



February 2012

Rector's Reflections

Dear Friends,

By now we are all enjoying the handsome new oak sideboards and matching leather upholstered benches in the narthex. These furnishings, along with the sheets of tempered glass topping the sideboards, have been purchased from the parish Memorial Fund. They are outward and visible signs of the great good that is done when loved ones are remembered through gifts to the church. This year our new building has been triply blessed by such giving, for not only these furnishings but also the Memorial Bell in the tower and the Memorial Sign on Second Avenue have been made possible through these gifts. Other examples from recent years include our beautiful cross and torches that lead every procession, and the hammered silver chalices and patens from which we receive Communion.

Because these purchases are quietly made, and because the lives memorialized are highly personal to those making donations, the process remains almost invisible to the parish at large—and thus this article. Whenever we lose a loved one, the gift of beautiful flowers readily comes to mind as a way of expressing support and bringing a note of solace to the family. Or a contribution to a favorite charity comes to mind, or to a nonprofit association seeking a cure for the final illness; both are ways of bringing future hope to others. But perhaps an even more meaningful gift, which does all these things and more, is made to the parish that served our loved one as a life-giving spiritual home.

Every Sunday in the Prayers of the People blessings are asked upon those who have departed; alongside the glowing Sanctuary Lamp, at the foot of the east niche, the parish Memorial Book lists many by name whose lives have been individually memorialized through gifts to the parish. The result is that everyone worshipping at

St. Michael's who approaches by the Second Avenue sign, who gazes at the processional cross leading forward, who harkens to the tolling of the bell, who receives Communion at the altar, or who shares refreshments at coffee hour, can know they are participating in the living memory of beloved members who have gone on to larger life.

Making a memorial gift is but one of many methods Christians have discovered to wrap death in larger life. On Sunday March 18th a 90 minute workshop is being offered following both Eucharists, to begin an all-parish conversation about ways the end of life can serve as a graced gateway to greater living. I invite you to take part, and begin discovering these ways forward for yourself.

Faithfully,

Ann+



Ash Wednesday

February 22

Liturgies at 12 Noon & 7:00 p.m.



The Great Litany & Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 26

Liturgies at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

The Holy Fast of Lent

by Jason Anderson, *Associate for Liturgical Arts*

A holy fast soon envelops us, calling us to pause and reflect. Lent is a penitential season of forty days and nights (excluding Sundays) when we are asked to put away our "Alleluia" cries and search for the deeper meaning of Christ's time here on earth. Our worship space, worship, and music is transformed to help encourage and inspire reflection and contemplation.

Our worship space is transformed. As you enter the Nave, you'll notice the Holy

Water fount contains rocks, reminding us of our wilderness journey. As your eyes gaze east or west, you'll see the Stations of the Cross hanging from jute straps along the walls. As your eyes move to the front, you'll see deep purple dupioni silk banners, decked with painted Birch branches pregnant with the buds of Spring, hanging in the niches. Look toward the altar and notice it is bare slate. On the retable, you'll find bare branches instead of flowers.

Our worship and music is transformed. We dispense with organ preludes and postludes and processional hymn. The vested ministers enter to the solemn tolls of a single hand chime. We begin with a reading of the Ten Commandments, followed by the Penitential Order. These two elements combined help focus our hearts and minds on obedience and penitence. Our Psalm settings change to unaccompanied chant. There are many ways to engage in the Psalter; plainsong often reveals new meanings and phrases not encountered in organ-accompanied or metrical Psalm settings.

These transformations are not done to visit doom and gloom upon us (Mother Nature does that quite ably), but to allow us to reflect in quiet and open our minds to different vistas and glimpses of the Divine.

Lent & Easter Choir Singers!

I cordially invite any interested persons who would like to sing with the choir during Lent & Easter to come to rehearsal on Thursdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. All voice parts are welcome! If you are interested, please email me at <associate@stmichaels-issaquah.org> or call the church office at (425) 392-3215.

Just For Families

by Jason Anderson, *Associate for Youth Formation*

Skagit Valley Mission Trip

SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, July 15 – Wednesday, July 18

Family Calendar for February

5	10:00 AM	Connect & Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
12	10:00 AM	Connect & Sunday School with music
	10:30 AM	Worship
19	10:00 AM	Connect & Sunday School with music
	10:00 AM	Teen Stream: <i>SCRIPT</i>
	10:30 AM	Worship
22	12 & 7 PM	<i>Ash Wednesday; Lent begins</i>
26	10:00 AM	Connect & Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship: <i>The Great Litany & Holy Eucharist</i>

A Lenten Journey with Julian of Norwich: Sign up for Lenten reading!

St. Julian of Norwich is an English mystic who lived in the late 14th century. The first woman writer in English whose work survives, she has left us one book known as the *Showings* which conveys her abiding sense of God's love and her trust that despite sin and evil at work in the world, ultimately God's redeeming love will prevail and "all will be well."

This Lent Adult Formation invites you to become acquainted with Julian's gracious writings by purchasing *All Will Be Well*, a small book which provides a month of daily readings from Julian's work in a format that invites your meditation and prayer for a few minutes each day. A sign-up sheet for the book, with a sample copy for your perusal, will be available in the Gathering Room on Sundays February 5th and 12th. The cost is \$10 and all orders must be pre-paid. Books should be available by Ash Wednesday.

There will be opportunities to discuss the readings together on Sunday morning between services, and a Lenten Quiet Day using some of Julian's contemplations will be held on Saturday, March 10 from 10-3. Mark your calendar now and stay tuned to your bulletin for further details.

St. Michael's Outreach to Tent City 4

Thanks to the many, many members of the parish who gave so generously to provide meals for the homeless people in Tent City 4. Your goodhearted financial support provided for two meals for the 80 homeless people currently in the shelter. Great appreciation to Pat Randall who coordinated the planning and the work!

Our special gratitude to those who brought casseroles (Pat Randall, Edith Harman, Jenny Yeeles, Pam Doxie, Tina Butt, Mary Blakney, Lori Birrell, Judy Love, Lonamay Matthews, and Cate Mueller); rolls (Barb Eimer and Jenny Yeeles); milk (John Stebbins); juice (Anne Blackburn); and all those who served (Pat Randall, Jenny Yeeles, Edith Harman, Tina Butt, Lori Birrel, Judy Love, and David Whitworth). The teens were planning to serve on Thursday, but were snowed out. Our appreciation is extended to Teri Quaranta and Amy Conley who got the food over to the shelter as soon as the weather allowed.

Thank you all for being a part of this opportunity to bring faith to life in the heart of Issaquah!

Food Bank Donations

The non-perishable foods in the basket situated in the Narthex, are donated by the congregation each week and delivered to the Issaquah Food Bank when it opens each Tuesday morning. If there is less than twenty pounds in the basket I will wait and combine more than one week's contribution. Last year, I felt that I was combining weeks more often than usual and when I added the annual total I found that, whilst we gave 1,130 pounds in 2009 and 1,043 pounds in 2010, we only gave 703 pounds in 2011.

I feel sad when I see the line of people waiting for food extending the length of the food bank when I deliver our contribution; so there is a real need for our donations. If you can drop one jar of peanut butter or one can of food in the basket it will all add up, I do urge you to consider doing so this year.

Peter Milns
Food Bank Donations

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on Tuesday, February 7th. at Macky's Dim Sum restaurant, which is located at 317 Gilman Blvd. in Gilman Village. Please call Taffy for reservation at (425) 392-4069. Look forward to seeing you there.

February Flowers

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|----|--|
| 5 | Melissa Ramsey for her mother Diana Walker |
| 12 | Peggy Hansen in memory of Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Veney and Elisha Walsh for her husband Dermot Walsh |
| 19 | Avril Meeham for Robert, Rod, and Doris |
| 26 | LENT – NO FLOWERS |

February Birthdays

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Erin Donahue |
| 5 | Adam Hawkins |
| 6 | Andy Matthews |
| 7 | John Eimer, Sr.
Julie Morris |
| 10 | Gunnar Conley |
| 12 | Paula White |
| 15 | Christine Peterson |
| 16 | Aiden Sweet |

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 17 | Marti Bolen |
| 19 | Alexander Baker |
| 21 | Mary Blakney |
| 25 | Allen Gray |
| 27 | Don Wilbert
Grace Fassio |
| 28 | John Charlebois |

February Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 8 | Steven & Annette Alexander |
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February 2012 Calendar

Weekly Events:

Sunday 8:00 am ~ Spoken Eucharist
10:00 am ~ Sunday School & Connect

Wednesday 10:00 am ~ Holy Eucharist
10:45 am ~ Bible Study

Thursday 7:30 pm ~ Choir Practice

Saturday 9:30 am ~ Altar Guild

Calendar-at-a-glance: www.stmichaels-issaquah.org, click 'Current News'

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| 2 nd | 3:00 pm ~ Wardens meeting |
| 4 th | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm ~ Choir Retreat |
| 8 th | 10:00 am ~ Healing Eucharist |
| 9 th | 12:15 pm ~ Adult Formation
6:00 pm ~ Outreach Commission |
| 12 th | Noon ~ Youth Formation meeting |
| 14 th | Noon ~ Lunch Bunch at Macky's Dim Sum |
| 19 th | 9:00 am ~ Finance Commission
10:00 am ~ SCRIPT for Teens |
| 20 th | Newsletter Deadline |
| 21 st | 10:00 am ~ Parish Life Network
5:30 pm ~ Wardens meeting
7:00 pm ~ Vestry Meeting |
| 22 nd | ASH WEDNESDAY
Services at Noon & 7:00 pm |
| 28 th | 5:30 pm ~ Issaquah Meals Program, team C |
| 29 th | 7:00 pm ~ Lenten Book Discussion |

March 2-4 Vestry Retreat @ St. Andrews House



Altar Flowers



Pageant Cast Sings



Doug
Birrell
Makes
Final
Adjustments
to
Poissetias
Stand



Shepherds keeping watch for the Pageant



Liam and John Mooney Baptized January 15th

Volunteers at Tent City

