



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist
Post Office Box 441 / 307 Federal Street
Milton, Delaware 19968



www.saintjohnsmilton.org

The Rev. Thomas M. White, Rector

Lent 2018

Dear Member or Friend of the St. John the Baptist Family,

When we hear that something is a matter of life or death, most likely we pay serious attention. Recently I took notice of an article in a Christian magazine entitled, "It's All about Death—and Life!" Immediately I thought of the Lenten pilgrimage on which we're about to embark. Lent's forty days lead us from ashes, mortality and death to a cross, Christ's, but on, finally, ultimately, and gloriously, to a crown, the crown of life—the promise of undefeated love and everlasting life of Easter's Son-rise! What's encompassed in Lent's forty days, culminating in Easter's victory, is truly a matter of death—and life!

The Lenten journey begins **Ash Wednesday**, this year on **February 14**. It's a day that is both somber and hope-filled—somber as we are confronted by our sin, which leads inevitably to death. On our own there is no way out. But, good news, Ash Wednesday brims with hope in the assurance that in God's beloved Son, God has come to our rescue, by cross and resurrection, freeing us from our bondage to sin and death! The parish **Ash Wednesday Masses** will be **at noon and at 7 p.m.** This Sunday a booklet of daily meditations for Lent will be distributed.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. It became a day to eat foods which traditionally were discouraged from being eaten during Lent, such as butter, eggs and fat. The custom arose to feast on foods made with these ingredients, such as pancakes and donuts, before the fasting associated with Lent began. Please come for fellowship and great food to **St. John the Baptist's Pancake Supper**, next **Tuesday, February 13, between 5 and 7 p.m.** in the parish hall. Place a reservation at office@saintjohnsmilton.org, or by signing up this Sunday on the sheet in the parish hall.

Over the last several Sundays the bulletin has included a list of important ministries for which **you are being asked to volunteer** (see below). Christ needs you! If you are willing to answer Christ's call, please contact me at rector@saintjohnsmilton.org. "In-reach" is a new ministry, focusing on caring for and supporting our members in coping with challenges, such as illness, loss, or other needs. Critical to the effectiveness of this ministry is sharing with me when you are experiencing difficulties, or if you know of a fellow member that is. St. Paul calls to us, "Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

With joy and thanksgiving I announce the new members of the vestry (the parish's governing body): Clara Escobar, Scott Kresge and Jerry Hudson (re-elected), and I congratulate Sharon Lamando and Michael McNamara, elected senior warden and junior warden respectively. Heartfelt gratitude to Alex

Donnan and Louise Frey, who completed their terms on the vestry, and to Gary Lawrik, who has served faithfully as senior warden, and to Margot Lawrik, who has worked so ably as clerk of the vestry—well done, good and dedicated servants of Christ!

With regret I must report that the Minister of Music Search Committee's selected candidate, who had promised to begin February 4, accepted a position with another parish. The Committee is now re-advertising the position.

Candles lit by oil have been secured recently, replacing the problematic wax candles used at the Christmas Eve Masses in the pew candelabras. You are invited to dedicate one or more in memory or in honor of a loved one. Your dedication will appear in the parish's Book of Dedications. The cost is \$60 per candle and you may sign up on the sheet in the parish hall or by mail at P.O. Box 441, Milton, DE 19968, with the dedication included.

Whether you are a member or friend of the parish, I welcome eagerly the opportunity and blessing of visiting with you in your home. There need be no reason other than to share fellowship! Please call me at 301.807.2298, my cell phone.

A brief closing word regarding Lent. Its forty days do not include Sundays, which, even amid the solemn Lenten worship, are celebrations of Christ's resurrection. There is a joyful tone as we gather each Lord's Day, even in Lent. It is a celebration of what we call "grace," God's unconditional and unmerited love for us and forgiveness of us because Jesus, God's Son, was born, died, and rose from death to deliver us from sin and death. This, for certain, is a matter of death—and life!

Come, let us walk together though Lent!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways you can serve Our Lord, and as we heard recently in Fr. Tom's homily, your talents suggest your ministry. Please consider applying them to service here at St. John the Baptist, not only sharing your talents with the parish, but also with the local community. If perhaps you have a hidden strength and want to share it, please see Fr. Tom and he will help you put it to good use.

Church Safety Program Committee

Do you have experience with safety programs in a work or public setting? We are looking for individuals with this experience to serve on a newly formed committee. If you have the talents and are interested, please see *Mike McNamara* or contact him at mmcnamara63@gmail.com.

Fellowship Time Kitchen Teams

Do you know your way around the kitchen? Even if you don't, you can contribute to one of the kitchen teams. If you are interested, please see *Margo Lawrik* or contact her at ddmmargot@yahoo.com.

In-Reach Committee

Fr. Tom has a vision of an In-Reach program to identify and address the needs of our own within the parish. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, please see *John & Sheila Robinson* or contact them at ssr51@aol.com.

Landscape Committee

We are in the process of regrouping the Landscape Committee with opportunities for those who are not available during the week. No experience necessary! If you have interest in caring for the emerging gardens around the church and parking lot, please see **Scott Kresge** or contact him at skresge1@verizon.net.

Outreach Committee

Outreach is looking to expand their committee. Can you help? Do you have ideas for new ways to raise funds? Have new ideas that could help the community? Please help us to reach out. If you are interested in being part of one of the most active committees, please see **Clara Escobar** or contact her at pitt4071@gmail.com. She wants to call a meeting in the near future.