



The Forty Days of Lent

The penitential season of Lent draws near. On March 1, Ash Wednesday, we commence forty days in which we observe a period of fasting, repentance, self-denial, simplicity, and spiritual discipline. These forty days for us, which emulate the time Jesus spent in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry, is a period of time for our growth and preparation. The season can mean different things to different people, as we grow and prepare in various ways. Ultimately, Lent is meant to help us draw closer in relationship with our God.

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer have been the traditional ways to gain results, benefitting to both our physical and spiritual well-being. While we think of Lent as the season in which we “give something up” for a period of time, it is more than this. It is about putting something positive in its place as we prepare and grow. In fact, this may actually mean for us that it is a time to “take up something new” in our life.

By fasting we take our eyes off the things of this world and instead focus on God. This allows an opportunity to try something new in order to help us focus. While we may contribute money to help others throughout the year, in almsgiving during Lent we are reminded to contribute our time as well. And while we may pray on a regular basis, this season prompts us to set aside even more time to spend with God in prayer, study, or worship. Lent nudges us to be aware of how we spend our time and opens us to try new things, both as an individual and as part of a community of faith.

I invite the congregation to join together for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, presented by the men of the parish, on Tuesday, Feb. 28. The following day, Ash Wednesday, I commend to you the many worship times scheduled throughout the day. And on Sundays during Lent, both worship

services – 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. – will be a service of Holy Eucharist, Rite One.

I also invite you to attend our parish Lenten Program and Supper, which will be held in Waterman Hall on Wednesdays, commencing March 8, at 5:30 p.m. We will begin the evening with Holy Communion in the parish hall, followed with the serving of soups and salad. During our meal, the study series will take place consisting of a short video and conversation regarding the series, *Bonhoeffer: The Life and Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, by Eric Metaxas. During this series Metaxas will help us discover the major themes of Bonhoeffer’s writing and speaking and how he not only helped transform an entire faith community in Germany during the Second World War, but how his beliefs continue to impact our faith in the world today. The entire evening is planned to be a brief time together for fellowship and study.

Each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. during Lent, beginning March 5, I hope you will join with Deacon Dee Goodale for her program, *A Lenten Journey through the Luke: Scripture, Conversation and Prayer*.

May everyone have a meaningful and spirit-filled Lenten season.

Fr. Jim

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 28 from 6:00 – 8:00 p. m.

The pancake supper will be served on Shrove Tuesday, February 28. This year the supper is again presented by the men of the parish.

A special menu will be offered featuring a choice of 2 styles of pancakes. Regular pancakes and Henry’s world famous corn pancakes, (featuring corn grown

on the Burgweger farm). Scrambled eggs, sausage, milk, juice and coffee will round out the menu.

So join us to eat and make merry before the Lenten season begins. Sign up sheets for workers and diners are in Waterman Hall.



Ash Wednesday Services: March 1

St. Peter's Church

7:30 a.m. – Liturgy for Ash Wednesday;
Imposition of Ashes.

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer, Rite II.

9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II; Imposition of Ashes.

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II; Imposition of Ashes, with Hymns.

Oak Crest Community Chapel

2:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II; Imposition of Ashes.

Schedule of Lenten Studies

March 8 – April 5: Wednesday evenings In Waterman Hall

5:30 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II –Waterman

6:00 p.m. – Lenten Supper and Program:
Bonhoeffer: The Life and Writing of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, with Eric Metaxas.

Week One: What is the Church?

Week Two: Living in Christian Community.

Week Three: Religionless Christianity.

Week Four: Come and Die.

Week Five: Conversation: The Significance of Bonhoeffer.

March 5 – April 9: Sunday mornings In Waterman Hall

9:00 a.m. – *A Lenten Journey through the eyes of Luke: Scripture, Conversation and Prayer:*

Week One: A Theophilus Near You.

Week Two: Are You Listening?

Week Three: Tempted.

Week Four: Who Told You About Jesus?

Week Five: Honest Doubts.

Week Six: The Things That Make For Peace.

Parish Notes

Search Committee Update

February 17, 2017

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

As most of you know the CAT survey is now closed. We had 74 responses, which is great. Thank you to all of those who responded.

Our next meeting is February 23, 2017. It is a joint meeting with the vestry during which the survey results will be discussed. After this meeting the search committee will meet in small groups with the parish to discuss the results of the survey. Again thank you to all who participated.

As always the committee thanks you for your prayers.

Judy LaPorta and Phil Montgomery,
Co-chairs

Join the Choir for Easter

Choir rehearsals for Easter will be held in the church from 9:00- 9:45 am beginning the Sunday of March 19 and continuing through April 9. All who are interested in singing are invited to attend. Please speak to Organist Audre Kurowski if you are interested in singing for Easter.

Christian Outreach Committee

Red Bowl Offering

NAMI, our designated January Red Bowl organization, will receive a check for \$600; \$300 from the Outreach Committee and \$300 from January Red Bowl offerings. Thank you for your generosity!

The designated organization for the month of March will be Safe Passage. Safe Passage is the domestic violence agency and rape crisis center serving DeKalb County. It began as a grass roots organization in 1981, and has expanded and added programming to the present agency it is now. It is the mission of Safe Passage to reduce or prevent domestic violence and sexual assault in DeKalb County. Safe Passage provides a wide range of services to victims of domestic and sexual violence including crisis intervention and medical advocacy for victims, short and long term housing for victims and their children, counseling, legal advocacy,

children's services, prevention programming, and a partner abuse intervention program. Donations allow Safe Passage to provide services 24 hours per day, every day of the year. Look for a coffee hour speaker from Safe Passage in March.

Hope Haven Dinners

St. Peter's continues to provide a meal for the community homeless at Hope Haven on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Needed volunteers include a chair for each month and persons to prepare or purchase food items. Sign-up sheets for each month in 2017 are located in Waterman Hall. Plan ahead to help prepare a home-cooked meal for our area homeless this year!

Sycamore Food Pantry

SYCAMORE FOOD PANTRY

Food items collected during the month of March will be transported to the Sycamore Food Pantry located at the Sycamore United Methodist Church, and distributed to needy families in the area. The food pantry typically runs very low on donations after the holidays. Please include the pantry in your weekly grocery shopping trips. Volunteers are needed to transport donations from St. Peter's to the Sycamore Food Pantry. This can be done on Sunday mornings, before 12 noon, or on any weekday. A sign-up sheet is located in Waterman Hall. Please direct questions to Maggie Peirce.

ANNUAL MEETING SURVEYS

Thank you to all parishioners who filled out the Red Bowl Survey at the Annual Meeting. All surveys were reviewed and incorporated into the new Red Bowl Calendar, running from April 2017 through March 2018. Food/hunger, mental health issues, domestic violence prevention, literacy, and refugee aid were suggested as areas for the Outreach Committee to focus attention. Pay It Forward, Doctors without Borders, NAMI and DeKalb County Nursing and Rehab Auxiliary were specific agencies mentioned. Look for the completed calendar in the April newsletter.

OUTREACH PROJECTS

St Peter's parishioners can help small Outreach Projects in a big way by saving and donating these items:

- * Personal items collected from vacations are sent to Safe Passage
- * "Pop Tops" benefit a Ronald McDonald House

- * Print Cartridges for recycling help the local Habitat for Humanity
- * Campbell Soup Labels are used for books and equipment at local elementary schools
- * Milk carton bottle tops benefit local schools
- * Box Tops for Education benefit local elementary schools
- * Canceled Stamps are sent to a Catholic Native American School in AZ for cleaning and sale to collectors

The next meeting of the Christian Outreach Committee will be held Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at 12 Noon, in Waterman Hall. Please feel free to join us!

Lynne Roberts

Vestry Notes, February 15, 2017

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Bill Nicklas at 7:00 p.m. with evening prayers. In attendance were Senior Warden Bill Nicklas, and Junior Warden Anita Biletzky; Vestry members Barbara Weaver, Lynne Roberts, Bronwyn Burgweger, John Vain, Judy Dettloff, and Steve Guziec; and Clerk Donna Hill. Jane Ovitz, Judy LaPorta, Nancy Franke, Denielle Noe, Christal Guziec, and Pat Klein were in attendance as guests.

Opening Prayers were led by Bill Nicklas

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 19, 2017 meeting were approved.

4. Open Forum

Jane Ovitz graciously thanked the Vestry for the planning and conduct of the Annual Meeting in January.

5. Committee Reports

Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report.

John Vain presented the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Treasurer Jacquie Drake. John reported that January finished as expected; in the early months of the year expenses run well ahead of revenues from realized pledges. In addition, the trustees of the Hines REIT deferred the booking of revenue from the disbursement until final closure of the account. John also reported that the Diocese billing for the Rector's retirement fund for the last two months of 2016 was received this month. To appropriately register the retirement debit in 2016,

the Vestry voted to take a total of \$2,148.72 from the 2016 carryover on John's motion.

Building & Grounds Report. Pat Klein distributed minutes from the Committee meeting of February 7, along with a proposed 2017 project list. Pat invited the Vestry to participate in the "Love Your Church" cleanup scheduled for Saturday, February 18, from 8 to 11.

Pat also asked the Vestry for direction on the painting of the Wetzel house and shared estimates from three painting contractors with a wide variance. The Vestry agreed to defer a decision until the March Vestry meeting. The Vestry also voted to maintain the rent on the Nolan house at \$875 a month for 2017.

Caregivers Committee. Minutes of the January 16 meeting were distributed by Lynne Roberts. This committee meets every two months.

Christian Outreach Committee. Minutes of the February 8 meeting were distributed by Lynne Roberts.

Search Committee. Judy LaPorta gave an update on the recent CAT survey. Judy reported that as of Sunday, February 12, a total of 73 parishioners had responded.

6. Interim Rector's Report. Father Jim submitted a written report before he left for vacation. The report noted initiatives to confirm the worship schedule for Ash Wednesday and for Sunday mornings during the liturgical season of Lent, in addition to the schedule for Holy Week and Easter Day. He reminded the Vestry that during Lent the Sunday morning worship will be Rite One. The five-week Lenten Program begins on Wednesday, March 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Father Clement also commended the 2016 Parochial Report for the Vestry's approval.

7. Old Business

Parish Website Upgrade. Christal Guziec and Denielle Noe presented an exciting plan for the upgrading of the parish website. It is their intent—working with Father Jim—to provide clearer pathways for the parish membership as well as the casual visitor to our site. Who we are and What we do will be featured more prominently, along with room for news and upcoming events. The Vestry applauded the considerable volunteer work of Christal and Denielle and look forward to the launch of the new website in the months ahead. A demonstration of the new site will be held after a coffee hour before it is "launched."

8. New Business

Approval of the Parochial Report. The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the interim Rector's report.

Use of Pumpkin Festival Net Proceeds. This matter was deferred until the March meeting in light of some recent maintenance expenditures which have made a big dent in the limited Building and Grounds budget for 2017.

9. Executive Session: No executive session was conducted.

10. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. and the closing prayer was led by Bill Nicklas

*Respectfully submitted
Bill Nicklas, Senior Warden*

Prayer Corner

For the Search Committee

We pray for our Search Committee as they assess the needs of our congregation and evaluate candidates for Rector. Grant them open minds, perceptive hearts, balance and integrity in their work together, responsiveness to all points of view and unity of purpose. Help them to recognize that your guiding hand is in their midst ready to reveal that which they should do. Help them to listen and respond with open hearts, to the honor and praise of your Name. Amen.

For Guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Register

Transfers Out

Thomas Robert Percy
Shari Wynn Percy

*Trinity Episcopal Church
Lebanon, Missouri*

Transfers In

Tricia Rusin

*Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
Geneva, Illinois*

Birthdays and Anniversaries in March

Birthdays

- 6 Linda Hartlep
- 6 Nicholas Klein
- 7 Kristen Mackley
- 7 Natalia Glynn Boies
- 8 Kaitlyn Schatteman
- 13 Teresa Whitfield
- 18 Benjamin Lane
- 19 Sean Burke
- 19 Amanda Klein
- 20 Brenda Bailey
- 22 Walena Price Radell.
- 23 Steven Suh Roberts
- 29 Kathy Taylor
- 30 Anne Marie Hulsey

Anniversaries

- 14 Ryan and Trisha Drake

Nursery Schedule for March – April 2017

March 2017

- 5 Lindsey Neal and Larry Dirst
- 12 Lindsey Neal and Cindy Vain
- 19 Lindsey Neal and Nancy Franke
- 26 Lindsey Neal and Jenny Sidmore

April 2017

- 2 Lindsey Neal and Pat Klein
- 9 Lindsey Neal and Larry Dirst
- 16 Lindsey Neal and Cindy Vain
- 23 Lindsey Neal and Nancy Franke
- 30 Lindsey Neal and Jenny Sidmore



Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles

To dedicate Altar Flowers or a Sanctuary Candle for a Sunday in 2017, please sign up on the reservation sheets on the bulletin board just outside the Parish Office. Then fill out the dedication form and turn it in to the office.

The Morning Star

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

218 Somonauk Street
Sycamore, Illinois 60178
815-895-2227

www.sycamorestpeters.org

Parish Office Hours: 9am-1pm Monday-Friday Newsletter Staff

The Rev. James Clement	Publisher
Catherine Carroll	Editor
Jane Ovitz, Barbara Weaver, Carol Quitno, Pat Burgweger, Helen Beamish, Nancy Franke	Circulation

Deadline for Submission of Articles

5:00 PM on the 20th of each month. Email your articles to office@sycamorestpeters.org or place them in the Parish Office mailbox in Waterman Hall by the 15th of the month. All articles are subject to editing for length and clarity.

Email subscriptions

You may receive the Morning Star by email by sending a message to office@sycamorestpeters.org.

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Rev. James Clement	Interim Rector
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The Rev. Desiree Goodale	Deacon
gjm89dgm@gmail.com	
Audre Kurowski	Organist

Catherine Carroll	Assistant to the Interim
office@sycamorestpeters.org	
Days in office: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	

Jean Erlenborn	Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@sycamorestpeters.org	
Days in office: Monday, Wednesday	

The Vestry of the Parish

Bill Nicklas, Senior Warden	815-981-6611
Anita Biletzky, Junior Warden	815-793-5500
Bronwyn Burgweger	815-761-9866
Judy Dettloff	815-895-4225
Steve Guziec	630-677-2070
Jack Frost	772-631-4464
Lynne Roberts	815-895-4196
Barbara Weaver	630-728-8144
John Vain	815-895-4324

The Parish Vision Statement

Red doors open for growth and renewal, where we find ourselves and others transformed.

The Parish Mission Statement

To be an inclusive fellowship growing in the Holy Spirit, nurturing the burdened and the joyous, reaching out to our communities and God's world.

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTE	CRUCIFER	EUCH MINISTER	READER 1	READER 2	USHER	INTERCESSOR
5-Mar	7:30	Dcn Dee	n/a	Dcn Dee	Lynne Roberts	Lynne Roberts	n/a	Dcn Dee
	10:00	Phil Montgomery	Henry Vincent	Jan FitzHenry	John Engstrom	Jean Evans	Mascos	Linda Boynton
12-Mar	7:30	Pat Klein	n/a	Pat Klein	Jane Ovitz	Jane Ovitz	n/a	n/a
	10:00	Anita Biletzky	Bill Nicklas	Henry Vincent	Judy Dettloff	Chris Noe	Judy LaPorta John Vain	Shela Lahey
19-Mar	7:30	Dcn Dee	n/a	Dcn Dee	John Castle	John Castle	n/a	Dcn Dee
	10:00	Larry Dirst	Henry Vincent	Barb Weaver	Larry Dirst	Anita Biletzky	Vains	Richard Balstrode
26-Mar	7:30	Pat Klein	n/a	Pat Klein	Lynne Roberts	Lynne Roberts	n/a	n/a
	10:00	Christal Guziec	Bill Nicklas	Jan FitzHenry	Barb Weaver	Kris Borre	Wilson/Borre	Linda Boynton
2-Apr	7:30	Dcn Dee	n/a	Dcn Dee	Jane Ovitz	Jane Ovitz	n/a	Dcn Dee
	10:00	Anita Biletzky	Henry Vincent	Bill Nicklas	Larry Dirst	Chris Noe	Engstroms	John Engstrom

Sunday Readings in March, 2017

Sunday, March 5
The First Sunday in Lent
 Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7
 Romans 5: 12-19
 Matthew 4: 1-11
 Psalm 32

Sunday, March 12
The Second Sunday in Lent
 Genesis 12: 1-4a
 Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
 John 3: 1-17
 Psalm 121

Sunday, March 19
The Third Sunday in Lent
 Exodus 17: 1-7
 Romans 5: 1-11
 John 4: 5-42
 Psalm 95

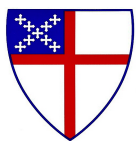
Sunday, March 26
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
 I Samuel 16: 1-13
 Ephesians 5: 8-14
 John 9: 1-41
 Psalm 23

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist	27	28 6:00 PM Pancake Supper	1 7:30 AM Liturgy for Ash Wednesday 8:30 AM Morning Prayer- Rite II 9:00 AM Holy Eu- 2:00 PM Oak Crest - 4:00 PM Daisy Scouts 7:00 PM Holy Eu-	2	3	4 10:30 AM DAR Meet- ing
5 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist 9:00 AM 9 AM Lenten Study- Luke 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist	6 7:00 PM Buildings and Grounds Com- mittee	7 9:30 AM Book Club	8 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Knitters 12:00 PM Christian 4:00 PM Daisy Scouts 5:30 PM Holy Eu- charist, Supper,	9	10	11
12 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist 9:00 AM Lenten Study 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist	13	14 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 651	15 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 2:00 PM Oak Crest - Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM Daisy Scouts 5:30 PM Holy Eu- charist, Supper, Lenten Study	16 7:00 PM Vestry Meet- ing	17	18 7:30 AM Men's Fel- lowship Breakfast
19 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist 9:00 AM Lenten Study 9:00 AM Choir Re- hearsal 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist	20 6:30 PM Caregivers Committee	21	22 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:30 AM Morning Star Mailing 4:00 PM Daisy Scouts 5:30 PM Holy Eu- charist, Supper, Lenten Study	23	24	25
26 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist 9:00 AM Choir Re- hearsal 9:00 AM Lenten Study 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist	27	28	29 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 4:00 PM Daisy Scouts 5:30 PM Holy Eu- charist, Supper, Lenten Study	30	31	1 12:00 PM DAR Meet- ing

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The Morning Star



The newsletter of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

"...until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" 2 Peter 1:19