



A Message from the Vestry to our St. Thomas Family, Friends and Supporters

We extend to you our greetings with a sincere hope that you are well and are living a life that is regaining a sense of normalcy.

In our Church calendar, normalcy gives us a Holy Season beginning with Ash Wednesday, extending for 40 days (Sundays not counted of course) and ending with Maundy Thursday. This year Ash Wednesday is on March 2 and Maundy Thursday is on April 14. Easter being on Sunday, April 17.

In effect we have been given about 6 weeks to “get our act together”, to spend some time on giving ourselves a “Spring cleaning”. In a spiritual sense we have been given a time to reflect on who we are, what we stand for, what our principles are, and what or whom we worship. It is a time of introspection and self-assessment. Where do we place our emphasis, what are our priorities, and what do we gain from those weekly visits to St. Thomas? It is a time for “soul searching” and by the time we have completed the 40-day period of “searching” we may well be exhausted mentally if not physically. Sobering, isn’t it! But spiritually, we should be lifted higher because we will be prepared to celebrate that **CHRIST IS RISEN. ALLELUIA**. We will be prepared for the **Resurrection**. By the time our journey is over, a rebirth is happening. We will be having warmer days, bluer skies, greener fields, and a feeling that nature as we like it is alive and well. We will celebrate **EASTER**.

This is a tough world in which we live. Sometimes it seems that we go from crises to crises, that Winter will never end, that the “light at the end of the tunnel” is barely visible. Jesus too, wandered in the wilderness for 40 days and in doing so gave us promise of hope and salvation. This is a gift we need and a gift we must remember. It should give us hope for a brighter future, a better world that lives in peace, and a better us as individuals committed to moral principles and having a compass for a life that leads us to salvation.

By the time you receive this Message, Ash Wednesday will have passed and our respective Lenten journey will have begun. We are most grateful for your dedication to St. Thomas and your support to help us maintain and sustain this House of Worship in rural Bedford County. We wish you good health physically, mentally and spiritually in the year that lies ahead.

We hope to see all of you at our **Service on Easter Sunday, April 17 at 9:00 A.M. with the Rev. Cathy Montgomery**. What a glorious day that would be. **Alleluia. May the peace of the Lord always be with us.**