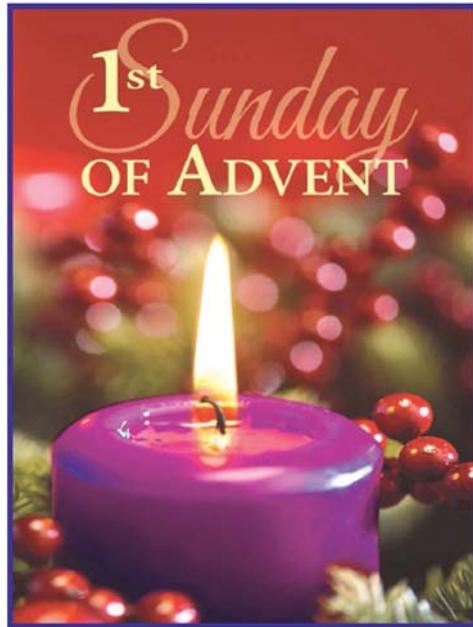


St. Thomas Episcopal Church

50 E. Bagley Road ☩ Berea, OH 44017

The 1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017



The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., Bishop

The Reverend David R. Radzik, Rector

Rector Cell Phone: 440-305-0264

Rector Office Phone: 440-234-3499

Rector E-mail: TheRevDavidRRadzik@sbcglobal.net

Rector's Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 9 am – 12 pm

440.234.5241 Parish Office 440.243.6122 fax

Parish email: stecl@sbcglobal.net

Visit us online at www.stthomas-berea.org

Dave Miller, Verger

Kira Seaton, Minister of Music

Carl Douglas, Sexton

Ginny Kubiak, Parish Administrator

The 1st Sunday of Advent

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DECEMBER OUTREACH – During the month of December, the Outreach Committee will be collecting **powdered laundry soap** to donate to Church Street Ministries and **cups and glasses** for the Veterans. Please place donations in the appropriate collection bins in the hallway.



RECTOR'S FORUMS – Faith, the Swiss Theologian Karl Barth reminds us, "is not concerned with a special realm, that of religion, say, but with real life in its totality (...) it is concerned with the whole of living and the whole of dying."⁽¹⁾ Starting on Sunday, December 3rd, we will begin holding *Rector's Forums* every Sunday between the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Services. These brief sessions will give us an opportunity to discuss key concepts of the Christian faith as well as their application to our lives. *The first series of forums, running from December 3rd through December 31st, will be entitled The Lord's Prayer in Slow Motion and we will have an opportunity to slowly read and pray through the Lord's Prayer, discussing how we as Christians are called to be a people of prayer.* The second series, running from January 7th to March 25th will be entitled the *Apostle's Creed in Slow Motion* and will be an opportunity for us to discuss what we believe about God, the world, and ourselves as Christians. Future series will include *The Beatitudes in Slow Motion, the Ten Commandments in Slow Motion, and the Liturgy in Slow Motion.* Unless otherwise noted, *the forums will be held in Oglivy Chapel at 9:10 and the forums will conclude at 9:50 AM.* I will provide coffee and breakfast items for the first meeting but hope that as we develop as a community, others will help in providing simple breakfast items. ⁽¹⁾Barth, Karl, and G. T. Thomson. *Dogmatics in Outline* (New York: Harper & Row, 1959), p. 20

PILL BOTTLE COLLECTION – We are re-instating the pill bottle collection, but *we are only accepting prescription bottles*; no over-the-counter bottles will be accepted. Please make sure the bottle is empty, and remember to remove the RX label. Sally Catalano will process the bottles and Bart Hancock will be sending them to Lotts Creek.



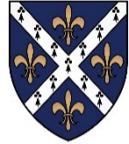
SIGN-UP CHART FOR THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING – A sign-up sheet is on the office window for the Advent Wreath Candle Lighting during the four weeks of Advent. We encourage you, members of your family, or ministry groups to sign up. **Advent begins December 2 and ends December 23.** Consider being a part of the lighting as we prepare for our Lord's coming.

FEAST DAY SERVICES – Starting at the beginning of this coming Church Year, we will be observing the major feast days found in *the Book of Common Prayer* with at least a simple said Holy Eucharist at 6:00 pm on the day of the feast. I hope you will join us in marking these holy days with us as they are a wonderful opportunity for us to grow together in holiness together. *Our next service will celebrate the Apostle Saint Thomas, on Thursday, December 21, at 6:00 pm.*



FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE - The Family Christmas Tree is returning this year and will be put up December 9th. The ornaments that are stored each year will be on the tree. Years past have brought family ornaments, memorial ornaments and ministry ornaments. If you have missed any of the years, please include them this year. There is lots of room on the tree for your beautiful ornaments. This year's theme is going to be our beloved pets (past and present); tags will be available for labeling ornaments. Please contact Anita Cooper at 330-635-3752 if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS – We are now taking orders for the Christmas poinsettias that will enhance our church during the Christmas season. It is a perfect time to remember parents and family members or to honor special people in your life with your donation. Forms are on the literature table in the entrance hall. The cost is \$25. *The deadline for placing your poinsettia order is December 17.*



MEDIEVAL DINNER – Return with us to the year 1478. Our annual medieval dinner is scheduled for *Saturday, January 20, 2018*, at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 per person and must be purchased in advance. This dinner has become a very popular event and sells out quickly. Tickets are available to purchase through the church office (440-234-5241) or Bev Smith (440-235-3585). Please contact Bev for additional information and for volunteer opportunities!!!

THE DEVONSHIRE TEA – The Tea will be held on *Saturday, February 24, 2018* with **ONE SEATING ONLY AT 12:00 PM**. Tickets are \$25 each and must be purchased in advance. With only 1 seating, tickets will sell out very quickly, so reserve your ticket early! Please contact Rosalie Ferline at 216-401-0729 to purchase your tickets or for further information.



LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES – Readers, Chalice Bearers and Ushers are all needed for the Advent 4, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the office window, if you would like to volunteer at any of these services.



ONE STOP CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH GIFT CARDS - Christmas is less than a month away! Have you thought about ordering gift cards through the Shop with Scrip program at St. Thomas? When you purchase gift cards through our Shop with Scrip program, St. Thomas earns an average of 5%. But our program only works with your support! With over 300 popular retailers to choose from for your shopping, dining, travel and on-line purchases, there is something for everyone! Cards are available after Sunday services or call the church office at 440-234-5241 to place an order. The last date to order cards for delivery before Christmas is 9 am on December 18th, so place your order now!

BEREA COMMUNITY MEAL – Many thanks to all of you who brought those delicious pies (there were at least 24 of them), and to those who worked at the community meal event on November 29, (Sally Catalano, Charlotte Rodriguez and her friend Mary, Laura Gaba, Etta and Katrina Scheu, Peggy Cramer and Ruth Ihde). It was a grand meal indeed, followed by our wonderful desserts. There are leftover pies in the St. Thomas refrigerator, which you can test for yourself at coffee hour after the 10:30 am service on Sunday.

ADVENT SCHEDULE 2017

GREENING OF THE CHURCH – If you are able, please stay after the 10:30 am service on December 17th, to help decorate the sanctuary and church for Christmas. See Anita Cooper for more details or to volunteer.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Advent 4 – Saturday, December 23 at 5:30 pm *(no AM services on 12/24)*
Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24 at 5:30 pm and 10:00 pm
Christmas Day, Monday, December 25 at 10:00 am
New Year's Eve – 8 am & 10:30 am



PASTORAL CARE

If you have need of pastoral care outside of Father Dave's office hours, you are welcome to contact him on his cell phone: 440-305-0264 or send an e-mail: TheRevDavidRRadzik@sbcglobal.net

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

We encourage you to participate in the Prayers of the People by including — aloud or silently — the names of those listed below, or others for whom you wish to pray, during the pauses in the intercessions. To add or remove a name from this list, please call the office.

Each name will be mentioned on the prayer list for one month.

The Church:

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury;
Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop;
Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., Bishop of Ohio;
William Persell and Arthur Williams, Assisting Bishops;
Cuyahoga Mission Area Council;
Church in Liberia

St. Thomas:

The Rev. David R. Radzik, Rector
The St. Thomas Vestry;
The ECW;
Outreach Committee;
Church-Growth Committee;
Daughters of the King;
Los Amigos Episcopales;
All our St. Thomas Ministries & Programs

Birthdays:

Ross Cline, Morgan Phelps

Sick:

Dorothy Bowers, Dolly Doyle, Constance Mayer,
Tanya Thompson, Gwendolyn Noel Zahndt,

Recovering:

Jack Doyle, David Frazier

Missionary Service:

Michelle Sumner

Others:

Our nursing-home residents; and
those who are shut-ins

Continuing Prayers

Bob Englund, Josh Herron, Janice Jordan, Betsy Linville, Diane McLaughlin,
David Miller, Carole Pozek, Pat Shook, Nate Simon, John Vincent, Lynn Vincent

Military Service:

Please pray for all those serving our country at home and abroad, especially
David Brabson, Ian Carmichael, PFC Bruno Durigon, Robby Hartman,
Michael Hopsecgar, LTJG Stephanie Lasch, Sean McLaughlin, Eli Modesitt, LT John Toolis

Church Calendar



This Week at St. Thomas

12/3/2017 Sunday	8:00 am	Rite I Holy Eucharist	
	9:10 am	Rector's Forum (in Chapel)	
	9:30 am	Choir Rehearsal	
	10:30 am	Rite II Holy Eucharist	
	11:30 am	Coffee Hour	
12/4/2017 Monday	7:00 pm	Prayer Group	
	7:00 pm	Berea Monday Discussion AA	
12/5/2017 Tuesday	7:00 pm	Church-Growth Meeting	
12/6/2017 Wednesday	12:15 pm	STAR Concert and Luncheon	
	8:00 pm	Wednesday Evening Bible Study	
12/7/2017 Thursday	6:00 pm	Al-Anon Christmas Party	
	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
12/8/2017 Friday			
12/9/2017 Saturday	5:30 pm	Contemporary Eucharist	
12/10/2017 Sunday	8:00 am	Rite I Holy Eucharist	
	9:10 am	Rector's Forum (in Chapel)	
	9:30 am	Choir Rehearsal	
	10:30 am	Rite II Holy Eucharist	
	11:30 am	Coffee Hour	
	12:00 pm	DOK Meeting	



FOLLOW ST. THOMAS ON FACEBOOK! If you haven't done so, please like our page on Facebook. In the search bar on Facebook type in: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Berea, OH. Please contact our Parish Administrator Ginny Kubiak for more details!

UPCOMING MEETING AND EVENT DATES

(For more information, please call the church office 440-234-5241)

All meetings are held at St. Thomas unless noted otherwise

Group	Meeting Dates/Time	Next Meeting
RECTOR'S FORUM	Sunday mornings from 9:10 am until 9:50 am	December 3
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING	2 nd Sunday at 12:00 pm	December 10
PRAYER GROUP	Each Monday at 7:00 pm	December 4
SOCRATES CAFÉ	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday at 7:00 pm	December 12
CHURCH-GROWTH	1 st Tuesday at 7:00 pm	December 5
VESTRY	2 nd Monday at 7:00 pm	December 11
STAR CONCERT & LUNCHEON	1 st Wednesday at 12:15 pm (September – June)	December 6
OUTREACH	2 nd Wednesday at 6:30 pm	December 13
EVENING BIBLE STUDY	Each Wednesday at 8:00 pm at the home of Linda Kinsey (Call the office for more information)	December 6
CHOIR REHEARSAL	Each Thursday at 7:30 pm (September – May)	December 7
VETERAN'S MEET AND GREET	Last Friday at 11:00 am	December 29
FEAST DAY SERVICE	Time: 6:00 pm (Dates vary) St. Thomas Apostle	December 21

DECEMBER OUTREACH

COAT COLLECTION – Through the month of December, we are collecting new or gently worn coats to donate to St. Luke's West Side Shared Ministries. This project is in addition to the duffle bags and blankets we are also collecting. Please make sure there are no broken zippers, torn linings or holes. Please leave your donation under the sign on the coat rack in the hall way. Barb Emigh will be delivering the donations to St. Luke's. Please contact Barb if you have any questions.



BLANKET PROJECT – *Now through December 3*, we are collecting blankets for the impoverished and homeless. These blankets are very much needed during the upcoming cold winter months. *Please note this collection is in addition to the Duffle bag project.* New or excellent condition blankets can be put in the marked donation box near the entry way of the church. Twin size blankets are especially needed. Thank you for helping those in need. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Emigh.



CHRISTMAS PROJECT – St. Thomas is again participating in a special Christmas project sponsored by the Episcopal West Side Shared Ministry. As a gift to the impoverished and homeless, we have been asked to donate 80 (40 men's and 40 women's) filled duffle bags/backpacks. *Please label the gift as "man's" or "lady's".* Individual items will also be accepted which will be used to make additional filled bags. These gifts will be presented as part of a Christmas dinner gathering and later distributed to other people throughout the area. Contributions should be turned in as soon as possible, but by no later than **Sunday, December 10th** and should be new or in excellent condition. Donation bins are in the hallway. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to give some much-appreciated, practical help to those in need! Flyers are posted on the office window listing items needed, please take a copy.