

Welcome to St. John's Church



The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany *February 16th, 2020*

We are delighted that you have decided to worship with us this morning. We know that you have other choices on Sunday mornings. We pray that you will find in us a warm and welcoming group of Christians who seek to serve God in Christ Jesus in this place.

Thank you for blessing us with your presence this morning.

Please ask the Greeters if you have any questions or need any assistance.

A NOTICE ABOUT THE READINGS: The Scripture Readings have been removed from our bulletins. Web links to the Readings are included in the Friday e-blast for those who want the lessons beforehand. A brief written introduction is included in the bulletins to help provide context for the listeners. Meanwhile, the Prayers of the People will now be read from the midst of the people. Please be patient as we 'try on' these new formats. Thank you.

Upcoming Christian Education Events

SO WHAT IN GOD'S NAME ARE YOU DOING HERE?

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Our Priest-in-Charge, Fr. Hahneman, continues a series of training sessions on Saturday mornings "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

~~Saturday, February 22nd — Altar Guild~~ *to be rescheduled*

Saturday, February 29th Lectors

Saturday, March 7th Outreach Committee

Saturday, March 14th Acolytes, Thurifers, Crucifers

CHRIST IN CRISIS: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus

Friday Mornings, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Fr. Hahneman, our Priest-in-Charge, will lead an Adult Class reading Jim Wallis' new book about the Reclaiming Jesus Movement. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry wrote the foreword. For more information, see the Priest-in-Charge.

WINTER FILM SERIES: February 22nd 6:30pm

Babette's Feast (1987)

Fr. Hahneman will lead an informed conversation following the viewing of popular films on Saturday evenings this winter. All interested persons are welcome to join in these discussions. Bring your own popcorn!

LENTEN VIDEO SERIES "The History of Christianity", a six part series

Saturdays in Lent at 11:00 am in the Parish Library

A History of Christianity, a six part series presented by Oxford history professor whose books about the Reformation have been acclaimed as masterpieces. Intelligent, thought-provoking and magisterial in its scope, the series will uncover how a small Jewish sect that preached humility became the biggest religion in the world.

March 7th: "Catholicism: The Unpredictable Rise of Rome"

March 14th: "Orthodoxy - From Empire to Empire"

March 21st: "Reformation: The Individual Before God"

March 28th: "Protestantism - The Evangelical Explosion"

April 4th: "God in the Dock"

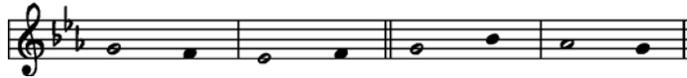
A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY [30:15-20]

In the Hebrew scripture lesson Moses presents the people with their choice: love and obey the Lord and find life, or turn away to other gods and know death. Israel is about to cross over into the Promised Land, and this is Moses' final charge to them. In historical terms the speech was probably composed many hundreds of years later, near the time of the exile, after Israel had experienced much backsliding from the Lord. But this is still their choice: blessing or curse – life and good, or death and evil.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The congregation is invited to join in chanting the psalm.

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



GRADUAL HYMN

Spread, O spread thy mighty word (verses 1-3)

HYMNAL 530

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW [5:21-37]

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In our gospel we hear of Jesus' concern with the heart of human behavior. Discipleship means far more than observance of the outward forms of the law. Genuinely to fulfill the commandments not to kill, not to commit adultery, and not to swear falsely requires a transformation of one's life. One must be willing to cast away any part of self which opposes this change of mind and heart.

Celebrant **The Gospel of our Lord.**

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ**

GRADUAL HYMN

Spread, O spread thy mighty word (verses 4-5)

HYMNAL 530

THE SERMON

Fr. Geoff, Priest-in-Charge

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, p. 326

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Congregational response: "Hear us, God of glory"

THE CONFESSION

BCP, p 331

THE ABSOLUTION

BCP, p. 332

THE PEACE

Celebrant **The peace of the Lord be always with you.**

People **And with thy spirit.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY *Lord, in Thy Mercy*

Felix Mendelssohn

DOXOLOGY

HYMNAL 380 (*verse 3*)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

BCP, p. 340

SURSUM CORDA

HYMNAL S112

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

HYMNAL S117

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, p. 33

This setting is not used in Lent.

Antiphon: Cantor; then All



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Cantor



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]

Cantor



2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,



for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]

THE INVITATION

All Baptized Christians are welcome and encourage to come forward to receive Communion,

*If you do not wish Communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing,
by crossing your arms over your chest at the Altar Rail.*

If you wish Communion brought to you at your seat, please notify a greeter.

HYMN AT THE COMMUNION

Humbly I adore thee

HYMNAL 314

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 339

THE BENEDICTION

HYMN AT THE RECESSION

Love divine, all loves excelling

HYMNAL 657

THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

Chaconne in G minor Louis Couperin (1626-1661)

*Please join us in the Parish House following the 10 am service
for refreshments and fellowship.*

St. Valentine

Next to St. Nicholas, St. Valentine is probably the most popularly celebrated of Christian saints. Yet very little is really known about him. There are many myths and traditions about St. Valentine's Day, but only a few facts.

We know, for instance, that the Romans celebrated a festival on February 15th, called *Lupercalia*, the purpose of which was to ensure fertility for the people, fields, and flocks. This feast commemorated, among other things, Juno, the Roman goddess of women and marriage. The various pagan rites of the festival centered at the Lupercal, which was a cave in the Palatine Hill in Rome.

We also know that there was a certain bishop of Terni, a city about sixty miles from Rome, whose name was Valentine, and who was taken to Rome and martyred towards the end of the third century. One source says that he was punished converting a Roman family to Christianity. But little else is known about him.

However we also have stories about a priest named Valentine, who lived in Rome at about the same time. He was arrested for helping Christians during a persecution by Claudius the Goth. While in prison it is believed Valentine cured his jailkeeper's daughter of blindness. On February 14th in the year 270, the Romans beheaded this Valentine, on the Palatine Hill at the site of an ancient altar to Juno., after which he was received by the Church as a Christian martyr. In 350, a Basilica was built in his honor in Rome, and a catacomb containing his remains can be found there still. As was often the case in the early Church, pagan festivals were replaced by Christian ones, so in 496, Pope Gelasius changed the Lupercalian festival to St. Valentine's Day, and it has remained so ever since.

Though the surviving accounts of the martyrdoms of both Valentines are clearly legendary, there are indications that each contains a nucleus of fact, and it is just possible that the kernel of truth in the two legends refers to a single person. By being remembered both in Rome and at Terni, Valentine may have been later confused as two different persons. But beyond this there are few agreed facts.

Legends, however, abound. One story, for instance, suggests that the jailkeeper and his daughter who was healed were converted to Christianity by Valentine, and when the persecution came it was them whom he aided and for which he was arrested. Moreover the story goes on that Valentine was in love with the jailkeeper's daughter, but she didn't know it. And it was difficult for him to make her understand how much he loved her since he had been arrested and was in jail, and she was not allowed to visit him. It is not surprising that St. Valentine is the patron of lovers, especially those under duress.

And so, the story goes, Valentine wrote love notes to her which were passed in a variety of ways, depending upon which version of the story you know. In one version he passed the notes through the jailkeeper himself, who was grateful to him for restoring his daughter's sight. In another version love birds carried the notes away to her. But in my favorite version he tossed the notes over the prison wall each day with hope that by chance she would pass by and retrieve one. But the notes were picked up by any number of other young women, all now believing that the love notes which were anonymous were meant for themselves and left there by some secret admirer. Because of such legends, we now call all such romantic messages, Valentines. And because poor Valentine himself died without ever knowing whether his message got through, he became the epitome of unrequited love.

And so he is probably very happy that on the feast of his martyrdom, so many people make sure that their love is known, by the exchanging of Valentine cards or with gifts of flowers and chocolates. As St. Valentine knew, a love which is kept to oneself is a love lost. For love is something that must be shared. And I hope that all of you here present today, made a special effort in memory of St. Valentine to express your love last week to your spouse, your children, your parents. It is not enough just to intend to love someone, or to feel love for someone, or even to say that you love someone, you must act upon that love in order to make it real. And yet it takes very little effort on our part to make another feel greatly loved. It takes only a moment to drop a note to someone we love, or to pick up the phone, or to remember a birthday or anniversary, and to send a card, or flowers, or some reminder, and even so such little effort so often results in that great feeling that one is loved, that someone remembered and cared.

Similarly it is not enough to only want to love God, or to say that we do, or even to feel that we do, we must act upon that love in order to make it real. Just as Valentine gave his life as a sign of his love for Christ, we must give of ourselves back to Him who has given everything to us. It takes only a little effort to do so, but good intentions are not enough.

The Season of Lent which begins this week is an excellent time to struggle with ourselves to make that extra little effort to love God and our neighbors more. For it is only in learning to do so more and more that our lives, little by little, will be changed and our love transfigured. AMEN.

A RESTROOM is located at the bottom of the stairs in the Church undercroft. In the Parish House, there is a unisex restroom adjacent to the Choirmaster's office that is more handicapped accessible and Men's and Women's restrooms across from the kitchen next to the Parish Office.

ASSISTING WITH THIS MORNING'S LITURGY

Celebrant	Fr. Geoff Hahneman
Music Director	Dr. Marguerite Mullee
Organist	Jon Lafleur
Lectors	Tom Daniels (8am) Bob Futh & Sally Futh (10am)
Eucharistic Minister	Tillie Page Laird
Acolyte	Laura Daly
Crucifer	Bob Futh
Altar Guild	Susie Magee (8am) Camille Gillespie (10am)
Greeter	Lee Reese
Coffee Hour Hosts	Natalie Dyer & Emily Fitzhugh

Staff

	Priest-in-Charge	Fr. Geoff Hahneman
	Music Director	Dr. Marguerite Mullee
	Parish Administrator	Sarah Eyre
	Foundation Administrator	Joan Burgess
	Sexton	Jorge Artieda

Vestry

	Warden	David Gillespie
	Warden	Susan McFeely
	Clerk	Joan Beattie
	Treasurer	Larry Littlefield
	Assistant Treasurer	Hunter Brown

Class of 2020
 Rebecca Lambert
 Darcy Campbell
 Charles Dubow

Class of 2021
 Robert Futh
 Larry Littlefield
 MB Witt

Class of 2022
 Sara Coles
 Mary Davis
 Andris Kalnins

Office Hours and Emergencies

The Parish Office is OPEN Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. If you have a pastoral issue, please call the Parish Administrator who will arrange for someone to meet your needs.

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 stjohnewashington.