

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
**180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759**  
**Phone: 732-350-2121, Fax: 732-350-6000**  
**ssechurch@gmail.com**  
**www.saintstephenswhiting.org**

**A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey**  
The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, Bishop  
The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector  
Gerrie Vergona, Treasurer  
Esther Graham, Music Director  
Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator  
Tom O'Brien, Sexton

**Wardens and Vestry 2022**  
Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden  
Peter Quigley, Property Warden  
Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano  
Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue  
Kay Karlick, Tom Larson, Ken Seda  
Joanne Smithson, Clerk

#### **Mission Statement**

To proclaim the faith that our years have engendered: to use the diversity of our Episcopal experience while working toward a common goal; to teach the young about Jesus and to reach out and affect the lives of those in the community.

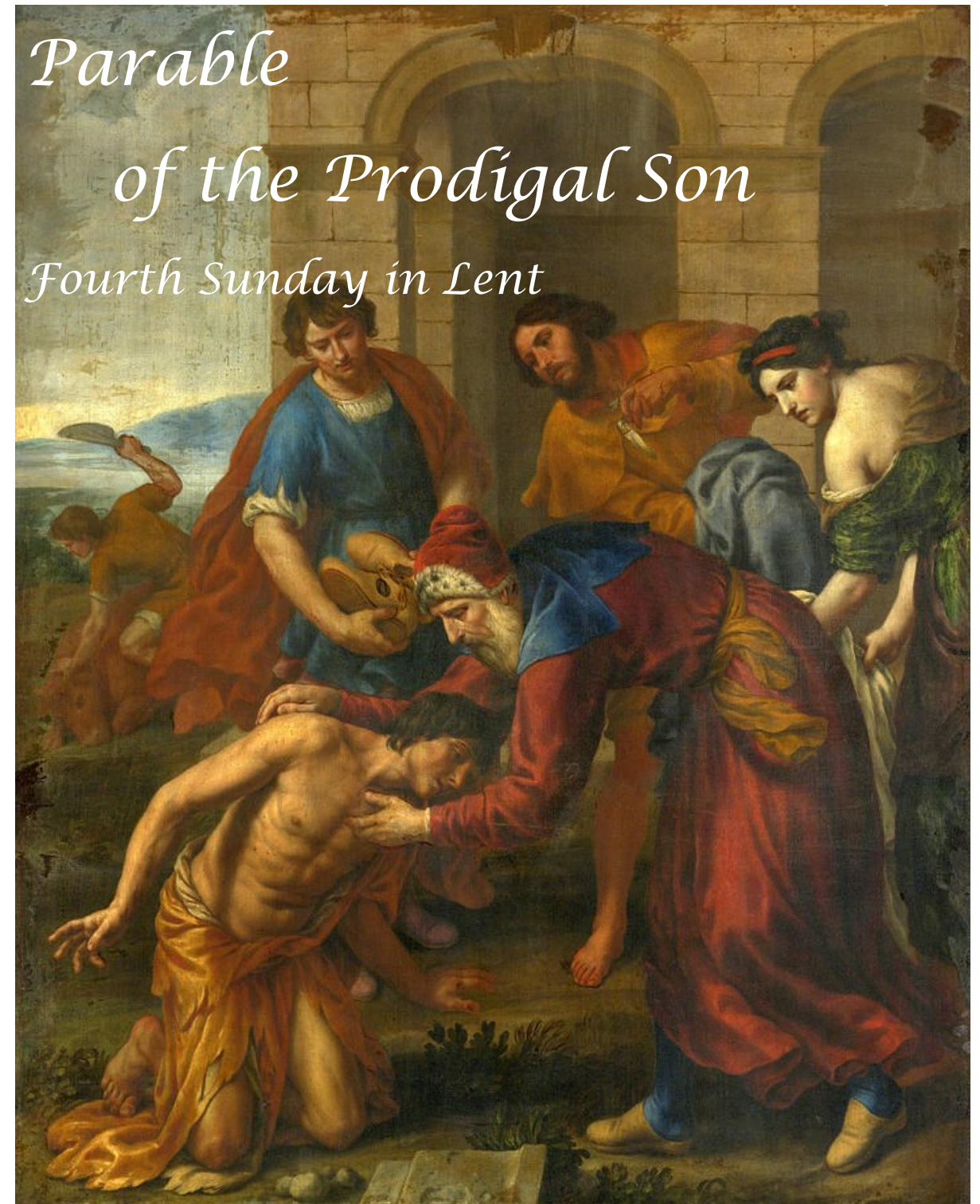
***"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20***

#### **Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!**

We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly with the Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector.

#### **To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.**

Please notify the church office 732-350-2121 of any illnesses or hospitalizations. If it is an emergency you may also reach Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I**

**MARCH 27, 2022  
8 & 10:15am**

<b>Hymnal</b>	<b>THE WORD OF GOD</b>	<b>BCP</b>
	Open Acclamation	319
411	Processional “O Bless the Lord, my Soul”	
	Confession and Absolution	320
S91	Kyrie	324
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <b>Joshua 5:9-12</b>	Insert
	<b>Psalms 32</b>	Lenten Booklet
	Second Lesson: <b>2 Corinthians 5:16-21</b>	Insert
	Gradual: <i>Verse</i>	Lenten Booklet
	Gospel: <b>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</b>	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
	The Nicene Creed	(bottom of page) 327
	Prayers of the People	328
	The Peace	332
	Offertory Anthem	
	Doxology: “All things come of Thee, O Lord”	
 <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		
	<b>The Great Thanksgiving</b>	
	Eucharistic Prayer I	333
S112	Sursum Corda	
S113	Sanctus	
	<i>The Lord’s Prayer</i>	336
S157	Angus Dei	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	“Let us break bread together”	
401	“The God of Abraham Praise”	
495	“Hail thou once despised Jesus”	
	Post Communion Prayer	339
	Announcements	
	Blessing	
690	Closing Hymn: “Gide me O thou great Jehovah”	
	Dismissal	

**Save the Date on Upcoming Events**

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP-**

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, Mondays at 11am, for info contact Roberta Mackey at (917) 696-6863\  
**(NO MEETING ON MONDAY MARCH 28th)**

**CHOIR PRACTICE-**

Wednesdays at 10am

**HEALING SERVICES-**

Thursdays at 10:00 am

**ORDER OF ST. LUKE-**

2nd Thursday of each month, April 14th- after Healing Service

**VESTRY MEETING-**

Monday, March 28st @ 10am

**WHITING GARDEN CLUB-**

Whiting Garden Club meets next on April 6th at 10AM in the Parish Hall call Stefanie if you plan to attend.

**DO YOU NEED A PLEDGE CARD?**

Please see our Treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.

**LENTEN SCHEDULES-**

Available in the Narthex

**BOY SCOUTS TROOP 350 1ST ANNUAL CRAFT AND VENDOR FUND-RAISING FAIR**

Saturday April 2nd from 9 am to 1 pm in our Parish Hall. Refreshments available for purchase.

**THYROID SUPPORT GROUP-**

Monday, April 11th at 10AM All are welcome



## ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. Compline is now on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** at 7PM on **YouTube and Zoom**. All are welcome!



COME AND SEE!!!

## THE ENGLISH TEA HAS RETURNED

The ECW will again be presenting their American Version of the English Tea. The first one will be held on Thursday, May 19 from 2-4PM. Tables for four are set with linen tablecloths and napkins, real china plates, cups and saucers, sugar bowl, creamer, and flowers in the center of each table.

Two tables are set--one with dainty sandwiches including cucumber-- scones, jam, and butter. The other table has trifles, cookies, fruit, candy, pastries, and more. Upon arrival, tickets may be purchased for the treasure auction, and of course the 50/50. The door prizes are all brand new teapots. Tickets are \$15 per person. They may be purchased on Sundays in the Narthex, Monday through Thursday from 9AM-2PM from the church office, call the church office at (732) 350-2121; or by calling the chair, Stefanie Bodine at (732) 350-2904. Only 100 tickets are sold. and when they are sold out, that's it. NO REFUNDS. The teas were begun over 30 years ago by our English friend and ECW member Teresa Thurber. Men and women are welcome. So, gather your friends together so you do not miss this special event.

*Stefanie*

## Spring Craft and Vendor Fair

1st annual Spring fundraiser for Boy Scout Troop 350

Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> From 9 am - 1 pm

Come enjoy shopping with lots of crafters and vendors for all holiday needs

Refreshments available for purchase

At

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

180 Rt 539 Whiting NJ 08759



*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

*March 27, 2022*

## *Collect of the Day*

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## *First Reading*

*Joshua 5:9-12*

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.



## Psalm 32

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, \*  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

- Beati quorum*
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
  - 8 You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
  - 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
I will guide you with my eye.
  - 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; \*  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will not stay near you."
  - 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
  - 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; \*  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## Second Reading

### 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



**CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE** ~ Sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting Winter clothes **ONLY** in **TOP** condition, (clean, with no missing buttons, tears or stains). Also, continue to use the **FOUR BINS** in our parking lot for *out of season clothing, all men's wear,* and other items. Our Summer clothes are now on clearance sale. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.

**ST. STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN** ~ is in need of additional members. The Prayer Chain is a dedicated group of parishioners who will pray for any who are in need. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Greta Pearl at 732-350-7584 for details. Greta is the contact when placing, on the Prayer Chain, your name or the names of family, neighbors, or friends who would like prayers for healing, comfort, or any other purpose.

**CARE GIVERS VOLUNTEERS** ~ We will be revisiting the Caregivers program soon after Lent. Please continue to use the mailbox in the Office to put in your hours. If you have any questions please feel free to contact JoAnn Smithson at 609-268-0821.

## **YOUR PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING**

Prayerfully consider making an endowment gift to St. Stephen's as part of your estate plan. Contact our Treasurer, *Gerrie Vergona* if interested.



**COFFEE HOUR**   **help wanted**

A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2022 - sign up! Everyone is so grateful for the delicious food that you share, your help, and they love chatting after the services. Any questions, contact *Stefanie* at (732) 350-2904



## Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws

Days and Hours of Operation are:

Tuesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

Wednesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

**Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws** is made up of members of the **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church** community and other volunteers who assist in maintaining our pantry, provide food for the sick, the hungry and the needy. The food pantry is here to help those who have minimal funds to work with and come to us when they have a specific need for food. The **Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws** through very generous donations is also able to provide pet food for dogs and cats. For further information please call: **Jim Jados, Director, Food Pantry at (732) 408-5948.**

### RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Thank you to all who have donated. There are parishioners as well as other members in our community who benefit greatly from this valued fund. If you wish to contribute, please use the basket on the back table for donations



### Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--April 14th, after the Healing Service.

### Prayer to send out LEMs with the Sacrament:

**Celebrant:** N. we send you out to share Communion this week with those who have been entrusted to your care.

**People:** May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this Sacrament of Christ's presence.

**Celebrant:** Continues with a closing prayer.

### ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines 1st Sunday of each month at 9:30 am

The Arbors 2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 pm

The Pines 3rd Monday of each month at 2:00 pm



## *Holy Gospel*

*Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"



This Fourth Sunday in Lent has often been called “Refreshment Sunday.” It always includes the theme of eating and drinking as signs of God’s love and of the rejoicing of God’s people in the Eucharist and in God’s Kingdom.

In the reading from the Hebrew Scriptures, we hear about the first Passover celebrated by the Israelites in the Promised Land. On that occasion, the manna, which sustained them in their wilderness journey, ceased and they lived on the “fruit of the land.” God’s people, washed and adopted in baptism and sustained in this world by Holy Communion, will likewise enter into God’s Kingdom and be nourished by God’s life.

In the second reading, we learn from Paul that not only has Christ reconciled us to God, but in baptism God makes us agents of reconciliation to the world. and we become the new creation of the Kingdom of God.

Thus, in today’s gospel reading of the story of the Prodigal Son, the culmination of forgiveness is reconciliation celebrated in a banquet and feast. This parable describes the totality of forgiveness and God’s eagerness to be reconciled with us rebellious children, which is fulfilled in our celebration of Holy Eucharist and, above all, in our Easter rejoicing.

This sacred meal is the sign of our return to God, of God’s unlimited forgiveness, and of the feasting of God with all the redeemed in the Kingdom. In our Lenten self-denial, we are reminded that our pilgrimage in this life is like Israel’s journey through the wilderness, and that our ultimate goal is the Promised Land of God’s Kingdom, foreshadowed in the Holy Eucharist.

*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.*  
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**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**MARCH 27, 2022**

***Serving in the Liturgy today:***

Lector 8:00 am	<i>Susan Quigley</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Peter Quigley</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Debbie Fisher, Linda Chiappetta</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 10:15 am	<i>Valerie Thompson</i>
LEM 10:15 am	<i>Susan Clarke, Barbara Marshall</i>
Altar Guild 10:15 am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:15 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>



**Sanctuary Candle**

The Sanctuary Candle is given to  
 The Glory of God  
**In Memory of**  
*Fr. John Dewland*  
*and*  
*Son, George P Frey IV*  
*By Joy J Frey*



**Altar Flowers**

Altar Flowers are given to the  
 Glory of God  
**In Memory of**  
*Sans Memorial*

