



As I begin to write, it's February 5. It's like a spring day. The temperature is in the 60's. Last week we were setting record cold days. What's happening? Are these the signs of the end-time? Is this the time Jesus will return to set all things right? But wait a minute! Every generation since St. Paul thought their generation might be the last. Some of the signs Jesus said to look for, false messiahs, false prophets, wars, persecution, celestial events, have occurred for over 2000 years. What to believe? I believe only God knows the day and the hour of the Return. So, I'm taking a deep breath, relaxing, and trying to remain faithful to serving God and his people. Do you think our generation could be the last? Just a thought.

St. Mary's Annual Meeting on January 27 was well attended and informative. New Vestry Officers and Members elected were Jack Olthuis, Senior Warden, Lou Schweickhardt, Junior Warden, Lillian Armstrong, Treasurer, and Sandra Lockhart and Hilton Rodriguez, members. Congratulations to our new church leaders.

Dina Ziembra and our Church School families sponsored our annual Souper Bowl Sunday on Feb. 3. Soup and bread was served after the 10 am service. Donations totaled \$250 with the Animal Shelter receiving \$50 and The Branches receiving \$200. Many thanks to Dina, her helpers, and donors for making this worthwhile event successful.

St. Mary's will be the host church for Family Promise the week of Feb. 10. St. Mary's day to provide for the family is Saturday, Feb. 16. A sign up sheet for providing dinner, social time, and sleep over is posted in the parish hall. Questions? Call Joan Langston or the church office.

The Senior Lunch Club Meeting will be held on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14 at 11 am sharp in the parish hall. Chef Mark Kalla of The Lobster House will prepare, serve, and share recipes to those who signed up. Seating was limited. I hope you didn't miss out on this chocolate theme lunch. \$10 per person will be collected at the door.

The 3rd annual Cape Aid Concert for the Homeless will be held on Feb. 24 at 3 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 500 Hughes St., Cape May. The concert benefits The Branches and is one of The Branches favorite and best "funraiser." Local talent provides the entertainment, and speaking from personal experience, it's an enjoyable, worthwhile way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Anyone interested in donating a basket for their raffle, call Terri at The Branches, 609 886 5091.

Speaking of The Branches, our hats off to Sandra, Terri, and the volunteers

who donated their time during the recent Code Blue. The Branches provided food and shelter from morning until when the homeless received vouchers for rooms for the night, usually about 6 pm. The Code Blue was in effect for the majority of two weeks. In addition to food, shelter, and manning the phones for vouchers, they also provided warm clothing to those in need. What a humanitarian outreach!

Fr. Peter continues his series on Holy Eucharists of the Season of Creation throughout the season of Epiphany at both Sunday services.

Fr. Gorman leads the Adult Forum between 9 - 9:45 on Sunday mornings in the chapel. We'll be reading and discussing FIERCE by Alice Connor until the beginning of Lent. The group will decide our course of study for Lent. If you want to "give up" 45 minutes for Lent, join us in the chapel.

conTexts, again led by Fr. Gorman, meets every Wednesday evening from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the parish hall. Fr. Gorman selects a current topic to discuss and how it relates to our Christian beliefs. The topic to discuss is listed in the Sunday bulletin and on our web site. All are welcome. The second Wednesday of the month is devoted to SWEEP where we plan activities for St. Mary's. If you have something you would like the church to do, come and share it with us.

The Vestry and St. Mary's Morning Star Legacy Society want to thank Jim Hill for his very generous donation. Jim's star will be the first one on our second plaque in the parish hall. Again, thank you very much, Jim. We'll see you in the summer.

Ash Wednesday is March 6, and St. Mary's daffodils are already coming up. Can spring be far away?

One snowman says to another snowman, "Yea, I smell carrots, too."

