

# ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2

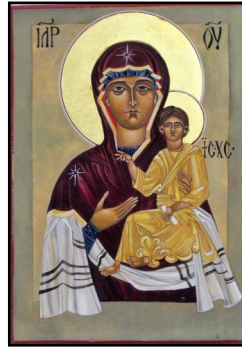
FEBRUARY 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SOON TO BE RECTOR

I've just returned from a week-long mission trip to Mexico, where a group of us stayed in the dormitory of a pre-school set up by the local Anglican church to care for children who would otherwise spend their time on the floor of their parent's booths in the marketplace. I'm no use with tools, so it was the perfect kind of mission trip for me! Instead of building things, we wiped noses and changed diapers. We played games and tried to explain in broken Spanish that animal crackers are way more at home in your mouth than smashed into the floor. And I was reminded just how arresting a thing it is to hold a baby in your arms. I'm not yet a father, so it is still a profound thing for me to hold a human life, in all its potential and promise. Like primordial priests wrapped in cotton blankets, babies remind us that there is hope. They minister in a pre-verbal love, in a way that words or actions cannot.

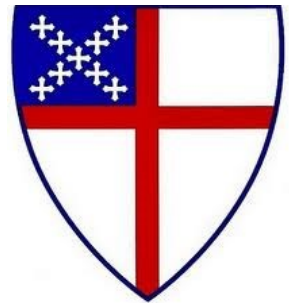
In our Gospel of February 2nd, Mary and Joseph brought their infant, now six weeks old, to the Temple to be dedicated. And there they encountered two really holy senior citizens: a devout and righteous man named Simeon and an 84 year-old woman named Anna. Simeon and Anna were looking for salvation, trusting that even in the midst of Roman occupation, that God was still faithful to God's promises. They kept an eye out, and they got to hold salvation in their arms.

My last day in Mexico, I invited myself over to a master iconographer's workshop where I was gifted an icon portraying the *hodegetria*, meaning "she who points the way." Mary is very rarely portrayed in iconography without the Christ child. Most of the time, she's shown embracing the infant Jesus tightly, their cheeks touching in a display of great intimacy. But in the *hodegetria*, Mary looks right at you, and with outstretched hands points towards her child, who is "the way, the truth and the light." But this iconographer, Mary Jane Miller, gave me her special take on this image, where Christ is not just pointed to, but handed over to the person looking at the image. It's almost as if Mary is saying, "Hold onto this baby for a moment, because this baby is for you."



As I've been praying with this image, I am filled with Anna and Simeon's gratitude. I haven't yet come to any greater revelation, and maybe that's ok. Just holding on tightly to the hope and possibility is enough for now. We have been given such a great gift, and I am so very thrilled to have been called to minister among you. Together we will hold this Christ child in our arms and "work out our salvation with fear and trembling"...in kindness, in protest, in study, in confession, in forgiveness and in a shared meal. And I can't think of any greater call.

Yours in Christ,  
Charlie+



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

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**A LETTER FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN**

By Leif Peterson

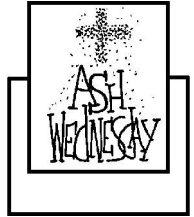
Dear Friends,

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 26th. Ash Wednesday is, of course, the beginning of Lent, the forty-day season (not counting Sundays) representing the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and praying before starting his public ministry.

I find it very fitting that during this time, our new rector will also be preparing for his new ministry with us. I guarantee that the association has not been lost on him.

I suggest that during this austere season, we, as a community of God, join with Charlie in preparing for our new ministry together, because it will most definitely be a joint venture. Remember, one of the early things that Jesus did after starting his public ministry was round up his disciples. He wasn't a loner; he knew how important it was to have a team. Charlie gets a bit of a free ride here because we have already been "rounded up," but I know he knows, like Jesus, that we don't do anything alone in this world.

I know we are all incredibly excited to have a new rector at the helm of our little church. But let's remember during this prayerful season that we are not being led by Charlie; we are walking diligently alongside him.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

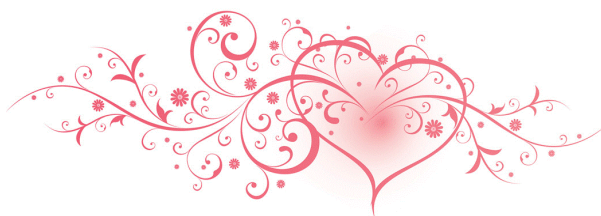
The Rector Search Committee has received a number of questions about our process and candidates. Of course, the names of the applicants must remain confidential, but we thought the parish would be interested in knowing some information about the process now that we have selected our new rector.

We had twelve (12) people who applied for the rector position at All Saints'. There were international applicants as well as potential candidates from ten states.

The committee reviewed the application materials and listened to sermons of the applicants to narrow down the field to the ones to be interviewed. We also learned about them through internet searches and references. Interviews were conducted over Skype so the candidates could see the committee members and we could see them. Candidates were evaluated against the priorities established from the results of the parish survey. After prayerful consideration, the committee submitted a slate of three candidates to the Vestry, who approved and submitted the slate to the diocese for background checks and diocesan approval.

Before on-site visits could be arranged, one of the three on the slate accepted a call to another congregation, which left the two candidates who visited our church. When one of the candidates was no longer available, the search committee discussed adding another candidate to the slate. The committee agreed that we were very happy with the remaining two candidates and decided not to make a change. From there, the Vestry took over the discernment process and asked the search committee to organize the visits with the two candidates.

During the process, we learned much about the hopes and desires of the congregation from the surveys, and this was reflected in the parish profile. We also came to know one another and to deepen our relationships. We are excited to start the next chapter at All Saints' with Father Charlie as our rector.



## CALLING ALL QUILTERS

By Kathy Thomas

All Saints' quilters will work on Grace Camp Quilts on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 5th, 6th and 7th.

Grace Camp is a free summer session at Camp Marshall for children with a parent in prison. There is no cost to attend Grace Camp, but your child must be registered in advance.

During the week at Grace Camp time is spent swimming, worshipping together, stand up paddle boarding, fishing, painting, singing, stargazing, making s'mores, hiking, laughing and enjoying the beautiful Flathead Lake.

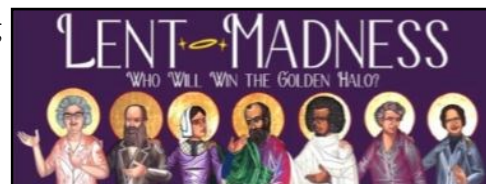
Each camper is sent home with a home made quilt.

If you are interested in helping to make quilts for Grace Camp, please contact Kathy Thomas. Her number is 406-892-4619.



## LENT MADNESS

For the last 6 years All Saints' Lenten devotion has been participating in Lent Madness. Lent Madness began in 2010 by Rev. Tim Schenck. He began a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the saints who have come before us and inspired us. Thirty-two saints are placed in tournament-style, single-elimination brackets. Over 5 weeks we select the saints who should go forward in the brackets until a winner of the Golden Halo is selected.



We will each receive "The Definitive Guide to Lent Madness-Saintly Scorecard". We have always had fun learning about the saints who have gone before. Please join us and root for your favorite saint.

This year Lent Madness will be **Wednesdays March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1**. We will begin at 5:30 for soup suppers and at 6:00, the fun will begin.

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES FEBRUARY 26, 2020



**On February 26, 2020 Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday.**

**This particular observation, in which a season is given over to self examination, prayer, and repentance, dates back to the Seventh Century. It originally began on a Sunday. Because there was a desire to make it forty week days for fasting (Sunday always is a feast day and the fast is broken.) four extra days were added a few centuries later and that was the advent of Ash Wednesday. On that day we will have three services, one at the Springs at 10:00 in Whitefish, another at All Saints' Church at Noon, and a third for children and youth (contact the church office for more information). All services will have the imposition of ashes, reminding us of our mortal nature, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, reminding us even more importantly of our companionship with one another and with God, through Christ, as well as our living in the midst of eternal life. You are invited to attend and begin your pilgrimage through Lent.**



## LABOR OF LOVE-ALL SAINTS' YOUTH

Middle school and high school youth are invited to go on a day trip to Camp Marshall to help with annual clean up and to participate in youth activities with youth groups from Kalispell and Missoula. We will meet in the parking lot of All Saints' on Saturday, April 4, at 9:30 am and carpool to Camp Marshall, where we will participate in work, fun and food (lunch will be provided). We will leave Camp Marshall at 3:30 pm to return to All Saints' between 4:30 and 5:00 pm. Parents with younger children are encouraged to attend with their kids and participate as well. For more information, contact Cynthia at 406-261-9636 or at [cgraine@montanasky.us](mailto:cgraine@montanasky.us).



## SAINTS AND SAGES -The Desert Fathers and Mothers

By Beth Stamm

For the first 300 years, Christians worshiped in believer's homes or by places where they would not be seen. That all changed in 313 AD, when the Roman Emperor Constantine made Christianity the state religion with the Edict of Milan. Suddenly, being Christian raised a person's social status. The original Christians found themselves bewildered and confused. While they were free to pursue their faith without persecution, they also had to share Christianity with people who made no sense to them; people who were Christians in name and social status rather than by belief.



Some Christians left the cities and went to the desert of present-day Egypt, Syria and Palestine. Then, as now, even longed-for change, can be confusing.

Eventually, from confusion came wisdom and tradition. The Desert Abbas and Ammas (Fathers and Mothers) began their lives alone (monos > monks), in caves, huts, or trees but soon large communities of people hungry for their teaching sprang up around them. No one knows for certain how many people lived in the Desert but the historian Palladius tells us there were 2,975 women in addition to men and children. His *Historia Lausiaca* is the seminal work recording their apothegms (teachings). Today, about 3000 apothegms survive.

Abba Nilus said, "Do not be always wanting everything to turn out as you think it should, but rather as God pleases, then you will be undisturbed and thankful in your prayers."

Amma Sarah said, "If I prayed to God that all men should approve of my conduct, I would find myself repenting at the door of each one. Rather I pray that my heart may be pure towards all."

Abba Anthony saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and said groaning, "What can get through from such snares?" Then he heard a voice saying to him, "Humility."

For more information, see <https://christdesert.org>, Thomas Merton (1970) *The Wisdom of the Desert*, and Palladius of Galatia (419-420) *Historia Lausiaca* (Eng Tr.) or [http://www.tertullian.org/fathers/palladius\\_lausiaca\\_02\\_text](http://www.tertullian.org/fathers/palladius_lausiaca_02_text)



**SHROVE TUESDAY**

ALL ARE INVITED TO A



Tuesday, February 25th, 2020

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Memorial Hall

All Saints' Episcopal Church  
2048 Conn Rd.  
Columbia Falls, Montana



Serving:

Huckleberry Pancakes  
Sausage  
Bacon  
Veggie Sausage

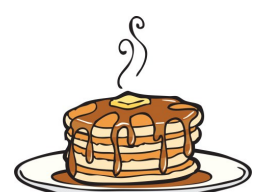
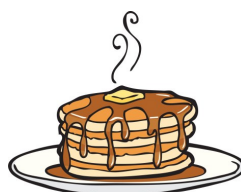
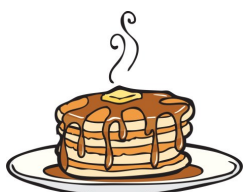
Bring family, friends and guests to enjoy one another's company and devour delicious pancakes, bacon and sausage served up by All Saints' cadre of volunteer cooks.

So what is Shrove Tuesday? It's the day before Ash Wednesday when Lent begins. The name "shrove" comes from the old middle English word "shriven" meaning to go to confession.

There are other names for this day, including Pancake Day, Mardi Gras, and Fat Tuesday.

It originates from the old custom of using up all the fattening ingredients in the house so that people were ready to fast during Lent. The fattening ingredients that most people had in their houses in those day were eggs and milk which, as it turns out, are pretty easily turned into pancakes!

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this delicious occasion!



## TALENT SEARCH FOR 2020 CHILI OPEN TRAILER



# 2020 Chili Open video trailer

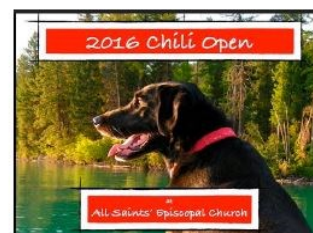
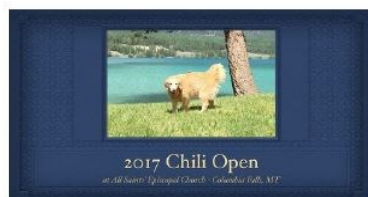


*Would you like to see your favorite pets in this year's Chili Open trailer?*

*Send videos or pictures to Shawn at*

*[allsaintsmt@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsmt@gmail.com)*

*please send them no later than  
February 14th, 2020.*



## INFAMOUS CHILI OPEN RETURNS!



# 13th Annual Chili Open

*We coaxed Bradley out of retirement to organize the 13th Annual Chili Open, our golf tournament in the snow, silent auction, and party to raise funds for 4 local animal agencies.*

*This year we're trying something a little different  
We're spreading out the fun over two weekends:*

***Pre-Party - Friday, March 13th, 2020 at Silverbrook Estates Clubhouse***

***Golfing - Saturday, March 21st, 2020 at All Saints' Episcopal Church***

*So save the dates and start putting your foursomes together.*

*Watch for more information headed your way soon!*



# FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Services at 9 and 11 am	3	4	5 10 am service at The Springs	6 Noon service at AS	7	8
9 Services at 9 and 11 am	10	11	11 10 am service at The Springs	13 Noon service at AS	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15
16 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry Meeting 12:30	17	18	19 10 am service at The Springs	20 Noon service at AS	21	22
23 Services at 9 and 11 am	24	25 SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER 4:30-6:00	26 ASH WEDNESDAY 10 am service at The Springs Noon-All Saints ASY-TBD	27 Noon service at AS	28	29

## DONATED ART WORK STILL AVAILABLE

Many thanks to Chris and Dave Brushwood for the wonderful donation of art work. Three of the pieces are still available to purchase and are on display in the Christian Education room in Memorial Hall. Bids are being taken.

Please note, the print has a window reflection from a church window and is not on the actual piece of art.



Belton Station on the Great Northern Railroad

By Jan Sandefur

36" wide x 23" tall

Asking price \$200



Glacier National Park print

By Art Wolf

38" long x 26" wide

Asking price \$125



Lake McDonald w/ Canoers

By Sheryl Bodily

17" x 18"

Asking price \$500

## ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

**Church location:**  
2048 Conn Road  
Columbia Falls, MT

**Church mailing address:**  
PO Box 1923  
Whitefish, MT 59937

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Parish Office Administrator: Shawn Sloan  
E-mail: [allsaintsmt@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsmt@gmail.com)

Christian Formation Minister/Children and Youth: Cynthia Benkelman  
[cgraine@montanasky.us](mailto:cgraine@montanasky.us)  
406-261-9636

All Saints' website: [www.allsaintsmt.org](http://www.allsaintsmt.org)

*Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus forever. and ever.*

**Find us here:**

**Just click on the link!**

**Facebook link:** <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt>

**YouTube link:** [http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ\\_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzda](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzda)

**Webpage link:** <http://www.allsaintsmt.org>

### Vestry Members

Senior Warden: Leif Peterson  
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman  
Treasurer: Carl Thomas  
Clerk: Kathy Thomas  
Cynthia Benkelman  
Betsy Paugh  
Jan Rayford  
Heidi Sobczak  
Henry Stamm

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