

February 23, 2022

From Fr. John

This Sunday (Feb 27th) is the last Sunday in the season of Epiphany. That means that next Wednesday (March 2nd) is Ash Wednesday — the beginning of the season of Lent. As Ash Wednesday approaches, give some thought to this upcoming season. We are called to “a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial.” I cannot tell you the number of times I have been asked by parishioners, “What should I give up for Lent?” The short answer to that question is: I have no idea.

Giving something up for Lent is a distinctly personal thing. If you are going to do it, which is not a requirement, it should be between you and God. But here is what I can tell you. If you choose to give something up for Lent, make it something that matters to you. I could say that I’m giving up salmon for Lent and it would be no struggle for me ... I don’t like salmon. What you deny yourself should be something that you regularly enjoy. Now here is the important part — every time you want, or even think about what you have chosen to forego, make your mind shift over to God. Think instead about the thousands of ways in which God has blessed you, and give thanks. Or stop and think about how you have “fallen short of the glory of God,” and repent and return to the Lord.

The tradition of giving up something for Lent is a matter of personal piety. The whole point of Lenten disciplines is to bring us into a closer relationship with God. If you have any motivation other than strengthening that relationship, rethink your decision to abstain from anything. And as the most famous of Louisiana traditions goes, between now and Ash Wednesday, *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

Peace,
Fr. John+

Community Breakfast - Sunday, February 27th

Come meet some of our neighbors at breakfast this Sunday, which will be staged as a "to go" meal so that we respect physical distance protocols and ensure the safety of all. Plan to arrive at 7:30 AM sharp if you wish to volunteer with meal prep, or drop in at 8:30 greet our guests or to grab a cup of coffee and some food. Contact Rev. Michael Parham at 318-201-7989 for more information.



Shrove Tuesday

Church Directory Available on Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras)

Join us for a delicious FREE Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 1, at 6:00 pm in keeping with the Shrove Tuesday custom. For those who are not familiar with Shrove Tuesday (which began long before the Mardi Gras tradition), people would enjoy the last bite of “rich” food that would be given up during the 40 days of Lent. The liturgical fasting emphasizes eating simpler food, and refraining from food that would give undue pleasure. In many cultures, this means no meat, dairy products, or eggs.

Along with its emphasis on feasting, another theme of Shrove Tuesday involves Christians repenting of their sins in preparation to begin the season of Lent. The expression “Shrove Tuesday” comes from the word *shrive*, meaning “absolve”.

In many Christian parish churches a popular Shrove Tuesday tradition is the ringing of the church bells (on this day, the toll is known as the Shriving Bell) “to call the faithful to confession before the solemn season of Lent” and for people to “begin frying their pancakes”.

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2, 2022

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Chapel 7:00 a.m.

Nave 12:10 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.



Funeral Arrangements for Henry Blake

On Saturday, March 12, the arrangements for Henry Blake are as follows:

Visitation in the Parish Hall: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Funeral Service in the Nave: 12:00 p.m.

Interment at Mt. Olivet: 3:00 p.m.

Update on Charlotte Sterling

Our Sr. Warden, Charlotte Sterling, is at her daughter's home in Lafayette while undergoing physical therapy. She will be there at least another month. Several have asked about her recovery and would like to send her a message. Her email address is poohandpoet@suddenlink.net and she checks facebook regularly. Snail mail is appreciated, as well: 512 Beverly Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503.



WindSync Concert - Save the Date

Mark your calendar now for March 11 at 7:00 pm to enjoy the free and unique sounds of WindSync, a vibrant chamber ensemble performing wind quintet masterworks, adapting beloved music to their instrumentation, and championing new works by today's composers. The quintet eliminates the "fourth wall" between musicians and audience by often performing from memory, creating an intimate connection. This personal performance style, combined with the ensemble's three-pronged mission of artistry, education, and community-building, lends WindSync its reputation as "a group of virtuosos who are also wonderful people, too".

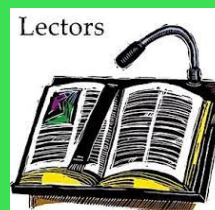
~ Alison Young, Classical MPR

You can see and hear performances and reviews at <https://www.windsync.org/>.

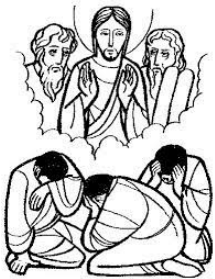
Opportunities to Serve

Are you looking for ways to serve at St. James? Have you ever considered becoming a Lector? They are the people who read from the Old Testament and Epistles during the service. How about becoming a Eucharistic Minister? They are the people who serve at the altar by administering the chalice (the Blood of Christ) during Communion. Or would you like to do those things in a one-on-one situation? Eucharistic Visitors take the elements of Communion, Body and Blood of Christ, from the altar to people who cannot come to church. They conduct short services in a manner prescribed by the Church, bringing a sacramental presence to those who would otherwise not receive it.

If any of those sound like ministries God might be calling you to, please let Fr. John know. He can talk with you about these ministries and explain what the requirements and training would be.



Worship



February 27th
The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
In-person Worship @ 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Childcare is available at 10:00 AM!

[Click here for the readings.](#)

February 27th
Evening Prayer
Online @ 5:00 PM

[Click on this link to join Evening Prayer.](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077
Passcode: 1620

[Click here for the order of service & readings.](#)



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

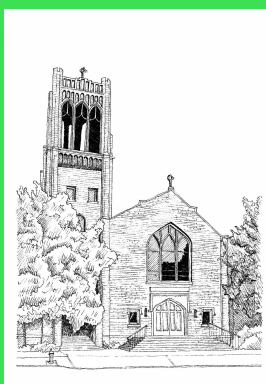
Dani Gonzales, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Jim Leggett, Wayne McBride, Charlotte Sterling, Tim and Alexis Heflin, Matthew Fontanille, Jaxsom McElwee, Bonnie McCartney, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Ty Cedars, Stacy, Kristie Fresh, Mattie Dean McNaughton, Sawyer, John, Bernard Parker, James Sinclair, Johnnie Hart, Emily, Taylor Thompson, Todd Fuller, Jane Y. Harris, Chase Barnfield, Kip Hogue, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Jimmy Hurt, Charlotte Thrift, Mesta Bain, Margaret Broussard, Allie Bunyog, Dean M. Tyree, Ron Kingston, Cecile Brunson, Felicia, Rita Clancey, Barry Mercer, Annie, Jackie Jeanne, Jaclyn Cutrone, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Bruce Gremillion, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Betty Anne Close, Bill Leibke, Sarah, Jackie Moody, Wayne and Barbara Moorehead, Pat Carter, Richard Norem, Kevin Hooter, Warren Paul, Cindy Smith, Jane Tyson, Gerard, and Mehre Hajighassem.

For those in the military:

Samuel Hayes, Steven Brevelle, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in February (day):

Carl Close (1), Sara Fuhrer (1), Brik Hazel (2), Morgan Brewer (4), Emerson Milliner (5), Bruce Jordan (6), Chad Norton (6), Pat Carter (10), Lawrence Searcy (12), Emma McCartney (15), Rita Clancey (19), Tommy Brasher (22), Henry Blake (23), Brady Brown (24), Bernard Parker (25), Lee Couvillon (26), Melanie Jurgensen (26).



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