

Ashes to Easter

Lent, Holy Week, Easter at Trinity 2010

The forty days preceding Easter have been observed with special devotion by Christians since the earliest days of the church. The fourth Sunday is called *Laetare Sunday*, or *Refreshment Sunday* and was allowed as a day of relief from Lenten rigors. This season became a time for people who had been separated from the faith community because of serious sin to engage in actions preparing them for readmission to communion. The Christian community as a whole was invited to join them, giving rise to our modern Lenten observances - special prayer and worship, fasting and self-denial, and acts of charity. Lent also became a special time to prepare for baptism at the joy of the Easter Vigil.

Special Events

Dinner Dance and Auction	February 20	5:30 p.m. Mahler Ballroom
Organ Concert	March 7	4:00 p.m. at Trinity

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30 p.m. February 16 in the south parish hall

The day before Ash Wednesday is called *Shrove Tuesday*, *Fat Tuesday* or *Mardi Gras*. It's a chance to eat food not allowed during in Lent, typically meat, fish, fats, eggs, and milk. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday because they could easily use up the eggs, fat, and milk in the home. You are invited to come for a pancake supper in the south parish hall – and do wear your Mardi Gras outfit! Traditionally, this is also the day to burn the palms from Palm Sunday of the previous year to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. The rector will burn palms in the courtyard some time during the evening (if it's not raining!)

Ash Wednesday	February 17
12:00 noon	Litany of Penitence, Sermon, and Holy Eucharist
7:00 p.m.	Litany of Penitence, Sermon, and Holy Eucharist

Ashes are an ancient sign of mourning and penitence, marking a person as one entering a special spiritual time. The invitation to Lent on begins by marking our foreheads with the ashes from last year's palm crosses, reminding ourselves of our mortality. For many Christians this is a profoundly spiritual act with deep meaning. It connects us with our mortal human nature which Christ shared with us in his incarnation culminating most powerfully upon the cross. It connects us with the great gift of our creation and the days of our lives which God calls on us to live fully.

Stations of the Cross 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays beginning March 3

The Stations of the Cross, sometimes called *The Way of the Cross*, have formed part of Christian devotion for many centuries. The devotion originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary and pausing for prayer and devotion at various points along the way. The practice of marking these fourteen places with prayer eventually spread throughout the world. The fourteen bronze stations at Trinity were created by sculptor Lawrence Marcell.

Compline	Third Sundays	8:00 p.m.
Children's Service	Second Sundays	9:15 a.m.
	February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9	

Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Library.

Inquirer's Class Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Library led by Marc Smith.

Lent Series Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the North Parish Hall

Expressions of Faith: Two Movies and a Book

What does it mean to be a person of faith? How do we live out our faith in the world? This Lent we will explore these questions by viewing and discussing two films and one book. They will cover very different approaches in three very different location. On February 25 we will watch a documentary on the life of *Thomas Merton*. On March 4 will be a documentary originally broadcast on PBS, *In the Light of Reverence*. This film explores three places considered sacred by American Indians: Devils Tower in Wyoming, the Colorado Plateau in the Southwest and Mt. Shasta in California. The Lakota, Hopi and Wintu people who traditionally care for these areas still struggle to co-exist with non-Indians who have very different ideas about land, culture and what is sacred. No class on March 11 due to the vestry meeting. On March 18 and 25 we will be discussing Shane Claiborne's book *The Irrestible Revolution (living as an ordinary radical)*. The cost of the book is \$13 and we will order them through Left Bank Books. Come on one evening or all of them and bring a friend. If you want the book please sign up in the south parish hall.

Holy Week

Sunday, March 28	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 1	Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist with Stripping of the Altar and the Procession of the Reserved Sacrament to the Altar of Repose
9:00 p.m.	Vigil at the Altar of Repose
Friday, April 2	Good Friday
12:00 noon	The Liturgy of Good Friday with Solemn Collects, Sermon, and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
7:00 p.m.	The Liturgy of Good Friday with Solemn Collects, Veneration of the Cross, Sermon, and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament, with the Trinity Choir
Saturday, April 3	The Great Vigil of Easter 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 4	Easter Day