

March 28, 2017

The Shepherd

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

253 Glen Avenue

Sea Cliff, NY 11579 (516-676-4222)

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Around the Parish Yard:

Lent 2017

We are now in the season of “Lent” which means ‘*springtime*’ in Middle English because of the lengthening of daylight during this time of year. It is a liturgical season in the church that incorporates forty days of reflection and repentance preceding the fifty days of Easter.

Lent is a special time of meditation, prayer, penitential preparation through music that encourages each of us to identify with God’s prophetic desire to restore humanity along with Jesus’ sacrifice, death and resurrection. During this time, we are asked to consider anew our baptismal vows, and re-commit to living a Christian life. The giving of alms, fasting and taking time for a retreat is common.

At St. Luke’s our liturgy changes tone. There is simple music and singing by the choir. The silver chalice and altar vessels are replaced by earthenware pottery. No alleluia or Gloria is heard in the community. The ‘Prayers of the People’ take an austere and blunt turn. Visual changes are marked and differing. There are no flowers only greens decorate the sanctuary.

At St. Luke’s individuals can pray in the baptistery with special intention and ask for intercession on their spiritual journey. All this is intended to lead each participant into a very personal and multidimensional time of introspection. Our prayers at this time of year should also remind that our instinctive response to God’s love for us is found in trying to be more ‘Christ like’ within ourselves and towards others.

The love and affection of heaven be with you.

David+

Important Dates:

April 8 – Palm Cross Making, 10:00 am, Parish Hall

April 9 – Palm Sunday

April 16 – Easter Sunday with Easter Egg Hunt

Schedule for Holy Week Services is on page 3

Celebration for Father David...

At the end of this month, Father David will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. To commemorate this event, we are planning a **very special coffee hour on Sunday, April 2.** Lay Pastoral Care will provide the main meat course but we need help for sides and variety. Please volunteer – and attend. We need help with setup Saturday, April 1st at 10:30 am and food donations. If you have any questions, please contact Janette Heurtley at 671-4696 or 639-1492.



Altar Flowers/Sanctuary Light Memorials are an important way to commemorate loved ones, family and friends. Your message is posted in the weekly bulletin. These memorials help us defray the costs for altar flowers and sanctuary candles. Many dates are available – please contact the Parish Office if you would like to reserve a date for a memorial.

Easter Flowers and Music...

Donation envelopes for Easter flowers and music are distributed in Sunday bulletins. Additional envelopes are available in the Parish Office. All donations must be received **by Tuesday, April 11** to be included in the Easter Bulletin.



Coffee Hour...follows the 10:00 am service every Sunday. During coffee hour you will enjoy light snacks and refreshments while catching up with family, friends and neighbors. All are welcome. Volunteers are needed – there is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Please consider a Sunday!

Vestry Meeting...The Vestry will meet on **Sunday, April 9** in the Rector's office following the 10:00 am service.



Reminder...Please help the Fall Bazaar Committee by recycling the jam and jelly jars. Clean jars can be washed and returned to the Parish Kitchen to be used again next year!

Daughters of the King... The next meeting of the Daughters of the King will be **Monday, April 3 at 7:00 pm** in the Rector's Office.



Birthdays

"Happy, happy birthday from all of us to you!"



King Kullen Receipts...If you shop at King Kullen, please drop your receipts at our Parish Office. We receive a 1% refund of the net total of all receipts we collect and return from the Glen Cove store. Every little bit helps!



Food Pantry...Our local food pantry is in need of donations of food, paper goods and personal care items. Donations can be left in the basket in the rear of the church. Please check your items for expiration dates – the food pantry cannot accept expired items.



March	April
2 Zachary Kordeleski	7 Darlene Bunce
12 Emma Spina	10 Kirk Kordeleski
14 Faith Kappenberg	13 Tiffany Baltrus
15 David MacDonald	14 Thomas Baltrus III
15 Lance Thoet	14 Ashleigh Treiber
16 Peter Rose	14 David Trotta
18 Brian Bunce	15 Meryl Kuti
18 Claudia Moyne	18 Alexandra Milowski
22 Peter Truesdell	18 Christopher Pierce
25 Elizabeth Bonham	23 Nancy Rose
25 Nessa O'Dell	26 Geoffrey Kappenberg
25 Meghan Tastensen	
25 Ginnie Treiber	
27 Beth Wiesmann	

St. Luke's Thrift Shop...Good quality clothing is needed. Donations may be dropped off at the Thrift Shop, Tuesdays between 10:30 am and 1:30 pm or placed outside the Thrift Shop door anytime. Please no books, cassettes or video tapes!



Happy Anniversary!

April 3: Debbie and Jack Pierce



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For more info, contact

Marie Catalano, Director

Phone: 516-626-0293

email: marie.trinitychildcare@gmail.com

website: www.trinitychild.org

The Black Dot: A Beautiful Inspiring Story (Thanks to Nancy H. Rose for submitting this story!)

One day, a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin.

The Professor handed out the exams with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers.

To everyone's surprise, there were no questions – just a black dot in the center of the sheet of paper. The professor, seeing the expression on everyone's faces, told them the following: "I want you to write about what you see there". The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task.

At the end of the class, the professor took all the exams, and started reading each one them out loud, in front of all the students. All of them, with no exception, defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the center of the sheet.

After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain: "I'm not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot – and the same happens in our lives. We have a white piece of paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots. Our life is a gift given to us by God, with love and care, and we always have reasons to celebrate – nature renewing itself every day, our friends, around us, the job that provides our livelihood, the miracles we see every day ... However, we insist on focusing only on the dark spot – the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend. The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they're the ones that pollute our mind. Take your eyes away from the black dots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with love!



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