

January 30, 2022

St. Thomas's Episcopal Parish
276 S. College Ave Newark, DE
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weekly newsletter

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week, we remember that Jesus is the light of the world

Candlemas

Blessing of the candles on February 2nd



With all due respect to Bill Murray, let's skip the groundhog watch this year, and instead celebrate Candlemas. Wednesday, February 2nd marks 40 days after Christmas. Candlemas is actually a very old feast, celebrated by both the churches of the East and the West, and in some places it is on this day that the creche is finally removed from the church. If you haven't done so already, it's really time to put your Christmas decorations away. This date occurs at a period between the December solstice and the March equinox, so many people traditionally marked that time of the year as winter's "halfway point" while waiting for the spring.

Candles are blessed on this day (hence the name "Candlemas"). It is the day of the year when all the candles, that are used in the church during the coming year, are brought into church and a blessing is said over them – so it is the Festival Day (or 'mass') of the Candles. Candles were important in past days not only because there was no electric lights. Some people thought they gave protection against plague and illness and famine. For Christians, they were (and still are) a reminder of something even more important. Before Jesus came to earth, it was as if everyone was 'in the dark'.

Also called the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, it is the Christian festival marking the ritual presentation of Jesus in the temple in Jerusalem, during which prophets Simeon and Anna proclaimed him the Messiah. Simeon spoke the prayer known as the "Nunc Dimittis," calling the baby "a light to lighten the gentiles."

In this Sunday's service booklet, you will find an insert with our Candlemas blessing. You are welcome to bring a special candle to church on Sunday, or on Wednesday for intercessory prayer at noon, for a blessing. Give Punxsutawney Phil a break this year, and remember, "if Candlemas Day be fair and bright, winter will have another fight. If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter won't come again."

ALL are Welcome!

Sunday

8:00 am

Rite 1 spoken

Sunday

10:30 am

Rite 2 with music

Wednesday

12 noon

Intercessory Prayer

Thursday

7:00 pm

Evening Compline



LIVE Digital Gathering

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

2:00 - 3:30 PM CST

\$20.00

How do we Welcome & Connect those who are on our congregation's digital front porch - those whose initial contacts are online and invisible? How do we Re-Connect with members of our pre-Covid faith community?

We invite you to join us for this time of sharing learnings & creative initiatives that have emerged out of the pandemic. Our goal is for you to leave feeling more energized to share the Good News and with creative ideas and takeaways to help you implement and engage with the ministry of Invite Welcome Connect in your local context.

to register or for more info, please visit:
<https://www.invitewelcomeconnect.com>

Invite Welcome Connect is something we as Episcopalians can do. It's a way of evangelism that reflects who we are, that doesn't have us trying to be somebody we aren't, but actually calls us to be exactly who we are in Jesus Christ, and to invite, welcome, and connect others to that life-giving reality.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

From a boatful, to billions An absurdly short history of Christianity

THIS
WEEK

Adult Ed invites you to this 6 week series
Sundays at 9am, January 30-April 3

in-person with precautions,
via Zoom

and it will be recorded

Who invented Church? How did we go from a few fishermen to billions of faithful people? And what relevance can the church have in a time when belief seems to have become a dirty word? In six sessions, we will follow the development of the Christian Movement from the time of the Apostles to the Electronic Age.

Along the way, there will be a few heretics and councils, but we will also talk about how our past shapes us and what we believe. Come along for new insights on familiar stories and maybe some new information too.

