

The Messenger

St. John's Episcopal Church | 123 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602
 www.stjohns-saginaw.org | 989-793-9575 | Care, Share, Worship, Celebrate & Love

IN COMMUNION WITH SAINTS

This winter, our Godly Play 2.0 class started to study some of the saints from the calendar in our Book of Common Prayer and other saints important in our society. But learning about the saints is not just for our youth. Each Sunday we include in our Prayers of the People and our Eucharistic Prayers references to our role in the Communion of Saints. The Communion of Saints is a name that describes *all* of those, in heaven and on earth, that are part of Christ's church.

Of course, we most easily recall the saints who sacrificed greatly for their faith, were martyred or exiled. It's wonderful to look to these people as examples. It's also important to remember that we are numbered among them. Our Christian heritage includes us a brothers and sisters in Christ's family... a body of saints that transcends time and space.

This February, let's join our youth and take a moment to focus on a popular saint. Republished below is a previous St. John's blog post that's still relevant today.

From Your Valentine

posted January 30, 2013 by Amy Simons

What's so Sainly about St. Valentine? As it gets closer, it's common to hear people saying "Hallmark Holiday" or "Singles' Awareness Day" and these statements are not without some truth. It's easy to focus on commercial giving and over the top romantic gestures. (A quick tip: If your sweetie made a New Year's resolution to shed a few pounds, stick with giving flowers instead of chocolates!) But don't make an apology if you get swept away by the notion of finding the perfect card or gift because there may also be some truth in where these traditions originated. Here's the scoop. There are several St.

IN THIS EDITION

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- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Lenten Outreach

Annual Meeting Update

ST. VALENTINE CONTINUED

Valentine's that the church recognizes as martyrs. They all lived in the earliest centuries of Christianity, so scholars will admit that the details of their history are obscure at best. However, there is one St. Valentine in particular that seemed to earn his fame for defying the Roman government in the name of love. As legend has it, Valentine was a priest in Rome during the third century under Emperor Claudius II. The emperor decided that single men

"Help us to endure all suffering for love of you, and to seek you with all our hearts; for you alone are the source of life and love."

made better soldiers than those with wives and families, so he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. Valentine was imprisoned and later put to death. But, before he died, he allegedly fell in love with the jailer's daughter and wrote her a note signed... you guessed it... "from your Valentine."



A Prayer on Valentine's Day

"Most Gracious Heavenly Father, You gave Saint Valentine the courage to witness to the gospel of Christ, even to the point of giving his life for it. Help us to endure all suffering for love of you, and to seek you with all our hearts; for you alone are the source of life and love. Grant that we may have the courage and love to be strong witnesses of your truth to our friends and family and to the whole world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Food for the Soul: Understanding the Holy Eucharist

Friday, February 6 @ 6:00pm



Fr. Daniel and the Rev. Pam are going to walk us through some of the mystery behind the Holy Eucharist. Where does it come from? Why do it every week? Is it just bread and wine? Discussion of these questions and yours will feed your soul. Then our shared potluck hors-d'oeuvres will feed our stomachs. St. John's will provide coffee, water and table service. Friends are always welcome!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17 @ 6:00pm

Lent is upon us, so before we begin our 40 days of heavy pre-Easter discernment, let's go out with some fun! Buttery pancakes, applesauce and sausage are the



menu. There will be no tickets, but a suggested offering of \$5/adult and \$2.50/child will help support our Vacation Bible School program this summer!

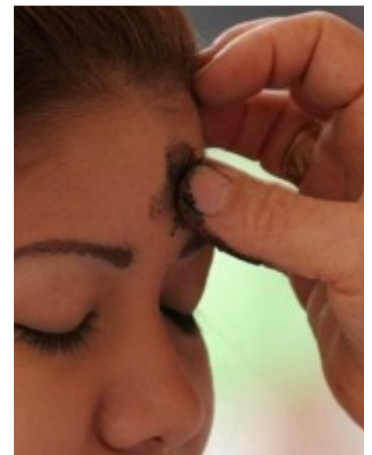
We'll also be joined this year by the youth choir from Major Chords for Minors which rehearses at St. John's each week. Come and help us welcome the students and their families!

LENTEN WORSHIP ...

Ash Wednesday Services

February 18 @ Noon & 6:00pm

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. On this day, Christians focus on their sinfulness and the necessity of Christ's suffering and death to insure their salvation. The ashes we



incorporate into the service are referred to many times in the Old Testament as signs of sorrow, mourning, humility and repentance. Join us for one of two special services on Ash Wednesday (noon and 6:00pm) to mark the beginning of this important season and remind ourselves exactly why Easter is such a celebration!

OUTREACH

A big THANK YOU! to all who participated in our Christmas Basket Outreach! Eighty nine baskets full of food and other goodies were delivered on Dec. 22nd to Rosien Towers Senior Housing that is just a block away from St John's.

Many hands helped to sort, count, shop, haul, deliver, and generally make it happen. Many others donated groceries or dollars (\$825!) to make 2014 another successful

year. Thanks to the Altar Guild who added festively wrapped large chocolate bars. Extra special thanks to Al Gissendamer, our Sexton, for all his help. This project truly could not go forward without him.

Plans already in the works for 2015!

We are going to modify the contents of our baskets to include less food and more items that cannot be purchased with food stamps such as paper or laundry products and personal items like deodorant and shampoo. If you would like to join the committee that plans this rewarding project and/or have some great ideas to share... please email amy@stjohns-saginaw.org



H.I.S. MINISTRIES BABY BOTTLES

Last year St. John's partnered with H.I.S. Restoration Ministries in a Lenten outreach effort to support a neighborhood organization. We filled over 100 plastic baby bottles with our loose change to raise over 1000 dollars and become one of the biggest donors of the year. **Think we can do it again?** Watch for the baby bottle display coming in Lent, pick a bottle and fill it up!

What is H.I.S. Restoration Ministries?

H.I.S. Restoration Ministries is a safe house dedicated to helping young mothers leave abusive situations. This ministry provides housing, food and other child essentials so that these young families can make a fresh start.

Learn more at: <http://www.hism.org/>

Birthdays

Feb. 2 - Pat Lynes
 Feb. 2 - Mary Spence
 Feb. 3 - Dann Federico
 Feb. 3 - Cannan Peters
 Feb. 6 - Will Sunderman
 Feb. 9 - Marc Baillargeon
 Feb. 13 - Kathi Spence
 Feb. 16 - Asher Curell
 Feb. 16 - Emma Keehn
 Feb. 16 - Tom Kostrzewa
 Feb. 18 - Louise Small
 Feb. 22 - Diane Carter
 Feb. 23 - Ric Roberts
 Feb. 25 - Daniel Cannon
 Feb. 25 - Emmaly Miller

Anniversaries

Feb. 1 - Gino & Beth Garza

Annual Meeting Review

Congratulations to our new Vestry members elect: Ric Roberts, Matt Gerhardt and Kathy TenWolde!

Thanks to our retiring Vestry members: Dennis Thom and Mark Mahlberg!

Copies of the 2014 Annual Report are available in the community room and online.

A special thanks to Sharon Kaylor, Barb Ilkka and Melanie Hollman for your help organizing the church breakfast!

FEBRUARY 6

Food for the Soul:
Understanding the Holy Eucharist

FEBRUARY 17

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper @ 6:00pm

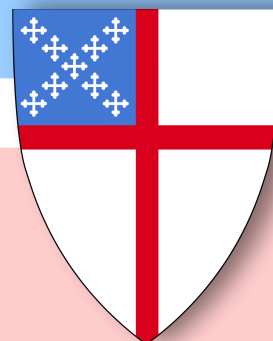
FEBRUARY 18

Ash Wednesday Services @ Noon and 6:00pm

LOOKING AHEAD...

Mar. 27 - Lenten Fish Dinner

Mar. 29 - Palm Sunday



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