Resurrection Episcopal Church, Rockdale

2131 Mount Road, Aston, PA 19014

(610) 459-2013

February 2020

"We Gather Together"

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FEBRUARY: PRESENTATION TO PENITENCE

CANDLEMAS TO ASH WEDNESDAY

This year, February starts out with the festival to which the Prayer Book gives the longest name it confers: "*The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple, also called the Purification of St. Mary the Virgin*." This feast commemorates an event that took place forty days after Jesus was born. Therefore we celebrate it forty days after Christmas Day. On that day, St. Mary and St. Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem [That wasn't a big trip, since they were living in Bethlehem at the time; the two cities are only about 5½ miles apart.].

Jesus's parents had two reasons for the trip—St. Mary needed to be ritually purified, and Jesus had to be redeemed back to his family. Let's look at these one at a time.

St. Mary's Purification Almost everything women did that was unique to them offered the danger of being ritually unclean, and barred them from taking part in public worship or being in most communal settings. The rules were set up and administered by men, who were somewhat unnerved by the strange things women did. This monthly period thing, for instance, was out of the ordinary. Regular people [i.e., men] didn't do that. So it was part of the Law of Moses [a guy] that women were unclean while this was going on and had to undergo a ritual bath when it was done to make them fit to join others in a public setting.

The same thought process was applied to childbirth, another strange thing that only women did. It was mysterious and scary to men. Therefore a woman was not fully clean for forty days after she had given birth to a son. If she really messed up and gave birth to a daughter, the uncleanness lasted twice as long. At the end of that period, she underwent a symbolic bath and was cleansed from the ritual impurity her woman-actions had brought upon her. Since Jesus was a boy, St. Mary had completed her time in just forty days.

Redemption of Jesus as a First-born Son According to the Law of Moses in Exodus and Leviticus, all first-born sons were to be dedicated to God. However, the parents could redeem the child back to themselves by making an offering of a lamb. Poorer people could substitute a pair of turtle-doves or two pigeons to make this offering. This was the offering that St. Joseph and St. Mary made. [I mention this partially because much noise has been made on the Internet denying that the Holy Family was poor or that they were refugees. Denying either of those things flies in face of the Gospels' witness and plain statements.]

Having made the required offering, and with St. Mary having been ritually purified, the two encounter St. Simeon and St. Anna, two prophets in the Temple who proclaim the presence of Jesus as the Light of God and someone whose birth will have great meaning and consequences.

Since this feast falls on a Sunday this year, we will be celebrating it with special prayers which recognize Jesus as the Light of the World coming into our lives and our commission by Christ to let our lives shine forth with the Light of Christ as well. Because of the custom of celebrating light with candles borne by all, this feast has acquired the nickname "Candlemas". Please join us to celebrate Christ in our lives and through our lives illumining our world.

At the other end of February this year comes the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, on February 26. Ash Wednesday falls forty days [Notice that number popping up throughout the Bible!] before Easter [not counting Sundays]. As the address prescribed to be given by the Priest to the congregation on Ash Wednesday notes, this is a time to make a plan to bring our lives more in line with what God wills for us. We don't do this to get God to love us—God already loves and accepts us unconditionally. However, the very love we share with God impels us to respond more completely with love for God, God's people [i.e., everybody], and God's creation.

All of us have room for improvement in this department. We'll be talking about this more later on in the month.

Meanwhile, we will celebrate with fellowship and joy our lives together by having waffles on Candlemas, February 2, and (showing the culinary versatility of our parish), pancakes on "Shrove Sunday" February 23. Join us as we move from Presentation to Penitence together.

-Fr. Wand

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WE'RE MAKING VALENTINES FOR SHUT-INS AND FAIR ACRES RESIDENTS FEB. 9

After each service on February 9, we will gather in the Undercroft. We will nourish our souls by making and signing valentines for the shut-ins and others in our parish whose worshipping with us is difficult, as well as residents at Fair Acres. Helen Dunlap and others will help you (after you've washed or licked your hands clean) with signing some pre-bought valentines, and making others for those whom a friendly thought on Valentine's Day will bring joy. Be sure to join us for a grand festival of caring and sharing (as the saying goes) on Feb. 9!

"SHROVE SUNDAY" DISPLAYS PARISH'S CULINARY DIVERSITY MARCH 3

Over the centuries, differing customs arose as people prepared for Lent [which is itself a preparation for Easter]. In some countries festivals and parades marked the end of the time for joviality and fun, giving rise to events like Rose Monday in Germany, Mardi Gras in France, and Carnival in southern European countries and some Central and Latin American countries.

In England, the custom was to use up fat-containing cooking materials such as lard and butter, which were deemed inappropriate for use during Lent. These would be used on the day before Lent to make richer foods cooked in oil or butter, such as pancakes. As part of the festive day, sometimes women would run races holding pancakes in their skillets, to see whose balance was best. All of this was on a day when many people also prepared for Lent by making their confession, and being "shriven" [modern English prefers "shorn"] of their sins. Thus the name "Shrove Tuesday."

At Resurrection once again this year, we're adapting the pancake (but not the women racing) part of these customs by celebrating "Shrove Sunday" on February 23. In a sign of the vast diversity in the culinary skills of our parish, we will serve not waffles, but pancakes! Join us for pancakes after each service on the Last Sunday before Lent.

SUNDAY	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THURSDAY	FRI.	SATURDAY
February 2 **Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ** *8am Rite I Eucharist* *10am Rite II Eucharist* ***CHILDREN'S SERVICE*** ***SOUP CAN COLLECTION & WAFFLES***	3 Finance Mtg. @ 2:30pm Steward. Mtg @ 4:00pm Property Mtg @ 5:30pm	4 Fair Acres Morning Prayer 10:30am	5	6	7	8 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm
February 9 **The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany** *8am Rite I Eucharist* *10am Rite II Eucharist* ***MAKE VALENTINES FOR SHUT-INS***	10 Vestry Mtg. @ 7:00pm	11	12 Girl Scout Troop Mtg @ 6:30pm	13	14	15 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm
February 16 **The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany** *8am Rite I Eucharist* *10am Rite II Eucharist*	17	18	19	20 American Leg. Ladies Aux. @ 6pm	21	22 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm
February 23 **The Last Sunday after the Epiphany** *8am Rite I Eucharist* *10am Rite II Eucharist* ***HEALING SERVICE*** ***SHROVE SUNDAY-PANCAKES***	24	25	26 Ash Wed. Svcs—noon & @ 7:00pm Girl Scout Troop Mtg @ 6:30pm	27	28	29 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm
March 1 **The First Sunday in Lent** *8am Rite I Eucharist* *10am Rite II Eucharist* ***HEALING SERVICE***	MAR 2 Finance Mtg. @ 2:30pm Steward. Mtg @ 4:00pm Property Mtg @ 5:30pm	MAR 3	MAR 4	MAR 5	MAR 6	MAR 7 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm
March 8 **The Second Sunday in Lent** *8am Rite I Eucharist* *10am Rite II Eucharist*	MAR 9 Vestry Mtg. @ 7:00pm	MAR 10 Fair Acres Morning Prayer 10:30am	MAR 11 Girl Scout Troop Mtg @ 6:30pm	MAR 12	MAR 13	MAR 14 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm

February 2 **Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ** **Counters:** Rosemary Bezuidenhout Carole Sorokanych	*8am* *Rite I* *Eucharist*	**Chalicer** Diane Mundell **Reader(both)** Helen Dunlap **Intercessor** Rick Dunlap	*10am* *Rite II* *Eucharist—* *Children's* *Service*	**Chalicer** Rosemary Bezuidenhout **Reader(both)** Nikolien Bezuidenhout Madison Finley **Intercessor** Rosemary Bezuidenhout
February 9 **The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany** **Counters:** Marsha Litwin Leigh Oppelt	*8am* *Rite I* *Eucharist*	**Chalicer** Janet Russello **Reader(both)** Janet Russello **Intercessor** Helen Dunlap	*10am* *Rite II* *Eucharist* *w/Sunday* *School*	**Chalicer** Marsha Litwin **Reader(both)** Marsha Litwin **Intercessor** Steve Buffington
February 16 **The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany** **Counters:** Barbara Krisack Jill Graham	*8am* *Rite I* *Eucharist*	**Chalicer** Diane Mundell **Reader(both)** Jan Myers Knight **Intercessor** Robin Krider	*10am* *Rite II* *Eucharist* *w/Sunday* *School*	**Chalicer** Phyllis Russell **Reader(both)** Jude Winters **Intercessor** Joan Riccardi
February 23 **The Last Sunday after the Epiphany** **Counters:** Jim Geiger Jude Winters	*8am* *Rite I* *Eucharist—* *Healing* *Service*	**Chalicer** Helen Dunlap **Reader(both)** Robin Krider **Intercessor** Jan Myers Knight	*10am* *Rite II* *Eucharist* *w/Sunday* *School—* *Healing* *Service*	**Chalicer** Kelly McNerney **Reader(both)** Jude Winters **Intercessor** Carole Sorokanych
February 26 **Ash Wednesday**	*12noon* *Rite I* *Eucharist*	**Chalicer** Steve Buffington **Reader** Steve Buffington **Intercessor** Jude Winters	*7pm* *Rite II* *Eucharist*	**Chalicer** Helen Dunlap **Reader(both)** TBA **Intercessor** Helen Dunlap
March 1 **The First Sunday in Lent** **Counters:** Janet Russello Carole Sorokanych	*8am* *Rite I* *Eucharist*	**Chalicer** Diane Mundell **Reader(both)** Jan Myers Knight **Intercessor** Helen Dunlap	*10am* *Rite II* *Eucharist—* *Children's* *Service*	**Chalicer** Janet Russello **Reader(both)** Nikolien Bezuidenhout Madison Finley **Intercessor** Pieter Bezuidenhout

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you are interested in donating toward decorating the altar, a sign-up sheet is the Narthex. The cost of flowers is $35.

COFFEE HOUR ASSISTANCE NEEDED: More people are needed to assist with set up/clean up for coffee hour. Please sign up on the sheet in the Undercroft if you can help.

MORNING PRAYER @ FAIR ACRES: Joan Geiger, Joan Riccardi, Stella Thompson and Jude Winters go to Fair Acres Building 1 (Women's Residence) the first Tuesday of the month for morning prayers @10:30am. All are welcome to attend. The next meeting February 4th.

Events Planned for Resurrection Church (subject to change)

Date	Weekday	Time	Item/Event
2/2/20	Sunday	8 and 10	Feast of Presentation; "Candlemas" distribution of candles
2/2/20	Sunday	8 and 10	"Souper Bowl" Sunday—Bring cans of soup to Church for needy
2/3/20	Monday	2:30pm 4:00pm 5:30pm	Finance Committee Stewardship Committee Property Committee
2/9/20	Sunday	Aft. Svcs.	Valentines made for Fair Acres, shutins
2/10/20	Monday	7pm	Vestry Meeting
2/23/20	Sunday	Aft. Svcs.	"Shrove Sunday"; pancakes
2/26/20	Wednesday		Ash Wednesday
3/2/20	Monday	2:30pm 4:00pm 5:30pm	Finance Committee Stewardship Committee Property Committee
3/9/20	Monday	7pm	Vestry Meeting
3/22/20	Sunday	Aft. Svcs. Afternoon	PB&J sandwiches prepared for homeless in Wilmington Sandwiches taken to Wilmington
4/5/20	Sunday		Palm Sunday

4/6/20	Monday	2:30pm 4:00pm 5:30pm	Finance Committee Stewardship Committee Property Committee
4/9/20	Thursday	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Liturgy with Washing of Feet
4/10/20	Friday	12:00m	Good Friday Liturgy with Veneration of Cross and Communion
4/12/20	Sunday	8 and 10	Easter Day Festive Eucharist
4/13/20	Monday	7pm	Vestry Meeting
5/3/20	Sunday	Aft 9am Svc.	Parish Meeting
5/4/20	Monday	2:30pm 4:00pm 5:30pm	Finance Committee Stewardship Committee Property Committee
5/10/19	Sunday		Mothers' Day

Resurrection Pre-School

9am till 12noon / 5 day classes for 4's / 3 day classes (M/W/F) for 3's
Reasonable rates—Financial Aid Available/Children need to be toilet-trained
Please call the office 610-459-2013 for more information and pricing
Dawn Viscusi, Pre-School Administrator

REMEMBER:

IT'S YOUR WORD OF MOUTH PROMOTION OF OUR PARISH'S PRESCHOOL THAT KEEPS THIS OUTREACH PROGRAM OF OUR PARISH ALIVE AND DOING ITS GOOD WORK!

The Mission and Goals of Resurrection Church

The mission of Resurrection Episcopal Church is to nourish the spiritual lives of our diverse parish family and to follow the example of Jesus through service to our community.

The Internal goal for Resurrection Episcopal Church is to grow stronger in faith, care for those who cannot be present, and unify as a family sharing in faith based activities.

The Resurrection Episcopal Church outreach goal is to become more visible and listen to the needs of the community by doing God's work through service to others.

(From top left:) Janet Russello, Jill Graham, Fr. Wand, Phyllis Russell, Barbara Krisack
(From bottom left:) Helen Dunlap, Jim Geiger, Rosemary Bezuidenhout, Marsha Litwin

Vestry of Resurrection Episcopal Church, Rockdale

Phyllis Russell, Rector's Warden	610-358-0258
Barbara Krisack, People's Warden	610-497-1603
Marsha Litwin, Secretary	610-299-0967
Rosemary Bezuidenhout, Treasurer	541-246-0780
Helen Dunlap	610-485-5623
Jim Geiger	610-506-1085
Jill Graham	610-459-5854
Janet Russello	610-800-2377
The Rev. Thomas C. Wand	610-291-4362

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