



## The Crossroads

February 2020

### Fun February Festivals

For many centuries February 2<sup>nd</sup> has held a special place in the church calendar, though now most of the secular world (here in the United States and Canada, anyway) celebrates the midpoint of winter and the increasing day light by watching Punxsutawney Phil search for his shadow. Here is the rest of the story...

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST

FEAST OF THE PURIFICATION OF THE  
VIRGIN

CANDLEMAS DAY (FEB 2)

The events commemorated today are recorded in Luke 2:22-39.



Counting forward from December 25 as Day One, we find that Day Forty is February 2. A Jewish woman is in semi-seclusion for 40 days after giving birth to a son, and accordingly it is on February 2 that we celebrate the coming of Mary and Joseph with the infant Jesus to the Temple at Jerusalem (1) to offer sacrifice on behalf of Mary to mark the end of her seclusion (see Le 12:1-8), and (2) to ransom or redeem (buy back) Jesus as a first-born male (see Ex 13:11-13; 22:29; Nu 18:15-16; Dt 15:19). As they did so, they were greeted by the aged Simeon. His song, called the Nunc Dimittis, has always had a prominent role in Christian worship. It has often been rendered in verse.

And it is said before the Apostle's Creed during Evening Prayer:

**The Song of Simeon**    *Nunc Dimittis*

*Luke 2:29-32*

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*

to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*

whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations, \*

and the glory of your people Israel. (BCP p.120)

Because an old reading for this festival contains the line (Zephaniah 1:12), "I will search Jerusalem with candles," the day is also known as Candlemas, and sometimes observed with a candle-lit procession. On the other hand, Groundhog Day ("If the groundhog (or woodchuck, a kind of marmot, which burrows and hibernates) sees his shadow on 2 February, there will be six more weeks of winter.") is strictly a secular holiday, brought to the United States and Canada by German immigrants. (*by James Kiefer*)

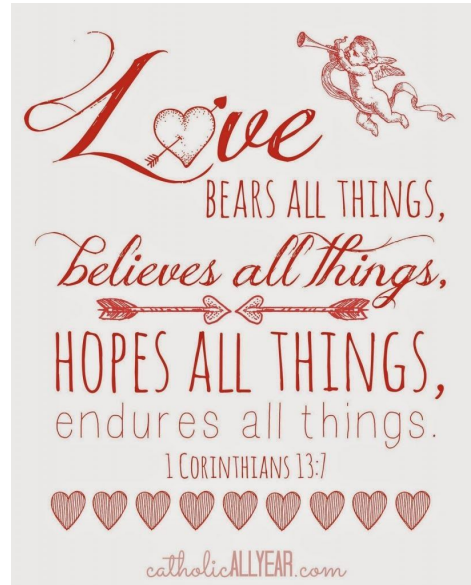
There are many secular holidays which have ancient roots in church observance, but which have been corrupted so thoroughly that it has virtually eliminated the old practice. Anyway, now you know the rest of the story! Fun February Festivals, indeed!

And, please always remember that I am lovingly yours, in Christ,

Fr. Jeff+

## Our February Birthdays

3rd: Gage Robert Tomko  
4th: Thomas Eastman  
8th: Paul Keriotis  
11th: Janet Schweitzer  
13th: Nellie Doan  
16th: Todd Pippenger  
18th: Anne Martin  
20th: Robert Shroder  
23rd: Pamela Brown  
26th: Richard Gotshall



*Our beautiful tower lights shine in February in loving memory of Douglas Carnahan from his parents, Roger and Roselyn.*



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### Who Was Saint Valentine?

“By some accounts, St. Valentine was a Roman priest and physician who suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Christians by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus about 270. He was buried on the Via Flaminia, and Pope Julius I reportedly built a basilica over his grave. Other narratives identify him as the bishop of Terni, Italy, who was martyred, apparently also in Rome, and whose relics were later taken to Terni. It is possible these are different versions of the same original account and refer to only one person.

According to legend, St. Valentine signed a letter “from your Valentine” to his jailer’s daughter, whom he had befriended and healed from blindness. Another common legend states that he defied the emperor’s orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. Valentine’s Day as a lovers’ festival dates at least from the 14th century.”

## January Schedule

### Acolyte Schedule

**2** Zachary & Colin Snelson  
Gage, Reese, & Zoey Tomko

**9** Nicholas Costianes  
Joseph Costianes

**16** No Acolytes Scheduled

**23** Mason Burge  
Madelyn Hall

### Ministry Schedule (10:00)

**2** Heather Shimko C/R  
Mark Peteritis C/P  
Jeffrey Heakin Lector

**9** Carol McMichael C/R  
Marcia Flask C/P  
Laurie Jones Lector

**16** John Panagis C/R  
Sally Mazey C/P  
Cindi Thirion Lector

**23** Katy Shroder C/R  
Faith Scarmuzzi C/P  
Irv Jones Lector

**26** Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM  
John Panagis C/R  
Faith Scarmuzzi C/P  
Linda Day Lector

### Ministry Schedule (8:00)

**2** Steve Watts C/R/P  
Bill Baran Lector  
**9** Fred Schweitzer C/R/P  
Janet Schweitzer  
Lector

**16** Jan Henrey C/R/P  
Deb Murphy Lector

**23** Mike Maggiano C/R/P  
Carol D'Errico Lector

**26** Ash Wednesday 10:00 AM  
Joe Gladd C/R  
Dianne Begg Lector

## Music and the Arts

### In celebration of Black History Month

ARTS on Atlantic & Youngstown Chapter of American Guild of Organists

Presents



André J.  
Thomas

MASS

Sun. Feb. 9 at 5:00 pm

Christ Episcopal Church  
2627 Atlantic St NE Warren OH  
[www.christchurchwarren.org](http://www.christchurchwarren.org)



Church Choirs from the area  
Dr. Brandon Waddles - Conductor  
Rev. Todd Johnson - Preacher

Free and Open to the Public

*For more information call the church office at (330) 372-4998*

In celebration of Black History Month, church and community choirs from Northeast Ohio will join together to present the Ohio premiere of Dr. Andre Thomas' Gospel Mass as well as other gospel music, all under the baton of Dr. Brandon Waddles of Detroit, Michigan. This concert will take on the form of a mass with Rev. Todd Johnson, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Warren serving as the preacher and Fr. Jeff serving as the celebrant.

## **184th Annual Meeting Highlights**

### **Highlights of January 26, 2020**

**Fr. Jeff's Remarks:** Fr. Jeff thanked Steve Watts for his willingness to serve one more year as Sr. Warden to ensure continuity for the future. Fr. Jeff characterized 2019 as a "Year of Bouncing Back" as evidenced by seeing new faces in the pews, parishioners volunteering to serve on the Vestry and Christ Episcopal Church financially ended the year in the black due primarily to stock market performance which allowed the Foundation and the Endowment to gift more along with expenses being under budget.

**183rd Annual Meeting Minutes:** The 183<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved and included in the "Reports Presented for the One Hundred and Eighty-Fourth Annual Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church."

**Vestry 2020:** The following candidates were presented to serve the first of a three-year term: John Panagis, Irv Jones, Mark Peteritis and Richard Cesta. There were no additional nominations from the floor. A motion was made and unanimously approved to elect John Panagis, Irv Jones, Mark Peteritis and Richard Cesta to serve the first of a three-year term.

**Acknowledgement to Shari Harrell and Steve Watts** for their six years of Vestry service and our gratitude for their dedication to Christ Church.

**Approval of 2020 Budget:** Fr. Jeff provided an overview of the budget. He noted that due to stock market performance the pledges from the Foundation and the Endowment fund were increased and expenses came in under budget. A motion to approve the 2020 budget was unanimously approved.



### Security Article

Our church has a security manual which you probably have not read. To keep everyone safe in view of the past events involving churches and other public places, the vestry has decided to write a security article in each Crossroads.

The doors on the east side of the church will be locked after the start of the 10 o'clock service to protect the children who go that way to class and unwanted individuals who want to do harm. This means if you arrive late you will have to enter on the west side (narthex) to join the service. The two center doors will be open and all the others will be locked.

**Please refer to the attached shopping list for Warren Family Missions and Lincoln Schools.**

### Lenten Series:

Our Lenten Series will begin March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Be sure to join us for soup, fellowship, and a look into *What Wonderful Love: Holy Week in Word and Art*.

“Holy Week and Easter come alive in these challenging video commentaries by academic luminaries, coupled with masterpiece illustrations by John August Swanson.”

### **Soup Schedule**

Week One--The Brotherhood

Week Two--Vestry

Week Three--The “Mice Ladies”

Week Four--Altar Guild

### Financial Highlights

November 2019

Year to Date

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income				
Pledges	\$16,294	\$10,600	\$125,844	\$125,000
All Other	\$31,230	\$14,345	\$175,569	\$125,800
Total Income	\$47,524	\$24,945	\$301,413	\$250,800
Expenses	\$21,541	\$29,360	\$287,164	\$300,210
Excess/(Deficit)	\$25,982	(\$4,415)	(\$14,249)	(\$49,410)

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### **Vestry Highlights**

#### Highlights from the January 14, 2020 Vestry Meeting

- Status Update Stewardship Campaign 2020 - 66 pledges have been received for a total of \$117,224. All who pledged in 2019 pledged in 2020. In addition, 16 new pledges were received for a total of \$18,550. Estimate for non-pledgers based on previous year is \$13,700.
- Security – At the start of the 10 AM service the office door and side handicap doors are locked for safety. Sunday School rooms are located in that wing.
- Orientation for New Vestry Members -. Suggestions made for the first step to be an overnight retreat. It was noted by Vestry members who have participated in these retreats in the past that the retreat provided an opportunity for not only strategic planning for our future but the opportunity for social interaction to establish future working relationships. Second steps include dedicating the first 15 minutes of each Vestry meeting to an education presentation on a specific topic i.e. current budget, Foundation, music program, youth program, etc.



- Monthly Finance Report – Year-to-Date ending December 2019 – income exceeded budget by \$14,249 due primarily to a high performing stock market which resulted in extra funding of \$19,500 from the Endowment and \$12,800 from the Foundation along with expenses being under budget by \$13,046.