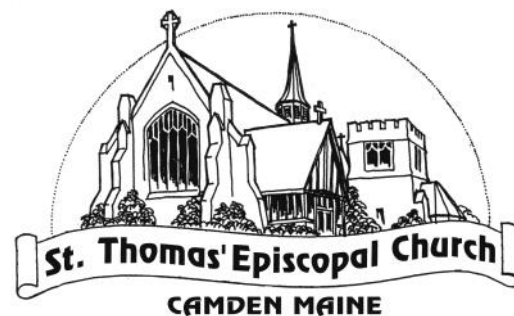


S T . T H O M A S ' Tidings

Sunday, January 21, 2018:
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

We welcome all who enter these doors, especially those who enter for the first time or after a long absence. May this place be like home to you! All are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine at this altar. Members of our prayer ministry are available in the Chapel during Holy Communion to pray with you about any need or thanksgiving.



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Crèche Razing

It is time for the crèche on our front lawn to return to its resting place in the basement. The dismantling will take place today following the 9:30 service. Please come and lend a hand. Many hands will make light work. Thank you.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes will be offered beginning February 4. Confirmation classes teach about our faith—not only our Christian faith, but also about our identity as Episcopalians.

Years ago, the tradition in the Episcopal Church was to confirm children in the fifth grade. After confirmation the new confirmand would be allowed to take communion and it was understood that this signified the end of their “childhood” in church.

Christian educators over the years increased the age of confirmation to the 6th and then 7th grade, but to the educators it was becoming increasingly apparent that the students were becoming confirmed because it was what their parents wished, rather than as a mature affirmation of faith. Many students stopped attending Sunday school after confirmation, and some even stopped attending church. It was as if they had “graduated” from church after confirmation.

For the past couple of decades, Episcopal churches in the U.S. have been increasing the age at which children are confirmed. Confirmation classes have

become geared to students who have “differentiated” from their parents as part of their normal stages of development. Youth directors began to see that students became personally invested in their confirmation classes once they had reached this stage. The later students began confirmation classes, the more invested in their faith they became. Priests and lay educators noticed that the rate of students remaining in church after their confirmation increased dramatically as a result.

I will be offering Confirmation to our youth who are in the ninth grade or above beginning on February 4. The class will meet after the 9:30 service for approximately 30 minutes, and will continue weekly until Holy Week. Confirmation is scheduled for April 15 when the Bishop comes for his annual visitation. If there are any adults who would like to be confirmed, please contact me at rector@stthomascamdenme.org

Lisa+

Parish Annual Meeting January 28

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting immediately following the 9:30 service next week. This meeting happens once a year in every Episcopal church. It is the time when the Vestry presents the budget to the congregation, warden and/or vestry members are elected, and we hear about the state of the church. This year we will consider some minor changes to the canons of St. Thomas', either to bring them more in

line with the Episcopal Church, or to clarify vaguely worded bylaws. This year we will also be electing delegates to the special convention to elect the next bishop of Maine. We look forward to a big crowd at this once a year event.

2018 Parish Directory

Please take a look at the information we have for you in the notebook in the Sun Room and correct it if necessary. This will be used to compile our 2018 Parish Directory which will be issued following our annual meeting. If you are not listed, there are blank form you can fill out. Out of town for the winter? Contact George in the Parish Office. Thank you!

Forward Day by Day

Copies of *Forward Day by Day*, a periodic booklet of lectionary readings and inspirational commentary are available for the taking in the Narthex and Sun Room.

Today's Music

Where is The Choir?® On sabbatical! A few years ago I realized that we were one of the only choirs that sang **year round! That's 52 Sundays, plus holidays, for an unpaid, volunteer choir!** So, I instituted a choir sabbatical for the time during Epiphany just before we go into Lent! We will return to our Thursday rehearsals (5:00-6:30 pm) on February 1, 2018 and our Sunday morning rehearsals (8:30-9:10 am) on February 4,

2018. When you get a chance, please thank a choir member for their time, hard work, showing up, and for singing with joy!

Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (English, 1848-1918) was a prolific composer of church music, anthems, songs, oratorios, instrumental compositions as well as hymns (see #597 *Jerusalem*, #653 *Reston* and #432 *Laudate Dominum*) in our hymnal). He also wrote 2 sets of chorale preludes for organ and today I play one of those as the prelude.

During communion I play the contemporary American composer Robert Hobby's chorale prelude based on this same tune, *Rockingham*. Then we sing this hymn with the Eucharistic text, *My God, thy table now is spread*. We are still in Epiphany, so indulge me as I play Marcel Dupre's haunting setting of *In dulci jubiliant*.

We enter worship singing the sturdy Welsh tune, *Ton-y-Botel* with the contemporary text written in 1954 as a processional hymn for commencement at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

We go forth into the world singing the vibrant 1566 German tune, *Mit Freuden Zara (or Bohemian Brethren)* paired with Johann Jacob Schutz's 17th century uplifting text. Then I play Johann Sebastian Bach's piece based on *Jesus, all my gladness*.

Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music

Erratum

We neglected to mention that the flowers on the altar last Sunday were given by Dean and Kate Jackson in loving memory of Kate's parents Chester J. and Catherine M. Robbins.

Prayer List

We celebrate those members whose birthdays are this week: Pat Olds, Yukari Rafter (January 25). Please pray for those members of this parish and others who are in special need: Marya Allen, Ron, Jean Harper, Joanne Scott, Nancy Soderberg, Missie Stone, Tiffany Andrews, Stormy Bok, Seana Roubinek, Jan Dolcater, Carolyn Morris,

Roxanna, Brian Fitzpatrick, Cara, Risa, Chris, Janan Vaughn, Ann Foster, Trish.

Next Sunday

January 28, 2018

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

7:30 am: Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry; **Eucharistic Minister:** Sandy Lyle; **Lectors:** Paul Holman, Sandy Lyle; **Prayers of the People:** Jan Lyle; **Usher:** Paul Holman.

9:30 am: Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry; **Crucifer:** Kristian Kibler; **Eucharistic Minister:** Kristian Kibler; **Lectors:** Millie Crocker, Sarah Groman; **Prayers of the People:** Roy Gilley; **Ushers:** Leamon Scott, Roy Gilley.

How to reach us

Church Office: 207 236-3680
(We're closed on Monday)

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Calendar

Sunday, January 21

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

7:30 am—Holy Eucharist Rite I

8:30 am—Choir Rehearsal

9:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:45 am—Coffee Hour—Parish Hall

5:15 pm—Centering Prayer—Chapel

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Monday, January 22

9:30 am—Holy Eucharist Rite II

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Tuesday, January 23

9:6:30 pm—OA meeting—Library

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Wednesday, January 24

**9:30 am—Holy Eucharist and
Healing Service—Chapel**

10:00 am—Fellowship Hour—Sun Room

11:00 am—Bible Study—Sun Room

4:00 pm—Efm Conference Room

6:00 pm—VoXX Rehearsal

—Parish Hall, Green Room

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Thursday, January 25

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Friday, January 26

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Saturday, January 27

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Sunday, January 28

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

7:30 am—Holy Eucharist Rite I

8:30 am—Choir Rehearsal

9:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:45 am—Parish Annual Meeting—

Parish Hall

5:15 pm—Centering Prayer—Chapel

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement