



**SPIRIT of GRACE**

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**What Does Valentine’s Day Mean for The Church?**

Flowers, candy, pretty cards, gifts, love and romance are in the air...that’s what Valentine’s Day is all about...right? At least, that is what the celebration has become in our modern-day society. Have you ever found yourself asking, what is the real story behind Valentine’s Day, and who is this St. Valentine anyway? Read on, beloved! Most sources believe that Saint Valentine’s Day began with a feast in honor of an early Christian martyr named Valentinus and is celebrated in mid-February to coincide with his burial. Some believe it may also be celebrated at this time in an effort to “Christianize” the pagan Roman celebration of Lupercalia, which was a fertility festival related to agriculture, while others deny this link.

Saint Valentinus is remembered as a loving, compassionate, and heroic person. He was a priest during the time when the Emperor Claudius II of Rome was persecuting the church, around 250 AD. Claudius had issued an edict that young men were not to marry because single men made better soldiers. They would not be distracted by thoughts and care of their loved ones but instead could focus all their energy on their call to duty. In the very permissive society of that day (polygamy was popular), the church still viewed marriage as sacred between one man and one woman. Valentinus believed those who were in love should be able to marry within the Christian church and remain monogamous. Valentinus saw marriage as a sacrament that brought two people together in a way to experience and live into the love of Christ more fully. He defied the emperor’s orders and performed marriages in secret. Valentinus was eventually caught, imprisoned, tortured, and ultimately killed for performing forbidden marriages and for ministering to Christians. Legend says that while Valentinus was in prison, he prayed with and saw the healing of the blind daughter of his jailer Asterius. Asterius and his entire household are said to have come to Christian faith because of the miracle performed through Valentinus. It is widely believed that before his execution, Valentinus wrote a farewell letter to Asterius’ daughter signed “Your Valentinus.” This was the first “valentine.”

**What It Means Today:** The celebration of Saint Valentine’s Day has evolved from sending letters, poems, and homemade paper valentines to loved ones to a lucrative business for card publishers, florists, chocolatiers, and jewelers. While the celebration has become more materialistic, we can grasp the opportunity to show our love and concern for others through acts of kindness and compassion. We can share God’s love with the world around us. We can make something good out of this special day.

**COFFEE HOSTS**

- 5 & 12
- Lynch & Robertson
- 19
- Sample
- 26
- Martindale

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cara Borland, Chris Kang, Rick Hardy, Jeanie Slates, Kevin Aguilar
- 2 Sherrie Stinnett, Gabe Castleberry, Grant Lasley 3 Marty Bennett
- 4 Tracy Rogers
- 5 Sandy Swingle, Cambry Erdman, Luci Dickinson-Hoffman
- 6 Jennifer Rhymer, Donald Saimon
- 8 Glenna Broadway, Charlotte Willingham 9 Peyton Lynch
- 10 Dean Dankelson
- 12 Sheridan Phelps 13 Dorothy Bay
- 14 Norma Ovalle
- 16 John Wampler, Karen Newport, AJ Rhymer
- 17 Susan Ross, Diann Hays, Julie Dickinson-Hoffman, Ty Hunter, Emma Slates
- 18 Dennis Martin, Karen Rouse, Bonnie Tolle, Elizabeth Cook
- 19 Ann Ulmer, Sharon Hopper
- 20 Piper Pierce, Savannah Weber
- 21 Rick Stuart, Sue Neely
- 22 Quentin Sprengle, Veronica Sprengle, Jim Wakefield, Jeff Lasley, Faith Escobar 24 Bonnie Pugh
- 25 Mel Anderson, Max Hill
- 26 Chip Marsden, Austin Rhymer, Scott Sawyer

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Tom & Anita Flanigan
- 3 John & Margaret Wampler
- 8 Tim & Julie Putnam
- 11 Tony & Pat Leiker
- 21 Dale & Idell Looney

## Vestry Update

The Vestry met on Tuesday, January 17th for a brief meeting. The treasurer provided the end of year statement for the parish that indicated that 2022 ended with a surplus budget. The Vestry retreat that is to take place on February 18th was briefly discussed with the members so that they can have an idea of what to expect at this meeting. There was a \$1,500 approval made for a new computer for the accounting office. The motion was made and passed for the Sunday, February 12th offering to be designated to the Absalom Jones Foundation. The Absalom Jones Foundation is an Episcopal organization that supports Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The Vestry then moved into executive session.

**New or visiting Grace for the first time? Or if you want to update your information. Scan the**



## The PARISH PRAYER LIST

*St Luke's:* Louise Barton, Johnna Collins, Tom Huntley, Mary Lambert, JoAnn Pritchard

*Oak Pointe:* Nancy Frerer, Richard Goolsby, Lida McCulloch

*Wildwood:* Helen Moss

*Moberly:* Eric Adams      *OKC:* Kay Graham

*Lockwood:* Edith Walters      *College View:* Carolyn Johnson, Roger & Sherrie Stinnett

*Parishioners:* Delores Arner, Chesney Family, Gary Cole, Lynette Gass, Marilyn Kelley, Frank Lane, Dale Looney, Jinny Martindale, Rick Olson, Sam Platt, Susan Ross, Karen Rouse, Vincent Wilkowski, Hans Ytell

*Current:* Jim Bracht, Alyson Brown, Tom Brown, Sue Butler, Della Castillo, Janet Chambers, Pat Chambers, Heather Dabney, Nelle Hoenshell, Emily Jenkins, Bob Karaker, Mtr. Anne Kyle, Tammy Larimore, John McAfee, Terry Michael, Chelsea Miley, A'Donna Mortimer, Tony Nail, Gladys Newport, SuAnn Newport, Sue Noah, Gina Oehlschlager, Bryan O'Moore, Lara Smith, Joyce Spencer, Brenda Weir, Ellen Wolf, Mr England

## SAVE the DATE FEBRUARY

18 Vestry Retreat, 9—3 pm

21 Mardi Gras-Fat Tuesday, serving 5-7  
It's called Fat Tuesday **because it's the last day that many people eat meat and fatty foods before Lent begins.**

Today, Mardi Gras season in New Orleans is a time of merry-making and festivity.

22 Ash Wed, services 7 am, noon, & 6 pm

22 Folding Party, 3 pm

23 Education Meeting, 5:30 pm

## CONGRATULATIONS...

Wedding of Katie Pence & Kylor McCartney, Dec 17

Baptism of Autry Mae Atwood, daughter of Colt & Quincy, Jan 8

Birth of Lochlan Joseph, son of Mike & Kirsten Saiz, Jan 20

## FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Kathy Conrow, parishioner, requiem Jan 27

Richard Hardwieke, brother of Jeanne Goolsby

## ALTAR FLOWER SCHEDULE

5 Jeff & Chalaine Bell, Bret Cameron

12 Kevin & Trish Charleston

19 Shirley Gollhofer

## SAINT & FEAST DAYS

2 Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, 6 pm

22 Ash Wed, 7 am, Noon, & 6 pm

24 St Mathias, 10 am

## Prefer to give online?

You can make donations or pledge payments from your checking account via PayPal or with any major credit or debit card. Please note that the donation will be directed to The Diocese of West Missouri's account, but they will absorb all the processing costs and forward your full donation to us. **Don't forget to fill out the "optional Write a Note" to tell us what you would like it to go towards!**



## UN SACERDOTE CONTRA EL PODER

Pero el origen de la historia del personaje de Valentín se sitúa en la Roma del siglo III, cuando el cristianismo comenzaba a extenderse. En esos momentos gobernaba el emperador Claudio II el Gótico, que promulgó una ley por la cual prohibía casarse a los jóvenes para que pudieran alistarse en el ejército. Al no estar de acuerdo con dicha ley, un joven sacerdote llamado Valentín decidió desafiar la prohibición del emperador y empezó a celebrar matrimonios en secreto entre jóvenes enamorados, además de lograr que muchos se convirtieran al cristianismo y asistir a los presos antes de ser torturados y ejecutados.

Tras ser descubierto, Valentín fue arrestado y confinado en una mazmorra, donde el oficial encargado de su custodia le retó a devolverle la vista a su hija Julia que había nacido ciega. El joven sacerdote aceptó el reto y en nombre de Dios devolvió la vista a la joven, con lo cual logró que el oficial y toda su familia se convirtieran al cristianismo. A pesar del milagro, Valentín siguió preso, y el 14 de febrero del año 269 fue lapidado y decapitado. La leyenda cuenta que Valentín, enamorado de Julia, envió una nota de despedida a la muchacha en la que firmaba: "De tu Valentín", de ahí la expresión anglosajona con la que se firman las cartas de amor: "From your Valentine". Julia, agradecida, plantó un almendro que dio hermosas flores rosadas junto a la tumba de su amado, de ahí el simbolismo de este árbol para expresar el amor y la amistad duraderos.

Siglos después Valentín fue elevado a los altares, y en el año 494 el papa Gelasio I declaró el 14 de febrero, el día de su martirio, como el día de San Valentín. Enterrado a las afueras de Roma, en la vía Flaminia —un lugar que sería más tarde conocido como Puerta de San Valentín—, su tumba se convirtió en lugar de peregrinaje durante la Edad Media.

Ya en 1969, bajo el pontificado de Pablo VI y tras el Concilio Vaticano II, san Valentín fue eliminado del calendario católico ante las dudas que existían sobre el origen pagano de su historia. Desde entonces, la Iglesia dedica el 14 de febrero a la advocación de los santos Cirilo y Metodio. Así, el 14 de febrero pasó a ser una fecha con santo, pero sin celebración, hasta que el consumismo del siglo XX lo eligió como el día ideal para incrementar las compras.

## MARDI GRAS

Coming up at the end of this month is one of my favorite events of the year. MARDI GRAS!!! That's French for "Fat Tuesday." Growing up Mardi Gras was a big deal in our household. The church I was born and raised in, St. James Episcopal Church, Springfield, held a huge rocking party every year on Fat Tuesday. Red beans and rice, beads, masks, a live band, king cake, decorations, shoebox floats, the works! Now, as an adult I continue to look forward to the celebrations folks will have leading up to and culminating on Mardi Gras, and I refuse to eat pancakes or have any sort of dismal affair on such a glorious day. The origins of Mardi Gras date back many hundreds of years to the celebrations of *Carnival*. However, it has taken different forms and shapes and meanings over the years. Mostly due to the culture that develops in and around the celebrations. For instance, the slaves of not all that long ago under French colonial power used the celebrations as an opportunity to don masks that ridiculed and made fun of their enslavers. In a sense, these celebrations gave opportunities to voice and give agency to the most under heard folks of a culture or area. Many modern folks celebrate the Mardi Gras season, which formally begins on the day of Epiphany, with excessive drinking and debauchery as their sole focus. Unfortunately missing the opportunity to use the celebratory season as a way to live into the joys and hopes of our God, and the promises ahead of us, and to purposely indulge in the blessings of God in order to enter into a Holy Lent. It's an opportunity to set aside our individual selves and join in the fun and goodness of being apart of community. A way for us to revel in and look ahead to the resurrection of our Lord prior to our journey through Lent. It is important to play and have fun and indulge (responsibly) in the blessings of this life before we are reminded, *memento mori*, that we are dust and to dust we shall return. ***Laissez les bons temps rouler*** ("Let the good times roll").

**ELECTED VESTRY 2023 MEMBERS**



**ANDY  
LYNCH**

**JEANIE  
SLATES**

**MIKE  
ROBERTSON**

**ELAINE  
WURST**

**DELEGATES**

**GET TO KNOW YOUR REPRESENTATIVES**

**Cindy Chilton**

**Becky Edds**

**Chuck Edds**

**Mark Jones**

**Debby Orr**

**Jennifer Rhymer**

**Mark Sponaugle**

**Zelma Watts**

**Elisa White**

**ALTERNATES**

**Shirley Gollhofer**

**Michael Goolsby**

**Regina Newport**

**Spencer J.T. Orr**

**VESTRY OFFICERS FOR 2023**

**Zelma Watts, Senior Warden**

**Austin Rhymer, Jr. Warden**

**Elisa White, Clerk**

**Larry McGuire, Treasurer**

**TEA & THEE LADIES**

**FELLOWSHIP:**

**Every Wed, 10 am**

**BIBLE STUDY:**

**Every Thurs, 11 am**

In-person or via Zoom (link sent weekly to email list)

**FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP:**

**Every Thurs, 3 pm**

Pull up a chair and make new friends!

**MEN of GRACE FELLOWSHIP**

**1st & 3rd Sat, in Feb, 9 am**

Men of the parish are invited to join in the fellowship and activities.

**VESTRY**

**3rd Tuesday, 5:30 pm**

**CAREGIVERS TOGETHER**

**4th Tuesday, 3 pm**

**FOLDING NEWSLETTER**

**Tues, Feb 22, 3 pm**

**“SOUPER BOWL SOUP DRIVE”**

St Martha’s Guild invites everyone to bring an offering of canned soup and/or boxes of crackers beginning, Mon, Jan 30th, until Super Bowl Sunday (Feb 12th) and to place your “vote” for who you think will win the big game! All items will be donated to Carthage Crisis Center.

**Know How to Knit or Crochet?**

**Or Interested in Learning**

Sign up sheet in Parish House

For more info contact Madi Kyger

417-388-2349

**St Luke’s would like;**

Current Magazines, Large Print Books, and copies of “Where the Crawdad Sings”

**Senior Taxes**

The VITA Tax program for seniors and low income families will be available by appointment starting on February 2nd at the Senior Center on 3rd Street here in Carthage.

(417)358-4741 or if you have any other questions you may contact

Sandy Swingle

**Committee Heads Meeting**

On February 9th at 5:30pm there will

be a meeting for all the heads of committees. This will give us an opportunity to meet one another and discover how we may best serve our church community together.

**MINISTERS of WORSHIP: FEBRUARY**

**Wed, Feb 1: 6 pm**

*Reader:* Regina Newport  
*Chalice:* Jory Mertens  
*Sacristan:* Elisa White

**Fri, Feb 3: 10 am**

*Sacristan:* Sue Neely

**Sat, Feb 4: 9 am & 5 pm**

*Reader/Chalice:* Bill Putnam  
*Sacristan:* Elisa White

**V EPIPHANY**

**Sun, Feb 5: 8 am**

*Reader:* Ashley Rouse  
*Prayers/Chalice:* Dean Dankelson  
*Server:*

*Sacristan:* Elisa White

**10:30 am**

*OT:* Barbara Mountjoy  
*NT/Chalice:* Elaine Wurst  
*Prayers/Chalice:* Jory Mertens  
*Mentor:* Shawnda Eley  
*Server:* Tyrese Hill

*Cross:*

*Torches:* Lincoln & Barrett Cook

*Sacristan:* Elisa White

*AV:* Elisa White

*Ushers:* Larry & Ruth Hartman

*Flower Delivery:* Ann Ulmer &  
Pat Brown

**Wed, Feb 8: 6 pm**

*Reader/Chalice:* Jon Haffner  
*Sacristan:* Beth McDaniel

**Fri, Feb 10: 10 am**

*Sacristan:* Sue Neely

**Sat, Feb 11: 9 am**

*Sacristan:* Beth McDaniel

**5 pm**

*Reader/Chalice:* Michael Goolsby

*Sacristan:* Beth McDaniel

**VI EPIPHANY**

**Sun, Feb 12: 8 am**

*Reader/Chalice/Server:* Bill Putnam

*Prayers:* Shirley Gollhofer

*Sacristan:* Beth McDaniel

**10:30 am**

*OT:* Paige Rhymer

*NT/Chalice:* Austin Rhymer

*Prayers/Chalice:* Mark Sponaugle

*Mentor:* Kirby Newport

*Cross:* Alana Harris

*Server:* Olivia Pierce

*Torches:* Brooklyn & Allie Rhymer

*Sacristan:* Beth McDaniel

*AV:* Jennifer Rhymer

*Ushers:* Max Hill & Steve Erwin

*Flower Delivery:* Zelma Watts &  
Julie Anderson

**Wed, Feb 15: 6 pm**

*Reader/Chalice:* Jory Mertens

*Sacristan:* Beth McDaniel

**Fri, Feb 17: 10 am**

*Sacristan:* Sue Neely



**Sat, Feb 18: 9 am**

*Sacristan:* Becky Edds

**5 pm**

*Reader/Chalice:* Michael Goolsby

*Sacristan:* Becky Edds

**LAST EPIPHANY**

**Sun, Feb 19: 8 am**

*Reader:* Nancy Dymott

*Prayers:* Jacqui Johnson

*Chalice:* Dean Dankelson

*Server:*

*Sacristan:* Becky Edds

**10:30 am**

*OT/Chalice:* Ruth Hartman

*NT:* Regina Newport

*Prayers/Chalice:* Larry Hartman

*Mentor:* Elisa White

*Servers:* A J Rhymer

*Cross:* Connor Wilkowski

*Torches:* Barrett & Lincoln Cook

*Ushers:* Chris Orr & Tom Flanigan

*Sacristan:* Becky Edds

*AV:* Jim Wakefield

*Flower Delivery:* Diann Ferguson &

Cathy Thompson

**ASH WED, Feb 22**

**7 am** *Sacristan:* Elisa White

**Noon** *Sacristan:* Connie Leek

**6 pm**

*Reader:* AJ Rhymer

*Chalice:* Austin Rhymer

*Sacristan:* Becky Edds

**Fri, Feb 24, 10 am**

*Sacristan:* Sue Neely

**Sat, Feb 25: 9 am**

*Sacristan:* Connie Leek

**5 pm**

*Reader:* Glenda Erwin

*Chalice: Sacristan:* Connie Leek

**I LENT Sun, Feb 26: 8 am**

*Reader:* Jacqui Johnson

*Prayers:* Shirley Gollhofer

*Chalice/Server:* Bill Putnam

*Sacristan:* Connie Leek

**10:30 am**

*OT:* Brian Jones

*NT/Chalice:* Michael Goolsby

*Prayers/Chalice:* Andy Lynch

*Mentor:* Melissa Stremke

*Server:* Tristan Lynch

*Cross:* Trenton Lynch

*Torches:* Peyton Lynch &

Carson Stremke

*Ushers:* Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

*Sacristan:* Connie Leek

*AV:* Mike Robertson &

Brooklyn Rhymer

## DAILY READINGS in FEBRUARY 2023

Wed, Feb 1: *Isaiah 54:1-17, Galatians 4:21-31, Mark 8:11-26*

Thurs, Feb 2: *Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40*

Fri, Feb 3: *Isaiah 56:1-8, Galatians 5:16-24, Mark 9:2-13*

Sat, Feb 4: *Isaiah 57:3-13, Galatians 5:25—6:10, Mark 9:14-29*

**V EPIPHANY, Sun, Feb 5:** *Isaiah 58:1-12, I Corinthians 2:1-16, Matthew 5:13-20*

Mon, Feb 6: *Isaiah 58:1-12, Galatians 6:11-18, Mark 9:30-41*

Tues, Feb 7: *Isaiah 59:1-15a, II Timothy 1:1-14, Mark 9:42-50*

Wed, Feb 8: *Isaiah 59:15b-21, II Timothy 1:15—2:13, Mark 10:1-16*

Thurs, Feb 9: *Isaiah 60:1-17, II Timothy 2:14-26, Mark 10:17-31*

Fri, Feb 10: *Isaiah 61:1-9, II Timothy 3:1-17, Mark 10:32-45*

Sat, Feb 11: *Isaiah 61:10—62:5, II Timothy 4:1-8, Mark 10:46-52*

**VI EPIPHANY, Sun, Feb 12:** *Deuteronomy 30:15-20, I Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37*

Mon, Feb 13: *Isaiah 63:1-6, I Timothy 1:1-17, Mark 11:1-11*

Tues, Feb 14: *Isaiah 63:7-14, I Timothy 1:18—2:8, Mark 11:12-26*

Wed, Feb 15: *Isaiah 63:15—64:9, I Timothy 3:1-16, Mark 11:27—12:12*

Thurs, Feb 16: *Isaiah 65:1-12, I Timothy 4:1-16, Mark 12:13-27*

Fri, Feb 17: *Isaiah 65: 17-25, I Timothy 5:17-25, Mark 12:28-34*

Sat, Feb 18: *Isaiah 66:1-6, I Timothy 6:6-21, Mark 12:35-44*

**LAST EPIPHANY, Sun, Feb 19:** *Exodus 24:12-18, II Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9*

Mon, Feb 20: *Deuteronomy 6:10-15, Hebrews 1:1-14, John 1:1-18*

Tues, Feb 21: *Deuteronomy 6:16-25, Hebrews 2:1-10, John 1:19-28*

**ASH WED, Feb 22:** *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, II Corinthians 5:20b—6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

Thurs, Feb 23: *Deuteronomy 7:6-11, Titus 1:1-16, John 1:29-34*

Fri, Feb 24: *Acts 1:15-26, Philippians 3:13b-21, John 15:1, 6-16*

Sat, Feb 25: *Deuteronomy 7:17-26, Titus 3:1-15, John 1:43-51*

**I LENT, Sun, Feb 26:** *Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11*

Mon, Feb 27: *Deuteronomy 8:11-20, Hebrews 2:11-18, John 2:1-12*

Tues, Feb 28: *Deuteronomy 9:4-12, Hebrews 3:1-11, John 2:13-22*

