



### The Power of “Observing”

Observing Lent means to set these next 40 days aside to be dedicated to seeing the truth of ourselves and of our lives. The season begins with Ash Wednesday – about our deaths – and it concludes at Easter – about our lives despite (beyond) death. Lent, you could say, is therefore the journey from Ashes to Alleluia. And that is its purpose, to face us with our ashes and lead us to God’s alleluia. Although, it is a bit rocky along the way. Climbing out of the ashes of life is not a pretty or easy thing. But it is a true thing. It is the promise of God to us, every day of our lives, and it is the message of the good news of Jesus.

While making this journey requires more than passive participation, yet even a little honest attention and dedication tends to bring about important blessing. There are five Christian disciplines that I am recommending for you to consider this Lent. There are many others you may choose from but Dallas Willard once highlighted some of these, and I find that they are just right for many of us this year.

Before I list them, let me remind you to please always remember this: “the person we are becoming is more important to God than the works we do.” (Willard) Lent and the Christian disciplines are about becoming a new creation, a renewed, freed, strengthened, loving, generous person. They are not about earning God’s favor with our deeds. Try a few of these on for size this Lent.

1. Secrecy. Not letting your good deeds be known (while being open about the bad deeds). This can help break the power of our addiction to being praised by others, and it develops a posture of living for One.

2. Scripture Meditation. Memorizing a longer scripture passage can help us to integrate the good, loving messages of God’s kingdom into our everyday lives. It also can bring freedom to our thoughts and strength to our faith. Try to memorize either 1 Corinthians 13, Psalm 46:1-7, or Isaiah 41:10 (or other).

3. Fasting. Not to lose weight. Not for your bodily good. But remembering the truth that Jesus taught, “one does not live by bread alone.” When you feel hunger, let it bring to mind (and therefore unite you with) the countless who are hungry in that moment but who are not choosing to be so. To me, one of the best Lenten fasts I know of is skipping meals on a designated day, setting aside the approximate amount of money you have saved, and giving that money to feed others (donating to our or another Food Pantry). This is the kind of fast that is pleasing to God. For more info, just ask.

4. Worship. Commit to not missing a Sunday worship service this Lent, and do it out of dedication to God, not for brownie points with your family or friends. If you can, join us each Wednesday evening for a teaching on the “Eight Deadly Thoughts and Seven Deadly Sins” to gain a graced awareness of the things that lead you away from the new life that both you and God want for you.





5. Solitude and Silence. Not hearing or speaking at all, helps us break the habit of being in charge, of feeling like it is up to you to control your life and the lives of those around you. Setting quiet time to “be still and know that I am the Lord.” Perhaps join us for our Quiet Day on March 8, and also try thirty minutes of Centering Prayer per day (see directions on our website’s tab “Help with Prayer”).

Regardless of what you do to observe Lent, or if you do nothing at all, I hope and pray that you will find the change in the tone of our worship and in our traditions enriching and helpful to your life and faith. May this Lent carry you deeply and lastingly from Ashes to Alleluia.

In Jesus’ Name,  
Rob+

# March 2025

**SUNDAY      MONDAY      TUESDAY      WEDNESDAY      THURSDAY      FRIDAY      SATURDAY**

<p>2 <b>Feed My Sheep</b> 8a Worship 9:15a Library Hours 9:35a Sunday Classes 10:30a Worship 11:45a Community Hour</p>					<p>1 <b>7a</b> Churchwide Workday <b>10a</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>10a</b> Heavenly Handmade Crafts</p>	
<p>3 <b>Feed My Sheep</b> 8a Worship 9:15a Library Hours 9:35a Sunday Classes 10:30a Worship 11:45a Community Hour</p>	<p>3 <b>5:30p</b> Depression Support Group</p>	<p>4 <b>5:00p</b> Pancake Dinner <b>6:15p</b> AA Meeting <b>7:00p</b> Karaoke Meetup</p>  	<p>5 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Services:</b> <b>7:30a   12pm   6p</b> <b>9a</b> Food Pantry <b>10a</b> Hagar's Basket</p>	<p>6 <b>6:15p</b> AA Meeting <b>6:30p</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p>7 <b>6p</b> ACA Group</p>	<p>8 <b>8a</b> Brotherhood of St Andrew <b>9a</b> <b>Lenten Quiet Day</b> <b>11a</b> WeCare</p>
<p>9 <b>Bishop Visit</b> 8a Worship 9:15a Library Hours 9:35a Sunday Classes 10:30a Worship 11:45a Community Hour</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 <b>6:15p</b> AA Meeting 6:15p Compassionate Friends</p>	<p>12 <b>9a</b> Food Pantry <b>10a</b> Hagar's Basket <b>10a</b> Worship Service <b>5:30p</b> Dinner &amp; Classes <b>Lenten Series Week 1</b></p>	<p>13 <b>11:30a</b> ECW Luncheon <b>6:15p</b> AA Meeting <b>6:30p</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p>14 <b>6p</b> ACA Group</p>	<p>15 <b>9a</b> DOK <b>10a</b> ECW</p>
<p>16 <b>8a</b> Worship <b>9:15a</b> Library Hours <b>9:35a</b> Sunday Classes <b>10:30a</b> Worship <b>11:45a</b> Community Hour</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 <b>5:30p</b> Bunco <b>6:15p</b> AA Meeting</p>	<p>19 <b>9a</b> Food Pantry <b>10a</b> Hagar's Basket <b>10a</b> Worship Service <b>5:30p</b> Dinner &amp; Classes <b>Lenten Series Week 2</b></p>	<p>20 <b>6:15p</b> AA Meeting <b>6:30p</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p>21 <b>6p</b> ACA Group <b>6p</b> Early Steps</p>	<p>22 <b>11a</b> We Care <b>6:00p</b> Choir Dinner Interested in joining choir? Join us for dinner @ Fr. Rob's house and learn more! </p>
<p>23 <b>8a</b> Worship <b>9:15a</b> Library Hours <b>9:35a</b> Sunday Classes <b>10:30a</b> Worship <b>11:45a</b> Community Hour  <b>5:00p</b> Double Bass Concert</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 <b>6:15p</b> AA Meeting</p>	<p>26 <b>9a</b> Food Pantry <b>10a</b> Hagar's Basket <b>10a</b> Worship Service <b>5:30p</b> Dinner &amp; Classes <b>Lenten Series Week 3</b></p>	<p>27 <b>6:15p</b> AA Meeting <b>6:30p</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p>28 <b>6p</b> ACA Group</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 <b>8a</b> Worship <b>9:15a</b> Library Hours <b>9:35a</b> Sunday Classes <b>10:30a</b> Worship <b>11:45a</b> Community Hour</p>	<p>31</p>	<p><b>Sunday Mornings</b> 8:00a – Worship 9:00a – Hot delicious Breakfast 9:30 – Classes for all ages 10:30a – Worship</p>	<p><b>Sunday Classes</b> Nursery – Nursery Children's Ministry – Classroom 1 Youth Sunday School – Youth Room Contemporary Discussion Class – Lanier Hall Father Matt's Class – Holy Cross Rm Book Study – Chapel</p>	<p><b>Wednesday Evening</b> 5:30p – Dinner 6:15p – Classes for all ages <b>Wednesday Classes</b> Nursery – Nursery Children's Ministry – Classroom 2 Youth Sunday School – Youth Room Adults – Nave</p>		

Sunday Message Series

## RE-LEARNING REPENTANCE

*The Journey from  
Ashes to Alleluia*

Discover the transformative joy of repentance this Lent!

*Wednesday Nights during Lent*

SEVEN DEADLY SINS;  
EIGHT DEADLY THOUGHTS

*Discover freedom & transformation this Lent*

## FROM ASHES TO ALLELUIA

A Lenten Quiet Day

Saturday, March 8th 9am to 1pm

Donations are appreciated but not required. Event includes materials, continental breakfast and lunch. Please sign-up in the Narthex.

Lent is a journey from repentance to renewal, from ashes to alleluia. This silent retreat offers sacred space to step away from the noise, listen for God's presence, and walk the Lenten path through Scripture, prayer, and reflection.

Sponsored by ECW and DOK

March  
9th

Bishop Visits

During Lent, we pause the praise,  
No alleluia we should raise!  
But if that joyful word you say,  
A dollar in the jar you pay!\*

A game that's fun, both sweet and bright,  
To hold our joy till Easter light!

\*Proceeds go to the Easter Egg Hunt

## Save The Date for VBS

June 10-13th and 15th  
8:30-1:00pm

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided



All women are invited to the...



**ECW**  
**Luncheon**  
@ Tuscan Oven  
Thurs Mar 13th @ 11:30am



ECW

monthly  
meeting

Saturday March 15th

10 AM  
LANIER HALL



# Celebrate!



## Birthdays

Pat Fadal 3/1	Shane Brannock 3/22
Jack Lichlyter 3/1	Steven Ramirez 3/23
Justin Rahn 03/04	Indi Hibschan 3/25
Grace Andrew 3/5	Alex Marsh 3/26
Madeleine Hutchison 3/5	Stephanie Backes 3/29
Phyllis Sjodin 3/8	Russell Hill 3/29
Laura Gaines 3/9	Sherry Jo Tillman 3/29
Sally Roberts 3/11	Joyce Bailey 3/31
Nancy Gibbons 3/20	Barbara Edwards 3/31
Linda Tillery 3/20	Liz Hungerford 3/31
Joseph Gassman 3/21	Peyton Weekley 3/31

## Anniversaries

Tony & Carmen Kimmons 3/6 - 26 years!  
Richard & Tina Marshall 3/12 - 48 years!  
Dallas & Heather Thomas 3/12 - 11 years!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Join us for a Double Bass concert at Holy Cross*



**DR. MARCOS  
MACHADO**  
**IN CONCERT**  
**MARCH 23 @ 5PM**