

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

June 1, 2025



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1935 The Plaza
Parish Office: 1229 Baker Avenue
Schenectady, New York 12309
518-346-6241; office@st-stephens.church

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
The Seventh Sunday of Easter
June 1, 2025

The Entrance Rite

The Prelude	<i>Meditation on "Diademata"</i>	Callahan
The Gathering Prayer		
The Processional Hymn		Hymnal #214

The Word of God

The Opening Acclamation	Page #355
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Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Collect for Purity	Page #355
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Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
People: **Amen.**

The Gloria	Hymnal S-278
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All: **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day	Page #226
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Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.
O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.
People: **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Acts 16:16-34

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

With Paul and Silas, we came to Philippi in Macedonia, a Roman colony, and, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 97

- 1 The LORD is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O LORD.
- 9 For you are the LORD,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

The Second Lesson

Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21

Lector: A reading from the Revelation of John.
At the end of the visions I, John, heard these words:
"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."
Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.
"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."
The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."
And let everyone who hears say, "Come."
And let everyone who is thirsty come.
Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.
The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #613

The Holy Gospel

John 17:20-26

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Celebrant: Jesus prayed for his disciples, and then he said. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those

also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Rev. Canon Richard Visconti

The Nicene Creed

Page #358

All: **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People Form IV

Page #388

Intercessor: Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Today we pray for The Anglican Church of Korea. We pray also for our church leaders: the Church of England and the Anglican Communion and for the discernment of the Crown Nomination Committee; Sean, the Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah, the Bishop of Albany; and Richard, our Interim Priest-in-Charge.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy
People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for Donald, our President; Kathy, our Governor; and Gary, our Mayor. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Give life and health to our church and community, and call and inspire the priest who will serve as our rector. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, including all on our church family prayer list. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Pope Francis, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

(The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.)

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Page #360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

The Peace

Page #360

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

Almighty, Unchangeable God

Berry

The Doxology

V.3, Hymnal #380

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

Page #367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymnal S-128

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All: **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may

be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Page #364

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Page #364

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Invitation

Page #364

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Celebrant/Minister: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.

The Communion Hymn

Hymnal #341

Post-Communion Prayer

Page #365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Concluding Rite

The Blessing for the Sunday after Ascension Day

Celebrant: May the risen Christ who has passed into the heavens clothe you with power from on high. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

People: **Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #215

The Dismissal

Page 366

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia, Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Postlude

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

Hobby

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Our Intercessions for the week of June 1, 2025

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Korea.

Our Leaders: Donald Trump, President of the United States; Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York; and Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady.

Our Church Leaders: Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany; and Richard Visconti, Interim Priest-in-Charge.

The Church of England and the Anglican Communion, and for discernment of members of the Crown Nomination Commission.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in need of strength and healing: Mary Ann Harrington, Marilyn Causey, Vincent Avila, Peter Nelson, Basil Dewdney, Austin Spang, Don Regula, Chris Morin, Helen Perkins, Perrin, Denise Crates, William O., Mtr. Sally Heiligman, Linda, Ann M., Billy K., and Jean V.

For all public employees that they may continue their work for justice, peace, and the common good, for those who have lost their jobs, and for all those who live in fear.

For those in the Military: Zachary.

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Announcements

June 1, 2025

Serving Today:	Celebrant	The Rev. Canon Richard Visconti
	Altar Guild:	Carolyn Morin Basil Dewdney
	Greeters:	Vicki Hoshko Marilyn Humphrey
	Eucharistic Ministers:	George Woodzell Basil Dewdney
	Lector:	Don Csaposs
	Intercessor:	Basil Dewdney
	Counter:	Bob Voelker
	Coffee Hour:	Joe and Sara Palko Kathy Hoffmann

Altar Flowers: Today's Altar Flowers are given in honor of Memorial Day by Shirley Gretz.

Also, as we approach the 25th anniversary of the institution of the St. Clare Chapter of the Daughters of the King, Marilyn Humphrey and Richey Woodzell offer the altar flowers in loving memory of our DOK sisters Jeanette Ackner, Claudia Ashelman, Eunice Chouffi, Emmy Grubb, Pam Guthrie, Kabby Lowe, Julie McDonald, Debbie Trawick and Mary Whitney.

Schenectady Pride: Our newly formed Social Justice Committee, co-chaired by Ruth Basantes and Don Csaposs, is sponsoring their first activity **today** at the "Schenectady Pride-Love Will Win" celebration. Running from 2:00-7:00 p.m., the event will be at the Gateway Plaza, 12 State Street, in downtown Schenectady.

StreetSoldiers Schenectady: The next lunch-making will be Sunday, June 8 during coffee hour in the kitchen. Come join us! We will provide gloves and some hairnets - or you can wear a hat.

Sycamore Collaborative Pantry: Instead of asking for donations of items in June, we will have a fundraiser several times a year to purchase items for the pantry in bulk.

Sycamore Collaborative Summer Meals: With NY State aid, lunches are provided for children 18 and under at several sites in Schenectady, weekdays July 2-August 29. St. Stephen's will serve the meals at a site for one or two weeks, depending on how many volunteers we have. All volunteers must complete the online training (~15 minutes). We hope to have dates and location in the next week or two and will ask for volunteers during coffee hour.

From Episcopal Relief & Development Spring Match: During Episcopal Relief & Development's Spring Match, all gifts DOUBLE up to \$350,000. Match your gift **today through this Friday**, June 6 by clicking the link: <https://support.episcopalrelief.org/springmatch25>.

Sunday, June 22 will be our end-of-program-year picnic in the Parish Hall after the Sunday morning service. The Church will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, cheese for the burgers, condiments, rolls, chips, drinks, paper products, and utensils. There is a sheet in the back of the church to sign up for set-up, grilling, and clean-up. There is also a sheet to sign up to bring a dish to share.

A Red Cross blood drive will be held in Begley Hall on Friday, July 25, 1- 6 p.m., with Christine MacPherson as coordinator and a church member present. Consider donating blood to save a life. From the Red Cross website: "Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. It is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation."

Sign-up Sheets: Please consider choosing a date to donate your time and/or talents by providing flowers for the altar and/or hosting a coffee hour. There are sign-up sheets for these ministries on the table in the nave extension.

UPCOMING EVENTS

At Saint Stephen's

Sunday, 6/8, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.
StreetSoldiers lunch-making during coffee hour.

Monday, 6/9, 7:00 p.m.: Vestry meeting.

Tuesday, 6/10, 1:00 p.m.: Book Club meeting.

Sunday, 6/15, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Monday, 6/16, 7:00 p.m.: Worship Committee meeting

Sunday, 6/22, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.
Parish Picnic following the service.

Sunday, 6/29, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Friday, 7/25, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.: Red Cross Blood Drive.

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Church Staff & Lay Leaders:

Rev. Can. Richard Visconti, Interim Priest-in-Charge
George Woodzell, Senior Warden
Carole Merrill-Mazurek, Junior Warden
Susan Lohnas, Organist
Douglas Lohnas, Director of the Choir
Jon Ewbank, Office Manager
Denise Crates, Treasurer
Theresa Fay, Clerk

Vestry

Ruth Basantes	Denise Crates
Basil Dewdney	Linda Emaelaf
Vicki Hoshko	Stan Jakubowski
Deborah O'Connor	Jean Stefanski

Welcome!

We are glad you have chosen to worship and give thanks to God with us.

WORSHIP: The Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Join us for refreshments most Sundays in Begley Hall after our service.

Members of the parish offer Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, and 8:00 a.m. on Sunday. Please contact the church office for the link.

Other services are announced.

HYMNS: Our hymns are posted on hymn boards and are listed in our bulletin. They are drawn from the blue *Hymnal* and the black-and-red *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. "Service music," indicated with an "S" before the number, comes at the beginning of the *Hymnal*. Hymns come in the second section. Hymns from *Lift Every Voice and Sing* are preceded by an "LEV."

CHILDREN: We are delighted to have children of all ages and love hearing their voices. We offer a children's sermon when children are present and post a brief children's message each week on our website. The greeters can give them an activity pack. There is a nursery with toys and a comfortable chair if you would like to take a break from the service with your child or find a quiet place to nurse. In the Episcopal Church it is customary for parents to determine the appropriate age for children to take communion. We can always offer "first communion" instruction to you/your children.

COMMUNION: All baptized persons may receive Holy Communion. If you do not wish to take the bread (wafer) or the wine, place your arms across your chest and a member of the clergy will ask God's blessing upon you and on any children not yet receiving communion. If you would like the elements brought to your seat, please speak with a greeter.

FOR THOSE WITH ALLERGIES: If you would like to receive communion wafers that are gluten-wheat-yeast-dairy-egg-soy-nut- and corn-free at Communion, please ask for one from the ministers distributing communion.

OFFERTORY: During the offertory, the greeters take up a collection for funds which support the church and our various ministries. Many people pledge annual support, which is helpful in developing our budget. All contributions are welcomed.

MASKS: The use of masks is optional. The greeters can provide you with one if you like.

CONVERSATION / PASTORAL VISITS are available. Please contact the Parish Office.

MEMBERSHIP: We welcome visitors from other churches as well as those for whom church is a new experience. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to talk with you about becoming a member. Please speak with a warden or fill out a pew card for someone to contact you.

LABYRINTH: Our labyrinth, in the courtyard between the church and Begley Hall, is an adaptation of the millennia-old classical type. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one path in and out; there are no tricks or dead ends. The path winds from the exterior to the center and can become a mirror for our journey of life, touching our sorrows and releasing our joys. Walk it with an open mind and an open heart. Instructions are available at the back of the church.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: Please be in touch with the parish office if you have suggestions for this ministry.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Prayer request sheets can be found on the lectern in the back of the church. You can place anyone on our "Prayer Chain" by contacting Suzanne Taylor at popage@aol.com or by contacting the parish office. Please get the permission of those you add for their names to be used. We will include your request for four weeks in our services of Morning Prayer and count on you to keep us updated.

COMMUNICATION: You may contact us at 518-346-6241 (Office Phone); office@st-stephens.church (e-mail); <https://st-stephens.church> (website); and <https://www.facebook.com/SaintStephensSchenectady>. The Parish Office is generally open Mondays-Fridays from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Rev. Can. Richard Visconti can be contacted at 518-637-7736 or rvisconti@st-stephens.church.