



# the evangelist

NEWS & EVENTS OF THE CHURCH OF S. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

## inside...

PARISH NOTICES  
EPIPHANY LECTIONARY  
SCHEDULE

### DATES TO NOTE

February 2nd:  
Candlemas

February 16th:  
Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper

February 17th:  
ASH WEDNESDAY

February 26th:  
Stations of the  
Cross & Benediction  
followed by Lenten  
Supper

### Church of S. John the Evangelist

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**February 2010**

*My Dear People,*

This issue of the newsletter is late, and I apologize for the continued problems we are having at getting it out on time. Please bear with us, as we seek to restructure both the format and the method by which *The Evangelist* is produced and mailed. As with any change, it can be a bit confusing and disquieting; but, I promise we'll have the kinks worked out in no time. Part of reason we've had difficulties with the newsletter lately is the flash drive I had the files on has malfunctioned making the files inaccessible! So then, reconstruction of these files, along with all the day to day activities here at S. John's, has produced this unfortunate delay.

At the end of January, we had our Annual Meeting; and, while we have some significant budgetary challenges which the Parish must meet and conquer, we accomplished those things that Canon Law and our By-Laws mandated: the election of new Vestry members and Delegates to Diocesan Convention. Due to his decision, after serving in various offices here at S. John's over the last 10 years, to retire, I reluctantly accepted Charles White's resignation as Senior Warden. Charlie, as he is affectionately called by all of us, is taking a well deserved respite from the responsibilities of the Corporation and I must say I'm sorry to see him retire. You all know, far better than I, how together with the Junior Warden and Vestry, Charlie steered a sure course towards stability at S. John's. It was largely through these efforts that our parish life continued during the interregnum, and indeed enabled you to call me as your Rector, last year. Both Charlie and Sandra deserve our thanks and I know they will both continue to work hard to support the mission and ministry of S. John's, despite "retirement." Charlie continues to act as Master of Ceremonies at the Altar and to serve weekday masses, although with his departure for Florida in mid-month we'll miss his direction and help in a variety of ways.

We give thanks, too, to all the hard work of our former Junior Warden, Jonathan (Jono) Babbitt. He too worked tirelessly for our parish in those intervening years, and with his term expired, he can now return to devoting his full attention to our excellent Schola in his capacity of Organist & Choirmaster. Our retired Vestrymen, Cheryl Abney and Mary Lou Chase have served with distinction and we thank them for all they did while serving their Parish Church.

All that said, I am delighted to introduce this year's Vestry, beginning with my choice to fill the unexpired Senior Warden's term, Frank Jenks. Frank is well known to many of you, and is a man of considerable integrity and faithfulness to S. John's. I am looking forward to working with him as we move forward in our ministry to Newport. Our new Junior Warden is Clint Dempsey. Clint is a former parishioner of our sister parish, All Saints, Ashmont, and I couldn't be happier with his election to succeed Jono. Working with our Building & Grounds Committee, I know Clint will discharge the office with diligence and great competence. There are significant issues facing us in the coming years and I know he will help us meet them successfully.

Our newest members of Vestry are three in number. With Frank Jenks taking the Senior Warden's remaining one year term, he vacated his own remaining two year slot, in addition to the already vacated regular terms. I am happy to welcome Lacey Given, taking the two year term, Robert Regalbuto and Carol Wernquest to Vestry. All of them are enthusiastic in their support for S. John's; and, I know they will bring new and interesting talents to our Vestry meetings. I commend all of our new officers and members to your ongoing prayers.

As shocking as it seems, at this time of writing, Lent is little more than two weeks away. You will see elsewhere in this issue a guide to preparing for a Lenten Rule of Life and I hope you will take advantage of the Lenten Programme I am proposing for us. Lent begins on February 17, Ash Wednesday, with two Masses: **7.30 a.m.**, and **6.00 p.m.** Ashes will be imposed at both Masses. Although it is not strictly necessary, I always try to make the point that the best possible beginning to your own Lenten practice is to attend Mass and receive the Blessed Sacrament at the very start of Lent. Receiving ashes IS NOT the important aspect of this penitential season. Indeed, one has only to read the Lessons appointed for Ash Wednesday to realize that the smudge on the forehead is not to be shown off as some kind of merit badge. Rather, it is the sign of our unworthiness and sinfulness, which our Lord wipes away through his sacrifice and death on the Cross. Believe me, we have nothing to be proud of; and, if walking around with an ashen cross on your forehead makes you feel like you've "done" your Lenten duty, and you want everyone to know it, wipe it off! It's not about us or how holy we are. On the contrary, that mark is to remind us, how we can merit nothing of our own selves, that we come from dust and ashes and it is what we shall become when this life is over. So then, I trust when you come to Ash Wednesday Mass you will stay for the Mass, not just to receive ashes on your forehead.

In making a Lenten Rule, I find it is best to use something like the example provided elsewhere in this issue. Resolutions to observe Lent properly rarely make it past the first week, whereas a written Rule, kept close at hand, will keep us honest and endeavour to persevere in that discipline. It is best, I find, to undertake and give up things which can be kept to and are realistic. In addition to the possibility of taking up a weekday Mass, we are also offering the popular Lenten service of Stations of the Cross & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on **Fridays in Lent beginning at 6.00 p.m.** This traditional devotion is simply a series of short meditations from Scripture based on fourteen occurrences which are pictured on the lovely Stations themselves in the church. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which follows immediately upon completion of Stations is, in a sense, the fifteenth station as it offers us a real face to face encounter with the Risen Lord. I realize we are departing from a S. John's tradition of having Stations on Wednesday evenings; however, I have a good reason for doing so. As some of our Sunday Adult Christian Education people put it Friday, being the beginning of the weekend, often has a less hectic feel. People are more inclined to participate in things if they don't feel that the next morning requires them to be at work, etc. While not a perfect reason, I have always felt that Stations is an inherently Friday devotion because it mirrors the events of Good Friday itself. Following this service, we shall have a Simple Lenten supper, for those who wish to stay, and a Lenten book class. I promise to finish by 8.45 p.m. Obviously you may attend the service or the class, either or both with or without supper. The only choice you may not make is to attend the supper only! Our first Stations & Benediction will be on Friday, February 26.

*Affectionately, your Friend & Pastor,  
Fr Trent Fraser*

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

For those of you who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, I have begun offering a catechism class on Saturday mornings from 11.30 a.m. through 12.15 p.m. So far, I have one Confirmation candidate; but there's still time to begin instruction. I anticipate the announcement of our Episcopal Visitor sometime in the next month; and, he will be making his visit to S. John's in early Summer. I cannot announce who it is yet, having not received official word from the Diocese, but I am delighted. So then, please speak to me if you need to receive Confirmation or some other rite which requires the services of a bishop.

## ***LENTEN PROGRAMME 2010***

Fridays in Lent will be Stations of the Cross & Benediction at 6 p.m. (26 February, 5, 12, 19, 26 March). March 19 will be a Simple Sung Mass of S. Joseph. Simple Lenten Supper and Lenten Book Class follows. We will be finished no later than 8.45 p.m.

The book chosen this year for our class is ***Signs of Life: 40 Catholic Customs and Their Biblical Roots*** by Scott Hahn. Dr Hahn is currently Professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville and is the founder and director of the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology. In 2005 he was appointed to the Pope Benedict XVI Chair of Biblical Theology and Liturgical Proclamation at S. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

Dr Hahn is a former Evangelical Pastor who brings a fresh perspective to the everyday rituals and customs of the Catholic world. His free and engaging style helps explain those things many of us take for granted when we practice our faith. His examination of these practices and their biblical roots makes for a very interesting excursion into these practices; and, is invaluable in helping us examine them afresh from a different point of view: the point of view of a person coming to them afresh but with full knowledge of Sacred Scripture. Book is available on Amazon.com, or can be obtained from Father Fraser for \$15.00.

***There is a sign up sheet in the Guild Hall for those who wish to provide a meal on a Friday night. We need only a light supper: soup & salad, quiche, etc. (meatless obviously as it is a Friday). Could you provide a meal one week?***

### ***MY LENTEN RULE***

- 1. FASTING.** The weekdays of Lent (not the Sundays) are all fast days, meaning that the amount of food eaten is reduced. A good rule might be no snacks, no seconds, no desserts and no alcohol. If you don't normally eat snacks or desserts or drink, you may want to consider giving up some favourite food. The idea is to undertake something sacrificial, yet not overwhelming. In addition, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are strict fasts: one full meal in the evening, and a light meal or collation in the afternoon. All those who health, work and age permit should fast.

This Lent I resolve to:

- 2. MASS.** Lent is a good time to add a weekday Mass to your usual observance. The weekday Masses are of a rather more intimate and quiet nature than the Sunday ones, and this can be a great blessing. Masses are at 12.15 Noon, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday; 10 a.m. Thursday; 9 a.m. Saturday.

This Lent I resolve to:

- 3. STATIONS OF THE CROSS.** Each Friday in Lent at 6 p.m. we will follow Our Lord's way to the Cross, using the stations in the Parish Church. This devotion makes His crucifixion ever more real for us. If you cannot be present with the parish for Stations, you can do the devotion privately. Stations closes with Benediction.

This Lent I resolve to:

- 4. SPIRITUAL READING.** An ancient custom is to take a spiritual book for regular reading during Lent. This can be a book of Scripture or one of the spiritual classics. Father Fraser is always available to help you chose one which might be most suitable for you.

This Lent I resolve to:

- 5. DAILY OFFICE.** If you do not now read Matins and Evensong from the Prayer Book, Lent is a good time to start. It takes a little effort and discipline to get the habit established, but once it is there, it can bear great fruit. The regular prayers and psalms and Scripture draw us out of our narrow spiritual views, and nourish us with the riches of the Faith.

This Lent I resolve to:

**6. CONFESSION.** A sacramental confession at the beginning and end of Lent is not only an opportunity for a thorough self-examination, but also a powerful weapon against the temptations which come our way in Lent. Nothing helps a shop-keeper plan for the future like a good stock taking.

This Lent I resolve to:

**7. SERVICE.** As well as giving-up in Lent, some wish to take on some special service, such as visiting the sick or shut-in, volunteering at a hospital, or taking special care for a neighbour who may need it, or some special project at church.

This Lent I resolve to:

**8. ABSTINENCE.** Abstaining from flesh meat on Wednesdays in Lent as well as Fridays (required by the Prayer Book) is a common discipline for Lent. At the very least, no flesh meat should ever be eaten on the Fridays in Lent.

This Lent I resolve to:

**9. SELF-DENIAL.** You may want to give up some special pleasure or recreation for Lent, and perhaps give what you would have spent on it (if anything) to the Church.

This Lent I resolve to:

**10. SCRIPTURAL READING & CLASSES.** Lent is a good time to take on Scripture reading and study, or indeed any study of the Faith. There will be an adult class offered in Lent on Friday evenings.

This Lent I resolve to:

In addition to the above, I would like to:

Achieve:

Overcome:

Renounce:

## **The friends of s. john's church**

The Rector and Vestry know how many people visit this parish from all over the United States, Canada and around the world; and, we are thankful for the many generous gifts of support we've received over the years from such folk. We realize too that many subscribers to *The Evangelist* are actively supporting their own Parish Churches.

In keeping with many such initiative in other Parishes, we are commencing "The Friends of S. John's Church", an organization which, recognizes the dear faithful friends who support the Catholic faith and life of this parish with donations throughout the year: whether it is for building projects, parish fundraisers such as dinners, bazaars and the Parish Fair or the Summer Choir Festival. We want to recognize you as a special group of intercessors, and acknowledge those fraternal bonds which binds us all together in Christ.

By joining the Friends you will receive advance notice of events such as the Choir Festival and other special events scheduled throughout the year. In addition, joining now means that you will receive our revived Ordo Kalendar for 2011, when it becomes available. Most importantly, you will be added to our daily intercession list and prayed for at Mass.

***Do you love s. john's, and want to support us in our ministry?  
Become a friend today!***

## Lenten Schedule

### Sundays

Low Mass at 8.00 a.m. Adult Forum at 9.30 a.m. Sung Mass at 10.30 a.m.

### Weekdays

Tues, Weds & Fri.: Low Mass at 12.15 p.m.; Thurs. at 10.00 a.m., Sat at 9.00 a.m.

Evening Prayer is recited Tues - Sat. at 5.30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross & Benediction: Fridays at 6.00 p.m.

*Lenten Supper to follow Stations during Lent.*

### AGENDA for February

*Services and Events in addition to our regular Sunday schedule.*

February 16<sup>th</sup>: **Shrove Tuesday.** Pancake Supper from 5:30 - 6:30 PM  
Monthly Meeting of Vestry at 6.30 p.m. in the Guild Hall Library

February 17<sup>st</sup>: **ASH WEDNESDAY:** Low Mass at **7.30 AM**; Sung Mass at 6 PM.  
Ashes will be imposed at both Masses

February 26<sup>rd</sup>: **Stations of the Cross & Benediction at 6 p.m.**  
Simple Supper in the Hall and Lenten Book Class follows.

### FEBRUARY is the month of the HOLY CHILDHOOD

1	S. Ignatius, BM	
2	<b>CANDLEMAS</b>	The Sisters of S. Mary at Greenwich, NY
3	S. Blasius, BM	The Sick
4	Votive of S. Ignatius, BM	Those who suffer for the Faith
5	S. Agatha, VM	Those with breast cancer
6	S. Titus, ( <i>S. Dorothy, VM</i> )	Missionary work
7	<b>SEXAGESIMA</b>	<b>Parish</b>
8	Feria	
9	S. Cyril of Alexandria, BCD	All Christian Education students
10	S. Scholastica, V	Our Confirmation class
11	<b>Our Lady of Lourdes</b>	The Shrines at Lourdes & Walsingham
12	Seven Holy Founders	For more Acolytes to serve our altars
13	Of Our Lady	Greater devotion to Our Lady
14	<b>QUINQUAGESIMA</b>	<b>Parish</b>
15	The Martyrs of Japan	
16	Monthly Requiem	February Chantry
17	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	Confessors & Penitents
18	Feria ( <i>S. Mary Bernard Soubirous, V</i> )	Those keeping Lenten Rules
19	Feria	Sorrow for sin
20	Feria	Return of the lapsed to the Sacraments
21	<b>LENT I</b>	<b>Parish</b>
22	<b>S. Peter's Chair at Antioch</b> ( <i>feria</i> )	
23	Feria ( <i>Vigil</i> )	Thanksgiving for blessings received
24	<b>S. MATTHIAS, Ap.M.</b> ( <i>Ember Day</i> )	S. Matthias' Church, Dallas, Texas
25	Feria	Remission of our sins
26	Ember Day	Bishops, Priests & Deacons
27	Ember Day ( <i>S. Gabriel of OL Sorrows</i> )	SSC on its Foundation Day tomorrow
28	<b>LENT II</b>	<b>Parish</b>

## AD MMIX

In 2009:

There were 99 Sunday Masses  
There were 203 weekday masses  
There were 318 weekday recitations of the Daily Office in public.

The total Sunday attendance for 2009 was 3375. (2008 was 3110)

The weekday total attendance for 2009 was 3116. (2008 was 2774)

### **The Sacrament of Baptism**

***“To renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world”***

Nora Catherine Bennett, daughter of Mr & Mrs Frank Bennett

17 May 2009 in the Parish Church

Johnathan Lucena Redford, son of Mr & Mrs Lawrence Redford

12 July 2009 in the Parish Church

Elsa Reagan Richards, daughter of Mr & Mrs Joseph Albert Richards

18 July 2009 in the Parish Church

### **The Sacrament of Matrimony**

***“Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.”***

Mr Kent James Dresser, Jr., & Miss Meaghan Corroon McCarty

20 June 2009 in the Parish Church

### **Burial of the Dead**

***“Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.”***

John Victor Cochrane, died 13 June 2009. Burial from the Parish Church 19 June 2009

*There were no Confirmations or Receptions in 2009*

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was offered on twenty three occasions

The Blessed Sacrament was taken to home or hospital for the sick 9 times

The Rosary was offered on Saturdays 8 times

The number of services depends on Father Fraser, but the attendance figures depend on YOU! Will they be higher in 2010? Part of that is up to YOU.

**Do you attend everything you possibly can?**

**Do you invite others to come with you?**