

# The Carpenter's Helper

*This Week...*

## How tasty are these pancakes?

Flippin' delicious!  
Join in the Fun, 2/25

## Weekly Parish Schedule

Add your group's event to  
the calendar: email  
stthomassooffice  
@googlegroups.com

## Celebrating 10 years of Deacons in Delaware

**ALL Are Welcome!**  
Family Fun  
Games & Face Painting

**All You Can Eat FEAST!**  
\$6 per person  
\$3 kids 3-8  
\$20 per family  
**FREE** for college students

Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday and Fat Tuesday all reference the same day: the Tuesday immediately before Ash Wednesday. The day is the end of the Epiphany season and marks the beginning of the season for Lent leading up to Easter.

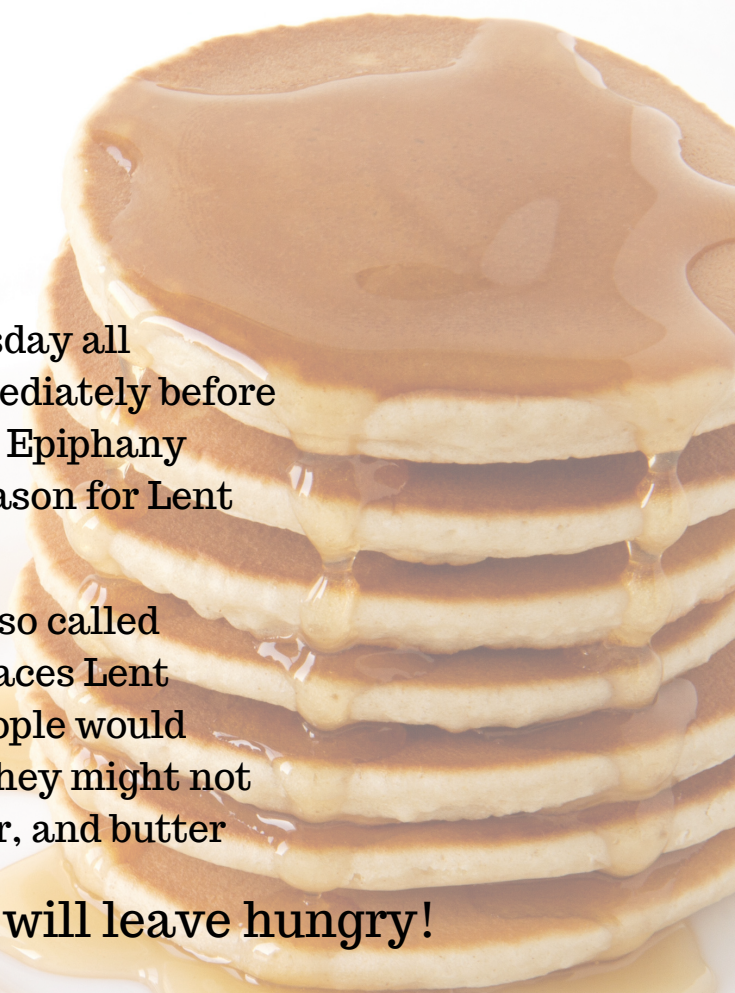
The term Shrove Tuesday is sometimes also called "pancake day." This is because in many places Lent involved fasting, so ahead of that fast, people would feast to prepare especially with the food they might not be able to eat during their fast: eggs, sugar, and butter

**Bring a friend or 5; no one will leave hungry!**

# Shrove Tuesday

## PANCAKE SUPPER

FEBRUARY 25, 5:30-7PM





**The Deacon is a living symbol of the servant ministry of the whole Church**

December 2019 marked ten years of life with deacons in Delaware. On December 5, 2009, at St. Stephen's Church, six deacons were ordained in a joyous service that could not be marred even by mud and rain. That service sealed the commitment of the Episcopal Church in Delaware to the ministry of deacons, a commitment which grew from the conviction that the church ought to nurture the servant ministry of all the baptized by setting apart some particularly called to that ministry as living symbols of servant ministry.

The decision to ordain and engage deacons did not come quickly or easily to the diocese. There was no clear mandate for vocational deacons until during and after the process of electing the Rt. Rev. Wayne Parker Wright in 1998, when the matter was raised as a hope for the diocese. Bishop Wright came knowing that there was interest, but it took several years for this to result in a decision to move forward with the idea.

In 2003–2004, the idea bubbled to the surface and several diocesan clergy took the lead in promoting the idea. In 2004, it was decided to proceed, and the commission on ministry formed a task force on the diaconate with the Rev. Rita Nelson as its head. In 2005, a call went out inviting interested persons to attend a first meeting introducing the diaconate. Amazingly, 60 people responded! Clearly, it was an idea whose time had come. In 2006, a discernment document was completed and put into use. Over the next three years, ten to 12 people took part in various aspects of the training, and in the end six candidates were presented for ordination.

Working with our current bishop, the Rt. Rev. Kevin S. Brown, and guided by the vision that all parishes need to engage their communities more deeply, the commission on ministry is developing a new discernment process calling forth new ways to use the ministry of deacons. If we wish to open the Episcopal Church in Delaware to greater hospitality and church members to greater service, if we wish to engage Invite Welcome Connect as a central process of church life, we will certainly need new deacons. Ten years is a good beginning. Now we are in for the long haul!

Take a moment to wish our Deacon Cecily a happy 10 year anniversary, and give thanks for all of the special gifts and talents she shares with us while teaching, encouraging, and supporting others in the life of service!

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 16

- 8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite 1
- 9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
- 9:15am (P) 6-week series  
History of Christianity
- 9:15am (U) Nursery
- 9:30am (U) Children's Worship
- 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship
- 12:00pm (C) CREW Youth
- 12:30pm (P) Vestry Meeting
- 2:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 513
- 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

Monday, February 17

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 6:00pm Ladies' Night Out  
Courtyard at the Marriott
- 7:30pm (GH) Scottish Dance

Tuesday, February 18

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 4:30pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 719
- 5:00pm (CO) AIDS Delaware
- 6:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 513
- 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance
- 8:00pm (U) KIS AA

Wednesday, February 19

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 10:30am (C) Lectionary Bible Study
- 12:00pm (N) Intercessory Prayer  
with Holy Eucharist
- 4:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
- 5:00pm (C,K) ECM
- 5:45pm (P) Centering Prayer
- 8:30pm (GH,K) S College Speakers AA

Thursday, February 20

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 3:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
- 7:30pm (MR) St Gregory's Choir

Friday, February 21

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 12:00pm (P) AI-Anon
- 6:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 778
- 6:30pm (P) Women's AA

Saturday, February 22

-available-

Sunday, February 23

Family Church Sunday

- 8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite 1
- 9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
- 9:15am (P) 6-week series  
History of Christianity
- 9:15am (U) Nursery
- 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship
- 2:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 513
- 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

location key:

- (C) Classroom
- (GH) Great Hall
- (N) Nave
- (P) Parlor
- (MR) Music Room
- (U) Undercroft
- (BO) Business Office
- (RO) Rector's Office