

OCTOBER 2011

RISING



REV. WAYNE RUNNER, RECTOR

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

370 Main Street
Wakefield, RI 02879

401.783.2911

ascensionw@verizon.net

www.ascensionwakefield.org



A message from the Rector :

During the month of October we honor one of the most popular saints in the church, St. Francis of Assisi. He is known as the patron saint of animals which is why the blessing of the animals usually takes place in October. As well known as he is to most people, my guess is, the average person knows very little about him. When did he live? What makes him worthy of being remembered? Why was he made a saint? Why did he become the patron saint of animals? Can you answer these questions? If not, here is some basic information about St. Francis.

Saint Francis of Assisi was born Giovanni Francesco di Bernardone on October 3, 1181/1182. He was an Italian Catholic friar and preacher. He founded the men's Franciscan Order, the women's Order of St. Clare, and the lay Third Order of Saint Francis. Francis was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant in Assisi, and he lived the high spirited life typical of a wealthy young man, even fighting as a soldier for Assisi. While going off to war in 1204, Francis had a vision that directed him back to Assisi, where he lost his taste for this worldly life. On a pilgrimage to Rome, Francis begged with the beggars at St. Peter's. the experience moved him to live in poverty. Francis returned home, began preaching on the streets, and soon amassed a following. His order was endorsed by Pope Innocent III in 1210. In 1219, he went to Egypt where crusaders



St. Francis

Animal Blessing
Oct. 2, 12:00 pm

were besieging Diarmetta, hoping to find martyrdom at the hands of the Muslims. By this point, the Franciscan Order had grown to such an extent that its primitive organizational structure was no longer sufficient. He returned to Italy to organize the order. Once his organization was endorsed by the Pope, he withdrew increasingly from external affairs. In 1223, Francis arranged for the first Christmas manger scene. In 1224, he received the stigmata, making him the first person to bear the wounds of Christ's passion. He died in 1226 while singing Psalm 141.

On July 16, 1228, he was pronounced a saint by Pope Gregory IX. He is known as the patron saint of animal. Why the patron saint of animals?

Many of the stories that surround the life of St. Francis deal with his love for animals.

Perhaps the most famous incident that illustrates the Saint's humility towards nature is recounted in the "Fioretti" ("Little Flowers"), a collection of legends and folklore that sprang up after the Saint's death. It is said that one day, while Francis was traveling with some companions, they happened upon a place in the road where birds filled the trees on either side. Francis told his companions to "wait for me while I go to preach to my sisters the birds". The birds surrounded him, intrigued by the power of his voice, and not one of them flew away.

A Message from the Rector ... cont.

Another legend from the *Fioretti* tells that in the city of Gubbio, where Francis lived for some time, there was a wolf terrifying and ferocious, who devoured men as well as animals. Francis had compassion on the townsfolk, and went up into the hills to find the wolf. Soon, fear of the animal had caused all his companions to flee, though the saint pressed on. When he found the wolf, he made the sign of the cross and commanded the wolf to come to him and hurt no one. Miraculously the wolf closed his jaws and lay down at the feet of St. Francis. "Brother Wolf, you do much harm in these parts and you have done great evil...", said Francis. "All these people accuse you and curse you... But brother wolf, I would like to make peace between you and the people." Then Francis led the wolf into town, and surrounded by startled citizens made a pact between them and the wolf. Because the wolf had "done evil out of hunger", the townsfolk were to feed the wolf regularly, and in return, the

wolf would no longer prey upon them or their flocks. In this manner Gubbio was freed from the menace of the predator. Francis even made a pact on behalf of the town dogs, that they would not bother the wolf again. Francis, to show the towns people that they would not be harmed, blessed the wolf.

Francis preached to man and beast the universal ability and duty of all creatures to praise God and the duty of men to protect and enjoy nature as both the stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves. Legend has it that St. Francis on his deathbed thanked his donkey for carrying and helping him throughout his life, and his donkey wept.

We honor St. Francis and all God's creatures by blessing them on Sunday, October 2 at 12:00 pm.

Fr. Wayne +



Beau (the rector's dog) cordially invites all the animals of the parish to come for a blessing on

Sunday, October 2 at 12:00 pm.

Please feel free to bring your humans with you!



Gingerbread House Nursery School, Inc.
 P. O. Box 5268
 Wakefield, R. I. 02880
 782-4820

(location 366 Main St. Wakefield)

August 4, 2011

Church of the Ascension
 370 Main Street
 Wakefield, R. I 02879

Dear Father Wayne and members of the Vestry,

It is with great sadness that I am sending you this letter to let you know that I will not be re-opening the Gingerbread House Nursery School in September.

As you know, DCYF (Department of Children, Youth and Families) has become the licensing agency for nursery schools in the State of Rhode Island. In order to become licensed under DCYF, I had hoped to address various site regulations this summer. However, it has become clear to me that I will not be able to accomplish my goals by September 12th and that completion of these requirements is prohibitively expensive. In addition to time constraints and costs, I have some misgivings about the construction recommendations and their impact on child safety.

I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for your support while I attempted to address the issue of DCYF licensing. I would also like to thank Sigrid Hewitt and Laura Kerekorian for the time and effort that they have spent on my behalf. Sigrid, for her strength, optimism and life lessons and Laura, for her skill, knowledge and sincere dedication to our effort.

It is hard to express in words my affection for the members of the Church of the Ascension. I have so many wonderful memories of the past twenty-seven years here. You have always been wonderful to me and to my program. Thank you for all of your support, especially during these last 19 months. I will always consider myself to be an "unofficial" member of your Church.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ann H. Wojciechowski
 Ann H. Wojciechowski



Our Thanks to Special People
... from Sigrid Hewitt

As always - many thanks to many people this month. Our thanks to everyone who provided refreshments and welcome for "Refreshments on the Lawn" after the summer Sunday services.
Thanks also to Diane Powers and Phyllis Scheibenpflug for manning the Ascension office during Marjorie's absence. We thank Susan and Jim Vasquez for trimming the monumental yew hedges lining the entrance to the parish hall. They saved us from being swallowed up by growing yew bushes.
To Doug and Sandy Arnold, and their family, for making the transition, including moving the children's altar, downstairs for the Sunday School, and making a welcoming place for the Sunday School students. Thanks also to Jennifer, of Jennifer's Chocolates, for her donation of brownies, much appreciated, to the Sunday Supper.
Thank you!

St. Mary's ECW News



....from **Diane Powers** President

October 12 meeting at 12 noon in the parish hall.

Sigrid Hewitt and Shirley Champlin will be our hostesses.

All the ladies and their guests are asked to bring a sandwich or salad for themself.

Coffee and desert will be provided.

Karen Crosby has most generously offered her time to demonstrate and supply material for our program, creating a Zentangle.

If you are not a regular at St. Mary's and would like to attend, please notify Diane Powers, 783-8613 so that Karen will have material for you.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

OCTOBER 23 TAG SALE,

NOVEMBER 4 LADIES NIGHT OUT - Downtown Merchants' Association,

NOVEMBER 13, FLU CLINIC, 10AM-12NOON,

DECEMBER 3 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

Your donations to the tag sale will be appreciated, they may be left in the parish hall the week of sale, or call Diane for pick-up and questions.



Life feels so different to the one who takes time to notice it

...the Monks of New Skete

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Exodus 34) 11-24-2008
DO YOU HAVE A SPELL-CHECKER ON THAT?

Last year we celebrated our 1st All Hallows' Eve service. If you remember, Halloween is All-Hallows'-Eve which is the night-before-All-Saints'- Day. During all the Christian centuries up until the simplification of the Church calendar in 1956, it was a liturgical vigil in its own right and thus has a reason for being. So we will keep that tradition alive by once again celebrating an All Hollows' Eve service. It was the custom to participate in this liturgical worship wearing costumes.



All Hallows Eve
Service
Saturday October 29 at 5 PM

Along with the rector, last year about half the congregation were in costumes. Let's have more of the "other half" wear a costume this year. This service is especially fun for children so please feel free to bring your child to this service. The service will follow the traditional liturgy for All Hallows' Eve and therefore will not include the Eucharist. It begins at 5:00 pm on Saturday, Oct. 29. Immediately following the service the congregation is invited to the Parish Costume Party in the Parish Hall.



**Parish
Costume
Party**

Games !!! Food !!!! Fun !!!!
Saturday, Oct. 29 @ 6:00 pm
(immediately following the 5:00 service)
This party is for all members of the parish
ages 0 - 100 +



Jonnycake Food Pantry October Contributions

Contributions for the Jonnycake Food Pantry for the month of October will be Thanksgiving Day foods such as gravy, stuffing, quick bread mix, pie crusts and fillings, evaporated milk, cranberry sauce, and canned vegetables.



Feeding the Hungry:

from Paul Jordan

Something new and exciting is coming to Ascension this fall. Beginning on Sunday, October 2nd, we will be offering a **4:30 pm Evening Prayer Service**. The impetus for this was the recent revelation that many of our Sunday supper guests have come to call Ascension "their church" even though they may never have set foot beyond the Parish Hall. Keeping with the newly developing Diocesan mission focus on feeding the hungry, a number of us began to realize that our guests come not only for a meal, but for companionship and conversation and that perhaps they have unmet spiritual hungers as well. Our first response to this was to combine the annual summer picnic with Sunday supper. What

started out cautiously, with two groups either measuring up or studiously avoiding the other, soon turned into a real party. We had good food, live music, dancing and a much needed coming together of two previously unmet Church families.

We now open up the Church for our guests to visit before or after their meal and perhaps find themselves a moment of God's peace. We hope that some will want to join us in saying evening prayer each week just before dinner. This is an opportunity for all of us to worship in a new way, to share our faith, and to feed the hunger of others or to be fed ourselves. Please join us on October 2nd at 4:30 and maybe even stay for dinner!



Sunday Supper Has a FREEZER!!

Please consider "making two" when you prepare casseroles

to share one with Sunday Supper!

See Tasha Connor for details. Thanks!

"I'd Like to Meet With the Rector"

Fr. Wayne is available for meetings or pastoral visits on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Please call **783-2911** to make an appointment.

He is available for emergency care 24/7.

Emergency # 824-2308

Stewardship Committee Begins Its Work

Returning members of the committee, Joan Lisi, Maureen Buck, Randy Collins, Karen Crosby and Fr. Wayne are joined this year by Cate Lemieux.

Be sure to watch your mail the week of October 10th for your special invitation to the

Parish Stewardship Brunch coming in November!



Sared & Profane
Book Club

We're Reading

Cleopatra by Stacy Schiff

Join us November 10th

At Joan Lisi's home

6:30 PM

For Dinner and Discussion



Sunday School

Church School Update**... from Sandy Arnold, Coordinator**

Fr. Wayne opened our Sunday School with a prayer and we are up and running. We are so excited to be back with our Church School family!

We are very fortunate to have Christen Collins (Middle School), Lara Montle (Grades 4, 5 and 6), and Anita Burke (Grades 1, 2 and 3) teaching again. And, I am teaching the pre-school group.

We would like to thank Ann W. for all of her years of service to the community running Gingerbread House Nursery School. Ann has supported our Sunday School program for many years and we thank her for that as well.

The rest of September and October will be busy and fun.

September 25th: We will have Sunday School. And after church, we hope that you will join us for an open house to celebrate our new Sunday School space and have a parents' meeting as well.

October 2nd: Will be a regular Sunday School day.

October 9th: We will NOT have Sunday School.

October 16th, 23rd, and 30th: We will have Sunday School.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me.

Sandy Arnold

Sunday School Coordinator

Downtown Merchants' Association**... Sigrid Hewitt**

Ascension is a continuing member of the Downtown Merchants' Association. Being part of DMA is considered as part of our community outreach effort. As we are part of this community; they are our neighbors and their welfare is our concern.

Upcoming Events and Activities Include:

- Construction of a new building on Main St. by the side of the bike trail. Funded by a state grant, this will include restrooms.
- The Animal Rescue League (a no-kill shelter) will hold a dog walk called "A Bark in the Park" on October 2 at Ninigret Park, to benefit the shelter. Contact the ARL for more information.
- The DMA will hold a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 15, with fun events for all ages.
- The art gallery Hera will hold a silent auction on Saturday, October 15.
- Thursday, December 1, will be Ladies Night in the shops of downtown Wakefield.

Save this date
Friday, November 4th at 7:30 p.m.
Church of the Ascension
Parish Hall
St. Mary's E.C.W. sponsors

UNDER THE PETTICOATS

Donation \$10
Children under age 12 free

Bring your sister, mother, daughter, friends
for a fun and informative evening.

Desserts, coffee and tea to follow program

Patricia Perry, owner of Sneak Peek Productions, is a historical interpreter who presents a lively interactive show giving her audience a peek at how people lived and dressed in the early 18th century.

For more information or if you need a ride call Arlene Arnold 783-0260 or Diane Powers 783-8613

Kid's Page

A COOKIE SMILE

Make these cheerful lollipop cookies to share.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1 roll of sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Cookie sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Cellophane treat bags
- Ribbon



What you do:

1. Freeze the roll of dough.
2. Cut dough into ¼-inch slices.
3. Place slices 2 inches apart on cookie sheet.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for five minutes.
5. Remove cookies from oven and place a stick into the bottom of each cookie (about 1 inch into the dough).
6. Return cookies to the oven until done, three to five more minutes.
7. After cookies are cool, make a "face" on each one, using frosting and sprinkles.
8. Put cookies into bags and tie with a ribbon. Then give away these edible smiles!

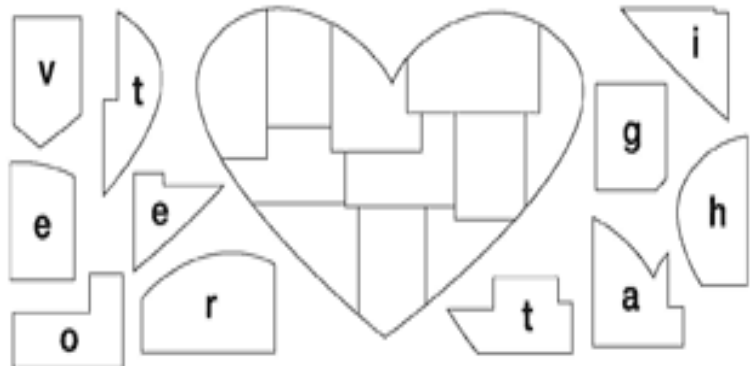


HOW TO GIVE

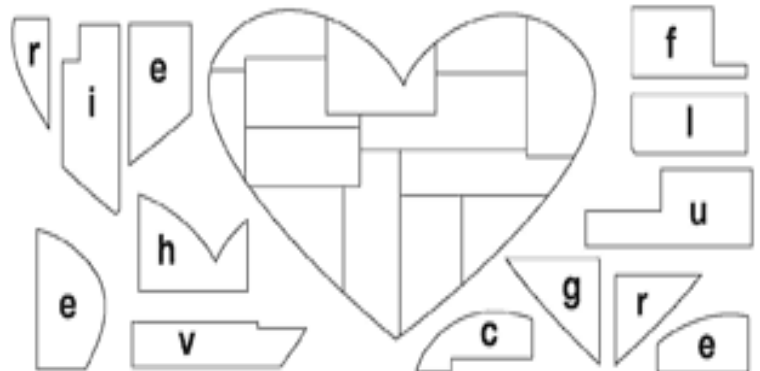
We can give in a variety of ways, including our money, possessions and time. But God says there's only one attitude to have when we give.

Finish the puzzles by matching the pieces and writing out the letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your ...




... not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a ...



Answers: heart to give, cheerful giver



OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ECW - Episcopal Church Women CCS - Church School SS - Sunday Supper						
2 8 A - HE 9:45 A CS 10A HE \12 N Blessing of Animals 4:30 P Evening Prayer 5 p SS	3	4 7 p - Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7	8 5 p - HE
9 8 A - HE NO CS 10A HE 4:30 P Evening Prayer 5 p SS	10	11 7:15 p - Vestry Meeting 7 p - Choir Rehearsal	12 12 p - ECW Create a Zentangle	13 5 p - HE	14	15 5 p - HE
16 8 A - HE 9:45 A CS 10A HE 4:30 P Evening Prayer 5 p SS	17	18 7 p - Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21	22 5 p - HE 
23 8 A - HE 9:45 A CS 10A HE 4:30 P Evening Prayer 5 p SS	24	25 7 p - Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28	29 5 p All Hallows' Eve Service 6p Parish Costume Party
30 8 A - HE 9:45 A CS 10A HE 4:30 P Evening Prayer 5 p SS	31					

The Church of the Ascension

370 Main Street

Wakefield, RI 02879

WE'RE ON THE WEB! ASCENSIONWAKEFIELD.ORG

Go GREEN!!!

**Receive your Rising electronically and save!
Contact the parish office to have your copy sent by e-mail.
Thanks!**



Blessing of the Animals October 2, 2011 at 12 Noon

Sunday Evening Prayer at 4:30 PM beginning October 2, 2011

Young Peoples Choir Rehearsal Sundays immediately after the 10 AM Service

Vestry Meeting October 11, 2011 7:15 PM

ECW Meeting Wednesday October 12, 2011 at 12 Noon

ECW TAG Sale Saturday October 22, 2011

October 29, 2011 All Hallows' Eve Service followed by Parish Costume Party