

# the monthly BANNER



## Lent and Forgiveness

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. (BCP, 265)



At the Ash Wednesday service, the celebrant invites us to observe a "holy Lent," kicking off a 40-day period of preparation for Easter. One way we are to observe a "holy lent" is through repentance. For some of us this word comes with baggage from traditions that emphasize a need to grovel and beg for God's forgiveness. While there is an element of recognizing our failures in repenting, the practice is more than saying I am sorry to God. It requires self-examination, of knowing why we fail to do what God asks of us. Repentance is a process of changing our habits.

A helpful place to start practicing repenting is by understanding the words in the scriptures we translate as repent in English. In the Hebrew Scriptures the word is "teshuvah" and means, to return. In the Greek New Testament, the word for repent is "metanoia" and means to do an about face, to change one's mind or direction.

But why do we need to change? To answer this question, we need to understand the meaning of sin. Many people think that a person who sins is a bad person. I am glad that is not the case. In Hebrew one of the words for sin is "chet." It is a reference to a slingshot which has missed the target or has gone astray. The slingshot is not "bad." It and the user made a mistake. Maybe from a lack of focus or concentration or skill. To practice repentance, we need to be more self-aware, to know when we miss the target, so that we may become the people God wants us to be, and then to hit the target more times than we miss.

Jesus said repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. He taught us that this new kingdom is one based in three things, the love of God, love of neighbor, and love of self. This is the target that we aim for day by day. And when we fail, we are given grace to change direction and to try again. My brothers and sisters this is good news. My prayer this lent is that our community will heed the invitation and observe a "holy Lent," so that we will arrive at Easter closer to becoming all that God wants us to be.

"For this said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved."

*Isaiah 30:15*

Blessings on your Lenten journey,

*Our Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter services this year:*

### **Ash Wednesday**

12:00 noon and 6:30 pm

### **Wednesday Lenten Programs**

5:30 pm Children and Youth with supper

6 pm Adult program with soup supper

### **Palm Sunday: The Sunday of the Passion**

8 am and 10:30 am

with breakfast between the services

### **Holy Week**

#### **Stations of the Cross**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 6 pm

**Maundy Thursday** at 6:30 pm

Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing

#### **Good Friday**

Noon Liturgy & Stations of the Cross at 6 pm

**Easter Vigil**, Saturday 6:30 pm *followed by a reception in the Narthex*

**Easter Day** 8 am and 10:30 am Festival Eucharist

*Breakfast and Easter egg hunt between the services*

## Spiritual Practices During Lent

The season of Lent was how I was first introduced to the church calendar as a child. Although I probably should've noticed how the colors of the vestments and altar linens shifted from season to season, I don't remember noticing that so much as I remember being asked by my parents at the start of Lent every year what it was that I was going to "give up." We were forbidden from giving up things like doing our chores or eating broccoli, but had pretty free rein outside of that.

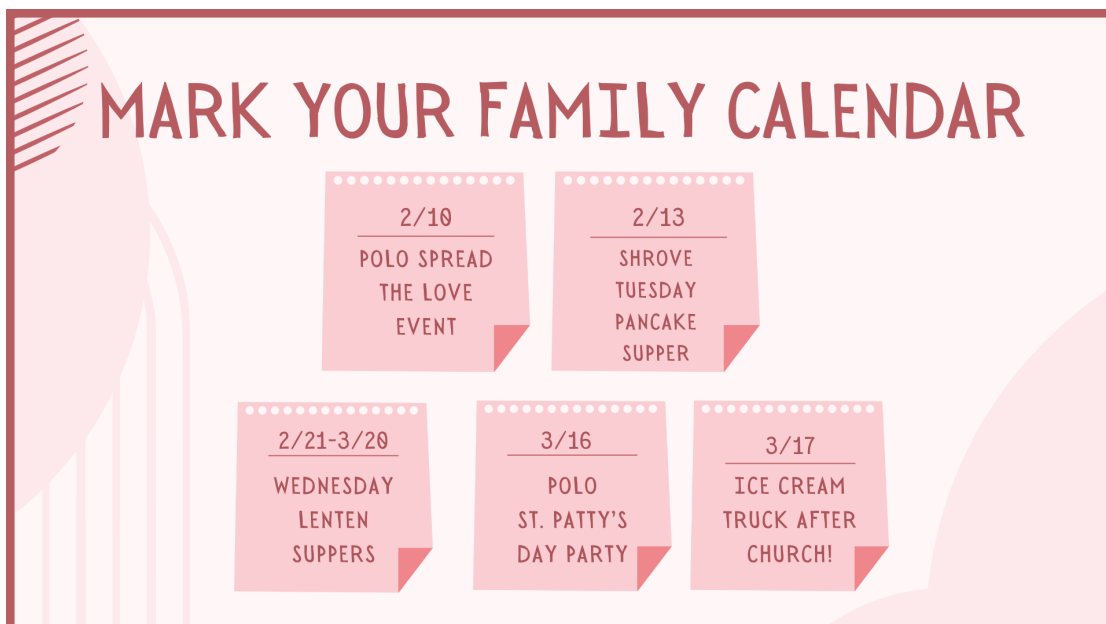
Looking back on it, though, my sister and I had an uncanny ability of choosing things to give up that only made my parents' lives harder. One year, we decided to give up wearing our favorite color. Unfortunately for everyone, nearly all of our clothes were our favorite color, which made getting ready for school a struggle for the entirety of Lent. Another year, we gave up eating meat, which made preparing dinner for the family much more of a headache. Despite its challenges, however, it was a meaningful spiritual practice for my family to get together to talk about what Lent was, and to make an effort in engaging with our relationship with Christ.

The practice of giving up something for Lent is intended to create new space for God in our lives. We all have a finite amount of time, money, and energy, and choosing to give up something during the forty days of Lent creates space to redirect one or more of those resources to the service of God. Some people choose instead to "take something on," like a new prayer practice, sending handwritten letters to a friends, donating to outreach ministries, or something else that provides a connection and closeness with God, community, or those in need.

Lent is the perfect time to experiment if you have been feeling like you might want to try something new or engage more deeply, or if you've been wondering what it is that God is calling you towards. The act of giving something up may create just enough time for quietness and stillness for God's voice to shine through. The act of taking something on may bring you a new connection or new discipline that grows your understanding of self and discipleship. And if you feel at a total loss on what to give up, or take on, or how to connect more deeply with God and live into this season of Lent with intention, know that the community of Saint Anne's is here to walk with you through these forty days in the wilderness. Come to worship on Sundays, join us on Wednesday evenings, or book a time on my calendar to talk through what the season of Lent is like for you.

Let's observe a holy Lent together,

Hannah+



# The Installation of the 7th Rector of Saint Anne's



Scan to see more photos from this wonderful evening!



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This Lent **TAKE ON** Wednesday  
evenings at Saint Anne's!  
Beginning February 21st

In addition to our usual simple meal, fellowship and adult study, this year we're offering a Wednesday program for families!

Supper begins at 6 pm in the Commons Room, ending around 7:10 in time for choir practice. After supper there will be a time of study and reflection based on materials offered from the bishop's office.

Hannah will lead a special formation series for parents and children to learn about the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist together - a hands-on approach to learning, a chance for parents to bond with their children, and an opportunity for families to grow in community with one another. Every Wednesday in Lent, **a child-friendly dinner will be served at 5:30 pm** before a 45-minute session designed to teach children and their parents how to share in and more fully understand the experience of Holy Communion together.

