

# Sharing the Good News

## February, 2025

**From Luke 2:40** “And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.”

**New Name for** our newsletter. I would very much like to rename our monthly newsletter; something classier than “Sharing the Good News”. Please email your suggestions to Fr. Tom.

**Don't forget** that this Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, meaning the we will observe Food Pantry Sunday and there will be Anointing after the service. **Sunday is also a special day on the church calendar. February 2 is Candlemas,** and we will be blessing candles for use in church or in your homes during the coming year. Please be sure to bring any candles that you would like to have blessed with you when you come to church on Sunday. Why bless the candles? We bless them so that when you light them during the year, the light of Christ will shine in your home and in the church.

### **Reader and Coffee Hour Schedule for February\***

|               | <u>Reader</u>    | <u>Coffee Hour</u> |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Feb. 2</b> | <b>Jess</b>      | <b>Graham</b>      |
| <b>Feb. 9</b> | <b>Elisabeth</b> | <b>Elisabeth</b>   |
| <b>Feb 16</b> | <b>Braden</b>    | <b>Bispings</b>    |
| <b>Feb 23</b> | <b>Sylvia</b>    | <b>Swegles</b>     |

**\*Since David's schedule is irregular, I hope that if he is able to make it home, the reader for that day will allow him to fill in.**

**This month we look** forward to celebrating Tressie Kemp's birthday on February 26. Here is her mailing information if you wish to send a card: Tressie Kemp, 1003 W. Madison St., Auburn, IL 62615. Her email is: tressiekemp2@gmail.com Phone: 217-836-7787

**Here is our prayer list** as of January 27:

**For:** Steven our Archbishop; Alberto, our Bishop; Tom, our Priest; and Deacon Tom

**For those fighting cancer:** Sandy, Cindy, Karen, Carol, Richard, Barb, Mark, Judy, Gary, Danielle, Charles

**For those in need of uplifting prayer:** Deacon Tom, Jess, Tressie, David, Kathy, Dan, Sylvia, Graham, John, Wallace, Carlos, Laura, Shannon, Jon, Jerry, Stuart, Daniel, William, Jennifer, Rob, Bill, Chuck, Michael, Lottie, Mary R., Max, Sherry, Amanda, Charlie

**For those in long term care:** Gabriel, Grace, Danielle, the residents at Holly Brook, Reflections and South Park

**For the Church's ministry in Nepal:** Purna, Mahendra, Dipendra, Reshma, Prakash; the Transformation Spiritual Church

**For the growth of** St. Mary's Anglican Mission

**For those affected by** the war in the Middle East and the war in Ukraine and by the wildfires in the West

**Please remember to thank God** for answered prayers and for the blessings he has bestowed upon us.

*Thoughts from the Vicar*

**Recently, in a quiet** moment after church, after most of the congregation had left for home, the conversation turned a topic that ought to interest us all. Did you know the ACNA (that's us) and the Roman Catholics are in talks that would change the relationship between the two churches?

A word of warning; the article that I am sharing with you is six months old. I couldn't find anything more recent. If you want to educate yourself on the topic, here are the links to two other articles

on the subject: <https://www.soulsandliberty.com> and <https://anglicanchurch.net/new-ecumenical-partnership-with-usccb>

“In a historic step, the Vatican is working toward “full communion” with conservative Anglicans by recognizing Anglican holy orders and churches without requiring “amalgamation or conversion.”

The union will be based on a Malta II proposal presented by the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA), that revives the Malta I report agreed upon by Pope Paul VI and archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Michael Ramsey in 1966.

According to the Malta I proposals, differences in matters like Petrine primacy, infallibility, and Mariology, would be overcome by ensuring that “neither Communion is tied to a positive acceptance of all the beliefs and devotional practices of the other.”

Unity and mutual acceptance of holy orders would be based on the recognition that each Communion “accepts the basic truths set forth in the ecumenical Creeds and the common tradition of the ancient Church.”

“There will be a lot of doubling down from people who do not actually want a united Church,” Robinson warned. “They will say there’s already the Ordinariate. Of course, the Ordinariate offers a very particular charism for very a particular demographic but it isn’t a way to reunite the Church.”

This correspondent learned of secret meetings between ACNA bishops and top officials at the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith earlier this year, and had first published a report of the historic meeting in the summer edition of *Mass of Ages* — the quarterly magazine of the Latin Mass Society.

## **NEW REPORT CONFIRMS SECRET TALKS**

The meetings have now been confirmed in an Ecumenical Relations Task Force Report released by the ACNA College of Bishops, who met at a provincial council from June 20-25, in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

The report reveals that Abp. Foley Beach, then-primate of ACNA; Bp. Eric Menees, chair of dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church; and Bp. Ray Sutton, presiding bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church, flew to the Vatican for meetings at the DDF in June 2023.

### **Looking forward just a little bit: March 5 is Ash Wednesday.**

Our service here at St. Mary's will begin at 6:30 pm with the Imposition of Ashes.

As is our tradition here, we will have Stations of the Cross at the same time on of the following Wednesdays of Lent.

On the Sundays of Lent beginning on March 9, we will be having a Bible study based on the book "From Wilderness to Glory – Lent and Easter for Everyone" by N.T. Wright (2025). If you would like to have your own copy, it is available in paperback and e-book. I got my copy from Amazon.