

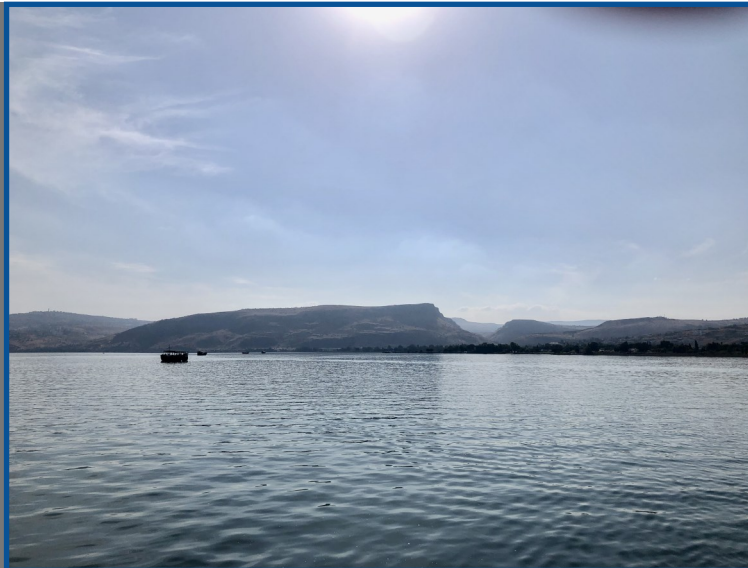
ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY

St. Anne's Episcopal Church

FEBRUARY

2023

Newsletter



Dear Parish,

Above is my photo of the Sea of Galilee, taken on October 19, 2022. I place it here, not only because it is the setting for the current Gospel stories in the season of Epiphany, but because of the calm here that one cannot miss. In the midst of the church's busy administrative season of Annual Reports, Meetings, and Parochial Reports, I am nourished by the calm remembered here, as in the 3rd verse of John Greenleaf Whittier's hymn, "Dear Lord and Father".

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity
Interpreted by love!

May you read with pleasure and learning our Annual Report for the year 2022 now available at the church. May you come to the Annual Meeting of our Parish on Sunday morning, January 29th at 10:45am. We will enact our parish business, vote for new Vestry members and Diocesan Delegates. This year we will elect a new Clerk of Vestry. And we have gratitude to give to our outgoing members.

In this year's Parochial Report, there are three narrative questions for the parish to answer. At the back of the Annual Report, you will find more information about this.

Continued on next page ...

Worship:

9:00 am Sunday in person

**First Sunday of each month: 8:00 am and 10:00 am in person
(8:00 am service is not filmed)**

Weekly worship on our YouTube Channel:

["St. Anne's Episcopal Church, N. Billerica MA"](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCStAnneEpiscopalChurch)
(Subscribe and see videos of our services!)

Our services are replayed on BATV

Check out our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/StAnnesBillerica

Contact information:

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Continued from previous page..

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’ Matt 11:28-30

It thrills me to be among you as we live into brand new ways of leading our church together. Thank you, everyone, for contributing to our new path.

In Christ's joy,
Mthr Jennifer



From the Parish Register



We lost two parishioners and offered their funerals last week. The first was Frank Martell who, with his family of six children and wife Phyllis, were members in the 1960s and early '70s. We are very pleased to still be their home parish, and to welcome them back. In gratitude for the hosting work of our St. Elizabeth's Guild, Phyllis has supplied our kitchen with new hot mats, professional spatulas, and a cast iron griddle. We are ready for pancakes now!! Thank you, Martell family.



Susan Corkum Kennedy worshipped at St. Anne's for almost the entirety of her 81 years. Watching her and Carol MacKenzie tease each other about high school antics was a delight. Sue's contributions to the ministry of the Thrift Shop will be sorely missed. Also, she was an artist of beautiful talent, as witnessed by these two painted slates of hers in my office. Of course, there is the window in our church that she gave in memory of her parents that will remind us of her, always. We will miss her.



Vestry:

Rosemary Kinser	Warden
Michael Hopkins	Warden
Linda Kusnierz	Treasurer
Russell Bent	Clerk
Sandra Giroux	2026
Brenda Komarinski	2026
Maria Martin	2024
Marie Figenbaum	2024
Lisa Carpine	2025
Todd Baldwin	2025

Mother Jennifer's Office Hours:

Tuesdays	11-5 pm
Thursdays	2-5 pm

Church Office Hours:

Tuesdays	11-5 pm
Thursdays	2-5 pm

Thrift Shop Hours:

Wednesdays,
Thursdays, Fridays 10 am-2 pm

12-Step Meetings:

Wednesdays (AA)	7:30 pm
Thursdays (NA)	7 pm

Corinthians 16:14- *Let all that you do be done in love.*



Warden's Message:

Our annual meeting took place on January 29th. Please read the Warden's Report for an overview of 2022. By the time you read this report, you will notice that our entrance railing has been repaired – Let's hope and pray it stays in place. We have asked Pro Electric to do a thorough investigation of the current status of our electrical winter protection systems in place. We will share those findings next month.

Special Reminder: Vestry Meetings are open to all members of the Parish. You are always welcome to attend the meetings. As of March, we will be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Please join us when able; we look forward to seeing you and listening to your thoughts and ideas.

Keep warm and safe,

Mike & Rosemary

Update on Local Refugee Families...

In October 2022, 55 migrant families from Haiti, Columbia, and Venezuela, including 75 children, were transferred from Boston Medical Center to Days Inn in Methuen. Some of the families were subsequently transferred to a hotel in Plymouth.

At the present time, the families in Methuen have adequate accommodation, food, and clothing. The Program Manager for the refugees had indicated that they have an ongoing need for personal care products, baby wipes, and diapers due to the large number of infants and young children in the group.

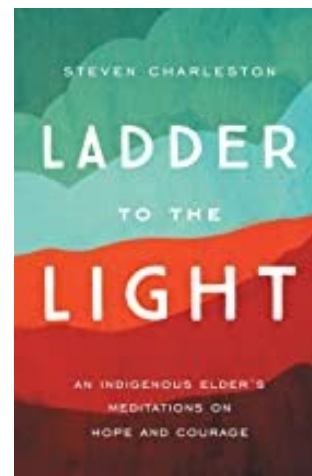


Reminders:

- **On February 5th, come to either the 8am or 10am service!**
- **Annual Meeting January 29th at 10:45am in Bixby Hall!**

Jennifer's Journal February 2023

From the Diocesan FYI newsletter The Diocese of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network invites all who are interested to join an **online book discussion** on *Thursday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.*, focused on *Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder's Meditation on Hope and Courage* by the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston. As both Choctaw elder and bishop, Charleston serves as an advocate and Indigenous prophetic voice in The Episcopal Church and beyond. Find more details [here](#), and contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@diomass.org to register.

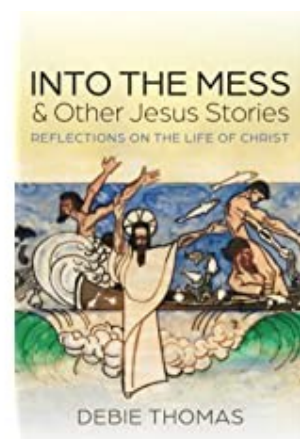


St. Anne's Lenten book study I am considering a book that is highly recommended, but expensive at \$29 for paperback. I could not find it at any other price. What do you think?

The author, Debie Thomas, will be coming to our Diocese on April 29th for a diocesan-wide Saturday morning retreat. She wrote for The Christian Century and was a staff writer for *Journey with Jesus: A Weekly Webzine* for the Global Church.

This is her only published book.

"He was a disrupter and a peacemaker, a rebel and a rabbi. His friends were the riffraff, and his enemies the religious elite. He was the wounded man who healed the sick, the homeless man who fed the hungry, the convicted criminal who released the captives, and the dead man who conquered the grave. The stories he told were scandalous, and the stories he lived changed the world. To reflect on the Jesus of the Gospels is to reflect on paradox, mystery, wonder, and messiness. It is to find God in the shadows, the tensions, and the ambiguities of life on earth as it is. These essays on the stories of Jesus are invitations to faith in all its complexity and untidiness. The Jesus who emerges here is not the sanitized Christ of piety and platitude, but the Christ of complicated joys and transcendent sorrows. The Christ who weeps, wonders, loses, learns, and seeks. These are the stories of the Incarnate God who finds and loves us in the messiness of our lives."



About the author from her webpage <https://www.debiethomas.com/about-me>

"I was a preacher's kid and a church nerd, but also the annoying little brat who asked all the "wrong" questions about God, faith, doubt, life, and the Bible. I started writing as soon as I learned to read and spell. I was lucky to have a mom who introduced me early to the treasures of language and literature, and writing soon became my way of processing my world. Whenever I felt awed, bewildered, frightened, or joyful, I turned to pen and paper for refuge and grounding, and found that the "Word made flesh" is closer and more loving than I can ever imagine. I suppose not much has changed!"

If this book is too expensive for us, I would love to hear your ideas for other parish-wide Lenten books. Lent begins on February 22, 2023.

Collects from our Prayer Book for Social Justice, pp 260, 823

Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Cursillo Update



Hosted by Ellen Harland.

The prayer of Thomas Merton:

"My Lord God I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

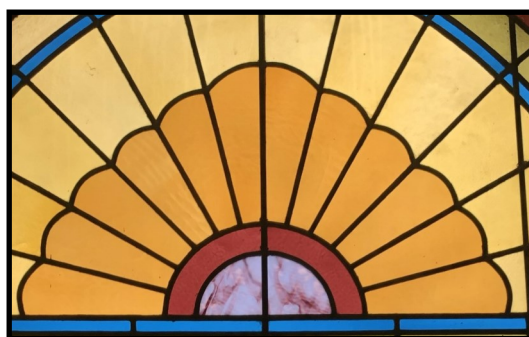
But I believe that my desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

We hope you'll join us as we continue in fellowship and praise our Lord in this new year.

Ultreya's are the 3rd Saturday of the month @ 7pm. All are Welcome!

SAVE THE DATE: November 16th-19th Cursillo Weekend.

Peace, Rosemary



New members of St. Anne's vestry will need to complete their Safe Church training as well as any existing members who haven't finished theirs. If you need help with your Safe Church training, or are unsure of your status, please let Brenda know. If you have completed your Safe Church training recently, please email your Certificate to Brenda Komarinski (bkomarinski@gmail.com). St. Anne's Safe Church Policy can be found on our website (<http://stannes-billerica.org/safe-church/>).

St. Anne's Social Group: February 4th!

Our St. Anne's Thrift Shop

As St. Anne's finally moves out of Covid's abundant caution and into more activities happening on Sunday mornings, small chores for the Thrift Shop done by parishioners would be very helpful. Other small chores can be done at any time.

1. Putting out the trash barrels every Sunday. (Thrift Shop Volunteers bring them back in.)
2. Pick up discarded/duplicate/etc. books from the Thrift Shop and bring to a Burlington Used bookstore. Once a week.
3. Discarded Electronics to Staples in Burlington, or Chelmsford, or others. Once every two weeks.
4. Cleaning support: vacuuming carpets. Dry mop floors. Could be weekly or less.
5. Little projects: Unsightly old letters removed from stairs. Remove empty hangers off racks. Book room organization.

In other words, it takes many, many hands to run an operation that gives over 50k to our parish budget every year. Any small bit that you can contribute will be mightily appreciated. Speak to Marguerite Massey or Kathy Brewster for further information. Their contacts can be found in our church Office.

Newsletter deadline schedule!

March newsletter submission deadline: February 12, 2023

March newsletter distributed: February 22, 2023

April newsletter submission deadline: March 19, 2023

April newsletter distributed: March 29, 2023

To the People of St. Anne's..

Thank you Thank you for a wonderful service on Christmas Eve 8pm. Although small in number we were mighty in spirit. The sermon of finding beauty in cracked places was Right on!!

Small places sometimes wonder if they make a difference-

Reminds me of a story about a woman who meets a man on the beach throwing starfish back into the ocean. The woman says "There must be thousands here on the shore. Do you really think you will make a difference?" The man replied, "To this one it will!"

On a cold Christmas you welcomed the stranger- fed them with spiritual food & drink & sent them on their way better than they had been before. Blessings.

May you have a Blessed New Year!!

Deb Spence & Robin Corrdry (Note- a Corrdry grandchild was baptized at St. Anne's)



Need Covid Tests?

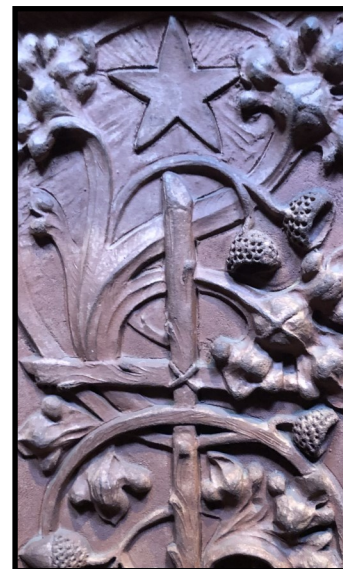
To help keep everyone safe, please test for Covid-19. If anyone is in need of (free) rapid tests for Covid-19, we have them! Please contact the church office or pick them up at the back of the church.

From the Parish Administrator...

Dear St. Anne's parishioners,

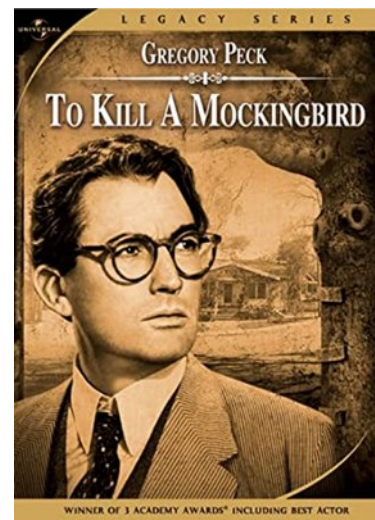
You may have noticed the images I use in the newsletter. Some of the images I took myself as I have explored St. Anne's. Some other images I took at my home parish of St. Paul's in North Andover, or of scenery on trips or walks. I hope you enjoy them. When I pass by churches or other houses of worship I can't help but look at the details. If I go inside a church I often take my time looking, walking around as I explore. The ceiling of the church I attended as a child was painted with a starry sky, a frequently seen design motif in churches. I suppose the symbolism can have a number of associations, including the connection to heaven. So to me, the starry sky gave me a sense of wonder. Another feature of that church is that it was converted from an old barn by immigrants looking to create a place of worship. The barn's original wooden peg construction was still apparent when I attended there if you climbed into the attic space above the choir loft and below the steeple. Do you have a favorite detail of St. Anne's or a memory from the church where you grew up? I would be interested in hearing about it!

-Rich



Movie Night

In February, we will be watching the movie **"To Kill A Mockingbird"**. We look forward to seeing you on Friday, February 17 at **6:00pm**. This is a 2 hour and 9 minute movie. A discussion will follow. (Note the date – this will be on the 3rd Friday of the month)

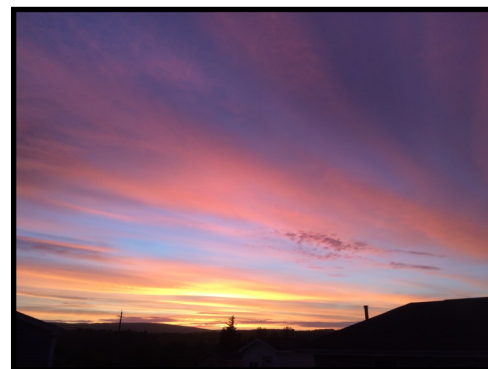


The Life and Ministry of St Paul lesson is available for take home now. We looked at his life in relationship with God. Our next in-person lesson is Thursday, February 16. We will have classes for the 3-6 year-olds from 3:30-4:30pm and then for the 7-12 year-olds from 4:30-5:30pm. In March, we will be looking at Women of the Bible. If you have questions, please let Brenda know (bkomarinski@gmail.com).

A message from the Rev'd Richard H. Lewis

The days of Lent are just over the horizon and we might give thought to what we might do in that time of Easter Preparation. Three notes are sounded in the services of Ash Wednesday:

Prayer
Fasting
Alms giving



Prayer is a prime practice in that it makes time for us to listen for God in our daily life. Make it a practice to pray at a regular time each day: say at 7 each morning for 10 minutes. Give thanks for the night's rest and for a new day. Call to mind your family members and pray for God's blessing on each by name. Ask God's healing for those you know to have health issues. Pray for those who teach and those who learn. You might use prayers from the Prayer Book or go free-lance. But- do pray, daily.

Fasting is an ancient practice (not just done by Christians or only in Lent) of self-regulating food intake. Bodily care and discipline are of importance in personal health. We are asked to consider modifying our intake so as to be self-disciplined. How to do this can as basic as not having lunch twice a week. Other types of fasting are sometimes practiced: turn off your cell phone at 8 PM or quit social media two days a week. You might choose other options.

Alms Giving is another hallmark of Lenten practice. This is to benefit those beyond ourselves. It might mean putting the cost of those not eaten lunches in a jar each week and then sending the total savings to Episcopal Relief & Development. ER&D is our way to give help to folks in other places. Hurricane Relief, for example in Florida. Or sending funds to provide literacy programs for girls where none are in place. Or helping provide funds to develop a loan program so that women might begin small businesses and provide better for their families.

Lent may be a time to pray or fast, as an act of self-control, or equally it may be a special time to do something that benefits others. In any case- try one or all of the long-time Lenten Practices.

Trust this may give you a boost for Lent !

The Revd. Richard H Lewis

A Message From Jayleigh...

Hi Rich and Mother Jennifer,

I figure between the two of you, you can convey my appreciation to the congregation. I have never had such a meaningful and celebrated work transition as I have had here! I received both the card, signed by many I have known and worked with at St. Anne's, and the congregation's extra gift, which is way beyond what I ever expected! To think that there were those who chose to donate to give me something upon my departure is just amazing to me, and shows yet again how special St. Anne's is. I really mean it that I'll stay in touch with the church, and am glad to keep that connection.

Jayleigh

DRIVE-THRU FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 21, 2023

5:30-7:30pm



We have cooks inside making our delicious fluffy pancakes. We have a runner taking warm pancakes to a person outside passing out to our drive thru guests. Individual containers, individually wrapped utensils, and individual syrups have all been purchased to make this a fun safe event.

How can you help – we need the Bacon! Please volunteer to cook bacon and bring to the church between 3-4pm on February 21st (we will keep it warm).

Then we need you to come back through the Drive through line between 5:30-7:30pm to support our efforts. We will be having one way traffic through the driveway circle as well as a free will offering plate. We hope you can join us as well as spread the word.

Community Events

* Carolisa's Classes * Gift Certificates Available! *

* Schedule a Workshop @ St Anne's for a special occasion or just for fun!

Further info on all classes & Sign up: moonlightdjz@gmail.com

Fb: Carolisa Moonlightdjz Fb: Carolisa's Classes

ZUMBA & LINE DANCE MIX @ St Anne's

Tuesdays 6:15p-7:15p * off 2/21

Try it -\$10 ~ seven weeks \$64. Advance sign up required @moonlightdjz@gmail.com

BELLYDANCE 101 * Girls Night * Moms Night * Friends Night *

Monday January 30 ~6:30p-7:45p @ St Annes * \$12. Advance sign up required @moonlightdjz@gmail.com

**ALSO on ZOOM Wednesdays- 6:30p * join friends from anywhere!*

VALENTINE'S FAMILY FUN NIGHT.. Dancing, Fun & Games!

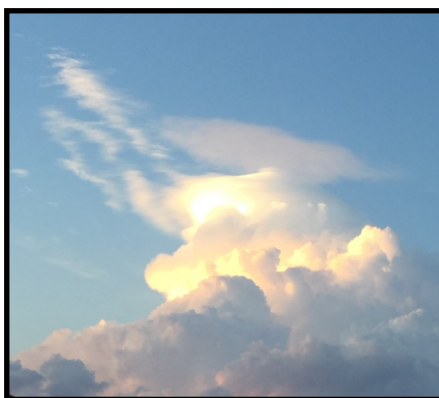
Friday February 10 ~ 6:00-7:30p with Carolisa & Peter

For Kids with adults ~ all welcome!. *\$4 pp ages 4+ up * Kids 3 & under – FREE! Sign up required by 2/3 ~ moonlightdjz@gmail.com

St. Anne's Prayer List

Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend to your loving care this child _____. Relieve their pain, guard them from all danger, restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise them up to a life of service to you. Hear us, we pray, for _____. Amen.

Barbara Rogers & her son Kevin, Brian Hering, Chick Meech, Cindy Z., Cyndi, Dale, Diane Brown, Donald Fudge, Donald Sutton, Sr., Doris Hamner, Elaine McLaughlin, George Lyna, Helen, Janet Lyna, Jean Flight, Janet Strong, José Soreso, José Torres, Sr., Joshua Young, Kathy Chang, Lee Conley, Linda E., Lucy Ann Young & her daughter Paula, Marie Horgan, Mary Lander & her daughter Christine, Norm & MJ Zarella, Paul Hamner, Philip Lavoie, Tammy, Vicki Mahoney, Yvonne Hopkins



Birthday and Anniversary Prayers

O God, our times are in your hand; Look with favor we pray, on your servant _____, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer pages 830 (*For a Birthday*) and 430-1 (*Blessing of a Marriage*)

John Kusnierz	1/7	Levi Elder	2/7	John & Sue Geen	3/1
Rich Gorzela	1/9	Zachary Farmer	2/12	Colin Baldwin	3/7
Sandra Giroux	1/11	Norm Zerella	2/15	Laurie Holman	3/8
Mia Diaz	1/16	Todd Baldwin	2/20	Linda Kusnierz	3/26
Jane & Dick Kotelly	1/22				
Carol MacKenzie	1/25				
Mike Hopkins	1/27				
Donna Gorzela	1/28				



Februrary 2023 St. Anne's Ministers' Schedule

Date	Ushers	Lector	LEM/Prayers/ Server	Acolyte	Video	Audio
February 5 8am	George Cousens	Jane Kotelly	Kathy Brewster	None	None	None
February 5 10am	Dotty Callihan Ken Kinser	Sue Geen	Mark Komarinski	Brenda Komarinski	Ron Desmarais	Mike Hopkins
February 12	Ken Kinser Rosemary Kinser	Russell Bent	Ron Desmarais	Mike Hopkins	Eli Baldwin	Ed Giroux
February 19	George Cousens Linda Kusnierz	Lisa Carpine	Kathy Brewster	Brenda Komarinski	Sandra Giroux	Ed Giroux
February 22 (Ash Wed)						
February 26	Marguerite Massey Pat Cregg	Kevin Kotelly	Dotty Callihan Ed Giroux	Mike Hopkins	Ron Desmarais	Mark Komarinski

February 2023 St. Anne's Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 am Craft Group 10-2 Thrift Shop	2 10-2 Thrift Shop	3 10-2 Thrift Shop	4 1pm St. Anne's Social Group
5 8 am Sunday Service 10am Sunday Service	6	7 10 am Bible Study	8 10-2 Thrift Shop	9 10-2 Thrift Shop 4 pm Wardens and Clergy	10 10-2 Thrift Shop	11
12 9 am Sunday Service 10:30 am Social Conscience Book Group March newsletter deadline	13	14 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study on Zoom	15 9:30 am Craft Group 10-2 Thrift Shop	16 10-2 Thrift Shop 3:30-5:30 Church School 4 pm Wardens and Clergy	17 10-2 Thrift Shop 6 pm Parish Movie Night	18
19 9 am Sunday Service 10:30 am Social Justice Committee	20	21 10 am Bible Study 12 pm Billerica Interfaith Meeting 5:30pm Pancake Supper	22 Ash Wednesday 10-2 Thrift Shop	23 10-2 Thrift Shop	24 10-2 Thrift Shop	25 8:30 pm Men's Breakfast 9 am Ladies' Breakfast
26 9 am Sunday Service 10:30 am Social Conscience Book Group	27	28 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study on Zoom	Reminders: - On February 5th, come to either the 8am or 10am service! - Annual Meeting January 29th at 10:45am in Bixby Hall!			