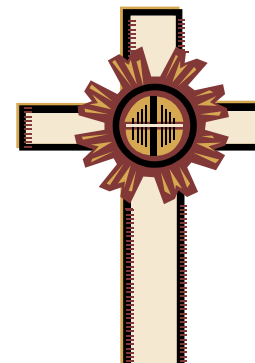


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Calvary Crossings



Calvary Episcopal Church
158 Broad Street
Pascoag, RI 02985



VICAR'S THOUGHTS

Liturgically and in the church's calendar, during February we will, for the most part, be celebrating the season of Epiphany: the Godly Appearances of Jesus as documented in the Gospel. At the end of the month (Feb 25) we will honor Ash Wednesday and begin the sacrificial and reflective time of Lent. This article will mirror the liturgical calendar -- I will first discuss the nearness of God to us and then move to a discussion of Lent.

Because of the demands of our personal lives and the daily routines we enter into, we may lose sight of the nearness of God. This nearness of God is available to us and, indeed, it is delightful to hear people's reactions when they realize just how close God is! God is all around us all the time---it is more a matter of us "seeing" or being open to the Love of God that is here now.

In the Book of Revelation it is said the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven are continuously praising God saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty...." The praise of God is ongoing, without ceasing. It means that even as you read this article, the praise is continuing. We are invited by the Holy Spirit (no prayer is begun or accomplished without being initiated by the Holy Spirit) to enter into that prayer and praise.

Sometimes people feel very lonely and disconnected from others and from God. But, I would dare to say it is a "feeling" and not reality. The angels, archangels and all the company of heaven are *always present*. It is more a question of whether we are *aware* of the nearness of God and *respond* to the Spirit's promptings to join in the praise and see that we are among the



company of heaven.

However, there are times when people truly feel separated from God. Often this is due to a painful event, at times caused by outside circumstances (for example, the death or illness of a loved one) or by our actions or inactions (for example, a sin of commission or omission). Some may say they can understand how we may sin by our actions or inactions, but how can we sin if we have been the one to be wounded? *It is because we do not forgive God or others for the wounds.* We may blame God for the wounds and it leads to us not wanting to be in relationship with God when, in fact, God would not hurt a hair on our heads or our loved ones. My reaction after the death of my friend, John, was to blame God. The result was my separation from God, the very Being that could have provided consolation. It took me years to realize my mistake.

The liturgical season of Lent is the time when separation from God as a result of our sinfulness is brought to the fore. It is not intended that we dwell on our sinfulness, but that we *acknowledge* that we have hurt others (including God) and by doing so, have hurt ourselves. Often, when people have sinned, we feel unworthy of God's love, are embarrassed and withdraw from the worshipping community. Lent provides an opportunity for healing and a drawing back into the heavenly community.

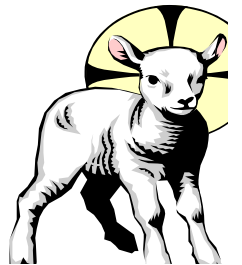
God desires nothing more than for the lost sheep to return to the fold.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Mary Canavan

THANK YOU'S

Retiring Bishop's Committee Members:



Muriel Glose & David Sidla--Co-Senior Wardens; Louis Lambert, Junior Warden; Ruth Lambert, Susan Doughty Retiring Newsletter Editor: Susan Doughty

How do we thank you enough for your sacrifice, dedication, and hard work on behalf of Calvary Church? You have been such stalwart and strong leaders of the church for so long. Your contributions of time and talent go well beyond the norm and we are so very grateful for all you have done. There are times in the life of a church when the right group of people come together with the Holy Spirit to work wonders for the Body of Christ. This Bishop's Committee has been such a group. ***Well done, good and faithful servants!***

One final note to you, as well. After being in leadership for so many years, there can be a relief to have others lead the church. It can feel like the weight of responsibility is lifted from your shoulders. However, there can also be a feeling of grief and a sense of "not knowing what is going on anymore." Please know that these feelings of separation are typical and you (and everyone in the church) are always welcome to ask how things are progressing. The door of information is always open to everyone, whether or not you are on the Bishop's Committee. May God's blessing be upon you.

MORE THANK YOU'S . . .

On the Home Front: Water was leaking behind the flashing of the vicarage chimney into the attic. Leo Felice, with the help of a colleague, re-sealed the flashing and while on the roof cleaned the gutters! Thank you for your help and for braving the single-digit temperatures and wind to climb up and work on the roof. Brrrrh! It must have been cold!

The Epiphany Pageant was great fun and we extend our gratitude to the parents for coming to the rehearsal and helping with the pageant. Special thanks to Muriel Kogut for her leadership and to Barbara Hudon for rolling into church and coordinating the pageant after having gotten home from

the Patriot's sub-zero play-off game at 2:15 a.m. Sunday morning. [Barbara--we all want to know: were you cold?]

Well, we finally know what the ***mystery of the slipper*** was for the Epiphany party on January 11. Taking off one shoe was to help us understand the discomfort the Wise Men would have experienced in traveling from their home countries to visit the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. The Epiphany Party was well-attended with many children running around everywhere. ***Thank you to Richard and Diane Ernst for organizing it.***

PARISH LIFE: Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 14th at 6:30 p.m. we're having an "adult" potluck dinner. It is Valentine's Day and this dinner is for *all adults, whether single or coupled*. Please contact Muriel Kogut (568-6106) and let her know what you are able to bring.

Tuesday, February 24th from 5:30 to 7:00pm is our Shrove Tuesday Dinner. This Pancake Supper is being hosted by the men of the parish and is for all Calvary's parishioners. The men are setting up, cooking *and cleaning!* We hope you will bring your relatives and friends and come join us for the festivities before Lent begins the next day. Mardi Gras and Shrove ("Fat") Tuesday are about having some great fun and food before the sacrifice of Lent begins.

LITURGY

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES (February 25th)

4 p.m Children's Service

- This Ash Wednesday worship service will touch on the themes of Lent and Ash Wednesday, but will not be as overtly penitential as the



traditional Ash Wednesday service later in the evening. Many people,

young and old, find it helpful to make a sacrifice during Lent. The concept of children's sacrifice during Lent will be introduced during this service. Though it is geared for children, all are welcome to join Pastor Mary for the imposition of ashes at this earlier service.

7 p.m Traditional Service - Please come and join us in for the imposition of ashes and the beginning of the forty days of Lent. Unlike previous years, there will not be a potluck dinner prior to this service because we are having the Shrove Tuesday Dinner the night before, instead.

CARING COORDINATOR

Mrs. Jean Mitchell (568-2985) is our "Caring Coordinator." If you need an occasional ride to a doctor's appointment, are having surgery and need food for a few days, or other short-term needs, please call Jean and she will contact volunteers to assist you. Also, if you need a ride to a church function or adult education series, please contact Jean.



LENT

In order to re-focus and center their lives on God, many people make a sacrifice during Lent giving up something of value. By making a sacrifice, they are reminded that God comes first. For example, some people stop eating meat or become strict vegetarians and won't eat any dairy product. Others will give up smoking cigarettes or stop drinking. One parishioner shared with me that ten years ago when he gave up his life-long habit of smoking (cold-turkey on Ash Wednesday) , *he never went back to smoking*

and hasn't even had the urge to smoke. This is a case of doing something at the same time as the Holy Spirit blesses us with healing. This parishioner has never forgotten the priority of God in his life.

Other people find it is more meaningful to ADD something in Lent instead of taking something away. For example, I know of one couple who decided to add an outreach project to their lives. They began volunteering at a homeless shelter in Providence. Still others could help with Calvary's food closet on the Saturdays in Lent. Another person could add daily prayer to his life.

As explained above, there are many approaches to refocusing our lives around God and Lent is the time in the church's calendar when there is an emphasis on purging ourselves of sins and re-orienting ourselves on the map of life, with the direction pointed toward God. Lent is often the time when people have a need to cleanse themselves of sins they have committed and from which, for whatever reason, they are unable to find peace and self-forgiveness. Please know that in the Episcopal Church, the Rite of Reconciliation (Confession or Penitence) is available. This is a confidential conversation with Pastor Mary Canavan and the content is not revealed to anyone at anytime, just as in the Roman Catholic Church.

Children's Lenten Project

The Heifer Project is a program where people contribute money and purchase a farm animal for use by a family in an impoverished area. By receiving a farm animal, the family can have continuous food or help -- the gift keeps on giving. The Heifer Project is well-respected and world renowned. The children, with the help of the Sunday School teachers, will decide which of the many farm animals to fund and give as a gift. This is an example of "adding" something for Lent instead of giving up something. The whole church is invited to join the children in their enthusiasm regarding the gift.

PASTORAL CARE:

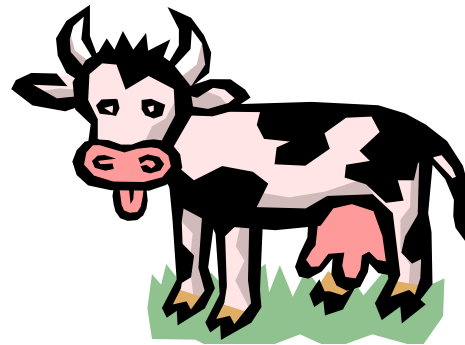
Homebound?

If you are homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the church and leave a message for Pastor Mary (568-3888, ext 3). Either a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) or Pastor Mary will bring communion to you promptly.

DAN SHABU ISUZU

Testimony for Dan Shabu Isuzu by Dennis Kohler

I recently made an appointment with Dan Shabu Isuzu to redeem the coupon for tire rotation. When I got there I realized that I was an hour late. They took me anyhow. The receptionist at the front desk was nice young lady and very accommodating. The mechanic who came out to get my keys, introduced himself and said he would have it done in no time. In addition to rotating the tires they also balanced them. They said that was



part of the service. I also had an opportunity to chat with Dan. He is a very personable young man. We traded many stories about Rhode Island that I am sure you have all heard. My point is:

if you have not redeemed the coupons in the Calvary newsletter, you are missing out on a super deal and great service. I will be using the free oil change



coupon next!

CONGRATULATIONS!

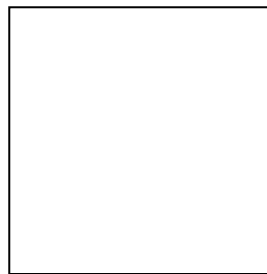
We welcome into the Body of Christ our newest members: four-month old **Alyssa Leslie Perretta** and her cousin, 7-month old **Adam Donald Roger Marcotte**. They were baptized on January 11. What a joyous occasion! The church was packed and the Sunday School also did the Epiphany Pageant. Thank you to the proud grandparents, Charlie and Leslie Lemieux for hosting the reception afterwards and congratulations to the parents of Alyssa (Michael Perretta and Kerri Marcotte) and of Adam (Kenneth Marcotte and Mandi Callahan). Charlie and Leslie especially thank those who unexpectedly helped with the reception: that is what they love about Calvary!



STEWARDSHIP

Realizing that many people have joined Calvary from different faith denominations, we thought it may be helpful to explain the appeals for funds at Calvary to better inform you for decision making. This newsletter article is not intended as an appeal for giving, but as a means of educating newer members as to the scope of stewardship at Calvary. Calvary has a four-point approach to financial stewardship:

A. **Annual Pledge** for Calvary Church. Pledges for Calvary are received throughout the year, with the primary focus in the Fall. Monies pledged for Calvary are primarily for operations and up to ten percent is used for outreach



ministries, either through evangelism or social action. In 2004 the Church budgeted approximately 6.7% of pledge income to evangelism. Pledges are not a legal binding contract but simply a "hoped" for contribution to Calvary. Many people made their 2004 pledge to Calvary in Fall, 2003 and are paying it weekly throughout 2004 while others will pay it quarterly. The national average annual pledge for Episcopalians is \$1,668. Pledges for Calvary for 2004 totaled approximately \$44,500. This is an extraordinary amount and for the first time the threshold of \$40,000 has been exceeded. Thank you very much for your sacrifice. If you have questions or would like to make a pledge to Calvary, please contact Pastor Mary Canavan (568-3888) or the Stewardship Chair for 2004, Priscilla McFarland (766-3115).

B. Episcopal Charities. This annual appeal takes place in March, though gifts are welcome and received throughout the year. Episcopal Charities is a foundation operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island. It is an amazing granting organization in that 100% of donations, PLUS 6% additional monies are given away. More than every dollar received is given away because Episcopal Charities is blessed with endowment income which covers salaries, overhead, and administrative costs. Episcopal Charities makes grants to all types of social action agencies in Rhode Island. In 2003 grants ranged from the Food Bank of Rhode Island (the agency from which Calvary secures its food for the food pantry), to a camp in Glocester for severely challenged children, to Family Service of Woonsocket, to Camp Street Ministries of Providence. Dozens more grants were given throughout Rhode Island. If you have any questions about gifts to Episcopal Charities, please contact Melanie Kohler (568-3403) or Priscilla McFarland (766-3115).

C. United Thank Offering (UTO). This program of the Episcopal Church was founded in 1889 by two women who inspired others to pray and give coins to build a church in Anvik, Alaska and support a missionary to Japan. Grateful hearts are the reason the UTO continues as a vital mission of the Episcopal Church. Although only small amounts are collected from each person, the "collective" total is quite astounding.

The focus of the program is to give thanks to God for each blessing received. Those participating in the UTO (men, women, and children) give a short prayer of thanks for God's blessings and insert a coin of thanksgiving in the "UTO blue-box." For example, if a participant feels blessed by something good happening, the person offers a prayer of thanksgiving to God and then puts a nickel, dime or quarter into the "UTO box." At the end of the collection period (typically in May), the person gives the box to the UTO Chairperson for Calvary Church, Mrs. Jean Mitchell. Nationwide the UTO offerings are collected and distributed in the form of grants for worthy causes. The Diocese of Rhode Island has received several grants including a grant to fund a program at the Seaman's Institute in Newport to help sailors and their families; a grant to purchase a wheelchair for Hallworth House (a nursing home connected to the Diocese); and, several grants have been given to the Episcopal Conference Center (ECC) on Reservoir Rd. in Pascoag. ECC is a camp for youngsters and teenagers and also provides a place for adult retreats and meditation. Grants have also been made to Epiphany Church in South Providence to fund outreach missions and educational programs in the inner city.

cont'd next page

Give us grateful hearts, Our Father, for all your mercies and make us ever mindful of the needs of others.

D. Calvary's Food Closet benefits considerably from the donations that parishioners make directly to the Food Closet. Cash donations are used to supplement items that are in short supply from the RI Community Food Bank, such as bread, milk, and protein. In addition, these monies are used to purchase \$10 gift certificates from Brigido's IGA so that people can have some choice as to what kind of food they may be eating. Another use is to purchase turkeys or hams for the holiday times, If you would like to contribute please contact Dennis or Melanie Kohler

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(568-3403) or leave a check in the offering plate at any time of the year.

PRAYER CHAIN

Our prayer chain can use some new links. If you are interested in praying for others in need, please call Jean Mitchell (568-2985). As a member of the prayer chain, you will receive a call regarding a prayer request, and you are asked to call the next person on the prayer chain and then pray the prayer intention requested.

INFANT/TODDLER CARE IS AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS

Two sisters, Hannah Joudrey, age 13, and Alaina Joudrey, age 11, are available on Sunday mornings to

watch our toddlers and provide infant care, as needed. Hannah and Alaina are new members of Calvary Church and are the proud sisters of an 15-week old brother named Kyle. Their parents are Dawn and Jason Joudrey. We are deeply grateful for the help that Hannah and Alaina are providing. Each Sunday, Bible stories are read to the toddlers and action games and perhaps some singing takes place thereby providing the toddlers with their first experience of Sunday School. Of course, if the parents prefer, the children are always welcome in church and are a joy to have in worship. Some parents have mentioned that it is a bit of handful to watch their children and also



worship so the church decided to offer an option of infant/toddler care on Sundays.

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

For 2004, we welcome **Leslie Lemieux and Dennis Kohler** as new members of the Bishop's Committee. Leslie, a life-long Episcopalian, has worked as an administrator for many years and understands the complexities of organizational leadership. She is also Calvary's new secretary and serving on the Bishop's Committee will enable her to be better informed regarding the on-going ministry and life of the church. Denny Kohler, a retired teacher, is co-chair of the Food Closet and has served on the Bishop's Committee previously. He has given generously to Calvary over the years in terms of time, talent, and treasure and we are grateful to have his enthusiasm and charisma on the Bishop's Committee.

NEWSLETTER

Susan Doughty has resigned as the creative director, editor, and compiler of the newsletter. Sue has done Calvary's newsletters for many years and the product she created was of the highest quality. She included numerous warm stories to help round out the newsletter and printed inspiring and helpful quotes and information relevant to our faith journey. It takes considerable thought and time to put together a newsletter of this quality! We extend our gratitude to her for her sacrifice of time for the many years she created the newsletter.

With the resignation of Susan (see "Thank You section), Amy Ricci will now be compiling the newsletter. Thank you, Amy, for volunteering for the position. The deadline for the newsletter is the third Friday of each month. If you have articles to contribute, please send them to Amy. She can be reached as follows:

Mrs. Amy Ricci, 590 Cherry Farm Rd, Harrisville RI 02830

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568-7236 email: amy01115@cox.net

ASAP: A New and Deeper Meaning

Ever wonder about the abbreviation ASAP? Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet; You've got no time to spare,
But as you hurry and you scurry-
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER
In the midst of family chaos, "Quality time" is rare.
Do your best; let God do the rest-
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.
It may seem like all your worries are more than you can bear.
Slow down and take a breather-



ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER
God knows how stressful life is; He
wants to ease our cares,
And He'll respond to all your needs
ASAP- ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

One of the challenges of being both parishioner/secretary (Leslie Lemieux) or parishioner/sexton (Lou Lambert) is that on Sundays people may approach you regarding work related questions or needs. In order to let our

staff (who are also parishioners) worship and focus on prayer and the re-charging of their spiritual batteries, it is best that we not to bring up "work" related issues on Sundays. Also, my mother, Sally Canavan, has begun worshipping at Calvary on a regular basis. It would be easy for you and me to use her as a go-between to communicate. Out of respect for my mother and for the special relationship that my mother and I share, I ask you to please not communicate with me through my mother. Please leave me a note on my desk, or a telephone or e-mail message or communicate with me in person. I am most grateful for your help.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Mary