

THE MESSENGER

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | SAGINAW, MI



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Promises

I recently saw a preview of the new political drama, "House of Cards." It was an intense scene where fictional congressman Frank Underwood (played by Kevin Spacey) learns that he has been passed over for the office of secretary of state. When a White House secretary says, "I know we made you a promise, but circumstances have changed," Underwood responds with, "The nature of promises, Linda, is that they remain immune to changing circumstances."

February is full of promises. Some are fickle such as the promise of spring or love. But there are also real promises... promises from God that we'll hear in our Lenten scripture readings each Sunday. We're reminded of God's promise to deliver the Israelites to the promised land, God's promise to Noah never to destroy the earth again, God's promise of a savior and Christ's promise that He will come again. It's nice to know that these promises are "Immune to changing circumstances" and hopefully they will inspire us to think of the promises that we've made. And, if our circumstances have changed, that we find a way to keep them.

This Lent, when we think of Christ's 40 days in the wilderness, it's easy to only be reminded of our inadequacies. But I encourage you to also think of these promises, to cheerfully live into the heritage we share with Christ as God's children and to share that joy and commitment with those around you.

Peace,
Amy Simons | Communications Coordinator

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- 2 Pat Lynes
- 2 Mary Spence
- 3 Cannan Peters
- 3 Dann Federico
- 4 Marion Petzko
- 4 Elizabeth Trogan
- 6 Frederick (Will) Sunderman, IV
- 9 Marc Baillargeon
- 13 Paige Seibert
- 13 Kathryn Spence
- 13 Mark II Wilson
- 16 Asher Martin Curell
- 17 Joshua Greko
- 18 James Joswiak
- 18 Louise Small
- 19 Richard Sedwick
- 22 John Carter
- 25 Daniel Cannon
- 25 Al Vondrasek
- 25 Sarah Miller
- 25 Emmaly Miller
- 26 Christine Schaub
- 27 Connor Shinaberry
- 28 Betty Galbraith
- 28 Marcia Hoffman

Happy Anniversary!

- 14 Kathie & Dave Humpert
- 26 Mary Jane & Ken Scott

Thank You

Thanks to **Marcia Hoffman, Jan Young, Paul Schaub, Sallie Swanson, Kathy TenWold, Sue Marquardt** and everyone who helped set-up and tear-down the Annual Meeting Parish Pot-luck and recent funeral luncheons!

Thank you **Pat Lynes** for helping assemble the revised parish directory.

A huge thank you to the **Jerry Young, Dennis Thom, Marcia Hoffman, and Ellen Redifeld**, and all those on the **finance committee** for all your works relevant to the 2013 budget.

Is there someone in our parish who has gone above and beyond? If you would like to offer thanks, please call the office at 793-9575.

Good Samaritans:		
Feb. 3 - Feb. 16	Michael Keenan	790-8712
Feb. 17 - Mar. 2	Susan Daugherty	249-1989

Vestry Members:

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 12 @ 6:00pm

Pancakes for supper? You bet! This fun tradition strives to get rid of all the “fat in the larder” before Lent arrives on Ash Wednesday. Join us **Tuesday, February 13th, at 6:00pm** for a light evening of food, fellowship and fun. A donation of \$5 per adult (children \$2.50) is requested and tickets may be purchased at the door.



Ash Wednesday Services

February 13 @ Noon & 6:30pm

Ash Wednesday, **February 13th**, is the first day of Lent. On this day, Christians focus on their sinfulness and the necessity of Christ's suffering and death to insure their salvation. The ashes we incorporate into the service are referred to many times in the Old Testament as signs of sorrow, mourning, humility and repentance. Join us for one of two special services on **Ash Wednesday (noon and 6:30pm)** to mark the beginning of this important season and remind ourselves exactly why Easter is such a celebration!



Lenten Soup Suppers & Compline Services

Each Wednesday in Lent

Each Wednesday in Lent you're invited to join the fellowship of a soup supper (5:30pm) and worship of Compline services (6:30pm).

What is Compline?

Compline or Night Prayer is the final church service (or office) of the day. It is essentially a contemplative prayer with psalms, a short reading and the *Nunc Dimittis* prayer sometimes ending with a hymn. (It's particularly associated with the various orders of monks; in many monasteries it is the custom to begin the "Great Silence" after Compline, during which the whole community, including guests, observe silence throughout the night until the morning service the next day.) During Lent, members of St. John's will use this service as way to pause and acknowledge this season of trials for our savior, Jesus Christ, through our worship.



From Your Valentine

What's so Saintly about St. Valentine?

What do we know about Valentine's Day? As it gets closer, it's common to hear people saying "Hallmark Holiday" or "Singles' Awareness Day" and these statements are not without some truth. It's easy to focus on commercial giving and over the top romantic gestures. (A quick tip: If your sweetie made a New Year's resolution to shed a few pounds, stick with giving flowers instead of chocolates!) But don't make an apology if you get swept away by the notion of finding the perfect card or gift because there may also be some truth in where these traditions originated.



Here's the scoop. There are several St. Valentine's that the church recognizes as martyrs. They all lived in the earliest centuries of Christianity, so scholars will admit that the details of their history are obscure at best. However, there is one St. Valentine in particular that seemed to earn his fame for defying the Roman government in the name of love. As legend has it, Valentine was a priest in Rome during the third century under Emperor Claudius II. The emperor decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, so he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. Valentine was imprisoned and later put to death. But, before he died, he allegedly fell in love with the jailer's daughter and wrote her a note signed... you guessed it... "from your Valentine."

A Prayer on Valentine's Day

"Most Gracious Heavenly Father, You gave Saint Valentine the courage to witness to the gospel of Christ, even to the point of giving his life for it. Help us to endure all suffering for love of you, and to seek you with all our hearts; for you alone are the source of life and love. Grant that we may have the courage and love to be strong witnesses of your truth to our friends and family and to the whole world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

What's Going on with other Anglicans?

If you've attended services at St. John's lately you've likely heard us keeping the Archbishop of Canterbury (Rowan Williams) and the Archbishop of Canterbury elect (Justin Welby) in our prayers. So what's going on, anyway? Well, on February 4th, Justin Welby will officially become the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury and considering that the Church of England (the original Episcopalians) has been around for about 500 years this is a pretty big deal... sort of like electing a president. But with more pageantry. Here's an article from the Archbishops website explaining the transition.

When will Justin Welby officially become Archbishop of Canterbury?

Dr. Rowan Williams, 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, stepped down from the position on 31st December 2012. Justin Welby, Bishop of Durham, was named as his successor on 9th November 2012.



Bishop Justin's name was submitted to the Prime Minister by the Crown Nominations Commission after a consultation process to determine the needs of the diocese of Canterbury, the Church of England nationally and the wider Anglican Communion.

Consideration of possible candidates took place over several months, and on the Commission's recommendation the Prime Minister put Bishop Justin's name forward to Her Majesty, The Queen. The announcement of his nomination was made by 10 Downing Street on 9th November 2012.

On 10th January 2013, the College of Canons will meet in the Chapter House of Canterbury Cathedral to elect Bishop Justin as the new Archbishop, having received the Congé d'Élire and Letter Missive from the Crown authorizing the election to take place.

A further legal ceremony, the Confirmation of Election, will take place on 4th February 2013 at St Paul's Cathedral. The Dean of Canterbury will report to a commission of senior diocesan bishops chaired by the Archbishop of York that Bishop Justin has been elected according to statute, and the Archbishop of York, on behalf of his fellow bishops and the wider Church, will confer on him the 'spiritualties' of the diocese of Canterbury.

At this point, he becomes the Archbishop of Canterbury - until then he remains Bishop of Durham.

On the 21st March, after paying Homage to Her Majesty in his new role, his public ministry will be inaugurated in a service at Canterbury Cathedral, to which bishops from the whole Church of England, Primates of the wider Anglican Communion and many ecumenical guests will be invited. The new Archbishop will be installed in two places in the Cathedral - the diocesan 'cathedra' in the Cathedral Quire as the bishop of the diocese of Canterbury, and the Chair of St Augustine as Archbishop of Canterbury.

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FEBRUARY 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 <i>The 4th Sunday of Epiphany</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 9:00am—Choir Rehearsal 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	4	5	6 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist 6:00pm—Altar Guild Dinner Mtg.	7	8	9
10 <i>The Last Sunday of Epiphany</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 9:00am—Choir Rehearsal 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	11	12 6:00pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	13 Noon—Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm—Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm—Vestry Meeting	14	15	16
17 <i>The 1st Sunday of Lent</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 9:00am—Choir Rehearsal 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	18	19 4:00pm - SVSU Facility Organ Recital w/ Carl Angelo	20 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist 5:30pm—Soup Supper 6:30pm—Compline Service	21	22	23 9:15am—Old Town Christian Outreach Volunteer Day
24 <i>The 2nd Sunday of Lent</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 9:00am—Choir Rehearsal 10:00am—Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	25	26	27 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist 5:30pm—Soup Supper 6:30pm—Compline Service	28		

CARE, SHARE, WORSHIP, CELEBRATE & LOVE