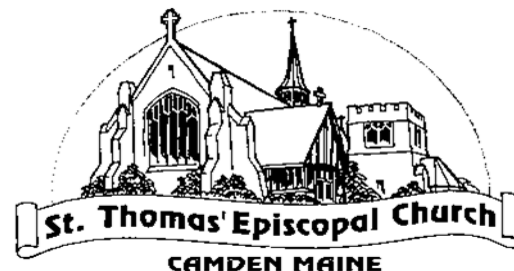


St. Thomas' Tidings

Sunday, December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 Fry, Rector
33 Chestnut Street (P.O. Box 631)
Camden, ME 04843
207-236-3680
admin@stthomascamdenme.org



Greening of the Church

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

Signs of Life in Advent

Our sermon series continues as we look at SHELTER this week. Where is the shelter in your life? Where do you shelter others? 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 each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. All are welcome!

Holiday Vacation and Closing

The Rector will be on vacation December 26-January 1. The Church Office will be closed on Christmas after the service and December 26.

We Pledge Our Lives To Christ Our Lord

"May we come together as friends, families and community to share what we have and give without reserve. In this way, the efforts of one instead become the strength of many."

This is a quote from a high schooler here in town describing *wellness*. From the mouths of our youth comes great wisdom. We give to the church not just out of a sense of duty, but out of a desire for the world to be healed by supporting the work of the Kingdom.

We are blessed to have such a wide variety of ages worshipping here. I understand that we are one of the few churches in the area to have so many children in our midst. We also have people from a wide variety of financial circumstance, reflecting the demographic of our area.

From my perspective, we also have the most giving, generous hearts. I see evidence of this every week by your actions, and when people share stories with me about each of you!

This is probably the hardest season of the year to think about what **your pledged gift contributes to the life of our parish**, and to the lives of others outside our doors, but I am convinced that what we do here changes lives, changes hearts.

In this season when we make a home for Christ in our hearts, may we give thoughtfully and in thankfulness to GOD for being able to share the love, kindness, justice and promise of Jesus' *Good News* with all that we have and all that we are.

Thank you for your generosity. Lisa+



Children's Pageant

Pageant participants are requested to attend the full rehearsal with music on Monday, December 23, at 10:00 a.m. in the church. The pageant will be presented at the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service.



Christmas Flowers

Donations for Christmas flowers are now being accepted. They can be in memory of a loved one, or to honor or give thanks for someone or something. "Flower Offering" envelopes have been placed in the pews for your use. Donations must be received by Monday, December 23, for inclusion in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



Today's Coffee Hour Angels

Our hosts are Jan Gilley and Juliette Surprise. Bless them!

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.

We Bring You Tidings — Online!

Are you getting TIDINGS in your weekly email? Would you like to? 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! Just contact Terry Mello at treasurer@stthomascamdenme.org. She’ll get you set up.

Prayer List

Please pray for those members of this parish and others who are in special need: *Jim Carpenter, Karen Laite, 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 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

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

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

Next Sunday

December 29, 2019

First Sunday After Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalms 147:12-21
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
John 1:1-18

7:30 a.m.: Celebrant and Preacher: TBD; **Eucharistic Minister:** Pam Bardon; **Lectors:** Pam Bardon; Diane Kirkman; **Prayers of the People:** Pat Ayers; **Usher:** Isa Babb

10:00 a.m.: Celebrant and Preacher: TBD; **Crucifer:** George Bickham; **Eucharistic Minister:** Jacqueline Recht; **Lectors:** Doc Wallace; Haunani Wallace; **Prayers of the People:** Roy Gilley; **Acolytes:** Charlotte Watkins; Poppy Johanson; **Ushers:** Leamon Scott; Phil Groman

Calendar

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

Monday, December 23

10:00 a.m. — Pageant Rehearsal — Church
6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Parish Hall

Tuesday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite II;
Children’s Pageant
6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Basement
10:00 p.m. — Christmas Music
10:30 p.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Wednesday, December 25 — Christmas

Office Closed After Service

10:00 a.m. — Christmas Morning Eucharist
6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Basement

Thursday, December 26

All Day — Office Closed
Rector on Vacation Until January 2
*No Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Basement

Friday, December 27

6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Basement

Saturday, December 28

6:30 p.m. — AA meeting — Basement

Sunday, December 29

7:30 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite I
8:30 a.m. — Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(Coffee Hour follows)
*No 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).