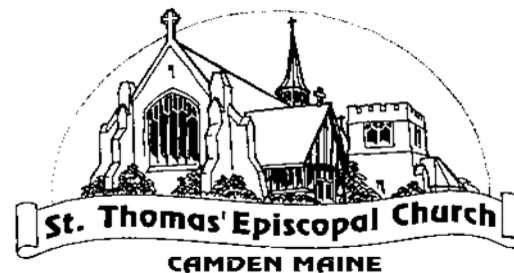


St. Thomas' Tidings

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent — Mary Sunday

We welcome all who enter these doors, especially those who enter for the first time or after a long absence. Everyone is welcome! All are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine at this altar.



The Rev. Canon Lisa Smith Fry,
Rector

33 Chestnut Street (P.O. Box 631)
Camden, ME 04843
207-236-3680

Signs of Life in Advent

Our sermon series continues as we look at **FOOD** this week, and the Rev. Abby Pettee will be preaching. The monks at the Society of St. John the Evangelist have teamed up with Virginia Theological Seminary to bring us this series that explores five symbols that give us new birth through our worship, liturgy and sacraments. As we prepare for the birth of Jesus in our hearts again this year, let us see how we are shaped by light, water, food, shelter, and community.

Rector's Class

Come join the *Rector's Class* throughout Advent to discuss the concepts of the sermon series. We meet in the Conference Room each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome!

That Christmas Fair Spirit

A huge thank you to all the bakers, crafters, gift and ornament gatherers, jewelers, music makers, cocoa makers, money counters, and crèche raisers at our Christmas Fair! The spirit of the season is certainly alive and well in our community of faith. — Elizabeth

Are you getting *TIDINGS* in your weekly email? Factoid: If you aren't signed up for *Tidings*, you will also miss parish-wide emails for things like special announcements or notices of closure due to snow. It's easy to sign up: Contact Terry Mello at treasurer@stthomascamdenme.org. She'll get you set up.

The Season of Giving

This past week you received a letter with a brochure and a pledge card. Please pray about making a pledge of support to this place where we worship and serve the Newborn King. May we all look with hope to bright beginnings, forged friendships, and wonderful new opportunities as we celebrate St. Thomas' 165th year in Camden.

Greening of the Church

We will be greening the church on **Sunday, December 22 after the 10:00 service**. Please come help "dress the church" for Christmastide. Everyone needed, men, women, and children!



Christmas Flowers

Donations for Christmas flowers are now being accepted. These can be in memory of a loved one, or in honor of or in thanks for someone or something. Specially marked envelopes have been placed in the pews for your use.



Why Is Jesus in the Crèche?

Some Episcopal churches leave the baby Jesus out of the crèche until Christmas Eve, as a sign that Jesus isn't yet born. One could argue that Mary and Joseph haven't gotten to Bethlehem yet, either — but that's another article. Last year several people from around town asked me if the Episcopal Church believes in Jesus, after noticing that Christ was not in the manger at our church. It got me thinking about the impression our church unintentionally gives to the town. Are we welcoming, or are there "secret handshakes" (like a Jesus-less crèche) that can make people hesitate before attending St. Thomas'?

This year, we have the whole holy family together. I know some won't like the change, but let's try it this Advent. Next year, if I've gotten lots of pushback, perhaps we could have Mary and Joseph travel around the lawn, until all THREE get to the crèche on Christmas Eve? That would get people's attention! Or we could erect a friendly sign, explaining why we do what we do. Together, let's figure out a way to engage meaningfully — not just with each other — but with our town. I welcome all suggestions. — Lisa+

Acolyte Training

Joe Kulick and the clergy will be having **acolyte training in January**. We especially welcome first-time acolytes: children and adults! For the more-seasoned acolytes, there will be advanced training in crucifering and sanctus bell ringing, as well as a brushup on being first server. This is a wonderful way to participate in the life of the church, get to know people on your acolyte “team” and be a vital part of the worship. Call the office or email Lisa at lisasmithfry@gmail.com if you are interested. The date will be announced soon. Watch this space!

Flu Prevention

Flu season is upon us, so here are suggestions to help limit the spread of germs: Rather than shaking hands, consider passing the Peace by bowing to each other. The safest approach to communion is to receive the bread only. Communion in one kind — receiving only the bread is the same as receiving both, in theological terms. If you must intinct, please be careful to dip only the edge of the host into the wine. It is important that your fingers do not touch the wine, otherwise you spread germs to the common cup. Parents, you might want to play the “Eucharist game” at home to show your kids how to do this! Thank you for your extra care this flu season. It will help to protect the youngest and the oldest, and those with compromised immune systems.

SCAM Alert

There is a scam targeting churches nationwide. Hackers or Phishers find the minister’s name and “grab” some or all of the parishioners’ email addresses. In this scam, I seem to be urgently asking for money, an iTunes card or something else for someone in need. I need to tell you: Stewardship letters aside, I will never ask you for money. Don’t be fooled. Delete the email! It’s not from me! — Lisa+

Prayer List

Please pray for those members of this parish and others who are in special need: *Jane Schroeder, Joan, Ruth Lund, Harry Hart, Ada Power, Julie Landwehr, Chris Sewall, Tom McDermott, Larry Parker, Bayard Chanler, Sally Leighton, Ann McKendry, Carol, Marcie Vega, Eleanor, Vicky and Bill, Arnie Joy, Maxine, Judith Shepherd, Ron, Andrew, Joanne Scott, Tiffany Andrews, Seana Roubinek, Carolyn Morris, Amy, Susan, Joan Pottle, Paul Whittaker, Anne, Sandy Lyle, Brian Fitzpatrick, Skip Groman, Tom Fontaine, Kathy Kulick, Lainie Vreeland, David Harper, Susan Conrad, Elaine.*

This Sunday

December 15, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

Canticle 15

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

7:30 a.m.: Celebrant: The Rev. Canon Lisa Smith Fry; **Preacher:** The Rev. Abby Pettee; **Eucharistic Minister:** Pam Bardon; **Lectors:** Edmund Hartt; Diane Kirkman; **Prayers of the People:** Terry Mello; **Usher:** Bert Ryan

10:00 a.m.: Celebrant: The Rev. Canon Lisa Smith Fry; **Preacher:** The Rev. Abby Pettee; **Crucifer:** Freya Johanson; **Eucharistic Minister:** The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass; **Lectors:** Doc Wallace; Haunani Wallace; **Prayers of the People:** Bill Freeman; **Acolytes:** Lola Black; **Ushers:** Bill Freeman; Jim Ebbert

Next Sunday

December 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

7:30 a.m.: Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Canon Lisa Smith Fry; **Eucharistic Minister:** Sandy Lyle; **Lectors:** Jan Lyle; Sandy Lyle; **Prayers of the People:** JoAnne Ryan; **Usher:** Isa Babb

10:00 a.m.: Celebrant: The Rev. Canon Lisa Smith Fry; **Preacher:** The Rev. Abby Pettee; **Crucifer:** Kavan Kibler; **Eucharistic Minister:** Jacqueline Recht; **Lectors:** Sarah Groman; Chris Glass; **Prayers of the People:** Millie Crocker; **Acolytes:** Kingston Kibler; Tom Roberts; **Ushers:** Phil Groman; Dean Jackson

Calendar

Sunday, December 15

7:30 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30 a.m. — Choir Rehearsal

9:00 a.m. — Christian Education Classes

10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite II

(Coffee Hour follows)

11:15 a.m. — Youth Choir Rehearsal

5:15 p.m. — Centering Prayer — Chapel

6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Basement

Monday, December 16

6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Parish Hall

Tuesday, December 17

9:00 a.m. — Xi-Gong Dance Class

6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Basement

Wednesday, December 18

9:30 a.m. — Holy Eucharist with Healing Service — Chapel

10:15 a.m. — Coffee and Conversation — Conference Room

11:00 a.m. — Bible Study — Conference Room

4:00 p.m. — 6:30 p.m. — EfM — Conference Room

6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Basement

Thursday, December 19

5:00 p.m. — Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Basement

Friday, December 20

6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Basement

Saturday, December 21

6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Basement

Sunday, December 22

7:30 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30 a.m. — Choir Rehearsal

9:00 a.m. — Christian Education Classes

10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite II

(Coffee Hour follows)

~11:00 a.m. — Greening of the Church

11:15 a.m. — Youth Choir Rehearsal

5:15 p.m. — Centering Prayer — Chapel

6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Basement

*Meetings and Events are subject to change.
St. Thomas' welcomes the use of its facilities for
Meetings and Events. Before scheduling any activity,
please contact the Parish Office
(admin@stthomascamdenme.org, 236-3680).*