



# SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

Episcopal

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The Reverend Thomas F. Reese, Rector

## **The Bellringer**

March 2020

Dear Friends,

Our parish newsletter for Lent takes on a regular letter form because our Bellringer editor, Jane Thornton is still recovering from the nasty fall she took upon being struck by a car a few weeks ago. Most parishioners know about this event, in which not only Jane but her son Stephen Banci as well as Louise Foisy were all in a crosswalk when they were struck. We send prayers to Jane, Louise who suffered a fractured ankle and Stephen who is carrying on as usual, albeit a bit banged up.

We also give thanks for Liz Ramos's recovery from a serious bout with kidney stones which had her hospitalized for a good part of last week. We truly missed Liz in her Administrator's post but we managed to hold down the fort with the generous volunteer efforts of Ann Espenschied and Karen Van Westering. And though Liz is well and back in the office this week, we are playing catch up—So, Bellringer for March = Tom – Jane – Liz.

Let us pray to for all people as the Covid-19 "corona virus" continues to be a health and safety challenge. As worshippers found out last Sunday, we at Saint Luke's will be following public health protocols which have been incorporated into the guidelines issued by The Episcopal Church and our Bishop. Knowing that a main path of transmission between people is by hands and fingers, throughout this time of heightened vigilance, we will employ common sense. During The Peace, worshippers are asked to refrain from handshakes and embraces. Instead, please us another sign or gesture to express Christ's Peace with each other: bow to each other, wave or smile. And at the time of receiving Holy Communion, please receive the blessed bread into the palm of your opened hand and consume the bread. When the cup of wine comes to you, please do not dip the bread into the cup—either sip from the cup or, if you prefer, choose not to receive wine from the cup by crossing your arms across your chest as the signal to the Eucharistic Minister. This way we will keep fingers away from the cup. Past certified health sector research made it clear that the Communion cup is not a source of viral transmission but fingers in all instances are. Thus, of course, your clergy and altar servers will be diligent about washing hands with soap and water, just as all of us will be employing that common sense and number one protective action.

Let us also pray that fear overtakes no one and that all people throughout the world recognize and appreciate just how interdependent we are on this earth.

Faithfully yours,  
Tom

**Lent** – *Sunday Bible Study* takes place as usual, 9:30am-10:10am, as we take a closer look at the assigned scripture readings for Sundays in Lent.

*Lenten Series* takes place on Wednesday evenings through April 1. 7:00pm Holy Eucharist, 7:30pm Simple Soup Supper (with salad and bread), 8-9:00pm Presentation and Discussion. Our Theme: “The Gospel of Now”. Our text: The Gospel According to Saint John. Come be part of our midweekly Lenten community!

*Kid’s Bake* on Saturday, March 21 in the church kitchen at 10:00am. Once again, Louise Guinther is graciously giving of her time and talent to lead and assist our youthful bakers. The boys and girls will make goodies for the Sunday Bake Sale. All church school children and their friends are invited. Kindly contact the church office at [stlukesoffice@verizon.net](mailto:stlukesoffice@verizon.net) or 718-268-6021 to register your children for this event.

*Refreshment Sunday Bake Sale* takes place on Sunday, March 22 during Hospitality Hour. Part of our Lenten tradition is to stage a Bake Sale in lieu of the usual hospitality hour on the Fourth Sunday in Lent. The bake sale revenue becomes part of our Lenten Self Denial Project. This year’s recipient is Habitat for Humanity/Queens which, as you know, is also our 2020 Outreach Grant recipient. For the bake sale, the Outreach Committee is asking our parish bakers to bake up some contributions for the sale.

*Mite Boxes for the Lenten Self-Denial Project.* Mite Boxes are available in the church narthex, if you would like this traditional item to place at home or work for your daily contributions. Our Lenten Project offerings will be received during Palm Sunday services on April 5. Should you choose to write a check rather than make a cash donation, please write your check to Habitat for Humanity/Queens (with Saint Luke’s Outreach on the memo line).

*Special Church School Program on Sunday, March 22*—Father Tom will lead the church school class which begins at 10:15am and will be with the children throughout the class until all come up to the liturgy at The Peace. In addition, Bill Stokes will offer the boys and girls a tour of the church organ after they get some goodies at the Refreshment Sunday Bake Sale. Quite a morning for our children!

***Easter Flowers and Music.*** There is a long-standing tradition throughout the Episcopal Church that Parishioner and Friends make gift contributions in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving. Your contributions make it possible for us to decorate with flowers for our Easter Worship and also to provide special festive music by securing additional voices. Please see the contribution form at the end of this letter or use the forms found in the Sunday worship bulletin. All contributions need to reach the church by Sunday, April 5.

**The Imaginauction** is already shaping up to be an incredible event with some familiar components and some new additions. During the evening, we will have a delicious meal once again provided by Linda Martinez and Jean Tessier. We will also have dancing a wonderful array of auction items: pie of the month, self-defense lessons, travel agent services, a New York Botanical Garden tour, a Professional Organizing Session, a month-long membership to a new Forest Hills Play Space, a photo session with a local photographer and many more. We are still accepting and encouraging other auction donations. Please reach out to Katie George or Andrea Kwok if you would like to brainstorm how you can contribute to the Imaginauction.

We will also be offering an early bird discount on tickets this year as well as a group discount for table reservations for 8 people. We will be sending out invitations for this year's Imaginauction the week of **April 26th**. The early bird discount will end **May 17th**. Most importantly, mark your calendars for **June 13th** - the night of the Imaginauction. It will be a night to remember and we can't wait to see how much money we can raise to support the programs and mission of St. Luke's! With Gratitude and Excitement, Katie & Andrea

**The Mardi Gras Event 2020** was quite successful and I wish to thank all who attended. The children had a great time playing flip the pancake and everyone enjoyed their supper of pancakes, sausage and bacon, and juice. People had a great time talking at tables displayed with Mardi Gras beads, little bracelets and crosses to signify that this was the event that leads to Lent and Easter. People paid admission and bought raffle tickets and Saint Luke's gathered \$460 which will go to our 2020 Outreach Grant recipient, Habitat for Humanity/Queens.

I wish to thank people who worked with the Outreach committee, such as Jean Tessier and Liz Reynolds who cooked the food, Joanna Friedman who is chairperson of Outreach, Michael and Sherri Papamihalis who served the food, and Emily Taylor who ran the games. We even had Thinking Cap after-school families attending the event. It was so nice to have children from our Ministry Partners with us and we hope and intend to invite children and families from the child care and after school programs to more of our events which would be enjoyable for boys and girls. Truly, a fun time was had by all. – Velma Adams



*Memorials and Thanksgivings  
for Easter Music and Flowers*

Your contributions, in memory and thanksgiving, are requested to make these expressions of joy possible. Please fill out the form below and submit it to the church office along with your contribution *no later than Sunday, April 5.*

*Easter Flowers*

(Circle one) In memory...  
In thanksgiving...

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Easter Music*

(Circle one) In memory...  
In thanksgiving...

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by (your name):  
\_\_\_\_\_

