



Church of the Advent

Celebrating 150 Years

Franklin and Washington Streets

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POSSIBILITIES

I have turned the garden over. I have worked in compost and a bag of my garden center's special barnyard additive. The smell has even gone away. Over the next few weeks I will plant a combination of vegetables. Some will be chosen based on their special character. There is this sweet French radish which I enjoyed last year in a restaurant and then saw it offered by the seed catalog. There are some things that just don't show up at the local markets. There is a kind of runner bean which my grandfather grew and which I swear has more flavor than any other. And there are tomatoes. I know that there will be plenty of tomatoes available at the markets. However, none of them will taste as good as the ones I remember from long ago. So I will grow my own.

I am doing all of this in an exercise of optimism. I could be a cynic. The investment of time and material will probably not give enough return. There is the risk of failure. The voles (or are they moles) will attack my potatoes. Last year's spring rains and then the dry spell that followed played havoc with my garden. And, I was not the only one. I spoke with another priest in the diocese who was lamenting that his radishes had bolted and turned into golf balls. Mine did the same and they were just as hard. I know that the grandchildren will visit and there will be any number of other distractions which keep me from weeding and otherwise paying enough attention to the garden.

All of this being said, I am an optimist. So I have turned the garden over and worked in the compost and fertilizer. These are simple and easy things to do. They are a way to remind myself of what is possible with even a small amount of work. I tend to remember the successes of summers past instead of the failures. But of course this is the time of year for optimists. We really should celebrate the New Year about now because everything is starting. We should; but we don't have enough time.

This is a season of newness and possibility. It is for those who have businesses here at the Shore. Now is the time to anticipate a great season filled with visitors who want to stay, eat and buy something by which to remember Cape May. Now is the season for hopefulness. Of course if they do come we will not admit any of this. Next fall, the question "How was your season?" will be met with a shrug and a "Not bad, not great." Even if the automobile traffic is picking up, this is the season of possibility.

It is no coincidence that we are also in Eastertide, those seven weeks between the great feast of Resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It is all about possibility. It is about being made new. We are gardener and garden, changing and growing. My thought is that we should revel and celebrate all of this— these seasons of possibility. In our relations with each other, this is Easter work.

When we look out at the world it is entirely too easy to be discouraged. Getting to the point where we listen to each other, really listen, seems to be harder. Talking heads who don't listen to each other don't make it any easier. The world is a risk in so many ways with rumors of war, and those for whom aggression is the first response to challenge or difficulty. We have not done such a great job with the Creation which the Lord has entrusted to us. There is more we could do for those who are in need.

Still, it does not take much, does it? Sometimes it is the simplest act of smiling and recognizing the one standing next to you, greeting your sister or brother with a friendly word. It can be more complex, some great project to solve a great problem; and I am all for that. But the work of possibility is also the simpler work of love, care and respect. This is what the season calls us to. It is all possibility, not giving into those who tell us that it is too much, that there is no way we can make a difference. The radishes may turn out as hard as golf balls again this year; but I will try anyway. It is after all a season of new calls, new opportunities, new possibilities. Once again, Happy Eastertide.

--*John*+

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68 CE. According to the New Testament, Jesus met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. It is believed that on the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven. Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season and occurs ten days before Pentecost.

We will celebrate The Solemnity of the Ascension with The Holy Eucharist on Thursday, May 25, at 6:00 PM. Following the service we will meet in the Parish Hall for a salad bar supper. Please join us.

PRESENTATION ON DOROTHY DAY

In September 2015, Pope Francis addressed the joint houses of the U.S. Congress extolling examples of four Americans. He cited Abraham Lincoln as the “guardian of liberty”; Martin Luther King, for championing “political and civil rights”; Thomas Merton, as a “source of spiritual inspiration and a guide for many people”; and Dorothy Day, “the Servant of God . . . who founded the Catholic Worker Movement . . . [and whose] social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed, were inspired by the Gospel, her faith, and the example of the saints.” Please join us between the services on Sunday, May 21, when Sam Wilson will lead a half-hour presentation exploring the life and faith of Dorothy Day, and why Pope Francis singled her out as one of four Americans whose life and works he profiled. Coffee will be served.

FAMILY PROMISE FUNDRAISING DINNER

A free dinner to raise awareness concerning the effects of homelessness on children here in our own backyard will be held June 1, 2017 at Wildwood Country Club, 1170 Golf Club Road, Cape May Court House. A reception begins at 5:00 PM and dinner is served at 6:00 PM. There is no cost, but consider making a donation and learning more about Family Promise. If you are interested call Marrie Cassidy at 609-600-1300 to make reservations. We need to know numbers by May 26.

CAPE MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

The 28th annual Cape May Music Festival will hold four concerts at Church of the Advent during May and June. Parish members may attend these concerts for half price.

Tuesday, May 30 - 8:00 pm

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHAMBER PLAYERS Mendelssohn and Brahms

Thursday, June 1 - 8:00 pm

NEW YORK CHAMBER ENSEMBLE featuring Paul Woodiel

Tuesday, June 6 - 8:00 pm

NEW YORK CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Featuring Alan R. Kay, clarinet

Tuesday, June 13 - 8:00 pm

NEW YORK CHAMBER ENSEMBLE featuring Eddie Barbash, saxophone

Notes from the ECM

The next breakfast meeting of the ECM will be Tuesday, May 9. The meeting begins at 8:30 AM, with coffee ready by 8:00 AM. The cost is \$5.00 and all men of the parish are invited.

Notes from the ECW

The next ECW meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18 at 10:15 AM in the Parish Hall.

ECW RUMMAGE SALE



Spring is here and it is time to clean out closets, attics and basements. The ECW rummage sale will be held on Friday, May 5, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and Saturday, May 6, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Donations of clean, used clothing, household goods, books and linens can be dropped off in the Parish Hall April 30 to May 3. We can always use additional hands to assist with sorting the treasures, so if you would like to help come to the Parish Hall Monday, May 1 through Thursday, May 4 at 9:00 AM.

MAY CHURCH DINNER

The next dinner of this season will be Saturday, May 27. The menu is chicken salad and fried oysters. A vegetarian entrée is also available. All dinners offer coffee, tea and homemade desserts. Guests are welcome to bring beer, wine or soda to accompany their meal. Table service begins at 4:30 PM and continues until 7:00 PM. Take-out meals are also available. The cost is \$15.00 at the door (\$6.00 for children). If you purchase your tickets in advance, the price is \$13.00 (\$6.00 for children). Consider purchasing our 10-meal ticket for \$120.00 (a \$150.00 value).

THE NEXT VESTRY MEETING IS SUNDAY, MAY 21 AT NOON

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Plans are underway for Vacation Bible School at Church of the Advent. The dates are July 18 to 22, 2016 and it will be held in the early evening. If you would like to be a part of the VBS adventure this year, please contact the church office at 884-3065 or adventsecretary@comcast.net. Many small tasks go into creating a successful event, so please do not hesitate to share your talents and interests! We begin our serious planning this month.

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Advent Book Club will be on Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 PM at the home of Glenda and Werner Unzelmann. The book for discussion is Never Caught by Erica Dunbar.



28th ANNUAL CAPE MAY CHOIR WEEK

Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey and Church of the Advent, the program's focus is on learning to use the gift of our voices and enjoy the art of singing. It is open to all youth ages 10 and up, whatever their faith home. The camp begins on Sunday, July 23 and ends on Thursday, July 27 with an Evensong service, to which the community is invited.

For day students the camp will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 5:00 PM. The fee for the week is \$50 (scholarships are available). Students or parents who are interested should contact Church of the Advent, 609-884-3065.

BLESSING PROJECT

From 70 applicants, the Santiago-Garcia family has been chosen to receive one of two homes being built in Cape May County by Habitat for Humanity. We know this family (parents Abigail and Angel, and children Tania, Jay and Mileydi) because we hosted them as part of the Family Promise program. They are so deserving of this house.

We are sponsoring 12 wooden studs that will be part of the framework for their home. The studs are \$50.00 each and will be delivered to our Parish Hall on May 1st. If you would like to participate in this project, you may purchase one of the studs and then write on the stud blessings for the family as well as artwork and Bible verses. Habitat will pick up the studs at the end of May. In August a date will be scheduled for you to meet the family at 311 W. Anna Street, Whitesboro, and see the studs incorporated into the framework of their new home. For additional information please contact Marrie Cassidy 609-600-1300.