

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

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

The Parish News

www.stannsaftonny.org

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

Clergy: Currently Supply Priests

If you desire a visit from a priest or give you a call, please contact one of the wardens below.

Wardens: Dan Vail: 607-240-9264 Betty Vail 607-639-1201

DESIDERATA

GO PLACIDLY AMID THE NOISE & HASTE & REMEMBER WHAT PEACE THERE MAY BE IN SILENCE. AS FAR AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT SURRENDER BE ON GOOD TERMS with all people. Speak your truth quietly & clearly; and listen to others, even the dull & ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud & aggressive people, they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain & bitter; for always there will be greater & lesser people than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many people strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself, especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity & disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imagination. Many fears are born of fatigue & loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees & the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore, be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors & aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its shame, drudgery & broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Max Ehrmann

Prayer for the selection of a Rector



Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If you desire communion more than once or twice a month, Rev. Geoff Doolittle conducts Holy Eucharist at Zion Greene on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday nights at 5:00 p.m. He conducts Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's in Oxford the 2nd and 4th Saturday nights at 5:00 p.m.

APRIL/ MAY 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, Yes, the “zoom” service is different, but change is what life is all about.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Acolytes	
Apr 6	MP	Tom Vail	Tom Vail	Betty Vail	
Apr 13	HC	Judy Rettbeg	Judy Rettberg	Denise Wieber	
Apr 20	MP	Denise Wieber	Denise Wieber	Denise Wieber	
Apr 27	HC	Carol Cimini	Carol Cimini	Betty Vail	
May 4	MP	Judy Rettberg	Judy Rettberg	Tracey Tallmadge	
May 11	HC	Carol Tarvin	Carol Tarvin	Betty Vail	
May 18	MP	Amy Wieber	Amy Wieber	Tracey Tallmadge	
May 25	HC	Terra Botzki	Terra Botzki	Betty Vail	
Jun 1	MP	Judy Rettberg	Judy Rettberg	Betty Vail	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Apr 6	MP	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Apr 13	HC	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56
Apr 20	MP	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	John 20:1-18
Apr 27	HC	Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
May 4	MP	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
May 11	HC	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
May 18	MP	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
May 25	HC	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29
Jun 1	MP	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21	John 17:20-26
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:

Apr 6 - Carol Cimini
Apr 20 - Betty Vail
May 4 – Tracey Tallmadge
May 18 – Denise Wieber
June 1 - Betty Vail

ALTAR GUILD for the month of **April is Betty Vail 607-639-1201**. Flowers are not placed on the Altar during the Lenten season.

ALTAR GUILD for the month of **May is Pat Tucker 607-206-4319**. If you desire to have flowers placed on the Altar in memory of a loved one, please contact Betty Vail at 607-639-1201 one week in advance.

The flowers on the Altar Easter Sunday are in memory of our Loved Ones and those who have served St. Ann’s in past years and gone before us.

Mother Elizabeth Groskoph will celebrate Palm Sunday at St. Ann’s on April 9th. She will conduct Holy Eucharist on May 11 and on May 25th.

Due to lack of clergy, St. Ann’s will celebrate Morning Prayer at their Easter Service.

On Sunday April 27th, Reverend Richard Schaal will conduct Holy Eucharist at the 9:15 service. It is hoped many will welcome him to St. Ann’s parish. Coffee hours follow all services in the Parish Hall. Please join us.

St. Ann’s Prayer List for April/May 2025

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. 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. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. We would like to be sure that this prayer list is updated as changes occur, and we do not want to remove someone that should be on it. Please send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 607-639-1201. Please note that long term names will remain on the list indefinitely, short term names will typically be left on the listing for 3 or 4 months or perhaps longer.

Short Term		Long Term			
Jeane	Richard			Fr. David Hanselman	St. Paul’s Church
Melrose	Gary	Mya		Fr. Steven White	St. Andrews’s Church
Mado	Norm	Holly		Pastor Becky	St. Ann’s Church
Barbara	JoAnne	Bonnie		Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Peter’s Church

Edward	Hudson	Bobbi			The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	Zion Church St. Matthew's Church
Terry	Arthur	Jason			Bishop Sean Rowe	Message Ministries
Darlene	David	Cindy			The Rev. Liz Groskoph	The General Theological Seminary
Peter					Emanuel Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
					Epiphany Church	Berkley Divinity School

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins – Bonnie Macpherson, Toni Weller, and Bobbi Zurn



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, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.



St. Ann's Episcopal Church

Vestry will meet April 20th and May 18th.

Vestry Hi-lites
March 16, 2025

1. Outreach for March and April was allocated to: Aunt Mary's House in Norwich, The Chenango Co. SPCA, RISE in Binghamton and The Humane Society of Binghamton. After discussion, it was decided to increase our monthly outreach to \$1000 during the time that we are without clergy.
2. Voted to continue our yearly scholarship to a graduating senior at Afton Central School
3. The "Stations of the Cross" in the church have been reprinted and put into frames. They turned out very nicely. Many thanks to Howie Carbone for doing this. Also decided to put up a small plaque acknowledging that they were given by Fr. Ralph Groskoph.
4. Need to select convention delegates.
5. Approved our membership in the Afton Chamber of Commerce.
6. At this point, no clergy is available for Easter.
7. Financial report reviewed and copies of checks reviewed.



CHURCH TERMS: PALM SUNDAY – The sixth Sunday in Lent and the first day of Holy Week. It commemorates Christ’s Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Liturgical color: Violet

EASTER – The “Queen of the Festivals” of the Church Year commemorates the resurrection of our Lord. Its date is variable, and all other movable feasts are dependent upon it. Easter occurs the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, March 21.

The search for a Priest for St. Ann's, Zion and St. Paul's is still active, but there has been no response currently.

Excerpt from “The Case for Christ”

By Lee Strobel

Strobel is a journalist who spent two years trying to prove that the New Testament is without evidence to support it. In his quest, he interviewed thirteen leading scholars and authorities who had impeccable academic credentials. In his own words, “the atheism I had embraced for so long buckled under the weight of historical truth. It was a stunning and radical outcome, certainly not what I had anticipated when I embarked on this investigative process. In fact, my mind could not conjure up a single explanation that fit the evidence of history nearly as well as the conclusion that Jesus was who he claimed to be: the one and only Son of God and this led me to several implications.”

- If Jesus is the Son of God, his teachings are more than just good ideas from a wise teacher: they are divine insights on which I can confidently build my life.
- If Jesus sets the standard for morality, I can now have an unwavering foundation for my choices and decisions, rather than basing them on the ever-shifting sands of expediency and self-centeredness.
- If Jesus did rise from the dead, he’s still alive today and available for me to encounter on a personal basis.
- If Jesus conquered death, he can open the door of eternal life for me also.
- If Jesus has divine power, he has the supernatural ability to guide me and help me and transform me as I follow him.
- If Jesus personally knows the pain of loss and suffering, he can comfort and encourage me in the midst of the turbulence that he himself warned is inevitable in a world corrupted by sin.
- If Jesus loves me as he says, he has my best interests at heart. That means I have nothing to lose and everything to gain by committing myself to him and his purposes.
- If Jesus is who he claims to be, (and remember, no leader of any other major religion has ever pretended to be God), as my creator he rightfully deserves my allegiance, obedience, and worship.

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

Birthdays



Anniversaries

4/23 Denise & Amy Weiber

4/23 Mado & Carol Cimini

4/25 Maxwell Harding & Kerri Vail



5/3 Adleigh Noone

5/5 Pat Tucker

5/11 Betty Vail

5/20 Kathy Vail

5/22 Allyson Vail

Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary cttallmadg@aol.com or 607-343-1301.

The following is used with permission from [The JoyfulNoiseletter.com](http://TheJoyfulNoiseletter.com)

Baseball and the Bible

I know you know that baseball and the Bible are closely linked: Genesis of course, starts with "In the Big Inning..." and there are all sorts of doctoral dissertations that can be written about baseball and the Bible – none of them particularly helpful.

But at least we should remember that great game David pitched against the Giants.

Or the pickoff move that Moses had, reminding base runners that THOU SHALT NOT STEAL!

Or when Jesus gave his sermon on the mound.

I know you remember other special moments, too, such as when the Angels won the World Series.

And what a highlight when the prodigal son made a home run!

It may be spring training for baseball teams, but for Satan, playoffs are over, and he lost the series for the world. Jesus took everything that Satan threw at him, but Jesus prevailed.

Yes, in the Big Inning God created the Heavens and the Earth, and now he has come from behind to win, and we are safe at (our heavenly) home,

At least that's what we know, and while it looks like our lives are in play for the devil, they aren't,

Game over, Satan. Jesus gets the save.

Do you understand...

The little league baseball coach had to have this conversation with one of the young players:

"Do you understand what cooperation is? Do you know what a team is?" He nodded.

"Do you understand that what matters is that we win together as a team?" He nodded.

"So, when a strike is called or you are called out at first, you don't argue or curse or attack the umpire. Do you understand that?"

Again, he nodded.

"Good," he said. "Now, go over there and explain that to your mother."

<https://merrychristians.substack.com>

© JoyfulNoiseletter.com

In the Big Inning

Faith out of Left Field

'It Ain't Over...'

Hall of Fame Yankee catcher Yogi Berra, 1925-2015, was known for his "Yogi-isms, such as :

"It ain't over till it's over."

"It's deja vu all over again."

"I usually take a two-hour nap from 1 to 4."

"Never answer an anonymous letter."

"We made too many wrong mistakes."

"You can observe a lot by watching."

"The future ain't what it used to be."

"If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else."



"It gets late early out here."

"If the people don't want to come out to the ballpark, nobody's going to stop them."

"Baseball is 90 percent mental. The other half is physical."

"Pair up in threes."

"Why buy good luggage? You only use it when you travel."

"Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded."

"A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore."

"He hits from both sides of the plate. He's amphibious."

"I always thought that record would stand until it was broken."

"I can see how he (Sandy Koufax) won 25 games. What I don't understand is how he lost five."

"I don't know (if they were men or women fans running naked across the field). They had bags over their heads."

"In baseball, you don't know nothing."

"I never blame myself when I'm not hitting. I just blame the bat and if it keeps up, I change bats. After all, if I know it isn't my fault that I'm not hitting, how can I get mad at myself?"

"I never said most of the things I said."

"It ain't the heat, it's the humidity."

"I think Little League is wonderful. It keeps the kids out of the house."

"So I'm ugly. I never saw anyone hit with his face."

"Take it with a grain of salt."

(On the 1973 Mets) "We were overwhelming underdogs."

"You should always go to other people's funerals, otherwise, they won't come to yours."

"When you come to a fork in the road, take it."

(Sources: *Los Angeles Times*, *Baseball Almanac*, *Baseball Digest*, *Catcher in the Wry* (Bob Uecker), *Sports Illustrated*)

The Final Word

COURAGE - Luke 23:13-25 - *Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him."*

But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So, Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So, Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Pilate wanted to release Jesus, but the crowd demanded his death, so Pilate sentenced Jesus to die. No doubt Pilate did not want to risk losing his position, which may already have been shaky, by allowing a riot to occur in his province. As a career politician, he knew the part of the compromise and he saw Jesus more as a political threat than as a human being with rights and dignity.

When the stakes are high it is difficult to stand up for what is right, and it is easy to see our opponents as problems to be solved rather than as people to be respected. Had Pilate been a man of real courage he would have released Jesus no matter what the consequences. But the crowd roared, and Pilate buckled. When you have a difficult decision to make, don't discount the effects of your peer pressure. Realize beforehand that the right decision could have unpleasant consequences, social rejection, career derailment and public ridicule. But when you are tempted to lose your courage and sway before the crowds... remember Pilate. NLT-GEZ

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

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR
COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY
AND ACTION

Clergy: Currently Supply Priests
Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

