



March, 2015

Address

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Pittstown, NJ 08867-0348
Phone: (908) 996-4091
Fax: (908) 996-4515
Web: www.stthomasepc.org

Rector

The Rev. Canon Carol Horton
rector@stthomasepc.org
(908) 735-9559

Parish Administrative Assistant

Anita Campbell
M-W-Th: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
secretary@stthomasepc.org
908-996-4091

Service Schedule

8:00am Eucharist
10:00am Eucharist with music
9:45am Nursery and Church School

Mid-week Services

Wednesdays at 12:15pm

Office Hours

Please call the office to
arrange for a home visit
or to make an appointment.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

To worship, to nurture, to serve, together in Christ

From the Rector:

Lent 2015

As I write, the sun has come out and the four inches of snow that fell overnight and this morning is glistening in the light. It is beautiful, and not as treacherous as earlier this morning. It has been a challenging winter in many ways -- snow, ice, freezing rain, bitter cold and brutal winds, school closings or delays, long and often treacherous commutes – all a bit much, even for life in the Northeast. As challenging as it has been for us in northwest New Jersey, we know our friends from farther north are struggling even more.

The good news, or at least a bit of it, is that it is now Lent, which means that spring is surely bound to come sooner rather than later. No ‘bah, humbugs’ about it – spring will come.

Lent offers us many opportunities for renewing ourselves and our lives. We are called to be attentive to our inner life: the patterns of our prayer; the patterns of our relationships with others; the patterns of our relationship with God and with ourselves. We are invited – encouraged – to do this by paring down our lives, stripping away some of the distractions, and paying closer attention to the basics.

The three broad categories for keeping a holy Lent are Prayer, Fasting and Giving of ourselves and what we have. The goal in all of these is deepening our relationship with God, and drawing closer to God in our daily lives. Check out the Opportunities For Lent 2015 printout found in the gallery at the church, or look through this newsletter for possibilities. A few highlights are below.

In Christ’s love,
Carol+

Lenten Devotionals

Episcopal Relief and Development Lenten Devotional for 2015

This issue of Episcopal Relief & Development’s Lenten Meditations is not only their twelfth edition; it is also their 75th Anniversary edition. It includes the voices of leaders throughout the Anglican Communion who have personal insights into the impact of this work.

Living Well Through Lent

Many found the “Living Well Through Advent” booklet helpful. The version for Lent promises the same kinds of engagement. From Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, *Living Well through Lent 2015* provides daily readings and suggestions for reflection and action, inviting you to engage fully in your Lenten journey — with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

Forward Day by Day offers daily devotions throughout the year. This is a good entry into daily prayer that can continue on beyond Lent.

(continued on page 2)

Vestry

Fran Brunelle-Iuzzolino
908-217-8571 (cell)
908-387-1000 (office)

Gene Budsock
908-735-9976

Amanda Fuhro
908-735-5602

Kevin Kapples
908-996-3019

Lynn Logg
908-995-4794

Pat Neil
908-730-6696

Roger Prince
908-735-9709

Treasurer

Roman Chiminec
treasurer@stthomasepc.org
908-995-2675

Music Director

Richard McIntyre
macwnj@yahoo.com
908-213-6619

Assistant Organist

Jan Davis
908-689-1222

Altar Guild

Please contact the Rector

Acolytes

Mary Nemec
mnemec@ptd.net
908-996-7955

Church School

Michelle Wagner
wagners88@comcast.net
908-735-4015

Youth Group

Antonia Mattei
908-782-3777

Cheryl Ann Spies
908-713-6701

Nursery

For more information,
please call 908-996-4091

Newsletter

Maria Markovich
mmarkovi@ptd.net
908-229-3515

Mark Your April Calendars for Holy Week Services

April 1 Wednesday in Holy Week Holy Eucharist at 12:15 pm

April 2 Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist and stripping of the altar at 7:15 pm,
followed by all-night vigil

April 3 Good Friday Stations of the Cross at Noon
Liturgy of the Day at 7:15 pm

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Lenten Devotionals *(continued from page 1)*

Fasting and Giving

Give up something that costs money and then donate the money to the quarter tube or to Episcopal Relief and Development or some other charity of your choice.

Give up something that costs time or energy, and then give that time or energy to something that will benefit someone else or God's creation in some way. It doesn't have to be huge... every little bit makes a difference.

*"Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
follow thee more nearly, day by day."*

-- Attributed to Richard of Chichester



Your donations make a difference!

**Please place your items in the baskets
in St Thomas' gallery.**

For a regularly updated list of Pantry needs,
visit <http://flemingtonfoodpantry.org/what-we-need/>

March Needs

- ✓ Pancake Mix & Syrup
- ✓ Regular & Flavored Oatmeal
- ✓ Black beans
- ✓ Kidney beans
- ✓ Canned Meat
(chicken, tuna, corned beef, etc.)
- ✓ Sardines
- ✓ Barley
- ✓ Cereal (low sugar, healthy)

ALWAYS needed

- ✓ Laundry detergent
- ✓ Shampoo & Conditioner
- ✓ Disposable razors
- ✓ Shaving cream
- ✓ Diapers (infant & adult sizes)
- ✓ Feminine care products
- ✓ Toilet paper
- ✓ Facial tissues

Volunteers perform all operating functions of the Pantry. For information on volunteering opportunities please call Barbara Wingel at 908-996-6463.

ST THOMAS' FOOD PANTRY SHOPPING SPREE – February 16, 2015

See Church School News for all the fun details!



YOUTH NEWS

FIFTH SUNDAY – HELPERS NEEDED

Sunday, March 29th is our Fifth Sunday Service. We need our Youth Group to assist in all of the service positions at the 10 am service. It is how our youth can be involved and give back to our wonderful church. Please see Michelle Wagner if you are interested in being a reader, usher, acolyte, or altar guild. High School youth are welcome to sing in the choir as well!

MARCH MADNESS MEETING

Sunday, March 8, 7 – 8:30 pm

Our next Youth Group meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 8, from 7 - 8:30 pm. This will be our March Madness – Unique Iron Man Competition! Be sure to put it on your calendar and plan to attend! We need one more adult to attend!

St Thomas' Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 15

You can still get some pancakes!



LOCK-IN WRAP UP We had a great Lock-In & Hoagie Sale! Thank you to Cheryl Ann and Linda for being our sleep-over adults! It was so nice for Antonia to have her first year off in many! Thank you to the Kapples and Testa families for feeding our youth group workers. Thank you to the youth for all your hard work and making such delicious hoagies and salads! Thank you to Alisa and Antonia for helping out. As always, Shop-Rite has been very generous to our event so be sure to shop at Shop-Rite and thank them for their generous donation. The money raised will help our youth group with their annual outreach project with the Bridges organization.

The Youth Group's annual pre-Lenten pancake event has been postponed until Sunday, March 15. This is the Fourth Sunday in Lent – also known as Refreshment Sunday – a great day to celebrate! And have some of Pat Neil's famous Irish soda bread too! Youth group members are asked to help with set up, cooking, serving, and clean up. Check the weekly Bulletins and Good News for more information.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Food Pantry Shopping Trip

Our presidential Flemington food pantry shopping spree on February 16 was a success! Our congregation is awesome! With only two weeks of collecting for our shopping trip, our church school collected \$1600 from you! This is a record collection! We had a smaller number of shoppers this year, but filled with enthusiasm! Our shoppers are so great at this job! With Linda Ubry at the helm, Alisa Swider handing out the lists, Greg Shutske taking the pictures the following team of shoppers could not be beat! Thank you to Brooke & Kim Testa, Buzz, Denise, Owen & Gavin Buczek, Gene Budsock Duo along with Gene's granddaughter Katie, Linda & Zach Ubry, Larry, Sandra, Trinity & Marjorie Mikuta, Joan Milne, Enzo & Vivian Badalamenti, Carol Horton & Michelle Wagner. We filled 11 carts with 796 items – all the adults enjoyed Buzz having to push out the cart full of adult Depends -- again! Our total before coupons and tax taken out was \$1606.74. Once tax and coupons were applied, our grand total of food purchased was \$1571.32. With the small difference, we purchased a gift card to give to the Food Pantry to spend on anything they need later on. Then it was off to the Pantry to unpack and stock the shelves. Brooke said this was her favorite part. It was so rewarding to see a shelf that was empty of laundry detergent become so full that extra bags had to stay on floor (but knowing too that by the time you read this article the shelf will likely be empty again). Next year, we will support the Open Cupboard Pantry in Clinton.

Thank you to our shoppers and to all St Thomas members who donated so generously to this worthy cause!!!

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

(James 2:14-18)



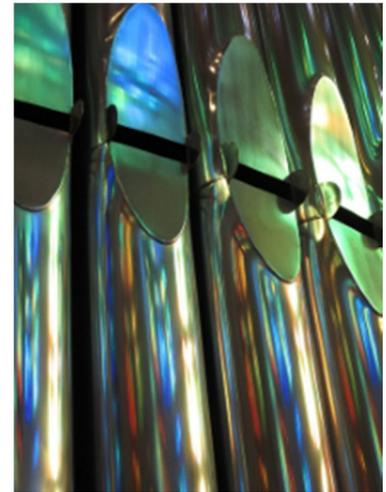
St Thomas attends 15th Annual Diocesan Acolyte Festival

Pictured at left are Trinity Mikuta and Elizabeth Nemec, who attended the 15th Acolyte Festival at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton on February 14th. Both are wearing their festival theme T-shirts emblazoned, *They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love*. Trinity and Elizabeth enjoyed the workshops and the fellowship of acolytes ranging in age from 5 to 95! And they took part in the Eucharistic procession with acolytes from 32 parishes in New Jersey. It was an awesome sight to witness. Trinity was a reader at the service and did a wonderful job. Elizabeth attended a round table discussion with Bishop Stokes – why don't you ask her what they talked about?

From the organist ...

Last September, a minor repair to the Rodgers Organ in our church brought home the reality that this instrument will not last indefinitely. The vestry has started an organ fund as part of a long-range effort that, sometime in the (hopefully distant) future, will afford us the wherewithal to address the issue of replacement when it arises. With that in mind, we should consider what that replacement might be. As the parish approaches its tri-centennial, the historic nature of our space must play a role in our decision.

In 1769, the year our edifice was built, the only type of keyboard instrument found in churches of the period was the pipe organ, although these were limited to the larger parishes with some degree of wealth. Smaller churches (of those condoning music in worship) that could not afford an organ used the more portable string or wind instruments (when players could be found) or nothing at all. Such was the most probable scenario for St Thomas. The piano, as we know it, had not really evolved until the nineteenth century, and although prototypes of the pump organ that presently sits in the gallery were first invented in the early 1800's, they were not in general use until the late nineteenth century into the early twentieth http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pump_organ. The pump organ in the gallery was still being played in our sanctuary even as late as the 1980's.



I would reckon that the installation of the electronic organ presently in use was a transformational step, forever changing our musical expectations for this place. Recently, on a Sunday when Carol was away, the visiting priest commented to me after the service, "This congregation really likes to sing!" Surely that characteristic is enabled, in part, by the strong support of the organ. On the other hand, the instrument's dependence upon amplified speakers renders its sound inauthentic, and its technology, already somewhat obsolete, is destined to become more so.

If the goal is to keep the strong musical support for singing that the organ provides, and to enhance the historic character of our space, pipes are the logical answer. While a pipe organ is more costly at the outset, it will far outlast any electronic instrument, if maintained conscientiously (think centuries versus decades). Moreover, every pipe organ, whether large or small, is a unique piece of the builder's craft, evolved over centuries, designed and constructed specifically for the acoustical and architectural conditions of its site.

Eventually we will be faced with the choice. As we consider the options, let us bear in mind our legacy at St Thomas for future generations.

-- Richard McIntyre, St Thomas' Music Director

SAVE THE DATE for St Thomas' Annual Yard Sale on Saturday, May 2



Start cleaning your homes, attics, basements for all that good stuff that you just can't throw away – and bring it to St Thomas' Yard Sale on May 2! It will be held again at the Quakertown EMS building on Route 513, next to the Pittstown Post Office. Last year's sale brought in record returns for the event, and the new venue was thought to have played a large part, with its closer proximity to Clinton and its location on a main route to attract the many passersby. Be on the lookout for more information as the date draws closer. With all this cold weather, May does seem far away, but it will be Spring before we know it!

On Stewardship

by Fran Brunelle-luzzolino

A Journey Through Lent



As I write this month's article, Lent is about to begin. A time for Christians everywhere to turn away from the cares and stresses of this world and focus on their

lives in Christ. Is there any better time to expand our thoughts and conversation on Stewardship? What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Lent? Is it "What am I giving up for Lent?" Most Christians understand that it's not just about giving up things (like liquor, chocolate, smoking, etc.); it's about what you do "instead." Perhaps you take the money you would have spent on something you've given up for Lent and donate it to a good cause. Perhaps you give it to a family in need. Any of these are wonderful things to do.

What if we did more during this Lenten season to enhance our Christian walk, our relationships and our world? During the 40 days of Lent, consider 40 acts of kindness and generosity aimed at improving yourself and the world around you.

What if we all:

- Forgave someone who hurt us in the past, no matter how deep the hurt
- Offered to grocery shop for an elderly person from our neighborhood
- Shoveled the neighbors walkway ...the neighbor you've been in a dispute with for years
- Made homemade soup for someone with the flu
- Take the time to catch up with a relative that you never seem to have time for
- Say you're sorry and mean it
- Pray for a terrorist you'd rather spit at

The possibilities are endless. And what if ...what if we ALL did this? What if we all really challenged ourselves during Lent to do something each day that represented kindness and stewardship of the life we've been blessed with? Will you take the challenge? What a wonderful journey to experience this Lenten Season!

ST THOMAS WOMEN'S GROUP **Ukrainian Egg Decorating on Sunday, March 15**

Hello Women of St Thomas! For our first activity, Elisabeth Chiminec will teach the ancient folk art of Ukrainian Egg Decorating on Sunday, March 15, after the 10 am service pancake breakfast. In Pagan times, women decorated eggs symbolizing the coming of Spring -- with its promise of new life, health and prosperity. With the advent of Christianity, eggs symbolized the Resurrection, with its promise of a better world. Please bring a bag lunch and plan on staying about 2 hours. Wearing an apron or old shirt is recommended, since the egg dyes are permanent. Please RSVP to erchim@aol.com to ensure we have enough supplies on hand.

On February 8, we held a planning meeting for our new women's group, with about 14 enthusiastic women in attendance. We are all looking forward to getting to know each other better and to enjoy fellowship opportunities on a monthly basis. The plan is to rotate leadership responsibilities by having any interested member select a topic, event or activity she would like to organize and select a convenient date. Lots of interesting ideas were presented and they all sound wonderful! There will be a mix of activities for our own enrichment (book group, movie group, crafting, cooking, outdoor activity, for example) as well as things we can do to support those around us (casserole ministry, knitting scarves for the Seamen's Institute, providing crafts or prayer shawls for patients at the Cancer Center, etc.).

We need a name for our group! Please post any ideas and we can choose one that feels right.

PARISH REGISTER



Thank You...

To Linda Ubry and Michelle Wagner for organizing the church school food pantry shopping trip this year, to all the children and adults who shopped and helped with the project, and to all who donated so generously to this good cause;

To Mary Nemeč who coordinates our acolytes for Sunday worship and special services, and to all our faithful acolytes for their service;

To St Thomas Altar Guild for all they do;

To our snow shovelers and plowers, who have done far beyond 'extra service' this past month;

To our church cleaners, and to Joan Milne for coordinating our cleaners;

To Antonia Mattei, Stephanie Spies, Mary Nemeč, Cheryl Spies, Michelle Wagner, and all who helped with the youth group hoagie sale;

To Joan Milne, who has rotated off the vestry, and to Amanda Fuhro, Fran Iuzzolino and Pat Neil for continuing to serve;

To Roger Prince and Gene Budsock, new vestry members;

To Jack Holt, Maria Markovich and Greg Shutske, St Thomas delegates to Diocesan Convention; and

To all who quietly do so much.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 1 Charles Niebuhr

March 2 Ed Buczek, Thomas Niemann,
Jack Oldenburg, Leigh Anne Walker

March 4 Cathy Kane

March 5 Jennifer Jordan

March 7 Anne Marie Letko

March 10 Elisabeth Cichonski

March 11 Claire Wolfson, John Wolfson

March 13 Sean Swider

March 14 Dan Conceicao

March 15 Jean Burns, Mike Ubry

March 16 Owen Buczek

March 17 Ed Kane, Brian Walsh

March 19 David White

March 20 Daniel McKenna,
Will Stevenson

March 23 Kathleen Stolarz

March 24 Pete Cichonski, Susan Hart,
Perry James, Alanna Walker

March 25 Joshua Burns

March 27 Kellie McKenna

March 29 Barbara Petty

March 31 Stephen Pierson-Massey



Céad Míle Fáilte

WELCOME... To Anita Campbell, St Thomas' new Administrative Assistant. Anita comes to us with many skills and much experience after several years in corporate life. She and her husband live in Stewartsville, are both singers, and are active in Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church. She will be in the office most weeks on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Please make Anita welcome, and contact her with information regarding meetings and activities, or about changes in address, email or phone numbers, etc. either by telephone 908-996-4091 or Email secretary@stthomasepc.org.

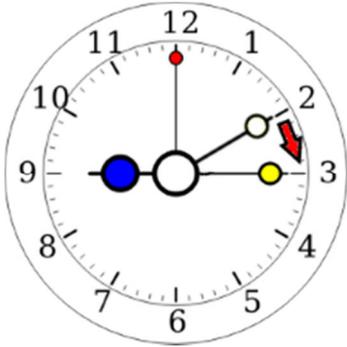
CONDOLENCES

To the Mattei/White family on the death of Antonia's father, The Revd. Raul Mattei. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

St Thomas Prayer List

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date. Please contact Anita in the parish office to have someone included on the prayer list. Please also contact her when it is no longer necessary for that person to be included on that list.

March Springs Forward

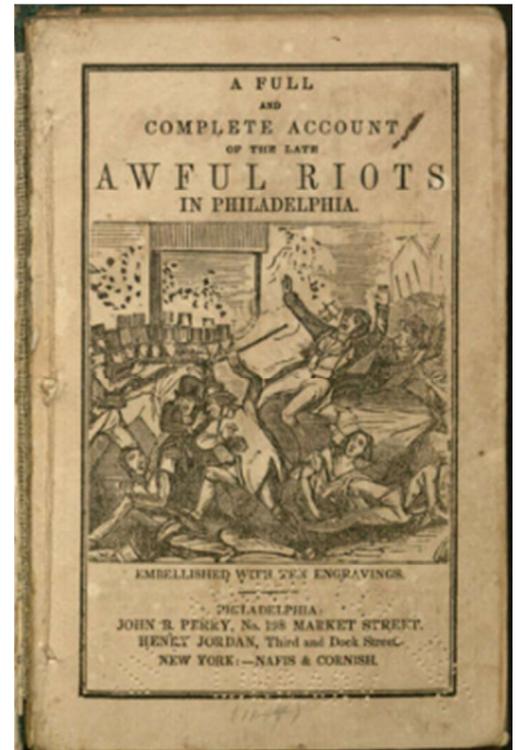


- March 8**
 - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS (clocks ahead 1 hour!)
 - Youth Group March Madness Meeting, 7 - 8:30 pm at St Thomas
- March 15**
 - Youth Group Pancake Breakfast
 - Women's Group Ukrainian Egg Decorating; immediately following the pancake breakfast after the 10 am service
 - EVENSONG at 5:00 pm followed by a covered dish supper and special program (all ages welcome)
- March 19** Vestry meeting, 7:00 pm at St Thomas
- March 20** First Day of Spring!
- March 23** April newsletter submissions are due
- March 29** Youth participate in Fifth Sunday worship at 10:00 am

Religious (in)tolerance in the City of Brotherly Love

As we stare, surprised and appalled, at religious violence around the world we may take some consolation in the relative peacefulness of our country. But we should recognize how recently such strife wreaked havoc here.

The Kensington 'Bible riots' outside Philadelphia in 1844 were perhaps closest to home. The area had become home to a large Irish Roman Catholic population in the preceding decades, but worker solidarity had led to successful trade unions in the local weaving industry and reasonable cooperation between newcomers and natives. Unfortunately the recession of 1839-1843, with its accompanying deflation and defaults, increased nativist sentiment, and people began to focus on what separated rather than united them. The 'nativists' - forerunners of the infamous 'Know-Nothings' of the 1850's - accused the Irish of isolating themselves from the larger society and being unwilling to assimilate. They were especially agitated by the perceived role of the Roman Catholic Church in their lives and politics, convinced that Irish Catholics followed the directives of the Pope in Rome - shades of the concerns raised about candidate John F. Kennedy in 1960. Rumors began to spread that the Irish wanted to remove the Bible from local schools, although in truth they wanted the right to use their Douai translation in place of the state-mandated 'King James' version.



Riots began in May when inflammatory rhetoric by 'nativists' in an Irish area led to violence. They lasted, sporadically, for months, despite the intervention of a regiment of the militia and the use of cannon by both rioters and militia - Heaven knows what mayhem would have occurred if the two sides had Kalashnikovs or RPGs! At least 15 people died, including two members of the militia, and several Roman Catholic churches were burned to the ground. Fears that similar riots might erupt in New York City led to the famous quote by John Hughes, who would become New York's first Archbishop in 1850, that if any Roman Catholic churches were burned, "New York would be a second Moscow", reminding local politicians of Moscow's 1812 defeat of Napoleon - fortunately none were.

The riots led to two lasting changes - the jurisdiction of Philadelphia was enlarged, consolidated and mandated to have a sizeable and well-armed police force, and the Roman Catholic Church enhanced its separate education system. And for all of us the riots are a reminder that divisive populism is a constant threat to us all, especially in times of economic stress.

~Roger Prince

March 2015 at-a-glance



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday	
1 Lent 2 HE 8 & 10am Church School & Nursery 9:45am	2 <i>St David of Wales (transferred)</i>	3	4 Mid-week Service 12:15 pm Choir practice 7:15 pm	5	6	7
8 CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR!		10	11 Mid-week Service 12:15 pm Choir practice 7:15 pm	12	13	14
15 Lent 3 HE 8 & 10am Church School & Nursery 9:45am	SUNDAY, MARCH 8 Youth Group March Madness 7 - 8:30 pm	17 <i>St Patrick, Bishop and Missionary of Ireland</i>	18 Mid-week Service 12:15 pm Choir practice 7:15 pm	19 <i>St Joseph</i> Vestry meeting 7:00 pm	20 First Day of Spring 	21
16 Youth Pancake Breakfast Women's Group Egg Coloring after 10am breakfast Evensong at 5:00 pm & covered dish dinner & special program	18	24	25 <i>The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Mid-week Service 12:15 pm Choir practice 7:15 pm	26	27	28
22 Lent 5 HE 8 & 10am Church School & Nursery 9:45am	23 April newsletter submissions due	31	30	31		
29 PALM SUNDAY HE 8 & 10am Church School & Nursery 9:45am	MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK	TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK				
Youth participate in 5th Sunday 10:00 worship						

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE ON YOUR SCHEDULED DATES, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT AND NOTIFY THE OFFICE.

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Nursery	Coffee Hour
March 1	8- 10- D. Buczek	8- 10-D. Kemmerer	10- O. Buczek	8- 10-	10-	8- 10- Fuhro
March 8	8- 10- L. Mikuta	8- 10-M.Markovich	10- M. Kapples	8- 10- D. Logg	10-	8- 10-Crislip/Parkinson
March 15	8- 10- A. Fuhro	8- 10- D. Logg	10- G. DiRienz	8- 10-	10-	8- Youth Group 10- & P. Neil
March 22	8- 10- J. Davis	8- 10-	10- S. Walker	8- 10-	10-	8- 10-
March 29	8- 10- L. Mikuta	8- 10-	10- E. Nemecek	8- 10-	10-	8- 10-

FLOWERS

March 1	Lent
March 8	Lent
March 15	Lent
March 22	Lent
March 29	Lent

ALTAR

P. Neil, L. Grieme
L. Grieme, J. Pragdat
D. Buczek, H. Budsock
M. Markovich, D. Buczek
D. Buczek

COUNTERS

G. Budsock, K. Kapples
K. Kapples, L. Ubry
A. DiRienz, D. Logg
M. Thomas, L. Ubry
L. Santos, (open)

CLEANING

Markovich/Shutske

SNOW

D&E Walker
D&E Walker
Bruce Kemmerer