

The Arimathean

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I am writing this article on Ash Wednesday morning. In just a couple of hours we will gather in church for the first of today's three Ash Wednesday services, marking the beginning of the season of Lent. People will come to the altar to have the sign of the cross traced on their foreheads with ashes made from the palms used on Palm Sunday in previous years. The service is a solemn start to a season marked by simplicity, prayer and what ever activities we choose to help us be more fully aware of God's presence. Some may choose to take something on; activities such as reading scripture, service to others or meditations. Some may choose to give something up such as sweets, video games, alcohol or what ever; all in an effort to improve our conscious contact with God.

The Ash Wednesday service is one that some people find quite difficult because it causes us to confront our own mortality, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Yet, even in this solemn statement the wonder of God's creation shines through. We are indeed made of dust, dust that came into existence at the moment of the Big Bang; dust that has traveled through the universe as subatomic particles, atoms and molecules and been a part of stars, planets and everything that is. It's a mind boggling truth.

It is most fitting that we are signed on the forehead with ashes rather than some other sort of dust like house dust or a bit of finely powdered dirt. It is fitting because our ashes consist primarily of carbon. All life on earth, all life as we know it, is based on carbon. Our genetic material, DNA is made up primarily of carbon. No carbon no life. When the ashes are placed on our foreheads we are reminded of our own mortality and at the same time we are given a powerful sign of life. Each and everyone of us is dust. All that is, is dust. Just look at the wonders God has created from dust!

Blessings for a Holy Lent,
Pastor Claire



Saving Money, Trees and Time!

In an effort to be better stewards we are changing the format of our Sunday bulletins. Beginning on March 1 we will be using re-usable service booklets that will remain in the pews from week to week. Along with a one page "Weekly Takeout" that will give the week's announcements, hymn numbers, prayer lists and readings along



with parish contact information. The re-usable booklets are made of heavy weight paper that should last for quite some time. In the past we have printed about 15 three page bulletins for the 8:30am service and

60-70 five or six page bulletins for the 10:30am service. Our new format will not only save paper and printing costs, it will also take much less staff time each week. As with all changes it may take a little getting used to, but it is a change that is well worth it.

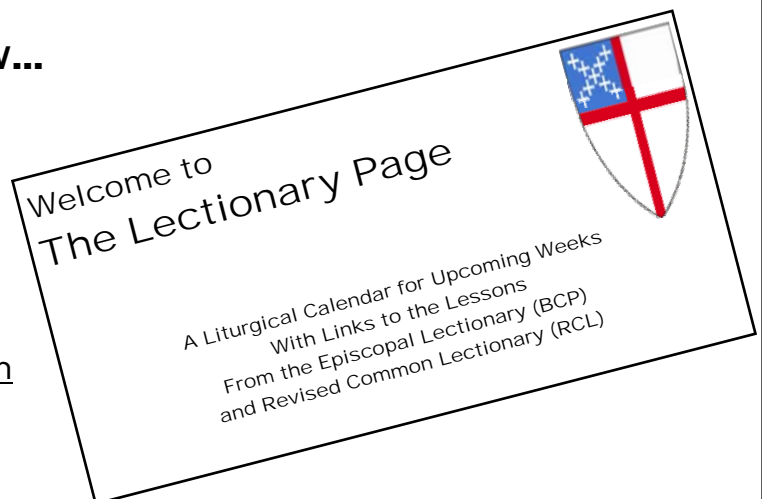
**Friday,
March 27th
7 pm**

Friday Night
Concert Series

Did You Know...

Did you know that the readings for each Sunday are available on line? You can find them either by typing <http://www.io.com/~kellywhp/> into your web browser or by Googling "The Lectionary Page".

Once you get to the Lectionary Page you will see a calendar. Find the Sunday you are looking for and



click on the letters **RCL** to find the readings that we use. On some Sundays there may be a choice of readings. In that case you will need

to call the church office to find out which readings the priest has chosen.

Wish List

In our continuing endeavor to save money, please consider one of the following regarding issues of the **Arimathean**.

- Instead of having each issue mailed, if possible, please consider picking one up at the church.
- Sign up to have each issue emailed to you.
- Send a donation specifically for postage. Can you believe the price of stamps is going up. Again!

One Wish that was recently made, and has already happened, is the request for 'mugs'.



The cost of paper cups for tea and coffee at coffee hour has risen dramatically. Although we are so blessed to have a beautiful set of

china, some members prefer a 'mug' of coffee or tea to sip and enjoy.



Another Wish I have today, is for a new **12 cup coffee machine**. It surprises me how much this little machine is used, for Vestry and Coordinating Committee meetings, or when a guest arrives during the week. The one in use now is beginning to show its age, with creaks and groans and a prayer when you lift the cravat that the handle will last just one more time! If you find yourself with an extra or no longer use 12 cup coffee maker, we would be very grateful for the donation.

The last Wish we have is a request for **monetary donations** to the Sunday school class. This money would be used to purchase food to prepare for the Valhalla residents this month. The students, along with their teachers Mrs. Cathy Gmoser and Mr. Richard Wisniewski – cooking in the kitchen at St. Joe's, will prepare two main dishes, salads, breads and desserts. A wonderful learning experience as well as an amazing gesture of stewardship to be sure. Won't you please consider donating to a very worthy cause?



**Wednesday,
March 18 & 25th**

Sandwich Brigade
9:30 a.m.

Save the Dates

- Sundaes on Friday Night Concert Series Returns! On Friday, March 27th at 7pm please come and enjoy both classical music and original compositions by our very own Alexander Dmitriev, his very talented wife Alla Borzova and her award winning student Yuri Blinov.
- You are also cordially invited to tea with Irene Mhogolo, the wife of Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo, Diocese of Central Tanganyika, Tanzania. On Sunday, March 22nd from 3:00pm – 5:00pm at the Zion Church, 55 Cedar Street in Dobbs Ferry, NY. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Lauren Salmine: Laurenckny@msn.com . We hope to have a car pool of people leaving St. Joe's after the Lenten program and pot luck lunch. Please call the church office if you would like to be included in that car pool.

Anything you'd like other Arimathean readers to know?

If you would like to add to our "Sharing the News" column or if you have other tidbits to share, please feel free to email or send us your information. Thanks in advance!

Postal Mail: St. Joseph of Arimathea
Arimathean Newsletter
2172 Saw Mill River Road
White Plains, New York 10607

Email: gmoserc@gmail.com

*Monday,
March 9th*

Vestry Meeting
7:00 pm

Prayer List

Billie-Ann's friend, **Brenda Letford**
Charles White's brother, **Sydney White**, his niece **Sheila White**, and Charles' family, Alla Borzova's father, **Alexander**, The **Barnaby** family - especially Zach, **Carol Carroll**, **Maggie Jensen**, the **Udogwu** family, **Arianna Fujimoto Harris**. Mary-Carol Miller friends, **Jane Dunne & Carol Vanecek**, Barbara Brown's co-workers, **Dottie Cunningham & Linda Dralle**, Jennifer Larrow's friend, **Elizabeth Graves**, Althea Serrant daughter, **Grace Anderson-Smith**, Connie Barrett's grandmother, **Sarah Skinner**, and Connie's family, **Rick Merrill**, (classmate of Camele White), **Debbie Gillett-Hermansen**, the **Carpenter's Kids** in Mbabala, Tanzania



Bishop Catherine Roskam's Visit

On Sunday February 8 was a very special day at St. Joseph's. The church was filled with joyful energy as we welcomed Bishop Catherine Roskam for her official visitation to the parish. She was the celebrant and preacher at the 10:30am service, she also checked over our official service records; met with the vestry and search committee, talked about the Carpenter's Kid's program and joined us for lunch.

It took more people than I could possibly name to make it happen. Thank you to all the children who served as acolytes,

read the lessons and prayers and provided some very special music and thank you to the parents and other adults who helped the children prepare. Thank you to the musicians and choir, the ushers, altar guild and counters. Thank you to the cooks, table setters and clean up crew. Thank you to the office staff. Thank you to the Search Committee members who came early and to the Vestry members who stayed late to meet with the Bishop. Above all, thank you to everyone who came to the service and welcomed the

Bishop; seventy five souls in all! Thank – you, thank – you one and all!

Bishop Roskam was truly impressed with the size and spirit of the congregation, our hospitality, our joyful worship and our commitment to the Carpenter Kid's program. I don't know what more there is to say. Everyone did their part and more and we had a wonderful celebration of our life and ministry at St. Joseph of Arimathea. Truly, God is in this place.

Pastor Claire.

**Monday,
March 9 & 23rd**

Compact Committee
6:00 pm

Holy Humor

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read, "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I will miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note, "I've circled the block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

Culinary Corner

I had a specific request for this month's Culinary Corner. Pastor Claire asked if I would please put a recipe in for making pretzels! Did you know that pretzels have actually been around since ancient times as a special treat for the Lenten service? Yep, from between 300 -600BC! The shape is taken from the way people prayed, with their arms crossed in front of the hearts, with hands resting on their shoulders. Here is a recipe for soft homemade pretzels! Enjoy!

Prep Time: 30 minutes/
Inactive prep time: 1 hour/
Cook time 25 minutes/ yield:
8 pretzels

Ingredients:

1 ½ cups warm (110 to 115 degrees F) water
1 tablespoon sugar
2 teaspoons kosher salt
1 package active dry yeast
22 ounces all purpose flour, approximately 4 ½ cups
2 ounces unsalted butter melted
Vegetable oil for pan
10 cups water
2/3 cup baking soda
1 large egg yolk beaten with 1 tablespoon water
Pretzel salt

Directions:

Combine the water, sugar and kosher salt in the bowl of a standing mixer and sprinkle with yeast on top. Allow to sit for 5 minutes or until the mixture begins to foam. Add the flour and butter and using the dough hook attachment, mix on low speed until well combined. Change to medium speed and knead until the dough is smooth and pulls

away from the side of the bowl, this takes approximately 4 to 5 minutes. Remove the dough from the bowl, clean the bowl and then oil it well with vegetable oil. Return the dough to the bowl, cover with plastic wrap and sit in a warm place for approximately 50 – 55 minutes or until the dough has doubled in size.

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. Line 2 half sheet pans with parchment paper and lightly brush with vegetable oil. Set aside.

Bring the 10 cups of water and the baking soda to a rolling boil in an 8 quart saucepan or roasting pan. In the meantime, turn the dough out onto a slightly oiled work surface and divide into 8 equal pieces. Roll out each piece of dough into a 24 inch rope. Make a U-shape with the rope, holding the ends of the rope, cross them over each other and press onto the bottom of the U in order to form the shape of a

Sunday, March 15th

Valhalla Dinners
This month cooked by
the Sunday School.
Please consider a
monetary donation...

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Attorney's Advice—No Charge!

A dear friend sent me these bits of wisdom from a friend of his. I thought this would be a wonderful series to share in the next few Arimatheans. I hope you find it as interesting and useful as I have.

A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

1. The next time you order checks have only your ini-

tials instead of your first name, then your last name printed on them. If someone takes your checkbook, they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your checks.

2. Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone number. Never have your social security number printed on

your checks.

3. Place the contents of your wallet on the photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Not in your wallet!

Want to Join a Bible Study?

We'd like to start a Bible Study group! Please let us know if you are interested and what days and times would be best for you. Also let us know if you prefer to

meet in someone's home or at the church and if you need child care. Please send an email to contact Katie Saliba: krsaliba@gmail.com or call the church of-

fice and leave a message or share your thoughts and ideas with Gretta, Patty or Pastor Claire. Church office hours: 8:30am – 2pm, 914-592-7163.

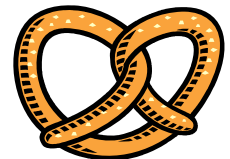
Culinary Corner, cont.

(Continued from page 6)

pretzel. Place onto the parchment lined half sheet pan.

Place the pretzels into the boiling water, 1 by 1, for 30 seconds. Remove them from the water using a large flat spatula. Return to the half sheet pan, brush the top of each pretzel with the beaten

egg yolk and water mixture and sprinkle with the pretzel salt. Bake until dark golden brown in color, approximately 12 to 14 minutes. Transfer to a cooling rack for at least 5 minutes before serving.



Easter Vigil, Part 2

Last month we discussed why the Easter Vigil is an important service in the church year. Now we'll discuss why the service should be done at St. Joe's. In previous years, St. Joe's has typically celebrated the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday services, but not the Easter Vigil. By celebrating the Easter Vigil, we are adding to the current opportunities for worship, not replacing, and completing the Triduum which should allow for a more fluid story.

In addition, the traditions surrounding the Easter Vigil fit so well with our approach at St. Joe's. First, the Easter Vigil is very inclusive. The entire church gathers for the lighting of the Paschal Candle and joins in the procession. We all ring bells to celebrate the resurrec-

tion. Any volunteer, young and old, can help readorn the church after the proclamation of Easter. Plus, this service gives us an opportunity to show off our amazing acolytes.

The Easter Vigil is also a beautiful and simple service. At its core, this service is a story, told both orally and symbolically. We light a new fire to represent Christ's new life, his resurrection and use this fire to light the Paschal Candle. This candle is used to lead the procession, breaking the darkness of the church as we enter as Christ's resurrection broke the darkness of the tomb. Once in the church, we begin a story similar to Lessons and Carols, hearing stories of God's acts of salvation throughout the ages and singing songs that complement the stories.

Then the great proclamation occurs; Christ is risen. The congregation rings bells and readorns the church to begin the celebration of Easter. The first Eucharist of Easter follows. Some have expressed concern that receiving Eucharist at the Easter Vigil would prevent them from receiving communion on Easter Sunday, but it is completely acceptable to receive communion at both services. Finally, the Easter Vigil is a night of celebration. After this joyous service, it is traditional to have a reception to celebrate the start of Easter. This type of fellowship has a long tradition in our church. It's sort of the King of Coffee Hours. I hope you'll come out on Saturday night, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. and give the Easter Vigil a try.

