic violence.*
- *Put an end to the epidemic of the slaughter on our roads and highways by suicidal and homicidal drivers.*
- *Put an end to the epidemic of crime.*
- *Put an end to the epidemic of racism and hatred.*
- *Put an end to the epidemic of sex abuse.*
- *Put an end to the epidemic of divorce and rootless children of divorce struggling to survive without the support and guidance of an intact family.*
- *Put an end to the epidemic of madness, depression, alcoholism, and drug addiction.*
- *Open our eyes and help us see that most of our problems are not psychological or economic or political problems, but spiritual problems. Help us to see that it's all about how we treat one another, and how we treat ourselves.*
- *Inspire us all to act on Your commandments and Your Wisdom. (The Book of Acts is not The Book of Talks.)*
- *Review our commitment to Your Ten Commandments, which Moses brought us, and to The Lord's Prayer and the Sermon on the Mount, which Jesus brought us.*
- *We pray that You will restore Your Spirit of Love, Forgiveness, Good Humor, Joy, and Peace to our land and to all the world. Help us live in peace with our neighbors.*
- *We praise and thank You for Your mercy. Lord have mercy. Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison.*



Humor for the times

After church, a woman found she had locked her keys inside the car, so she tried to open the car door with an old coat hanger she found in the Parish Hall. She was unsuccessful, so she bowed her head and asked God to send her help.

A rather scruffy older man passing by stopped and asked her what was wrong. She explained her problem and asked him if he could use the coat hanger to unlock her car door.

"Sure," he said, and in less than a minute, it was opened.

The woman hugged the man and through tears, said, "Thank you so much! You are a very nice man."

"Lady." The man replied, "I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday. I was there for car theft."

The woman, sobbing, hugged the man again and cried out, "Oh thank you, God! You even sent me a professional!"

The Final Word



**Prayer:** Isaiah 1:16-20 – *“Come now, let us argue this out,” says the LORD. “No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you as white as wool. If you will only obey me and let me help you, then you will have plenty to eat. But if you keep turning away and refusing to listen, you will be destroyed by your enemies. I, the LORD have spoken!”*

*When a king grants an audience to a citizen of his kingdom, the subject will often approach the throne bowing low and using language that acknowledges the king’s authority. Likewise, when we talk to God in prayer, we are coming into the presence of the King. We must always remember that although God delights in our prayers and invites us to speak intimately with him, he is holy and absolutely righteous. Therefore, our approach to God must always begin with a recognition of who he is and a confession of who we are.*

NLT - GEZ

**St. Ann’s Episcopal Church**  
**P. O. Box 22**  
**Afton, New York 13730**

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 COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY  
 AND ACTION

**Clergy:** The Rev. David A. Hanselman  
 Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

