

February 1, 2023

From Fr. John

We are moving closer to the beginning of Lent. I have been thinking about what the season of Lent means — or might mean — to us. The coming season is a 40 day period that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Maundy Thursday. During Lent we are called upon to prepare for the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day. That preparation is about repenting and returning to our God.

Our Book of Common Prayer says that the Church invites us to a holy Lent. We are to observe the season, “by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word”

I do not know what, if anything, each of you will decide to give up for Lent. The possibilities and permutations are numerous. But along with whatever you may do in the way of self-denial this Lent, I would challenge you to also **take on** a Lenten discipline in the form of committing to daily prayer.

If you already pray on a daily basis, congratulations. Praying daily is a part of what every Christian should do, or at least aspire to do. So if you are one who already has a daily prayer discipline, I would challenge you to try a different form of prayer for Lent. There are lots of possible ways to pray. If you need help deciding on what to choose, call/text/email me. We can explore what might work best for you.

For everyone who does not currently have a regular prayer discipline, I challenge you to use the Book of Common Prayer’s forms (or at least one form) of daily prayer. The BCP has Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline. Each of them has its own beauty and power. You can commit to all of them, or one of them, or however many fit into your schedule. The important thing is to commit to daily prayer for the whole season.

I understand that the choices the BCP gives us in daily prayers can be a bit overwhelming. So I suggest that you commit to doing your daily prayer online. If you would like a good app to help you, try Venite. Just look for it in the App Store. It’s free and it is pretty easy to use. There are also free apps from the Mission of St. Clare and Forward Day by Day that are good. If you prefer not to use an app, you can use your computer browser and go to: <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/pray> or <https://www.missionstclare.com/english/February/cal.html>. If those are not your cup of tea, let me know and I’ll help you find a resource that does work for you.

Lent is the perfect time to reconnect with God through prayer and Scripture readings, all of which can be accomplished with BCP daily prayers. I hope that you can reconfigure your daily schedule as necessary to add a form of prayer to it. You will be surprised at the positive effect it will have on your life.

God's blessings,
Fr. John+

Episcopalian Slip-Knots Saturday - February 11 10:00 AM - Noon in Youth Building



The Episcopalian Slip-knots continue to take up their knitting needles and crochet hooks to create scarves, hats, and other warm fuzzies to donate to the Homeless Coalition around the corner, to disburse to our neighbors in need in the wintertime. Come enjoy the fellowship and coffee! Contact Sara Fuhrer at 985-237- 9848 for more information.



Funeral for Julia Ann Twilley

The Rite of Burial of the Dead with Holy Eucharist will be celebrated for Julia Ann Twilley this Saturday, February 11, at St. James. Visitation will be at noon in the Parish Hall with the service at 2:00 p.m. in the church.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Sunday Adult Christian Formation



Join us Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor as we continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew, using a video that is the word-for-word Gospel, but with actors bringing the action to life. There is discussion of what we see and hear each week. No preparation needed.



Looking Ahead in February

- **Making of Altar Bread** - THIS Monday, February 13, beginning at 8:30 a.m. - Enjoy the fellowship and coffee!
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** - February 21 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Ash Wednesday Services** - Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
 - 7:00 a.m. - Chapel
 - 12:15 p.m. - Church with Bishop Jake
 - 5:15 p.m. - Church
- **Diocesan Convention** - Saturday, February 25 - Pineville Convention Center
Pre-Convention Holy Eucharist at St. James - 5:00 p.m.
 Reception following in Parish Hall

Two Ministries Need Volunteers

If you are seeking a way to serve at St. James, here are two opportunities:

- **Usher** - one Sunday a month - involves greeting people, taking up collection, assisting at communion
- **Visitation Coordinator** - sign up for one month during the year, with another person if you wish - whenever a funeral is held at St. James, we offer refreshments during the visitation - the coordinator(s) for that month are in charge of organizing the refreshments

Please let the office know if you are interested in either of these ministries or want to know more of what the ministry may entail [318-445-9845].



Lent Resources Available Online



Lent will begin this year on February 22, and the Episcopal Church's website offers plenty of good resources for this period in our Church year. These include Lent curriculums, sermons, bulletin inserts, and more.

[Click here](#) to view the Lent Resources

Worship

February 12th
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

In-person Worship at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Childcare is available for the 10:30 AM service.

[Click on this link to join the 10:30 AM service.](#)

[Click here for the service bulletin.](#)





February 12, 2023

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 & reading.](#)

Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

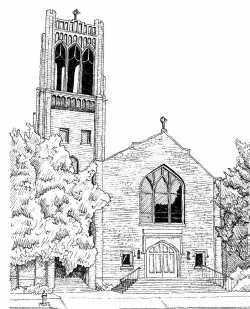
Lacy Shaw, Sam Bejach, Gary Maxwell, Beth Courtney, Holly Craig, Kip Hogue, Jim Bristol, Ellen Moore, Bill Owens, Mother Meredith Ward, Pat Carter, Betty Gaiennie, Jack Dewitt, Sr., Beth Hebert, Rita & Bill Clancey, Jimmy Hurt, Carol Rowe, Barbara Baldwin, Louise Carter, Donnie Hayes, John Brewer, Fred Alexius, Paula Lieberman, Bill and Beverly Jarvis, Robbie G., Jonathan Rhea, Peggy Humbles, Laura Murchison, Darriel & Charles, Minnie Mikell, Massi Jordan, Richard Norem, Pepe Rizzo, Bonnie McLellan, Michael Sterne, Jim Leggett, Cackie, Bernard Parker, Rachel and Ben, Kristie Fresh, Andrea, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Jeff and Anne, Lillian DeVille, Shannon Norman, Bill Jarvis, Wilma Filipi, Stephen, Natosha and Family, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Charlotte Sterling, Matthew Fontanille, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Stacy and Richard, Chase Barnfield, Taylor Thompson, Johnnie Hart, Jane Y. Harris, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Mesta Bain, Dean M. Tyree, Jackie Jeanne, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Bill Leibke, Wayne Moorehead, Donna House, Dayna Hill, Kevin Hooter, Jane Tyson, Gerard, and Mehre Hajighassem.

For those in the military:

Josh Duff, Samuel Hayes, 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), 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), Justin Manuel (23), Brady Brown (24), Bernard Parker (25), Melanie Jurgensen (26).



Visit our
Website

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