

February 14, 2019

“Our mission is to celebrate God’s transforming Love in Jesus, by following where Jesus’ Love is calling us to serve the community”



Ascension This Week

Lent is Coming! – from Fr. Bill

On Sunday, February 17

- 8 am Said Eucharist
- 10 am Sung Eucharist
- 11:15 am Coffee Hour

Fr Bill Baker will be our celebrant.

- 2:30 pm Service at Lakeside Manor
- 6 pm AA meeting

Inside this issue:

- “Lent is Coming!”
Fr Bill’s message about our Lenten programs and how we will arrange our schedules while Fr Bill is serving two churches as Priest.
- Farewell message from Fr Roy Cole
- Meetings and Events for the next few weeks
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper flyer

Although this edition of our newsletter publishes on Valentine’s Day, I confess my thoughts are already moving towards Lent. Valentine’s Day is a made up holiday to sell chocolates! Although dark chocolates are my favorite, I want to share with all of you some of the plans for the Richmond Episcopal Ministry (REM) during Lent and the upcoming transition with Fr. Cole leaving. There is a lot going on around here!

The first calendared event for the Lenten season happens before the start of Lent -- Fat Tuesday! Our tradition allows us to have one last big party before the penitential season begins, and we will party! Ned Rogers and Roy Williamson have agreed to make us a heap of pancakes and sausages and St. Martha’s Guild promises to be decked out for a Masquerade Mardi Gras Party. The festivities begin at 6:00pm on March 5th. This event is free, but please RSVP to the office so we know how many pancakes to make.

Over the season of Lent, I will be the only priest assigned to the REM. That means that I will serve both churches. I will work on liturgy planning and pastoral needs of both Ascension and St. John’s during this short time until the Bishop informs us about concrete next plans. Bishop Dietsche already spoke to me directly, and the Wardens at St. John’s through Canon Nora Smith, about making arrangements for this interim period. The Bishop understands that we are growing at Ascension and he wants to keep that momentum going for us!

What this means practically speaking is that I will work out of the office at St. John’s all day on Mondays and half days on Wednesdays after mass and coffee hour at Ascension. I will work at Ascension on Tuesday and Thursday full days and half days on Wednesday mornings. I have also been asked to rotate weeks at Ascension and St. John’s during Lent. That means beginning on February 24th I will be at St. John’s and then on March 3 I will be at Ascension for Sunday mornings. We will continue rotating until Palm Sunday. I will be at Ascension for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. The week after Easter, I will be on vacation.

(next page)

On Ash Wednesday, which takes place on March 6, I will conduct services at St. John's at 8:00 am. We will have our regularly scheduled service at 9:30 am here at Ascension, which will be an Ash Wednesday service. Then at 7:00 pm we will have a joint service of both churches at St. John's for anyone who could not make it to either of the morning services.

For our Adult Forum/Lenten Series during Lent we will use a program called "Following the Way of Jesus" published by the Episcopal Church. My seminary classmate wrote the curriculum and I participated on the committee for the IPC that chose to use this for all the Episcopal Churches on Staten Island this year. Ascension will have two chances to participate each week—on Thursday evenings beginning March 7 at 7:00pm in the Rectory and on Sunday mornings after Coffee Hour beginning March 10.

On Thursday evenings, Cindy McCloskey and I will offer a lite supper of homemade soup and bread, as part of the Lenten Series. Since I will only be at Ascension every other week, I am looking for one or two people to be co-leaders of the Sunday morning group. I will assist in all the planning and participate in the Lenten Series when I am at Ascension. If you are interested, please let me know soon.

The IPC will also offer a Staten-Island wide Lenten Program for one evening on March 31 at 4:00pm at The Church of St. Andrew's. The IPC will serve a catered meal and they hired a guest speak who will offer a program on Stations of the Cross, which she wrote. We will read the Stations together. If you are interested in reading a station during the event, please let me know.

I know that transitions can seem hard. In Lent we will be both in a penitential season and will be working through Fr. Cole's leaving. You will see me less on Sundays, but I feel fairly certain this will only be for this season. The Bishop is working on a plan for us. Please pray for Fr. Cole, the Bishop and both Church of the Ascension and St. John's Church during this time. Happy Valentine's Day and I wish you all a holy and blessed Lent!

Blessings, Fr Bill+

"Brother, Give Us A Word." Every day, on the SSJE website, one of the brothers gives a word that we might use as a focus in our prayer and meditation. **"Gratitude"**. *"Respond to the invitation of the Eucharistic Great Thanksgiving to lift up one's heart and let love and gratitude inform each moment of the day. By doing so our whole life becomes love and we are ever drawn more deeply into the mystery of the divine presence, near to the heart of God"*

. — Br. Eldridge Pendleton, [SSJE](#) You can see his full page of comments on this word on SSJE.org.

Heartfelt thanks go to Ed and Mercedes Chow for such a wonderful banquet, and to the many, many others who worked so hard to make the Chinese New Year celebration so wonderful! Thanks go to all of you for your support and attendance at this very important fundraiser!



Save the Date: Upcoming Events for Richmond Episcopal Ministry:

Sunday, February 17: On this date, Fr Cole's last day on Staten Island, St John's will hold a wine and cheese farewell reception for him from 12 noon to 3PM.

Saturday, February 23: Voyces presents Madri Gala 2019. Christ Church, 7PM. Tickets \$50. Includes wine and seltzer bar, cheese. Pay at the door or make a reservation at info@voycesSI.org or 718-873-6458. Check the Voyces website for more information.

Sunday, February 24: Installation of 2019 Vestry members and St Martha's Guild officers at Ascension will take place during the 10am service. After the service we will go to the Hilton for Brunch. Price is \$34.95 which includes a drink. If you will join us let Barbara Krause know. All Parishioners are welcome to join us. Reserve your seat.

Tuesday, March 5: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Ascension. See flyer next page.

***Thursday, March 7:** Adult Forum/Lenten study begins on at Ascension, 7pm in the rectory. A light supper will be served. Meetings continue through Lent.

Saturday, March 9: St John's will hold a St Patrick's Day dinner fundraiser. Time is 6:30PM, tickets are \$30.00. Event includes a DJ, 50/50 drawing, and basket raffles.

***Sunday, March 10:** Adult Forum/Lenten study begins after coffee hour. Meetings continue through Lent.

Sunday, March 31: Annual IPC Joint Lenten Service at 4PM. Location TBA.

*You can choose one or attend both. See Fr Bill's article in this newsletter for more information about the Lenten programs this year.

Something new: On the last Sunday of every month we will have a birthday cake at coffee hour in honor of all the birthdays during the month. Come and sing the birthday song with us! Sign up sheet for cake donation will be available in the undercroft.

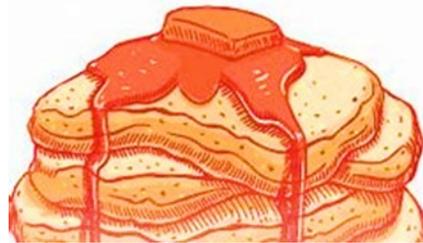


CHURCH OF ASCENSION

1 Kingsley Avenue

Staten Island, New York 10314

SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER



Please join us on Tuesday, March 5th at 6:00 pm for our
delicious Pancake Supper served with sausages, fruit and coffee!

Free will donation – Please see Roy Williamson if you expect to attend, or call the office at 718-442-4187 no
later than March 4th!



1 Kingsley Ave, Staten Island, NY 718.442.4187

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<http://www.ascensionsi.org/>