



Tues., Feb. 21, 6:00 P.M.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Hosted by: Chefs-Steven & David Choc, Servers-Men's Bible Study & Youth Group, Decorations-The Social Committee, Direction-Susie Banet

Wed., Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday, 7:30 A.M.—12 Noon—5:30 P.M.

Imposition of Ashes

Sun., Feb. 26—8 & 10:00 A.M. - The First Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist with The Great Litany in Procession

Wed., Feb. 29, 6:00 P.M.

Soup Supper & Lenten Study

Hosted by The Adult Choir

Sun., Mar. 4, 8 & 10:00 A.M.- The Second Sunday in Lent

Penitential Order

Wed., Mar. 7, 6:00 P.M.

Soup Supper & Lenten Study

Hosted by Garden & Wellness Committee

Sun, Mar. 11, 8 & 10:00 A.M. - The Third Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist with Penitential Order

Wed., Mar. 14, 6:00 P.M. - Soup Supper & Lenten Study

Hosted by The Altar Guild

Sun., Mar. 18, 8 & 10:00 A.M. - The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist with Penitential Order

Wed., Mar. 21, 6:00 P.M. - Soup Supper & Lenten Study

Hosted by The Bell Choir

Sun., Mar. 25, 8 & 10 A.M. - The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist with Penitential Order

(The Sunday School class will prepare breakfast bags for shut-ins)

Wed., Mar. 28, 6:00 P.M. - Soup Supper & Stations of the Cross

Hosted by The Concert Committee

Palm Sunday, Apr. 1, 8 & 10:00 A.M.

Wed., Apr. 4 - Tenebrae

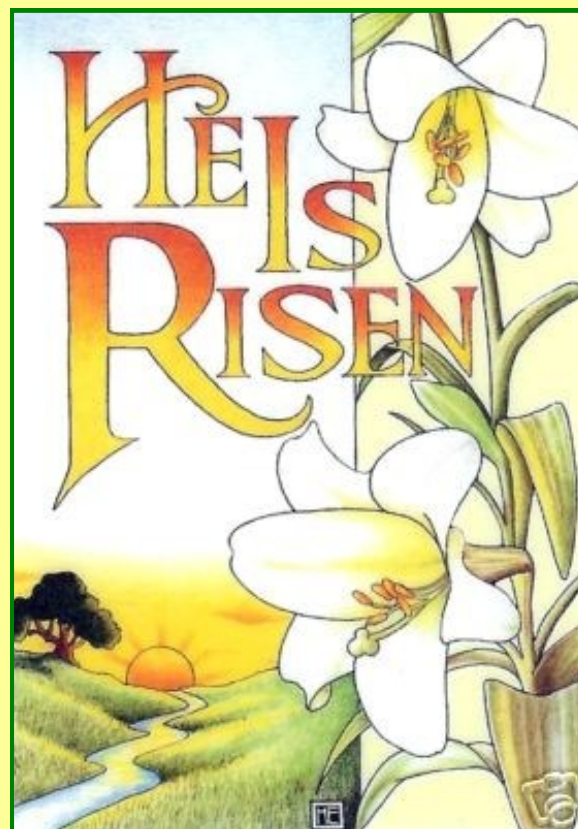
MaundyThursday, Apr. 5, 5:45 P.M.

Seder Meal —Stripping of Altar—Foot Washing

**Good Friday, Apr. 6, 12:00 Noon++

Communion from the reserved sacrament

**Traditional Days of Fasting



Easter Sunday Worship Services

April 8

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

A choral celebration with brass
and hand bells at both services

THE MEANING OF LENT

The key to understanding the meaning of Lent is simple: Baptism. Preparation for Baptism and for renewing baptismal commitment lies at the heart of the season. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and comes to an end before the celebration of the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday. Lent, as a 40-day season, was developed in the fourth century when a detailed process for becoming a Christian was worked out. When a person wishing to become a member of the Church (these candidates for baptism are called the Catechumenate) came towards the end of this process, there was a 40 day retreat. During this period the Catechumenate prepared to be fully initiated into the community through baptism, confirmation and admission to the Eucharist during the Easter Vigil.

The rest of the community as well as the penitents - those who had fallen back into serious sin and sought a second conversion - accompanied the Catechumenate on their final journey and prepared to renew their baptismal vows at Easter. This final period of preparation for Baptism shifted from adults to infants and the focus of Lent shifted from baptismal preparation to penance and mortification. Today we are reclaiming the baptismal character of Lent and it is becoming once again a "retreat before Baptism."

ASH WEDNESDAY

The Church calendar puts us on holy time and draws us into a rhythm in which we commemorate and participate in the lives of Jesus and his followers. Beginning in Advent in which we anticipate his first coming, the year reaches a high point at Easter, the feast of feasts. The 40 day preparation for Easter - the Lenten Season - begins with Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes. This is a most ancient rite of purification and a symbol of our penitence.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday is the name given to the day in which Jesus celebrated the Passover with his Disciples. The word "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word for command which refers to the command Jesus gave to the disciples at the Last Supper, that they should love and serve one another. St. Paul's will observe this day with a Last Supper - a Seder Meal - beginning at 5:45 p.m., followed by the traditional Liturgy in the church. The service will include an opportunity to wash each other's feet as Jesus did and will end with the "Stripping of the Altar" in preparation for Good Friday.

GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL

"When Jesus rose from prayer, he went to the Disciples and found them sleeping from sheer grief. Why are you asleep?" he said to them. "Get up and pray not be to be put to the test." (Luke 22:45-46). If you wish to participate, a prayer vigil will be held after the Maundy Thursday Service in the church until noon on Good Friday. Please sign up for a one vigil hour by calling the office or signing up on the sign up sheet in the back of the church.

GOOD FRIDAY

Tradition tells us that Jesus died by suffocation at 3 p.m. on a Friday and rose from the dead on a Sunday. Good Friday is the darkest of all our holy days and it is a time of fasting and penance.

Our service begins at 12 noon and includes a reading of the Passion from St. John's Gospel. Eucharist is served from the reserved bread and wine of the Maundy SUPPER AND EVENING PRAYER.

As the anniversary of the death of Christ, the celebration of Good Friday goes back to the 4th century. The name of Good Friday possibly comes from "God's Friday," although the exact reason for the name is unclear.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

On the last Sunday before Easter, we celebrate Passion (Palm) Sunday. At the beginning of the liturgy, we receive palms in memory of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As a symbol of triumph, the palms point us toward Christ's resurrection and might remind us of the saints in heaven "wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands" (Rev. 7:9). The white robes remind us of baptismal garments and the palms suggest their triumph over sin and death through the waters of baptism.

FASTING

Fasting has traditionally been one possibility for observing the dark and most holy days of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. A spiritual fast involves abstaining from food while focusing on prayers. This can mean refraining from snacks between meals, skipping one or two meals a day, or abstaining from certain foods.

During spiritual fasting, the believer's focus is removed from the physical things of this world and intensely concentrated on God. Put differently, fasting directs our hunger toward God. So, as we gain spiritual clarity of thought through fasting, it will allow us to hear God more clearly. While fasting is an option - it is not a requirement - it is never to be a public display of spirituality - it is between you and God alone.

SOUP SUPPER AND LENTEN STUDY

The Wednesdays of Lent are occasions for us to gather as a mid-week prayer time and to support each other in our Lenten discipline. A simple supper of soup and bread will be followed by a discussion entitled "Embracing an Adult Faith: What It Means to be Christian." Marcus Borg, Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon, presents a discussion via a DVD-based video. Our participants will then delve into each session's theme a little more deeply - with the help of a workbook. Group members become teachers for one another - an engaged model of adult learning.

The sessions include:

- ◆ God
- ◆ Jesus
- ◆ Salvation
- ◆ Practice
- ◆ Community

Those who participate will be encouraged to dig deeply into their own understandings, reflect thoughtfully on their own lives as Christians, and listen respectfully to what others contribute to the conversation. For those who wish to make this a part of their Lenten journey, it is helpful to put your name on the list by calling the office at 610-363-2363 to assure that there are enough workbooks.



PRIVATE CONFESSION APPOINTMENTS

Appointments for private confessions may be made by calling the church office at 610-363-2363.



The Season of



Lenten Observation
February 22 - April 7, 2012



The Shield of Faith and the Sword of the Spirit"
Ephesians 6:16-17

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