



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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The Last Epiphany Tradition — During this season I have shared with you three Epiphany traditions: Chalking the Door (a very old European custom of blessing a household); Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (a more recent ecumenical celebration); Candlemas (infant Jesus' temple experience morphing into name-giving with a lot in between); and today, the fourth Epiphany tradition, Burying the Alleluias. I don't have the space to give all the interesting historical background to what we will experience this morning. A summary - As reported by Francis Weiser, a well-respected liturgical historian, this "burying" goes back to the year 1216. In that year a bishop, William Duranti, wrote: "We part from the Alleluia as from a beloved friend ..." A very old French tradition portrays "...choir boys gather in the sacristy during the prayer of the None, to prepare for the burial of the Alleluia." That ceremony inspired the hymn "Alleluia, Song of Gladness" which we will sing as the recessional at the 10 am Eucharist. The reason for this tradition: to emphasize that after this morning's liturgy we will refrain from saying, singing, or otherwise mentioning...that word...until Easter. How we will do this, I will explain in today's services. No shovel required. *Ken*

This week at St. Mary's, Feb. 11, 2018

TODAY 11 am SWEEP

MON 11 AM Eucharist at The Branches

5:30 pm Finance Committee Mtg.

TUES 8 PM AA meeting

WEDS 12 noon Ash Wednesday

5 PM Choir

THURS 5:30 pm Kid's Lent Event

FRI 10 AM Alanon

SUN 9 AM Adult Forum



Teaching our youth about Christmas is fun and easy compared to the challenge of teaching them about Lent, or Holy Week, or even Easter. Memories of the little baby born in Bethlehem are still fresh in their minds when the season of Lent begins. How do we explain that the little baby grew up to suffer and die? In a society of instant gratification and "it's all about me," a season which emphasizes repentance and sacrifice can be a hard sell. And yet, you adults reading this know, without some experience of Lent we can't appreciate fully the joy of Easter. Which brings me to say, our youth agreed last Sunday to meet this Thursday (5:30 pm) to talk about Lent...with pizza, of course. **I need a barbecue grill for Thursday evening.** Can you help? Want to know more about the Youth Lent Event, see Dina Ziembra or me. *Ken*

SWEEP - The first meeting of SWEEP will take place this morning after the 10 AM Service. Where in the church will we meet - it will be announced. Bill Haines and Ken Gorman spoke about this new group on Sunday. What's it about? Let's say it's a form of mutual ministry.

Eucharist and Imposition

of Ashes will be held on

Wednesday at 12 noon.



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday



ADULT FORUM—Over the past six Sundays in Epiphany the Adult Forum has engaged in a journey called *Becoming Beloved Community*. The journey has been framed around the labyrinth seen on the left. Why? Because in the ministry of racial healing and justice, none of us walks a straight line. Each of us enter the labyrinth wherever God has provided an opening – telling the truth about our church's story around race; discerning and proclaiming God's dream of Beloved Community where we are; learning and practicing Jesus' way of healing and love; and bravely working to transform systemic racial injustice. We keep moving from one quadrant to another and back. Our group may have come to the conclusion of this journey, but no one is ever really finished. That is the way of ongoing spiritual formation. *Continued on back* ➡

LENTEN LUNCHES



GETTING INTO LENT—It's that time of year again, when church-going people ask one another "what are you going to give up for Lent this year?" And people craft their "good byes" for a

season on or about Ash Wednesday. Last year according to one Twitter research (an analysis of 73,000 tweets), food items were high on the list. Fasting from a favorite food or beverage ranked 57%. Truth to tell, one year Ken gave up chocolate chip cookies...never to be done again! But seriously, from an early age we were told to give up something as a part of our Lenten practice. This year on Wednesdays in Lent starting on February 21st, David and Ken are going to offer an interesting luncheon program of Lenten music and "Giving Up Something Bad." We invite you to join them from 12-1 o'clock. Go ahead, treat yourself to something different these next 40 days. If you would like to help with soup, bread or dessert, a sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the parish hall. As always, all in the community are welcome. *David Condo and Ken Gorman*

MOVIE NIGHT at THE BRANCHES

February 18 at 7 pm

"Still Alice," starring Juliette Moore and Alec Baldwin

When 50-year-old linguistics professor Alice begins having trouble remembering words, her symptoms ultimately lead to a diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimer's.

Questions: Dick Webber baybeachboy@gmail.com
609 886 5133



A NEW COFFEE HOUR SHEET is posted on the door to the kitchen. Please pick one Sunday and sign up today. Thank you!



Birthday Blessings to Elizabeth Hamilton and William Gorman on February 15th!



The **2018 FLOWER CHART** is posted in the narthex. If you would like to give flowers in memory or honor of someone, please make a note on the date on the chart. It's a wonderful way to remember loved ones throughout the year. Donations are \$45.

ADULT FORUM continued - My deep appreciation to all who have participated in this journey. Starting next Sunday, the group has chosen to follow a new path: *The Last Week of Jesus' life*. It's an inspirational journey told by two of the greatest biblical scholars of our day. You are invited to tag along. If you're interested, let me know. We meet every Sunday, 9-9:45. *Ken Gorman*

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Kudos to our Church School kids and their families! They raised \$475 for the benefit of The Branches and the local animal shelter.

ST. MARY'S SENIORS LUNCHEON CLUB Everyone had a great time and enjoyed delicious desserts at St. Mary's Seniors Luncheon Club February meeting. Fun & Games was the purpose of this "meeting." Plan to join us on March 8th. Stay tuned for March's agenda.

A Voice For The Homeless of Cape May County
PRESENTS

CAPE AID

2nd Annual
Concert for the Homeless

Local Bands & Entertainers
Benefit For The
Branches Outreach Center



Sunday February 25th 3 PM

First Presbyterian Church
500 Hughes Street, Cape May
Donation Only No Ticket Needed

If you would like to help spread the word, extra posters are available in the parish hall and on the table in the church narthex. Please help yourself.