



Scepter



Reflections From the Rector's Desk

By The Reverend Canon Stephen C. Casey

It often surprises people to learn that in the calendar of the Church, Christmas does not end on the 26th December. As a child I remember Christmas covering two days, the day after Christmas being Boxing Day, or to give it its proper name, the Feast of St. Stephen. But it does not stop there, throughout the month of January there is a steady procession of major festivals: the Feast of St. John; the Holy Innocents (which

commemorates the story in the Gospel of Matthew when after the birth of Jesus, King Herod, in fear of what the Wise Men had told him, had all male children under two years of old killed); Christ's Holy Name of Jesus; the Confession of St. Peter; the Conversion of St. Paul; and in the lesser Feasts and Fasts, the commemoration of Timothy and Titus. This is not to

overlook the Epiphany, which occurs twelve days after Christmas. But in the Casey household, Christmas does not really end until the 2nd of February. It has been the tradition in the Casey household for many years to not take our Christmas tree down until the 2nd of February - Candlemas - or to give it its proper title: the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or its alternative title the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

Candlemas falls on the 40th day after Christmas, thus

that day. When he saw the infant Jesus, Simeon declared in words that have for centuries been familiar to many who know Evening Prayer as the Nunc Dimittis, or the Song of Simeon.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

"Candlemas assures us that the light of Christ illumines our lives every day of the year."

Candlemas is one of the oldest commemorations in the Church, and in the Middle Ages it was

ending the Christmas season, and it commemorates the time recorded in the Gospel of Luke when the Blessed Virgin Mary presented herself in the Temple for the rites of purification, and also presented to God her first born son Jesus, in accordance with the Law of Moses. Luke tells us that whilst in the Temple, Mary encountered Simeon, an old man who had been told by God to go to the Temple on

the time when parishioners would buy a candle for one penny, and go in procession to the church for the Parish Eucharist. During the service the candles that would be used in the church throughout the coming year would be blessed along with the candles they had brought. Then, carrying their lighted candles in procession, parishioners would return to their

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Special points of interest:

- • *Worship services and Parish hours are on the back cover of the Scepter*
- • *Staff and Vestry Members are listed on the back cover of the Scepter*

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homes for the candles to be used throughout the year to ward off evil spirits.

These days, especially in the United States, since the middle of the 19th century the 2nd of February has been known as Groundhog Day, when a Punxsutawney Phil, emerging from his burrow, supposedly predicts the date of spring. Little do people know that from a medieval English poem, the origin of Groundhog Day will be found in Candlemas:

*If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Winter has another flight.
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,
Winter will not come again.*

Of course, Candlemas is not about Groundhogs, or Punxsutawney Phil, or predicting the onset of spring, although as its name implies, Candlemas is about light; Candlemas assures us that the light of Christ illumines our lives every day of the year.

I pray you a happy and a blessed Candlemas.

Fr. Stephen+



Snowdrops are also known as Candlemas Bells. They are often the first flowers in the garden signifying spring is just around the corner.



Information

Parish Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
9 AM – 3 PM

Tuesday: 9 AM – 1 PM

Parish Administrative Assistant:
Michelle Bentley

Scepter

Production Staff:

H. J. “Mac” Miller

mac.miller@verizon.net

If you're the last person to leave the building following Sunday services or an event, please take the time to make sure all the lights are turned off (including the rest rooms) and the doors are locked.



By Peg Reiley
Senior Warden

The January vestry meeting was a wonderful evening of finances, food and fellowship. The 2017 budget was approved. Our 2016 financial report shows a positive balance - not the projected deficit from a year ago! Thank you to the finance committee for all your hard work and dedication.

The Stewardship Campaign has launched. Please return your pledge cards. We have received < 50% to date.

The annual meeting will take place at the end of this month. There will be one service with a breakfast and meeting to follow. We hope you can attend this important meeting.

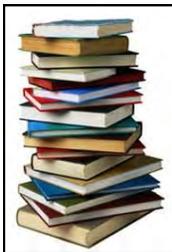
Mike Patrone (junior warden) and I are finishing our 3 year term and leaving vestry. Bradley Mattson is also leaving vestry as he joins his wife and family at St. Thomas.

It has been a privilege serving on vestry

over these past 3 years. I have learned so much and formed relationships and friendships with many wonderful people. I want to thank all of the vestry members of the past 3 years, Father Stephen and St. Edward's for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Book Club

By Linda Frankenfield



Those interested in stepping back in time are invited to join us to listen to a selection of Garrison Keillor's radio storytelling.

Come February 16, 1:00 at the church. We will then, of course, share our insights from the stories. Should be very interesting.



Third Saturday of Each Month

5:30 PM
Next Service

February 18th
Rite II

Include your news and announcements in the next Scepter. Due date for March will be: **February 20th.** Send articles and announcements to: mac.miller@verizon.net



Military News

Please keep in your prayers those close to us who are serving in the military.

- ★Dustin Burluson
- ★Justin Carnahan
- ★Brandon Fox
- ★Gordon Frankenfield
- ★Matt Fuhrman
- ★Adam and Christina Grim
- ★Jack Hawk
- ★Drew Johnson
- ★Anthony Koser
- ★Alex Kube
- ★John Lewis
- ★Richard Mutari



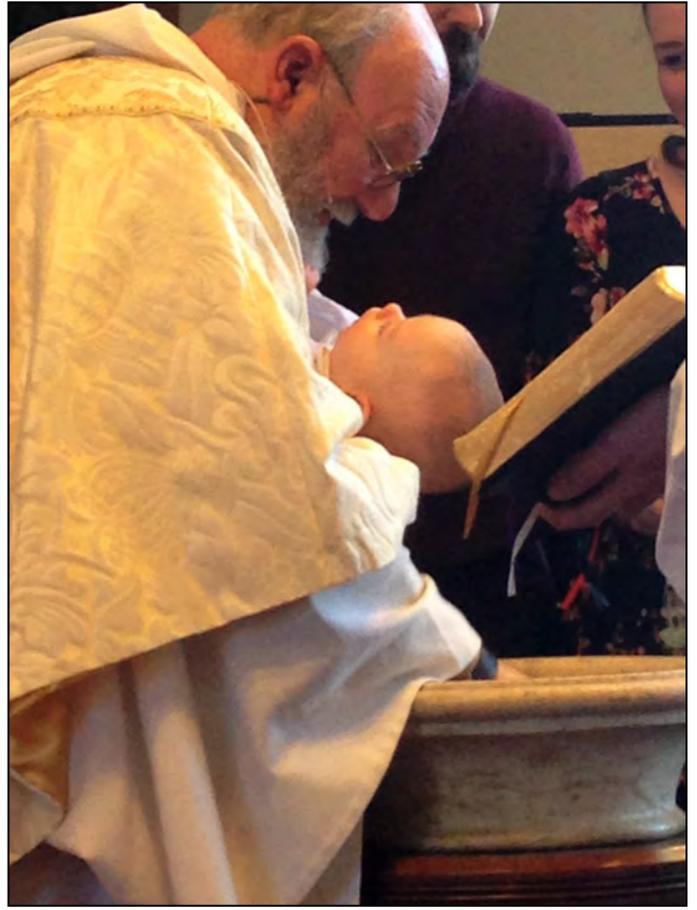
- ★David Peck
- ★Capt. Andrew Pfeiffer
- ★Rev. David J. Sparks
- ★Mike Spurr
- ★David Sternberg
- ★Allison Tomich
- ★Evan Westgate
- ★Seamas Whitesel
- ★1st Lt. Thomas Whitesel



Baptism of Beckett Odin Roberts



Beckett with his parents Ben and Samantha Roberts.



Beckett
"So today, in church, a guy in a dress tried to drown me. And, I kid you not, my family just stood there taking pictures!"





Deacon Hank talks to the children about how they are blessed, and how they are a blessing to others.

Looking our Best

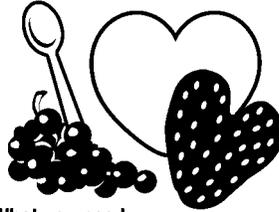


Piper gets a quick haircut at The Sacristy Salon, courtesy of her mother Kiki Brugmann, half a minute before the 10:15 service begins.



Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

What you do:

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!



Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love. How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

Directions: Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here: (12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12th letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.

- (1) You really like ice cream! _____
- (16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. _____
- (21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. _____
- (4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. _____
- (11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. _____
- (17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. _____
- (6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. _____

♥ "Honor _____ and _____, and _____ your _____"

Matthew 19:19, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19, NIV



Bible Quiz

What unique characteristic of the judge Ehud enabled him to outsmart King Eglon of Moab, who had been oppressing ancient Israel?

- A. He was left-handed.
- B. He was blind.
- C. He was very fat.
- D. He was exceedingly strong.



Answers INSIDE

Answer: A (See Judges 3:12-26)

Coffee Hour



Thank you to the following parishioners who so faithfully set up, clean up, and host our Sunday coffee hours. This time of fellowship is so important to the life of St. Edward's. If you have an interest in helping with this ministry, please contact Bev Hess if you would like to serve at the 8 AM service and please sign up on the board in the parish hall for the 9:15 and 10:15 services.

R.B. Mullineaux

Ted Cardwell

The Rosenberg Family

The Milligan Family

Carl and Carol Cotnoir

Debbie and Austin Morrow

Stephen and Catherine Donohue

Bev and Larry Hess

Roger and Ginny Kloopping

Jerry and Julie Hoff

Mike and Sandy Patrone

Happy Birthday



Our lovely Kate Peterson turned 92!

February Adult Fellowship

By Elaine Radcliffe

VALENTINE'S DAY/PRESIDENTS' DAY GATHERING

WHEN: Sunday, February 19, 4:00 (Snow Date: Sunday, February 26, 4:00)

WHERE: Dorris Smith's home at 3130 Briarwood Blvd. (West Hempfield)

BRING: Finger foods (dips, spread, hors d'oeuvres, etc.) OR a chocolate or cherry dessert! (The sign-up sheet will have the details so we don't have all desserts and no finger foods or vice versa!)

DEADLINE: Sunday, February 12 Sign up on sheet in Parish Hall. For questions, call Elaine Radcliffe at 285-4912.



Men's Group

By Mike Patrone and John Meyer



On January 28th the men's group met after a slight vacation of 2 months due to the holidays. The scheduled speaker was David Manuel and his speech was titled "return to sender, the Doolittle raid" our scheduled speaker in February will be John Brown talking about little known facts about colonial Lancaster County.

We meet the last Saturday of the month in the parish hall at 9am, have breakfast and then hear a talk from someone in the community. Please join us.

Nothing formal, just fellowship, great food and very interesting speakers.

Food Pantry



Parishioners donated a small mountain of food this month for the Food Bank – several boxes and baskets brimming over. Fr Stephen blessed the food before it was taken away.

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FEBRUARY 2017

Krist Kindling Dinner



Meredith Westgate lets us know who Kristkindled who.

It is always so much fun to hear the stories of Krist Kindling experiences.



Harrison Kline

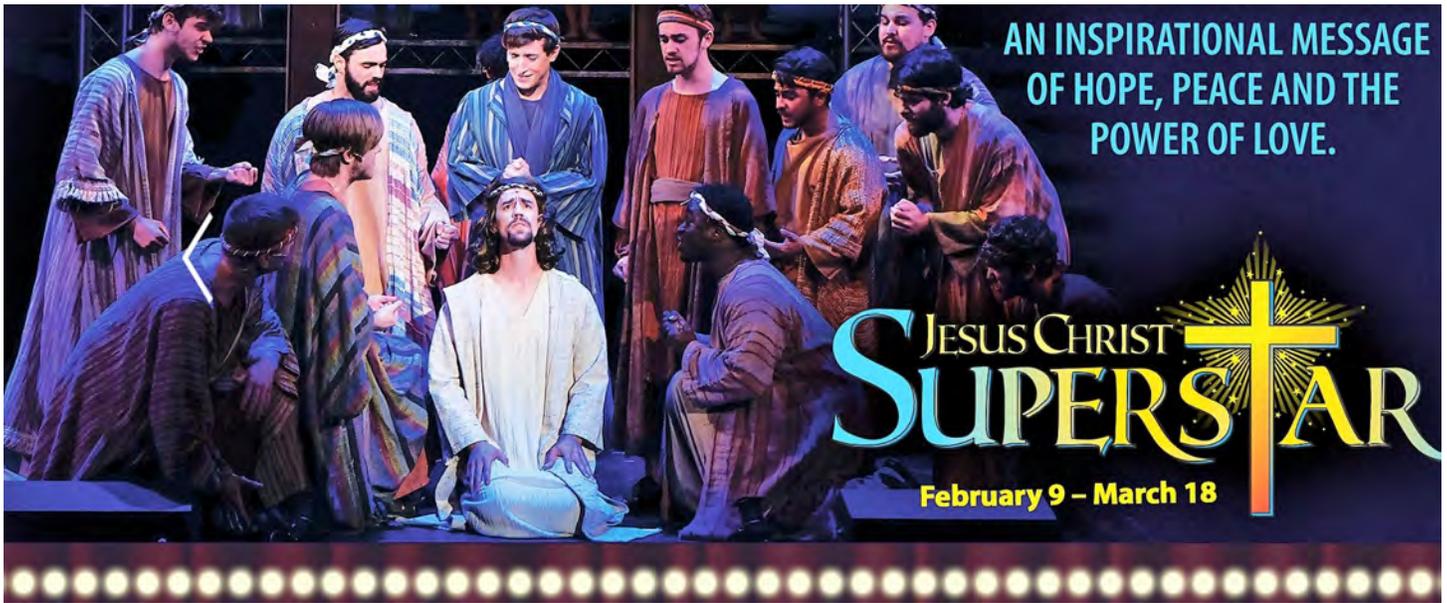
By Kim Kline



Harrison Kline coordinated and helped serve a holiday meal for residents of Pittsburgh struggling with autism and mental disabilities through Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity he is a member of at the University of Pittsburgh. Below he is pictured serving the meal at a downtown community center with a group of his fellow fraternity members.



Dutch Apple Theater “Jesus Christ Superstar”



For the Youth of St. Edward's

March Adult Fellowship

By Dottie Gschwend

You are invited to gather at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater on Saturday the 18th of March for dinner and to enjoy the closing night production of Jesus Christ Superstar, the Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice Rock Opera. It should be an exciting experience to see together and share!

The show is recommended for ages 8 and older. 16 seats have been reserved. Tickets for dinner and the show are \$24 for children 12 and younger, \$28 for youth ages 13-18, and \$63 for adults. My deadline for reservations and payment is February 18th. We expect to offer some financial support for this opportunity, though that detail is not yet solidified.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you want to be part of this youth function.

Dottie Gschwend (pgdmg@verizon.net; 392-8625)

By Elaine Radcliffe

WHAT: “Jesus Christ, Superstar” at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater

WHEN: Tuesday, March 14; 6:00 for dinner, 7:30 for show – Table for eight!

COST: \$47 (I got a \$10 discount!)

DEADLINE: Sunday, February 19. PLEASE NOTE: I MUST have your NON-REFUNDABLE PAYMENT by this early date!

Sing-up sheet in the Parish Hall. For questions, call Elaine Radcliffe at 285-4912



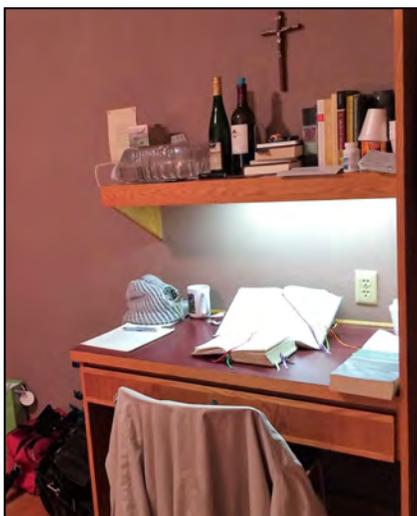
After Christmas Retreat

Pictures by Fr. Casey



A few memories of after Christmas from the Rector, where first on the agenda was a few days at St. Gregory's Abbey in Three Rivers, Michigan. My days were spent in study, prayer, and reading in the splendid library. It snowed, but that did not deter me

from having lunch with Prior Aelred in a pub in Battle Creek. In the refectory of the Abbey I came across this wonderfully creative nativity scene - the Beatles Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Heart's Club Band and Mary and the Baby Jesus - thank you Br. Martin!



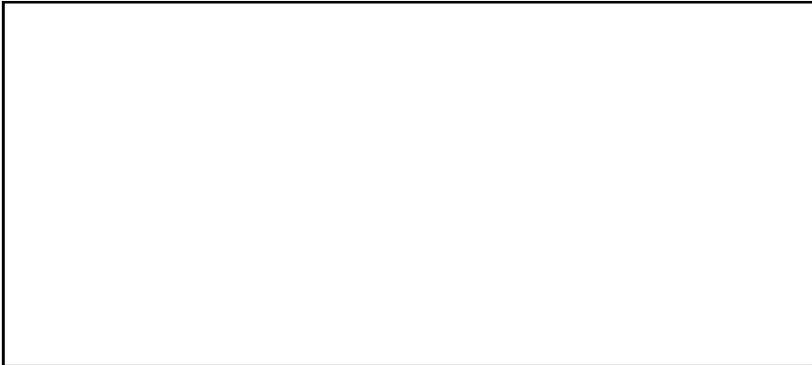
ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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www.sainteds.org



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Staff

**The Reverend Canon Vestry
Stephen C. Casey, (year term ends)
Rector**

**The Rev. Hank
Morrow, Jr., Deacon**

**The Rev Eugene F.
LeFebvre, Honorary
Associate Priest**

**Peg Reiley Senior Warden
Michelle Bentley, Parish
Administrative Assistant**

Parish Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thurs-
day, Friday: 9 AM – 3 PM

Tuesday: 9 AM – 1 PM

- ✦ Camille Horine (2018)
- ✦ Raymond H Kiefer
Ph.D. (2019)
- ✦ Bradley Mattson (2019)
- ✦ Brian Newsome (2018)
- ✦ Mike Patrone (2017)
- ✦ Peg Reiley (2017)
- ✦ Henry Spire (2018)
- ✦ Becky Troop (2019)

Worship Services

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I (said)

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Contemporary Service (2nd Sunday, Sept – May).

Wednesday

12:00 Noon – Holy Eucharist with healing

Saturday

5:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II (Third Saturday)

ANNUAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 26, 2017
ONE SERVICE AT 9:00 AM.
ANNUAL MEETING TO FOLLOW.
 Light breakfast will be served
 Please join us for this very important parish event!
 Voting for vestry and convention delegates.
 Annual report on parish ministries and finances.