



For All the Saints

March 2015

Dear Friends,

What are you doing for Lent? This is the only season in the Christian calendar meant to be observed in a personal way by doing something to set it apart, make it feel different every day. Not so long ago, giving up something was what most people did. Giving up a favorite food or beverage, perhaps some form of amusement, made this season very much a part of life – and still does for many. More recently, taking on a responsibility like serving as a soup kitchen or shelter volunteer, or maybe coming to church more often has been a Lenten observance for more people.

The purpose of this is to make us pause, think, and remember. Lent began on Ash Wednesday with the ashes serving as a pointed reminder that we are mortal human beings and as such, we need God's gracious gifts of mercy and forgiveness. Giving up something or taking on something is not meant as punishment for our human frailty. It is meant as a reminder of the season. It is the church's equivalent of tying a string around your finger (a purple one, of course) so that when you see it, you remember to stop and think – about our mortality, and God's grace.

The Gospel on the First Sunday in Lent was about Jesus spending a long time in the wilderness fighting off temptations from the devil. If you take away the drama of Satan forcing Jesus to think about all the ways he could turn away from God and forget about the mission God sent him to do, take away the wild beasts and the angels – take it all away, and there is Jesus by himself, quietly meditating about what to do, probably wrestling with competing ideas and appealing choices. That gets to a picture of our mission for Lent – greater awareness and understanding. The strength and determination Jesus shows in the gospel as he refuses to give in to the devil provides his own personal message that he will be faithful; he will go with God.

Giving up something, taking on something, or being made to think of Lent in some other way (like that purple string), make this a season to pause, think, and remember. Know that the words of John 3:16, that are part of the Rite I Service we say in Lent apply to you: “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son to the end that all who believe in him may not perish but have everlasting life.”

Jane+

– *All Saints' News* –

OUR LENTEN SOUP & STUDY HAS BEGUN

This 5-week program, “Embracing a Life of Meaning,” features award-winning author Kathleen Norris on the general topic, “Discovering What Matters.” Each meeting includes a DVD presentation with Norris, followed by discussion. There will be soup and bread, supplied by different people each week, and everyone has a workbook with material on the various subject areas which include:

Belief – “that to which we give our hearts”

The Bible – “the collective story/tradition of Christians”

Community – “where individualism and imperfection meet grace and acceptance”

Place – “setting faith within the physical space of home, church, land and people”

Us – “what it means to remain in God’s image, countering our selfishness to embrace the world”

The remaining four gatherings are Tuesdays: March 3, 10, 17, 24 – at 7:30 pm in the Guild Room. If you would still like to join the group, please speak with the rector.

SCRIPTURE SHARING, MARCH 5

Take part in an informal gathering to talk over the Scripture lessons assigned for the following Sunday. The discussion on Thursday, March 5, will cover the lessons for March 8 (Lent 3, Year B), which include Exodus 20:1-17, First Corinthians 1:18-25, and John 2:13-22. The meeting begins at 7 pm in the Guild Room at the church. Please come, and bring a Bible.

SUNDAY MORNING CONVERSATION

The conversation is wide-ranging from Holy Scripture to related books and topics. The most recent discussion was a historical look at aspects of Early Christianity (led by Kevin Walsh). Upcoming discussions will include the *Book of Proverbs* and the *Gospel of John* – among other things. Regulars each Sunday are Todd Bouverot, Anne Goetz, Don Kern, Peggy Tristram and Kevin Walsh. People take turns facilitating the discussions which are informal and lively. Come and see -- in the Guild Room, between 8:45 and 9:40 am.

RESTAURANT ADVENTURE, SUNDAY MARCH 1

There is still time to sign on for the latest Restaurant Adventure at **Mario's Tutta Bene on Chestnut Street in Union** and share in for a delicious Italian meal. The reservation is for 6 pm, and it will be possible to car-pool from the church. If you have cabin fever from all the bad weather, get out and come along. Please call the church of you would like to go.

CONVENTION REPORT, SUNDAY MARCH 1

Diocesan Convention will have been on Friday and Saturday, and the All Saints' delegation will share what took place. Besides the rector, Lay Delegates are John Brewer, Don Kern and Rich Johnson, and Lois Schembs will be with us. Join us during Coffee Hour – pull up a chair.

FAMILY HOUSE EUCHARIST, SATURDAY MARCH 7

Emily, Sophia and Morgan DiSarno invite All Saints' youth (high school age and younger) with parents to their home in Westfield for a special House Eucharist. It's set for 4 pm – after everybody's regular Saturday activities are over – and supper will follow. We need to let the DiSarno's know how many are coming – especially the chef, Jim DiSarno – so please sign up at church, or call the office.

MEN'S ST. PATRICK'S DINNER, SUNDAY MARCH 15

A few days ahead of the actual St. Patrick's Day, this annual event will still be rollicking! The menu includes corned beef & cabbage, Irish bread and beverages. It all begins at 6 pm, and the cost is \$25. Please sign up to come, and if you would like to help, call Kevin Walsh.

FAMILY SUPPER, SUNDAY MARCH 22

Thanks to Jenine Williams, Lauren DiSarno and Michelle Smith-Crona, the Family Suppers are becoming a popular tradition. No need to sign up in advance. If you're free and feel like enjoying good food and conversation, just come – at 4 pm. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry.

--YOUTH NEWS--

Sunday School

Regular classes continue on the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month. Parents have been joining in for that fourth (and sometimes fifth) week. For more information and for guidance, speak with Kelly Robertson.

First Sunday Program – March 1 – “Look Around Jerusalem,” A Lenten Program

Jesus is looking around, so let’s look with him. Each young person will build a wall of Jerusalem to take home, along with a booklet of poems and riddles, and a page of stickers. Each day in Lent has a poem and sticker that goes somewhere on the wall. Youngsters will follow Jesus through Jerusalem and look for the hidden images. Thank you, Liz Trimpin & Michelle Smith-Crona.

Youth Choir rehearsing for Easter

Sohyun Ahn, who is with us through Easter, gave a party for young people at the end February, and now invites all who are interested (or might be) to prepare for Easter Sunday. Rehearsals are in the choir room after the 10 o’clock service. Please join in!

Acolytes’ Pizza Party and Review, Sunday March 15

Clark Landale invites all the acolytes, old and new – and anyone interested in becoming an acolyte – to enjoy pizza and a short workshop. First we review, then we eat! Come into the church at 11:30 for some acolyting tips, and the pizza will follow.

Youth Group Discussion, March 8

Gather with Chris Harris in the Guild Room after church for a discussion. The topic is, “Be Kind, For Everyone You Meet is Fighting a Hard Battle.” Think about that. What battles are you fighting? What does it mean to be kind? How do you feel when people are kind to you – or not? Is Jesus kind? Join Chris – and there will be food.

Family House Eucharist, Saturday, March 7 at 4 pm

A reminder to sign up and come – House Eucharist and supper at the home of Emily, Sophia and Morgan DiSarno in Westfield.

Easter Baskets

Sunday School young people will fill Easter Baskets for less fortunate area children. Bob Okell has brought in the baskets, lots of colorful grass, and such items as school supplies. If you’d like to bring in other treats, please do. Filling the baskets will be a Coffee Hour event in early March.

The Coffee Hour Sale of Cookies baked by the Sunday School made \$150!

--Parishioner Profile--

CIAO ALL SAINTS'

By Alex Loop

As a junior at Alfred University in New York, I'm happily spending this semester in Florence, Italy. I begin my sixth week abroad, relieved to say that I have not experienced culture shock (yet). The food is great, the people friendly (well, if you're lost or a paying customer), and the weather warm (a balmy 10 degrees Celsius or 50 degrees Fahrenheit). My Italian is slowly improving, and I've been enjoying red wine in restaurants, coffee in *pastriccerie*, and fresh produce from the market. When I'm not exploring the city, my classes at Santa Reparata International School of Art have me in the studio working or in the museums, viewing Michelangelo and Donatello's works *in situ*.

The classroom and museums aren't the only places to learn, though. Florence, and really any foreign country I visit, teaches me what it means to identify as an American, and not the poorly dressed, loud, beer-swiggling kind that's all too common here, but as a curious student eager to try new things and explore a country so similar to and yet different from my own. I've learned the basic guidebook facts on tipping, social suicide in the form of sweatpants, and dodging gypsies and panhandlers. But I've also experienced the warmth and kindness of Italian people, their enthusiasm for beautiful art and history, and their eagerness to teach foreigners Italian.

Italy is by no means perfect – the distrust in government and disregard for laws and officials is summarized in the word *furbo*, or cunning. My wife is shoddy at best, and honestly, some days I have trouble believing that people work around here and are actually paid to do so. Despite these cultural differences and flaws, the deep appreciation for culture and at times, lax way of life is something we, as Americans can learn from.

Italy has also strengthened my identity as an Episcopalian. While I am by no means clutching a rosary or murmuring a prayer when I pass a Madonna enthroned on the corner, I am in awe of the sheer amount and beauty of religious art that is common and visible everywhere in Florence. While the paintings are beautiful and the soaring cathedrals breathtaking, I am glad I am not a Catholic; the blatant misogyny present in scenes of *The Fall of Man* and the seemingly blind devotion to the pope is something I am happy to avoid as an outsider. Regardless of my beef with the Catholic Church, I still thoroughly enjoy the art and churches I wander into (I live near the Duomo, the cathedral). There is inspiration everywhere, whether it's in grisly saints and martyrs, soaring barrel vaults, ugly Renaissance babies, or pristine statues, and Florence is sure to change anyone, regardless of how long you stay.

By Alex Loop

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Given how the calendar falls, the April Newsletter will come out just before Easter, so here's an outline of this most sacred time in the Christian calendar.

Palm Sunday is March 27.

We commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Palm branches are blessed and distributed for the palms strewn in Jesus' path. Worship at 8 & 10 am, with the later Service beginning in Lea Hall and the procession accompanied by one of the oldest hymns, "All Glory, Laud and Honor."

March ends with Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday is April 2.

Commemorating the Last Supper and the desolation after, this is an evening service, 8 pm, with music from the All Saints' Choir. Holy Eucharist is celebrated – including additional bread and wine consecrated for Good Friday – and Altar Guild members strip the altar, for the hopelessness when Jesus was arrested. An Altar of Repose is set to represent a garden tomb for Jesus, and the consecrated bread and wine stay there overnight.

Good Friday is April 3.

Two identical services follow the Good Friday Liturgy from the *Book of Common Prayer*. Worship includes the Solemn Collects, the Passion Story according to John, and in the evening, hymns include, "Were You There?"

Easter Sunday is April 5.

The joy of Jesus' Resurrection is celebrated at 8 am and with a festival service at 10 am. The All Saints' Choir will be singing special music, and the Youth Choir will sing.

Easter Bunch follows the 10 o'clock Service.

Watch for the sign-up and if you can bring something for the Brunch, please add your name.

Easter Egg Hunt also follows the 10 o'clock Service

The colorful eggs will be stuffed with treats and then "hidden" outdoors on either side of Lea Hall. Rain or shine (hopefully not snow), it's fun.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS & THANKSGIVINGS

You are invited to remember loved ones or offer thanksgiving through the beautiful flowers and plants that will grace our sanctuary for Easter thanks to Carol Schirm's creativity. Flower envelopes are available here at the church, but you may email us your names. If you are hand-writing them, please print so names are legible and can be copied for the Easter bulletin. Your monetary contribution helps defray the cost of the flowers. Please have memorials and thanksgivings here by March 25. Please make checks payable to All Saints' Altar Guild and put "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

--The All Saints' Family --

Dan Dawson is appearing in "Grease," this year's musical presentation at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Performances begin March 13.

Thanks to **Kevin Walsh, Mark Douches, Don Kern, Jerry Shea** and **Peggy Tristram** for making the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper a big success!

GIVE TO GRACE'S KITCHEN

Each year at this time Grace's Kitchen conducts its one and only fundraising drive. This soup kitchen is open the last five days of each month (excluding Sundays) trying to offer help when recipients of public funds might be experiencing special need. All Saints' has worked with Grace's Kitchen for a long time, sending volunteers on the last Thursday of the month. Their fund drive is for March and April. We will accept donations for them through April 12. Please write your check to All Saints' and put "Grace's Kitchen" on the memo line. Speak to Charlie Beakes for information on volunteering.

FYI:

*Vestry Installation will take place on Sunday March 8 – a brief ceremony during the 10 o'clock Service. The whole Vestry will be invited to come forward as the Vestry Class of 2018 will be installed: Bob Okell & Liz Trimpin (reelected to second terms), Robin Sampson and Stuart Solsky (elected to first terms) at Annual Meeting. Richard Johnson will be installed for his second term as Warden.

*An updated Directory will be issued within the next few weeks.

*Boy Scout Troop 104 put on a terrific Pancake Breakfast several Sundays ago (February 8), after Scoutmaster Bill Sherman gave an excellent sermon and Scouts took other parts in the 10 o'clock Service. Troop 104 had received one of our Outreach grants for 2014, and they returned it, asking that we apply the money to the mounting bills for snow-plowing. Feed the Slush Fund!

**Forward Day By Day* is a booklet of meditations following the Daily Lectionary -- readings assigned for week days and Saturdays (different from the Sunday Lectionary). The booklet covers three months and is available in the tract rack found in the narthex (as you come into church). Other booklets found there cover a variety of topics, both religious and pastoral – all from the Episcopal publisher, Forward Movement.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY LAMP

We invite you to keep flowers (greens for Lent) on the altar as a memorial or thanksgiving. The cost is **\$40.00**. Keep the **Sanctuary Lamp** burning for a week to remember loved ones or offer thanksgiving. The lamp is **\$10.00**. **Make checks payable to the Altar Guild** and put in the **memo** line that the check is for flowers or the lamp. Sign up in the narthex, or call the office.

Available Dates

Altar Greens: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (Palm Sunday)

Sanctuary Lamp: March 8, 15, 29

MISSIONARY OUTREACH

The second Sunday of each month is Sharing Sunday when we ask for donations to help local families through Heart for Humanity.

March – Flashlights and batteries

April – Baby/toddler items (disposable diapers, ointment, powders, wipes, thermometers, shampoo, nail clippers, etc.)

May – Laundry supplies (small containers of detergent, bleach, stain removers)

Please keep our Food Basket filled every Sunday with non-perishable items. This is also a way to help local families through Heart for Humanity.

The Rev. Jane Rockman, *Rector*
Sohyun Ahn, *Organist and Choirmaster*

The Rev. John R. Neilson, *Rector Emeritus*
Irene Carlucci, *Secretary*
Wesley Jenkins, *Sexton*

Wardens

Jenine Williams Richard Johnson

Vestry

Todd Bouverot	John Brewer	Lauren DiSarno	Anne Goetz
Chris Harris	Joanna Hurley	Bob Okell	Robin Sampson
Michelle Smith-Crona	Stuart Solsky	Liz Trimpin	Kevin Walsh

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