



ST. STEPHEN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
3900 MECHANICSVILLE RD.  
WHITEHALL, PA 18052-3347  
610-435-3901

STEVE-ADORE

2011



"Vision-directed, People-oriented, Gospel-disciplined"

## Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, April 21st  
7:00 p.m. Sung Eucharist followed by the All-Night Watch

Good Friday, April 22nd  
12 noon Sermon with Stations of the Cross  
7:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Day

Easter Eve, Saturday, April 23rd  
7:50 p.m. First Mass of Easter with Baptism

Easter Sunday, April 24th  
8:00 a.m. Said Eucharist  
No Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

\* Please find enclosed with this newsletter an Easter Flower envelope to be used in memory of loved ones. Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office no later than Sunday, April 17th.

**THE STEVE-ADORE** is a Publication of ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Judy Kuntz, Parish Secretary

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## SINGING THE LORD'S SONG

In the fifth chapter of Revelation, there is described a scene of great poignancy in the courts of heaven. The scroll stands ready, its words the key to unlock the mystery of salvation. But none among the multitude of angels and archangels, the circle of elders and the four living creatures, can take the scroll and open it. St. John weeps and asks, is there no one who can do this? His question is answered with words of comfort and assurance. Yes, there is one. The Lion of Judah, the mighty victor. The eyes of all heaven then turn expectantly to the throne and there appears - a Lamb. A Lamb with its throat cut.

It is he who takes the scroll and opens it, and at that moment all heaven erupts into song, the air is filled with swirling clouds of incense, and music is heard that has never been heard before. *"Worthy is the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and praise."*

All the songs of praise that have risen from the Christian World, from the ancient chants of the Orthodox East to the *"Hallelujah Chorus"* to a Sunday School class singing *"Jesus loves me this I know"* - all of them have their roots in the appearance of the Lamb of God on the centre stage of heaven and history for the Lamb is none other than the Christ who became incarnate in our flesh and through whom alone God achieved what God alone could do - our Salvation.

The vision of St. John the Divine leads us to the insight of John Milton whose epic poem "Paradise Lost" begins with words at once majestic and foreboding. *"Of Man's first disobedience and the fruit of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste brought Death into the world and all our woe, with loss of Eden till one greater man restore us and regain the heavenly seat"*.

The mortal taste of death, all our woe, loss of Eden. These, in Milton's poetic theology stand for those things in life which cause us pain, tears, bewilderment, and fear. What Luther called the soprano, alto, tenor and bass lines of Death, Alienation, Guilt, and Suffering. The Lamb must silence their dissonance if we are to sing the Lord's song in the land in which we live.



Death is the one universal human experience. Medical science has progressed astronomically since the Stone Age, but the death ratio has been constant since the dawn of time— 1:1. It is the final rendezvous at which none of us can fail to show up. We may think of it often, or not at all, scoff it, fear it, deny it, but it is the chess player who knows all the moves, the debater with whom we cannot argue. We may be angry and, as Dylan Thomas wrote, "Rage, rage against the dying of the light", but it is the Lamb alone who can be the death of Death and Hell's destruction.

Alienation is that deep sense of feeling at odds with the world, like Charlie Brown in his encounters with Lucy. No where is it more vividly portrayed than in the opening chapters of Genesis as Adam and Eve become alienated first from their bodies (and resort to the ridiculous defense of a fig-leaf), then alienated from God, the earth, and each other. And lastly, find, to their horror, that their alienation is hereditary as son kills brother. It is the Lamb alone who can reconcile all that has been alienated.

Guilt is the burden of unforgiven sin. It often comes to us in disguise, the *alter ego*, the accuser at our side, filling us with a sense of failure. Guilt makes death more cruel by reminding us of all the good things we could or should have said and done and the other things we said and did. It is the Lamb alone who brings us the assurance of forgiveness which we cannot provide ourselves.

And, finally, Suffering - the greatest testimony to the reality of injustice in nature. This is the burden of the book of Job. Job objects that suffering cannot be a punishment because there is no comparison between the life lived and the pain endured. Suffering fails the basic test of justice - proportionality. It is arbitrary and while it comes to us because we live, as every other creature, subject to the laws of nature, we alone, of all creation, ask the question "Why?" It is the Lamb alone who can dispel our fears and address our questions.

Death, Alienation, Guilt, and Suffering. These are the dark chords which compose the music of the World. They can only be drowned out by the music which comes from above, the music of the Lamb and Lion, the Christ who died and rose again for us. It is His song we learn to sing at Easter. May we sing it loudly.

*Fr. Frank +*



## The Lessons of Palm Sunday

Our celebration of the Easter season begins on Palm Sunday, as we focus on Christ's entry into Jerusalem. This event, like all other events recorded in the Scriptures, is more than an historical occurrence. It has a special significance that we need to be aware of if we want the Bible to be a meaningful book for us. Jesus was going "up to Jerusalem" perfectly knowing what will happen. He was about to face the greatest challenge of His life - trial and crucifixion, and the greatest triumph - glorious resurrection. He was determined.

The biggest lesson we can learn from this story is that we don't need to shrink from challenges, for our greatest challenge has a potential to turn out our greatest victory. We don't have to be afraid of anything that might happen with us, for, in Truth, there is nothing to be afraid of. Jesus knew this Truth and acted accordingly.

Know that you cannot and never will be destroyed, because you are more than flesh and blood. You are a spirit. You are eternal. You are immortal. Your true nature is invincible, for it is God's nature. Sense knowledge has a tendency to absolutize sufferings. People who think that they exist in a three-dimensional world, are naturally inclined to do all they can to avoid challenges, to surround themselves with walls of self-defense, to protect themselves from all possible sufferings. Little do they know that by fearing physical pain and death, they put themselves into bondage by the material world, and entangle themselves with deceptions of a carnal mind. Eventually, they put a limit to their growth and soul unfoldment, and create the biggest obstacle to their happiness. There is no happiness in fear and dread.

Spiritually enlightened persons know that all the crosses are temporal, but resurrection is eternal. They are not afraid to "take up their cross" of challenge, fulfilling God's plan for their life. They know that the last word always belongs to God.

by Andre Yashurin  
Positive Christianity E-zine



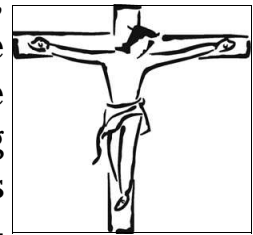
## The Sacrum Triduum (Three Holy Days)

The enormous significance of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection have always been the central focus of our Christian worship which is why the entire Church Calendar revolves around them.



The Thursday in Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday from the Latin word for "commandment" and refers to Jesus words, after washing his disciples' feet, "I give you a new commandment. Love one another." Like Palm Sunday, the service is schizophrenic in that it begins on a note of joy but ends in silence with the stripping of the altar in recognition of Jesus being abandoned by the disciples. It is customary to keep an All-Night Watch before the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel.

Good Friday, from the Old English "God's Friday", commemorates the Crucifixion. The Stations of the Cross are observed at Noon as we reenact Jesus' last journey. At the evening service, we venerate a wooden cross as a way of linking ourselves with the Christians in Jerusalem who venerate pieces of Jesus' actual Cross. No Eucharist is celebrated and communion is given from the Reserve.



The Easter Eve service, which begins at sundown (7:50 p.m., this year) is the beginning of our Easter celebration. Like on Christmas Eve, the evening Eucharist anticipates the joy of the morning revelation. On Christmas Day, the Saviour was born; on Easter Day, he gave us new birth.



In this service, we bless and light the Paschal Candle which serves to symbolize Christ giving light to the world. We also celebrate Holy Baptism. From the earliest days, Christians saw this day as best time to celebrate the bestowal of new life in Christ.

Easter is a glorious event, but it means so much more if we have been with Jesus and walked in his footsteps to get there. Use these **Three Holy Days** and enter into the fullness of His work.

**Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
 3900 Mechanicsville Road  
 Whitehall, PA 18052  
**610-435-3901**  
 FAX LINE: 610-435-4156  
 EMAIL: saintste@ptd.net

**The Rev. Frank ST. AMOUR, III, Rector**  
**610-264-2149**  
 Mr. Tom Steckel, Senior Warden  
 610-216-6916  
 Judy Kuntz, Parish Secretary

# APRIL 2011

## Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



### 3) Lent 4

8:00 am Said Eucharist  
 9:15 am S.S./Choir  
 10:30 am Sung Eucharist  
 Noon JYG/D.O.K.  
 2-5 pm **Outreach Social**

4) 8:00 am Parish List  
 Mass (A-D)  
 6:00 pm Food Pantry  
 (by appointment only)  
 7:00 pm Baptism Class

5)

9:30 am Healing Eucharist  
 5:30 pm Weight Watchers  
 6:30 pm Parish List Mass  
 (E-G)  
 7:00 pm School Board Mtg.

6)

6:30 pm Scouts  
 6:30 pm Parish List  
 Mass (H-M)  
 7:00 pm Choir

7)

2:30 pm Parish List  
 Mass (R-S)  
 7:00 pm Church  
 Growth Meeting

8)

9:30 am Parish  
 List Mass (T-Z)  
 5:30 pm Soup Sup.  
 6:30 pm Stations of  
 the Cross & Bene-  
 diction

9)

### 10) Lent 5

8:00 am Said Eucharist  
 9:15 am S.S./Choir  
 10:30 am Sung Eucharist

11) 8:00 am Parish List  
 Mass (A-D)  
 6:00 pm Food Pantry  
 (by appointment only)  
 7:00 pm Baptism Class

12)

9:30 am Healing Eucha-  
 rist followed by O.S.L. Mtg.  
 5:30 pm Weight Watchers  
 6:30 pm Parish List Mass  
 (E-G)  
 7:00 pm Property Mtg.

14)

2:30 pm Parish List  
 Mass (R-S)

15)

9:30 am Parish  
 List Mass (T-Z)  
 5:30 pm Soup Sup.  
 6:30 pm Stations of  
 the Cross & Bene-  
 diction

16) 8:00-1:00 pm  
 Food Pantry in  
 Parish Hall

### 17) Palm Sunday



8:00 am Said Eucharist  
 9:15 am S.S./Choir  
 10:30 am Sung Eucharist  
 Noon JYG/D.O.K.

18) 8:00 am Parish List  
 Mass (A-D)  
 6:00 pm Food Pantry  
 (by appointment only)

19)

9:30 am Healing Eucharist  
 5:30 pm Weight Watchers  
 6:30 pm Parish List Mass  
 (E-G)  
 7:00 pm Vestry Mtg.

20)

6:30 pm Scouts  
 6:30 pm Parish List  
 Mass (H-M)  
 7:00 pm Choir

21) **Maunday**

**Thursday**  
 2:30 pm Parish List  
 Mass (R-S)  
 7:00 pm Mass fol-  
 lowed by All night  
 Vigil

22) **Office Closed**

**Good Friday**  
 Noon Sermon with  
 Stations of the Cross  
 7:00 pm Good  
 Friday Liturgy

23) **Easter Eve**

7:50 pm First Mass  
 of Easter with  
 Baptisms

### 24) Easter Sunday

8:00 am Said Eucharist  
 No Sunday School  
 10:30 am Sung Eucharist  
 JYG Easter Egg Hunt

26)

9:30 am Healing Eucharist  
 5:30 pm Weight Watchers

27)

6:30 pm Scouts  
 7:00 pm Choir

28)

29)

30) 12-4:00 pm  
 Parish Hall Rental  
 Iron Pigs Game at  
 CocaCola Stadium



## Preparing the Church for Easter

Altar Guild will be polishing the brass and silver in preparation for Palm Sunday and Easter. Mark your calendars now to lend a hand, for Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. The following Saturday morning, April 23<sup>rd</sup> also at 9:00 AM, the church will be decorated for Easter services. Please consider helping out on one or both of the Saturday mornings to prepare for Palm Sunday and then beautify the altar with lilies and other flowers for Easter. Women and men are welcome to participate in these events. Please call JoAnn Fedor for more information or if you have any questions at: 610-799-0887



**JR. YOUTH GROUP:** Our Jr. Youth Group will once again be holding an Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday and is in need of small wrapped candy to fill plastic eggs. We also have a plentiful supply of plastic eggs if any one wants to take them home and fill them for us. There will be a box in the Parish Hall to place your filled plastic eggs and/or wrapped candy. A small amount of homemade Easter candy will also be for sale (special items may be requested). Any questions please contact Kerry or Wendy Reeder at 610-398-0938. We thank you in advance for your support.



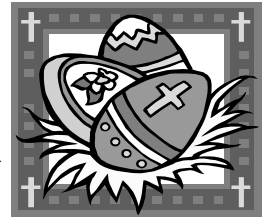
### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| - Robert C. Gehres II, USA     | - Matthew Scheib, USMC |
| - Robert C. Gehres III, PAARNG | - Jeffrey Slough, USMC |
| - Seth Sassaman, USMC          | - Stephen Vanko, USMC  |

WEEKLY REPORT	Feb. 27	Mar. 6	Mar. 13	Mar. 20
<b>8:00 am Attendance</b>	35	36	<i>Combined 9:30 Mass</i>	33
<b>10:30 am Attendance</b>	57	60	86	63
<b>Plate and Pledge</b>	\$2,151.00	\$1,951.00	\$3,508.00	\$3,676.50

## NURSERY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

**S**pring programs will be held for all classes the week before Easter in conjunction with the culmination of a unit on Transportation. The children will perform a short program of songs and poems in the church and immediately after participate in an egg hunt.



Registration is well under way for the 2011 – 2012 school year that will begin in September. Children registering for the 2011 - 2012 school year must be at least 3 years of age by December 1, 2011. Classes for older children are also available. If you know anyone interested for next year you may have them call the school office for more information at: 610-435-4260.



We are very excited the school is once again offering a summer program. The format will change slightly to a camp format. It will continue, however, to provide children an opportunity during the summer to participate in daily activities that include fun and relaxation as well as semi-structured learning activities. Anyone interested in registering a child for the summer camp may call the school. Children who were three by December 1, 2010 and potty trained, including children entering first grade in September 2011 are eligible to utilize this service. The camp will be staffed daily beginning June 20 – August 19, 2011 from 7:00 AM – 5:30 PM. We must have adequate enrollment to run the summer camp.

Thank you to anyone who contributed to our recent box tops submission. The school children participated in a box tops contest to win one of two gift certificates for a Build-a-bear or Furry Friend. They had to submit sheets filled with box tops coupons. There was a drawing from all of the sheets submitted. The winners of the certificates were Noah Hertzog and Lena Marks. The school will be receiving a check for close to \$900 which will be used to replace equipment and supplies in the classroom. Remember we continue to collect Boxtops for education along with Redner's "save-a-tape" receipts. If you would like to contribute Boxtops or Redner's "save-a-tape"s there is an envelope on the bulletin board by the conference room, or you may turn them into the church or school office.



OUR LIMITED MOBILITY SAINTS

DONALD & DORIS BOEHRER, SR.  
2303 S. 11th St., Allentown, PA 18103-5611

VERNA CANOVA  
Luthercrest, 800 Hausman Rd., #475, Allentown, PA 18104

HELEN CHAMBERLAIN  
Luthercrest, 800 Hausman Rd, # 563, Allentown, PA 18104

TINA DECKER  
936 N. 33d St. Allentown, PA 18104

DORIS FLAMISH  
3914 Old Country Road, Whitehall, PA 18052

CHARLES & MURIEL HARMANY  
175 W. North St., #1211, Nazareth, PA 18064

JACK JONES  
3000 Fellowship Drive, #G54, Whitehall, PA 18052

MARIE KORUTZ  
1000 Fourth Street, #506, Whitehall, PA 18052

NADINE SCHOONOVER  
2021 Bally Drive, Northampton, PA 18067

ANNE SISKI  
3877 Rosewood Lane, Whitehall, PA 18052

DOLLY SMITH  
Above & Beyond, 2232 SW 29th Street, #2,  
Allentown, PA 18103



PLEASE VISIT AND/OR SEND A CARD OF CHEER!



Since the needs of the Whitehall Food Pantry continue to grow with each new month, the Coalition of Churches has decided to share the responsibilities,  
and so.....

For the Month of **APRIL**, St. Stephen's is asked to focus **only** on collecting the following 4 items:

- 1.) Spaghetti Sauce
- 2.) Soups
- 3.) Cake Mixes, Frostings, Brownie Mixes, Cookie mixes
- 4.) Condiments (Salt, Pepper, Sugar, Cooking Oil, Mayo, Ketchup, Mustard, Pickles, etc. )

**We are also doing a separate collection for our**

### **EASTER DINNERS**

St. Stephen's is being asked to collect  
**Cake Frosting** (any flavor)

**Thank you for your continued support of this Ministry....**

Doreen Wagner  
Coordinator  
Whitehall Food Pantry



# You are Invited to The Outreach Committee's Dessert Social



Featuring:  
Kids For America

**Tickets are:**

**\$3.00**

(purchased from the church office)

**To be held on**

**April 3rd**

**Time: 2p.m.—5p.m.**

**Donations will  
benefit Fr. Frank's  
discretionary fund**

Bring your friends and family for an afternoon of entertainment and Fellowship!!

**SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
3900 MECHANICSVILLE ROAD  
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**The May Steve-Adore deadline will be Friday, April 15th!**



## Happy Birthday

4/1 Stephen DeVore	4/15 Phillip Rider
4/2 Kristen Wiedemann	4/16 Nathan Rider
4/3 Sandra Leindecker	4/17 Julie Schneck
4/4 Adam Bond	4/20 Alec Sodl
4/5 Bonita Vanko	4/21 Fr. Gerald Reiss
4/7 Mary Lee	4/28 Celeste Barona
4/14 Yvonne James	



## Happy Anniversary!

4/24 Gregory & Donna Gaugler	4/26 Stephen & Elizabeth DeVore
4/25 Scott & Stacey Heefner	