

The Candlelighter

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Nebraska City, Nebraska

Valentine's Day Celebration February 14

We will be having a special Valentine's day coffee-hour after the service on Sunday, February 14. Unfortunately, I will not be here that Sunday, but Fr. Joel Lundak will be the celebrant and preacher at the 10:00 service. I hope that everyone will be able to join with Fr. Lundak for this celebration of Valentine's Day on the last Sunday of Epiphany. Be sure to bring your "Valentine" with you.. Fr. Rick

History of Valentine's Day

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day — and its patron saint — is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men — his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl — who may have been his jailor's daughter — who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial — which probably occurred around 270 A.D — others claim that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to 'christianize' celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia festival. In ancient Rome, February was the official beginning of spring and was considered a time for purification. Houses were ritually cleansed by sweeping them out and then sprinkling salt and a type of wheat called spelt throughout their interiors. Lupercalia, which began at the ides of February, February 15, was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at the sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would then sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification.

The boys then sliced the goat's hide into strips, dipped them in the sacrificial blood and took to the streets, gently slapping both women and fields of crops with the goathide strips. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed being touched with the hides because it was believed the strips would make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would then each choose a name out of the urn and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage. Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D. The Roman 'lottery' system for romantic pairing was deemed un-Christian and outlawed. Later, during the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February — Valentine's Day — should be a day for romance. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written by Charles, Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. The greeting, which was written in 1415, is part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England. Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois. - History.com

Lay Ministry Assignments

First Sunday (Feb 7)

Lay Reader(s) Steve Sherrow
 Chalice Bearer Dorothy Royal
 Acolytes Nathan Sherrow, Ashley Churchill
 Mimi Shirley
 Altar Guild Ree Shirley

Second Sunday (Feb 14)

Lay Reader(s) Bert Belding
 Chalice Bearer Ree Shirley
 Acolytes Mimi Shirley, Nathan Sherrow.,
 Ashley Churchill
 Altar Guild Lana Moyer

Third Sunday (Feb 21)

Lay Reader(s) Dorothy Royal
 Chalice Bearer Steve Sherrow
 Acolytes Mimi Shirley, Nathan Sherrow,
 Ashley Churchill
 Altar Guild Diana Dankof

Fourth Sunday (Feb 28)

Lay Reader(s) Bert Belding
 Chalice Bearer Dorothy Royal
 Acolytes Nathan Sherrow, Ashley Churchill,
 Mimi Shirley
 Altar Guild Annette Gaskill

First Sunday (Mar 7)

Lay Reader(s) Steve Sherrow
 Chalice Bearer Dorothy Royal
 Acolytes Nathan Sherrow, Ashley Churchill,
 Mimi Shirley
 Altar Guild Karen Churchill

Monthly Readings (RCL Yr C)

Feb 7 Sexagesima

Isaiah 6: 1-8, (9-13)
 Psalm 138
 1 Corinthians 5:1-11
 Luke 5: 1-11

Feb 14 Quinquagesima

Exodus 34: 29-35
 Psalm 99
 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4 :2
 Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43)

Feb 21 1 Lent

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
 Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16
 Romans 10: 8b-13
 Luke 4: 4-13

Feb 28 2 Lent

Genesis 15: 15-12, 17-18
 Psalm 27
 Philippians 3: 17-4:1
 Mark 9: 38-50

Mar 7 3 Lent

Exodus 3:1-15
 Psalm 63: 1-8
 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
 Luke 13: 1-9

Birthdays

- Feb. 2 Carmen Miyoshi
- Feb. 4 Noah Barton
- Feb. 5 Megan Belding Miller
Jacob Sherrow
- Feb. 6 Gladys Pierce
- Feb. 7 Vladimir Adryan
- Feb. 12 Brad Meyer
Xander Packett
- Feb. 15 Bill Whitesel
Cathy Bare
- Feb. 18 Joan Sterner
- Feb. 19 Tammy Churchill
- Feb. 20 Eva Marie Wright
- Feb. 21 Kip Colegrove
- Feb. 24 Jaymi Victor
- Feb. 26 Robert Valdez

Anniversary

- Feb. 19 Byron and Nancy Meyer

Alleluia Fund




If you have not already done so, please consider giving generously to the Diocese of Nebraska Alleluia Fund. More information about the wonderful ministry work made possible by your gift can be found at www.episcopal-ne.org

February 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8:00pm AA Meeting	2	3 9:30am Morning Prayer 5:30pm Eucharist	4 8:30am WIC Meeting (all day)	5 5:30pm Eucharist	6
7 10:00am Eucharist 7:00pm AA Meeting	8 8:00pm AA Meeting	9	10 9:30am Morning Prayer 5:30pm No Eucharist Service	11 8:30am WIC Meeting (all day)	12 5:30pm Eucharist	13
14 10:00am Eucharist 7:00pm AA Meeting	15 8:00pm AA Meeting	16 5:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7:00pm Vestry Meeting	17 Lent 9:30am Morning Prayer 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes	18 Lent 8:30am WIC Meeting (all day)	19 Lent 5:30pm Stations of the Cross & Eucharist	20 Lent
21 Lent 10:00am Eucharist 1:00pm Grace Church-Eucharist 7:00pm AA Meeting	22 Lent 8:00pm AA Meeting	23 Lent 5:30pm DOK Meeting 6:30pm ECW Meeting	24 Lent 9:30am Morning Prayer 5:30pm Eucharist	25 Lent 8:30am WIC Meeting (all day)	26 Lent 5:30pm Stations of the Cross & Eucharist	27 Lent
28 Lent 10:00am Eucharist 7:00pm AA Meeting						

March 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Lent 8:00pm AA Meeting	2 Lent	3 Lent 9:30am Morning Prayer 5:30pm Eucharist	4 Lent 8:30am WIC Meeting (all day)	5 Lent 5:30pm Stations of the Cross & Eucharist	6 Lent
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28 10:00am Palm Sunday Eucharist 7:00pm AA Meeting	29 Holy Week 8:00pm AA Meeting	30 Holy Week	31 Holy Week 9:30am Morning Prayer 5:30pm Tenebrae Service			

Upcoming Events



**Men of the Church
Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
February 16, 2010
5pm to 7pm
Contact Frank Royal
873-9389**

Bingo at the Ambassador
February
Mondays
2pm to 3pm
If you would like to help.
Please call
Ruth Asboe at 873-5287

Church Women United
World Day of Prayer
March 5, 2010
Friday
Bethel United Church of Christ

LENT SERVICE SCHEDULE

Feb 17—Ash Wednesday	Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes	6:30
Wed During Lent	Holy Communion	5:30
Fridays During Lent	Stations of the Cross & And Holy Communion	5:30

From the Episcopal Handbook

Lent: From the Anglo-Saxon for *ōspringō*; the penitential 40-day season (excluding Sundays) before Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday. Symbolic of Christ's 40 days in the wilderness. Lent is traditionally the season when candidates prepare for Holy Baptism, which is celebrated at the Easter Vigil.

Food Pantry

St. Mary's collects items for the Food Pantry to be given the 1st Sunday of the month. For March the Food Pantry is requesting, **can fruit, tuna, soup, and personal care items.** The Food Pantry will accept other food items too, or a donation of money.

The place God calls you...is the place where your deep gladness meets the world's needs.

Frederick Buechner

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410



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The Diocese
of Nebraska
GROWING OUR CHURCH

Address

Come Join us at St. Mary's Episcopal Church

If you are new to Nebraska City, or plan on visiting, we hope you will consider visiting St. Mary's to join us in our worship services; or perhaps you will consider joining us as a permanent member of our parish family.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Service Schedule

Wednesday	Morning Prayer	9:30 am
Wednesday	Holy Communion	5:30pm
Friday	Holy Communion	5:30pm
Sunday	Holy Communion	10:00am

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

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E-mail: rector@stmarysepiscopal-nebcity.org

The Rt. Rev Joe G. Burnett.....Bishop
The Rev. Rick Swenson.....Priest in Charge
Mrs. Diana Dankof.....Senior Warden
Mr. Frank Royal.....Junior Warden
Ms. Jaymi Victor.....Accountant, Organist

Visit our webpage— <http://stmarysepiscopal-nebcity.org>