



# THE SHELL

Saint James the Greater Episcopal Church

Making Christ Known Since 1712

February 2020

Volume 2, Number 2



## Save the Date

02/02/2020

Sunday Service – 8:30am

02/09/2020

Sunday Service – 8:30am

02/14/2020

Happy Valentine's Day

Spaghetti Dinner 6:00pm to 8:00pm

02/16/2020

Sunday Service – 8:30am

02/23/2020

Sunday Service – 8:30am

02/26/2020

Ash Wednesday Service – 7:30pm

S.O.M.E. Dinner - 6:00pm to 7:00pm

(Volunteers Needed)

## SAINT VALENTINE



### Feast Day February 14<sup>th</sup>

**Saint Valentine** (Italian: *San Valentino*, Latin: *Valentinus*) is a widely recognized 3rd-century Roman saint, commemorated in Christianity on February 14. From the High Middle Ages his Saints' Day is associated with a tradition of courtly love.

There are two different Saints' Lives for a St Valentine on February 14, but they are probably the same man. Saint Valentine was a clergyman – either a priest or a bishop – in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians.<sup>[2]</sup> He was martyred and his body buried at a Christian cemetery on the Via Flaminia close to the Ponte Milvio to the north of Rome, on February 14, which has been observed as the Feast of Saint Valentine (Saint Valentine's Day) since 496 AD.

Tradition holds that he was arrested and imprisoned upon being caught marrying Christian couples and otherwise aiding Christians who were at the time being persecuted by the Emperor Claudius in Rome. Helping Christians at this time was considered a crime. Claudius took a liking to this prisoner. However, when Valentinus tried to convert the Emperor, he was condemned to death. He was beaten with clubs and stones; when that failed to kill him, he was beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate. It is believed that before his head was cut off, Saint Valentine restored sight and hearing to the daughter of his jailer.

(Sources: catholicdictionary.com; Wikipedia.com)



**02/07 Earl Marion**

**02/18 Diane Leonard**

**02/22 Ron Bergy**

**02/23 Linda Porter**

**02/23 Michael Capriotti,  
Jr**

**02/27 Ginny Capriotti**

**02/28 Maurice Hardy**



**02/14 Gail and Buck  
Travis**



## Ash Wednesday

*"Remember that you are dust, and to dust  
you shall return"*

Ecclesiastes 3:20

**Ash Wednesday** is a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and falls on the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter. Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed by Western Christians. Most Latin Rite Roman Catholics observe it, as do Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Nazarenes and Independent Catholics.

As it is the first day of Lent, some Christians begin Ash Wednesday by marking a Lenten calendar, praying a Lenten daily devotional, and abstaining from a luxury that they will not partake of until Eastertide arrives.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the placing of repentance ashes on the foreheads of participants to the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

**Ash Wednesday services will be at 7:30 AM and 12 Noon at Grace Episcopal Church (313 Main St., Hulmeville) and 7:30 PM at St. James (*Please note the change of time for the evening service at St. James*)**

### Did You Know?

Did you know that in ancient times, ashes were used to express grief? The gesture was also used to express sorrow for sins and faults. In Job 42:3–6, Job says to God: "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

The prophet Jeremiah calls for repentance by saying: "O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth, roll in the ashes" (Jer 6:26). The prophet Daniel recounted pleading to God: "I turned to the Lord God, pleading in earnest prayer, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes" (Daniel 9:3).

Just prior to the New Testament period, the rebels fighting for Jewish independence, the Maccabees, prepared for battle using ashes: "That day they fasted and wore sackcloth; they sprinkled ashes on their heads and tore their clothes" (1 Maccabees 3:47; see also 4:39). (Source: Wikipedia.com)

## St James Staff

The Rev. Marlee R. J. Norton  
Priest

Sonya Genstein  
Musician/Choir Director

Denise Ciambrello  
Administrative Assistant

Georgette Miller  
Custodian

Joe Ciambrello  
Sexton

## St. James Vestry

Denise Ciambrello  
Junior Warden

Joe Ciambrello

Betty Dougherty

Sue Marion  
Treasurer

Christopher Porter  
Secretary

Gene Porter

Betsy Schmidt

Horace Schmidt  
Senior Warden



## February's Announcements

**Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner** St. James will host a spaghetti dinner from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on **Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**. All are welcome! Bring your friends and family! The menu is meatless spaghetti or spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic or plain bread, drinks, and brownies for dessert. BYOB. The cost is \$10 per person and free for children age five and under.

**Helping Victims of Human Trafficking** – On Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Rev. Becca Stevens, founder of Thistle Farms will speak at Trinity Episcopal Church in Buckingham, PA. Thistle Farms, in Nashville, TN, is an organization helping women who have been involved with prostitution and addiction to gain a second chance at life through a two-year residential program that offers support while they focus on living sober, honest and self-sufficient lives. The event – “Love Heals, The Thistle Farm Story” begins at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. The event is free and open to all.

“Thistle Farms is in the forefront of the movement to change the way that we see these women – not as criminals, but as victims.” said Michael Ruk, Rector of St. Philip’s in New Hope, which is sponsoring the event. His parish has led efforts to raise up issues around human trafficking over the past several years. For more information, contact Trinity Episcopal Church at 215-794-7921 or St. Philip’s Church at 215-862-5182

**Free The Girls** During February, St. James and all the other Episcopal churches in Bucks County are collecting **gently used and new** brassieres. They will be funneled through a foundation to women's groups in Uganda, Mozambique, Costa Rica and El Salvador, so that women can start their own businesses selling the garments on the second-hand clothing market. This gives the women pride and economic independence, allows them to support their children, and frees many from a lifetime of human and sex trafficking.

**Need Your Jars?** – Mary’s Cupboard, the food pantry in Levittown, distributes laundry detergent to client families in pint-sized, screw on jars (glass or plastic). There is a box in the cloakroom area for your donations of jars (**Please make sure they are clean**). Instead of just recycling these items, let’s use them to help others! **For the time being, Mary’s Cupboard is no longer in need of egg cartons.** A special thank you to all of you who are participated in this special outreach ministry.

**Help Others Stay Warm** – If you have any winter coats, hats, scarves, mittens/gloves, socks, boots and blankets you don’t plan to use, we keep a supply on hand for our monthly dinner guests, many of whom have little protection against cold weather. Please bring them to church or to the dinner if you’re a volunteer. **Please, blankets, outer wear and socks only - no pants, shirts or sweaters.**

**Thank You!!** – The St. James Vestry would like to give a **BIG** thank you to all of you who stayed after the service on January 19<sup>th</sup> and participated in the Annual Parish Meeting. Your questions and comments were greatly appreciated.

### Contact Us

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