

NEWSLETTER



March 2025

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 disciples 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).

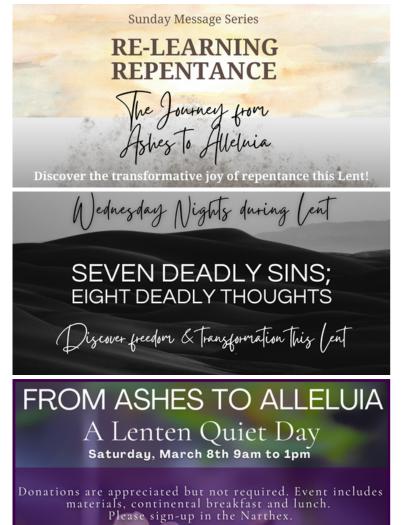
- 3. Fasting. Not to lose weight. Not for your bodily good. But remembering the truth that Jesus taught, "one does not live by bread alone." When you feel hunger, let it bring to mind (and therefore unite you with) the countless who are hungry in that moment but who are not choosing to be so. To me, 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+

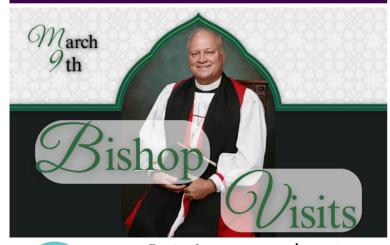
Mary 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Za Churchwide Workday 10a Prayer Shawl Ministry 10a Heavenly Handmade Crafts
2 Feed My Sheep 8a Worship 9:15a Library Hours 9:35a Sunday Classes 10:30a Worship II:45a Community Hour	5 5:30p Depression Support Group	4 5:00p Pancake Dinner Silsp AA Meeting 7:00p Karaoke Meetup	5 Ash Wednesday Services: 7:30a 12pm 6p 9a Food Pantry 10a Hagar's Basket	6.15p AA Meeting 6:30p Choir Practice	7 6p ACA Group	8 Ba Brotherhood of St Andrew 9a Lenten Quiet Day 11a WeCare
9 Bishop Visit 8a Worship 9:15a Library Hours 9:35a Sunday Classes 10:30a Worship II:45a Community Hour	10	11 6:15p AA Meeting 6:15p Compassionate Friends	12 9a Food Pantry 10a Hagar's Basket 10a Worship Service 5:30p Dinner & Classes Lenten Series Week 1	13 0a ECW Luncheon 6:15p AA Meeting 6:30p Choir Practice	¹⁴ 6p ACA Group	15 9a DOK 10a ECW
16 8a Worship 9:15a Library Hours 9:35a Sunday Classes 10:30a Worship 11:45a Community Hour	17	¹⁸ 5:30p Bunco 6:15p AA Meeting	19 9a Food Pantry 10a Hagar's Basket 10a Worship Service 5:30p Dinner & Classes Lenten Series Week 2	²⁰ 6:15p AA Meeting 6:30p Choir Practice	21 6p ACA Group 6p Early Steps	22 Ita We Care 6:00p Choir Dinner Interested in joining choir? Join us for dinner @ Fr. Rob's house and learn more!
25 8a Worship 9:15a Library Hours 9:35a Sunday Classes 10:30a Worship 11:45a Community Hour 5:00p Double Bass Concert	24	25 6:15p AA Meeting	26 9a Food Pantry 10a Hagar's Basket 10a Worship Service 5:30p Dinner & Classes Lenten Series Week 3	27 6:15p AA Meeting 6:30p Choir Practice	28 6p ACA Group	29
8a Worship 9:15a Library Hours 9:35a Sunday Classes 10:30a Worship 11:45a Community Hour	21	Sunday Mornings 8:00a – Worship 9:00a – Hot delicious Breakfast 9:30 – Classes for all ages 10:30a – Worship		Sunday Classes 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		Wednesday Evening 5:30p - Dinner 6:15p - Classes for all ages Wednesday Classes Nursery - Nursery Children's Ministry - Classroom 2 Youth Sunday School - Youth Room Adults - Nave



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



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







de Celebratel



Birthdays

Pat Fadal 3/1 Jack Lichlyter 3/1 Justin Rahn 03/04 Grace Andrew 3/5 Phyllis Sjodin 3/8 Laura Gaines 3/9 Sally Roberts 3/11 Nancy Gibbons 3/20 Linda Tillery 3/20 Joseph Gassman 3/21

Steven Ramirez 3/23 Indi Hibschman 3/25 Alex Marsh 3/26 Madeleine Hutchison 3/5 Stephanie Backes 3/29 Russell Hill 3/29 Sherry Jo Tillman 3/29 Joyce Bailey 3/31 Barbara Edwards 3/31 Liz Hungerford 3/31 Peyton Weekley 3/31

Shane Brannock 3/22

Anniversaries

Tony & Carmen Kimmons 3/6 - 26 years! Richard & Tina Marshall 3/12 - 48 years! Dallas & Heather Thomas 3/12 - 11 years! Holy Cross Episcopal Church 7979 N. 9th Avenue Pensacola, FL 32514 (850) 477-8596

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join us for a Double Bass concert at Holy Cross

