

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.stannsafortny.org

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

Clergy: The Reverend Fr. David A. Hanselman Cell: 761-4601 Office: 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 can't be reached, please contact one of the wardens.

Wardens: Betty Vail: 639-1201 Tracey Tallmadge: 343-1301



Happy and Blessed New Year!

Have you made any New Year resolutions? For complete disclosure, I don't remember the last time I made an official New Year resolution. Typically, throughout any given year, I try to develop better habits to varying degrees of success. But a few weeks ago, I got to watching some movies I hadn't seen in a long time and I got to

thinking of making a resolution.

Let me explain. The movie was The Da Vinci Code. No doubt many of you have seen it. Well, I had had a conversation with some other priests and somehow we got onto the topic of the character in the movie who wore a cilice – the spiked metal chain he wore around his thigh like a garter belt. I'd forgotten a lot about it, so I wanted to watch it again.

As I watched the movie, I was impressed by how completely devoted the character with the cilice was to his idea of what God demanded from him. Now, let me be clear, this character is completely anathema to what Christian devotion is and ever should be. He was devoted to a completely perverted idea of what the Christian church – in this case, the Roman Catholic Church – calls us to be. There are and have been spiritual practices called “mortification of the flesh”, but what is depicted in the movie is, to all available evidence, not based in any real practice.

But as I watched, a question formed in my head – what more could I do to prove my love of God?

But asking myself that question caused me to think about some related questions – what do I do presently to prove my love of God? What would God ask of me to prove my love for God? What did Jesus ask of his followers that they would show their love for him?

These questions prompt a great deal of reflection. But as I went through the lists of things I do and what Scripture tells us God and Jesus ask us to do, another deeper, more personal question began to take shape in my brain – Why am I not confident that I do enough to show my love of God? Why would I think I don't do enough?

I haven't fully worked through all these questions, but I have figured out one thing – all these questions are simple expressions of what love is. Love is wanting to do things to show love. Love is also a matter of wondering what more we could do to show love. Love is a powerful force in our lives. The character from Da Vinci Code never knew what real love is – a force of healing for ourselves and others, a force which forms a caring community in which the mighty and the weak, the rich and the poor, the healthy and the sick, all come together as a group thankful to God. Loving God and loving one another. I've no idea if I'll come up with a resolution, but it is good to be reminded of these things. Blessings to you all!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

Note to all who serve: It would be most helpful if, when you cannot make your assigned date, you would arrange for a substitute. If you are unable to do that, please notify a warden. Thanks for your cooperation!

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Jan 6	HC	C.Cimini	A.Cimini	AC	CC	A.Cimini/T.Tallmadge
Jan 13	MP	A.Wieber	B.Vail	MH	---	B.Vail
Jan 20	HC	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	BV	DW	D.Wieber/B. Vail
Jan 27	MP	R.Felldin	J.Rettberg	RF	---	D.Vail
Feb 3	HC	C.Cimini	A.Cimini	AC	CC	A.Cimini/T.Tallmadge
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Jan 6	J.Felldin	Jan 13	Judy/Marissa	Jan 14	K.Vail Ally, Garrett	
Jan 13	B.Vail	Jan 27	Carol/Mado	Jan 16	J.Rettberg/M.Kelly	
Jan 20	K. Vail					
Jan 27	T. Tallmadge					
Lectionary (Year A)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Jan 6	HC	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12	
Jan 13	MP	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	
Jan 20	HC	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11	
Jan 27	MP	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, & 8-10	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21	
Feb 3	HC	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30	

Altar Duty for the month of January is Carol Cimini, 693-2907 and Melrose Kelly, 639-1090. If you are giving flowers in memory a loved one, please notify Peter Vail 607-639-1444 no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the service bulletin.

St. Ann's Prayer List for January 2019

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. 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 months unless updated.

Short Term

Raevin
Marion
Dawn
Hailey
Ben
Bill
John
Pat
Chuck
Henry
Charlie
Lucian
Lisa
Tina

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. Matthew's Church
St. Peter's Church
Carol
Peter
Joyce
Mya
Holly
Cindy
Lois
Clifford
Richard
Bill
Kevin
Dakota
Nate
Hailey
Eli

*Special Prayers
For Those in Need*



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 eep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

grat-i-tude
 [grat i tood]
 noun
 the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness

A big “thank you” to Robin Felldin for her 4th Sunday of Advent gifts to everyone!

The outreach program for the Afton School Health office has been very well supported. Our past Angel trees were also successful, but it was time for a change. Everyone is to be congratulated for their part in helping families and the young children at the school. A big Merry Christmas "thank you" to everyone who participated. May God continue to bless you in the coming year.



Heartfelt Thanks

Many Thanks.....

To Carol Cimini for knitting scarfs, hats and mittens for distribution to anyone who is in need of them, as part of the Diocesan Learning Communities initiative. The table is in the hallway between the Church and the Parish Hall. Anyone may take an item or leave an item if you have good used winter wear that is looking for a home.

Thank you Carol!!

Also, many thanks to Mado Cimini for his visit from the North Pole for the children. Thank you Mado!!



Not Just Another Story

Many thanks to Calvin Tallmadge, Jay Christian and Tom Vail for setting up the Creche on the front lawn of the church. A perfect reminder to all of us as to what the Christmas season is all about.



Thank you to everyone who brought cookies for our Christmas party and welcoming Santa which took place on December 16th. Everyone had a great time, especially pictures with Santa.

St. Ann’s has a small group of women who participate with the Altar Guild. A big thank you to all of them who continue to serve each month and set up for the Holy Eucharist Sundays.



There will be a Vestry meeting on January 20th. There was no vestry meeting in December due to the Christmas party.

REPORT ON STEWARDSHIP FOR 2019



Total “intention cards” for 2019 have exceeded the total for 2018. This generous financial support of St. Ann’s enables your vestry to plan for the coming year, meeting expenses of operation and supporting various outreach projects such as helping a local family with Christmas so that children would have some gifts on Christmas morning. A very hearty Thank you !! to all who keep our Parish operating “in the black.”



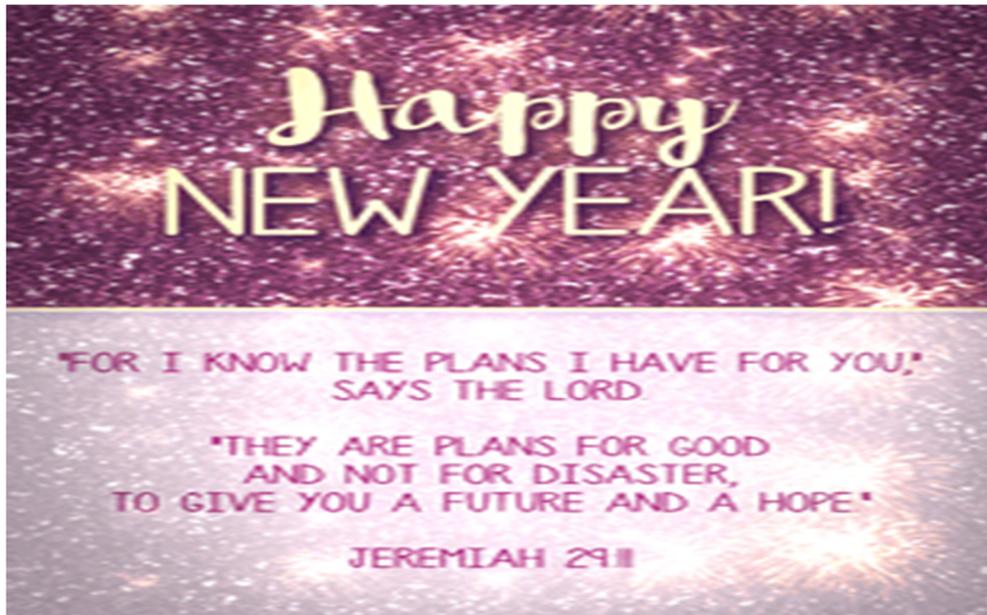
4 Briella Harding

13 Peter Vail

15 Tyler Wright

20 Ron Sherman

27 Cindy Sherman



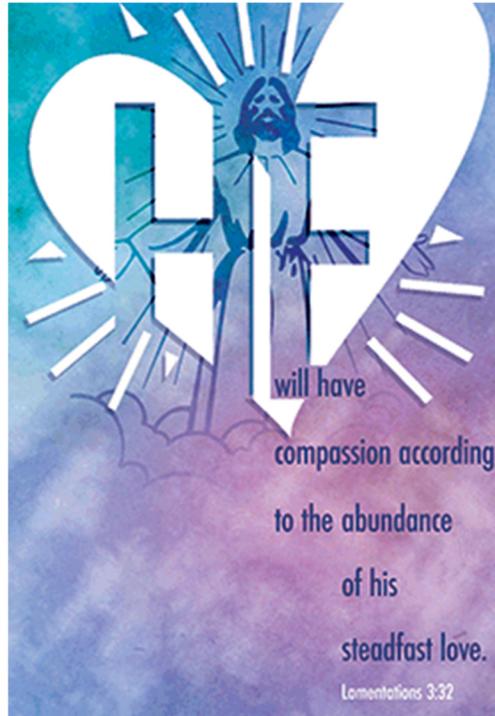
From: Forward Through the Years

Ephesians 1:16. *I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.*

We often devote all our time with God to asking for what we want. Rarely do we remember to thank him for what he has already given us. Yet it is an afflicted soul who cannot find something or someone to be thankful for, and an unusual soul who cannot find much to be thankful for. But we are so intensely conscious of what we lack and want that we overlook and take for granted what we have.

Few human relationships would long endure on such a basis. Even dear friends or parents might think it best to begin holding back their gifts until some signs of gratitude appear. But God is infinitely generous and never limits his favors to those who are properly thankful. It is not God who is injured by our ingratitude, but us.

We owe God innumerable gifts—all the way from the smallest favor to his “inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ” (The General Thanksgiving in *The Book of Common Prayer*). Yet our thanks to him are appallingly in arrears. Let no day go by in which you do not number your causes for gratitude and voice your thankfulness in prayer.--1954



Love your enemy...really?

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "I have decided to stick with love; Hate is too heavy a burden to bear."

Hate weighs down our hearts and hopes. It costs too much. Hate poisons the wellsprings of our hearts. To emulate Jesus is to reject hate and everything that accompanies it. We do this by opening ourselves to love, especially for our enemies, and for those who see us as their enemies. Jesus reminds us that love is what makes us children of God and family to each other. This is definitely one of Jesus' difficult instructions—hard to hear and harder still to put into practice.

Love for an enemy is not automatic. Anger is easier; simmering resentment is more comfortable. Honest and vulnerable prayer for another person cuts right through our hate and resentments. Prayer compels me to see God's delight in, and affection for, the other person. Prayer for those I disagree with, and for those who disagree with me enables me to be one of God's beloved children, not God's spoiled brat! "Not easy" you say. True, but nothing worthwhile ever is. We have just celebrated the birth of Jesus with all of its excitement, joy and wonder.

Why not make a real attempt to "keep our Christmas hearts open all year." Respect and kindness to others has to start somewhere. Why not make a New Year's resolution to have it start with us.

The Final Word



(This is a reprise of a commentary that was written for the Jan. 2006 issue.)

Epiphany - 1. A feast celebrated Jan. 6th, commemorating the coming of the Magi as being the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles..

manifestation—an act of being evident to the senses, especially to the sight.

As Christians we believe that God became manifest in the person of Jesus Christ. That is, God became visible to people by taking the form of Jesus Christ, calling himself “the Light of the World.” And in the beginning of his Gospel, John says, “The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.”

Think about light. It can't be seen unless it is reflected off something, be it a particle of dust or an object like the moon. Furthermore, in the absence of light, we are unable to see and are likely to stumble around, bumping into things and possibly injuring ourselves..

Isn't God much like that? We can see Him only when His love is reflected by others. Likewise, it is only when we live our lives based on God that others will see God in and through us. Without God, we stumble through our lives, running into things and often getting hurt.

With Jesus, the Light of the World, we are able to see, and when we see, we don't get hurt as much!

PCV

St. Ann's Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 22
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SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR
COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY
AND ACTION

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Wardens: Betty Vail
Tracey Tallmadge

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

