

SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

The Episcopal presence in Doylestown since 1846

84 East Oakland Avenue

Doylestown, Pennsylvania 18901

215-348-5511

FEBRUARY 2010

Lent – No Illusions

By definition, the season of Lent is the time of preparation for Holy Week, leading up to Easter. For many, it is a time to give up something like candy or smoking. It may be a time for more frequent church attendance for others. The following is a brief reflection leading up to what may be a better view of Lent for some.

Lent owes much of its spirit to the forty days Jesus spent in the desert preparing for his ministry. We say he was tempted there, but a more accurate translation may be "tested." The Jewish view of the desert was an abode of demons, especially that part of the desert where winds would howl around tall, rough stone. It must have been terrifying at night – dark, looming shapes, unearthly wailing of wind, and nothing else. In this place, Jesus was offered the opportunity to be the wrong kind of messiah.

When Jesus entered the desert, he left behind all the expectations of others, all the hopes, all the illusions. It was just Jesus and the Father, in the Holy Spirit. But in solitude, demons come. This is always a most dangerous time. There were at least three wrong ways to be the Messiah, and Jesus rejected them all. The defeat of Satan during this testing hinted at the final defeat of evil through the Cross and Resurrection.

We are people of illusions. We think we understand God, we think we know ourselves and those around us. We plan our lives and are shocked when these plans fall through. We impose our wills on God or even say we know God's plans. In the desert, Jesus had no illusions of his own to face and destroy – he was tested for our sake, so we would know who he was not. He did not come to bribe us with earthly bread, or astonish us

with feats of invulnerability. He did not seek world domination or command an army. He simply did the will of the Father.

In Lent, we abstain from meat on Fridays, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Many people perform acts of penance, such as giving up sweets, TV and the like. What is the connection to the desert?

The desert experience is about deprivation. Most of the world experiences it involuntarily. For many people, however, deprivation is a great evil, and to be avoided at all costs. In deprivation, we discover that we are not all-powerful. We are slaves to our bellies, to the opinions of others, to pleasure. Doing without can strip away some of the illusions and give us a glimpse of truth.

During Lent, we have the opportunity to hear voices that are usually lost in the din of pleasure and meaningless talk. We can enter into a private desert, even in the midst of the world and face our own demons. We can tear down some false idols, sometimes only to be heartbroken at finding others behind them. If we are brave, we can run through this desert trying to find the real God amid the gods of human culture.

Thomas Merton writes about a kind of "dread." It is the nagging sense that we have missed something important or that we have somehow been untrue to ourselves. It may feel like a crisis of faith, as though we doubted God. In reality, we doubt the false images of God that we ourselves have created. We doubt the bold pronouncements we make about our independence or open-mindedness. This "dread" is heightened by the fact that the God beyond our imaginings is so close to us, although we know Him not. Thoughts cross our minds about this, but we push them away. Perhaps as you read this you are thinking, "I'm not that clueless. I have faith. I know God personally." Maybe there is more to know.

During Lent, we use abstinence from meat and acts of penance as metaphors. In a very small way, they model the rejection of illusions about what we need, who we are, and who God is. In this life, we try to make some progress in discarding

our "disordered attachments." It is far better to begin discarding our foolish attachments in this life, and Lent is a good time to begin this work. The best time to start is always now.

To end this reflection with Hope, we must remember that through all of this, God is with us. God may not offer comfort now — but God promises no trial beyond our ability to succeed. God offers us no truth we cannot accept if we become as children. When Jesus had finally driven off the devil, angels came to wait on him. When, through Jesus, we have rejected illusion and self-deception — we can be sure of continued graces from God. Open your hearts, your minds and your souls this Lent and receive those gifts which are available to those who are truly people of faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of God and of his Church, to the observance of a holy Lent.

Pastor Chris+

Shrove Tuesday?

What's a Shrove?

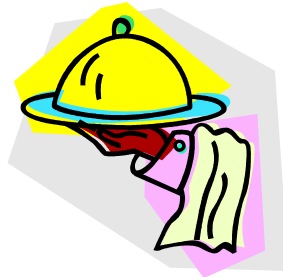
The day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday is “Shrove” Tuesday. It derives its name from the “*shriving*” that traditionally took place on that day during the middle ages — the confession and absolution of the faithful. The forty days of Lent that followed were then considered days of penitence. It was the ancient practice during this period of penitence, during Lent, to fast and abstain completely from eating meat and meat byproducts. As part of the preparation for doing this, all the meat and fats in the house were removed. And so as not to waste these commodities, they were traditionally consumed on Shrove Tuesday, the last day that they could be eaten. Hence the practice of cooking with the fats on this day (*Fat Tuesday!*) Fried cakes (pancakes) became part of the tradition — one which we continue today.

We are also in the season of Mardi Gras. New Orleans is well known for its Mardi Gras celebration. A final “fling” before the solemn and austere season of Lent begins. At midnight tonight, all the merry-making comes to a close.

The word *Lent*, Middle English, *lenten lente*, Anglo-Saxon, *lencten*, meaning Spring, is derived from *lang* (long) and is so called from the lengthening of the days in the spring, the time when Lent is observed.

Tomorrow, Ash Wednesday, begins the forty days preparation for Easter. Eat and be merry tonight, for tomorrow the solemnity begins.





PANCAKE DINNER

**SHROVE TUESDAY,
16 FEBRUARY 2010
5:30 TO 7:30 PM**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Contribution

Adults ----- \$5.00

Children 6 – 12 ----- \$3.00

Children under 6 ---- Free

PRESENTED BY:



**THE BROTHERHOOD
OF ST. ANDREW**

Please join us for all you can eat pancakes, sausage, applesauce, coffee, tea, lemonade and ice cream.

Ash Wednesday —

What It Is & Isn't

Q: What is Ash Wednesday?

A: Ash Wednesday is the day Lent begins. It occurs forty days before Easter – excluding Sundays (*46 days – 6 Sundays = 40*).

Q: Why do Christians have their foreheads marked with a cross?

A: Because in the Bible a mark on the forehead is a symbol of a person's ownership. By having their foreheads marked with the sign of a cross, this symbolizes that the person belongs to Jesus Christ, who died on a Cross.

This is in imitation of the spiritual mark or seal that is put on a Christian in baptism, when they are delivered from slavery to sin and the devil and made a slave of righteousness and Christ. (Rom. 6:3-18)

Q: Why is the signing done with ashes?

A: Because ashes are a biblical symbol of mourning and penance. In Bible times the custom was to fast, wear sackcloth, sit in dust and ashes, and put dust and ashes on one's head. While we no longer normally wear sackcloth or sit in dust and ashes, the customs of fasting and putting ashes on one's forehead as a sign of mourning and penance have survived to this day. In fact, Ash Wednesday is a day not only for putting ashes on one's head, but also a day of fasting.

Q: Is there another significance to the ashes?

A: Yes. They also symbolize death and so remind us of our mortality. Thus when the priest uses his thumb to sign one of the faithful with the ashes, he or she says, "Remember that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return," which is modeled after God's address to Adam (Genesis 3:19; cf. Job 34:15, Psalms 90:3,

104:29, Ecclesiastes 3:20). This also echoes the words at a burial, "Ashes to ashes; dust to dust," which is based on God's words to Adam in Genesis 3 and Abraham's confession, "I am nothing but dust and ashes" (Genesis 18:27). It is thus a reminder of our mortality and our need to repent before this life is over and we face our Judge.

Q: Where do the ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from?

A: They are made by burning palm fronds which have been saved from the previous year's Palm Sunday, they are then blessed by a priest – blessed ashes having been used in God's rituals since the time of Moses (Numbers 19:9-10, 17).

Q: Is having one's forehead signed with ashes required of the faithful?

A: No, it is not required. However, it is to be strongly encouraged as it is a fitting and visible spiritual reminder that encourages one to adopt an attitude of prayer, repentance, and humility. As James said: "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up" (James 4:10).

Q: Is Ash Wednesday a Holy Day of the church?

A: Yes, it is a Holy Day as defined in the Book of Common Prayer (p. 16) and it is also a day of fasting. Although attendance at church is not mandatory, it is strongly advisable since it is fitting to mark the beginning of the penitential season of Lent by going to church. The formal, corporate worship of God is a good way to get a good start to the season.

Real Blood Donors Save Real Lives.
Every donation can save up to three lives.
Join us and help make a difference.



American Red Cross
Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, March 12

3:30 to 8:30 pm
in the Parish Hall

Please contact Barbara Massey
at 215-348-8456
if you are interested in donating.

If you have any questions about eligibility to donate,
please call 1-800-GIVELIFE.

16 year olds are eligible to donate
with parental consent.



American Red Cross

Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

Facts About Blood Donation

1. Every 2 seconds someone in the United States needs blood.
2. More than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day.
3. One out of every 10 people admitted to a hospital needs blood.
4. The blood type most often requested by hospitals is Type O.
5. A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood.
6. A healthy donor may make a whole blood donation every 56 days.
7. The number of patients who receive blood in the United States in a year: 4.9 million (2001).
8. The volume of blood transfused to patients is increasing at the rate of 6% per year (2001).
9. Approximately 38% of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood but only 5% do in a given year.
10. Donating blood is a safe process. A sterile needle is used only once for each donor and then discarded.
11. The actual blood donation takes less than 10-12 minutes. The entire process, from the time you arrive to the time you leave, takes about an hour.
12. The average adult has about 10 to 12 pints of blood in his body. Roughly 1 pint is given during a donation.

JOB SEARCH GROUP: The group supports adults in our local area who are out of work and searching for jobs. Basic job search training will be provided to help build your Resume and develop skills for networking and interviewing. You will be part of an ongoing mutual support group until you land a job. The group meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Saint Paul's Conference Room.

Forward Day by Day for February-April is now available at the tract rack. If you paid for a yearly subscription, look for a copy with your name on it. Thanks to the generosity of several parishioners, additional copies are also available.

BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is our entrance into the body of Christ as members of our one Holy Catholic Church. Through our Baptism we are then entitled to participate fully in the life of the Church. Baptism is especially appropriate at the Easter Vigil, on the Day of Pentecost (50 days after the Easter Vigil), on All Saints Day (1 November) and on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord (first Sunday after the Epiphany which is 6 January). However, baptism can be arranged at other times, in consultation with the priest. Two preparation meetings are required prior to the day of Baptism. Please call the church office at 215-348-5511 if you are seeking Baptism for yourself or your child.

CHRISTMAS ATTIC DONATIONS are now being accepted. Please place your donations (marked 'Attic') in the coatroom on Sunday morning or drop them off at the church office during the week.

PARISH REGISTER

Outgoing Transfers

- John (Jack) Freidel to Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, PA

Funerals

- Donald H. Stevens on December 29, 2009

PASTORAL CARE

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED – IMPORTANT

If you or your loved one should be hospitalized or homebound, contact the church at 215-348-5511 or send an e-mail to Office@StPaulsDoylestown.org.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS and HEALING MINISTRIES

Weekday Intercessory Prayers can be offered at the close of Evening Prayer. If you have a specific need for healing, direction, guidance, or thanksgiving call the church office, 215-348-5511 with the name(s), specific need or thanksgiving, and the dates for the prayers. If you know of someone of the parish to be included in the Sunday mass intercessions for needs or thanksgiving, please call the parish office at 215-348-5511 with your name and dates of prayer. This weekday prayer ministry is opened to all to participate.



Another intercessory ministry meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room to pray for special needs or thanksgiving. All are welcome to come participate. Call Mary Rose at 215-723-3275.

In your personal prayers, please remember:

Janet McGill Louise Nelson Tom Smith's daughter, Kelyn Ed Sturtevant	Edward Perkins Carole Beard Joyce & Sam Palermo's nephew, Thomas	Marilyn Canterbury Doreen Stagg Lorna Ludvik Fred Paiste Anne Wagner
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Also, remember to pray for:

The Diocese of Pennsylvania, Bishop Michel, Bishop Bennisson, the Standing Committee, and the Commission on Ministry

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday:

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, *Church*

8:30 a.m. Low Mass, *Church*

9:30 a.m. Fellowship, *Parish Hall*

10:30 a.m. Sung Mass, *Church*

Wednesday:

(There will be no Healing Service during Lent 2/17-3/31)

7:30 p.m. Healing Service, *Chapel*

LENT

Ash Wednesday, 17 February 2010

7:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Noon Mass w/Imposition of Ashes

7:30 p.m. Mass w/Imposition of Ashes

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT 2/24-3/24

The Episcopal churches of Central Bucks will participate in a Lenten series. Each parish will plan and lead prayer and offer hospitality. We will begin with prayer at 7:30 and have a simple fellowship gathering afterward.

Feb. 24- Holy Nativity, Wrightstown

March 3- Saint Paul's, Doylestown

March 10- Trinity Solebury

March 17- Trinity Buckingham

March 24- Saint Philip's

FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Formation

Sunday mornings: 9:30 a.m., *Parish Hall*

Mondays: 7:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EFM), *Library*

Thursdays: 11:00 a.m., Bible Study, *Conference Room*

Choir Thursdays: Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m., *Music Room*

Youth Formation

Sunday mornings: 9:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m.: Rite-13, J2A, YAC

2-2-10 **Prayer Group**, 7:30 p.m., *Conference Room*

- 2-10-10** **Book Group-“The Handmaid’s Tale”**
by Margaret Atwood 7:30 p.m.,
Conference Room
- 2-21-10** **ECW**, 9:30 a.m., Parish Hall
- 2-21-10** **Brotherhood**, 9:30 a.m., Parish Hall

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m., Job Search Group, *Library*

- 2-6-10** **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 10:30 a.m.,
Library
- 2-16-10** **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 6:30 p.m.,
Library
- 2-20-10** **Aid for Friends**, 9:30 a.m., *Kitchen*

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 2-16-10** **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**,
5:30 p.m., *Parish Hall*

Anniversaries in February

Birthdays:

Feb. 1 Luke DeGroot
Peggy Woods
Feb. 5 Mary Howe
Feb. 7 Nancy Dunston
Feb. 8 William Burke
Feb. 9 Amy DeGuilio
Feb. 10 Debbie Wertz
Feb. 13 Kaitlynn Burke
Tim Hsu
Feb. 14 Nick Farina
J.T. Massey
Rachel Matus
Feb. 15 Christopher
Massey
Feb. 17 Pat Achilles
William DelPizzo
Charles Dorsett
Terry Mohapp
Feb. 18 Pike Stephens
Feb. 19 Bailey Welsh
Feb. 20 Barbara Lawler
Laura Whitekettle
Feb. 21 Diane Happ
Feb. 22 Carol Hsu
Alison Johnson
Feb. 24 Tom Smith
Feb. 25 Michael
Rubenstein
Feb. 29 David Pettibone

Baptisms:

Christopher Frey
Feb. 2 Kim Parsons
Feb. 5 Stephen Mohapp
Feb. 8 Jacob Leibfreid

Feb. 9 David
Rockafellow
Feb. 20 Stuart Lindberg
Feb. 25 Amy Kirk
Feb. 26 Kevin Miller
Sean Woods
Feb. 28 David Nice

Confirmations:

Feb. 5 Shih-Ying Hsu
Peter Sayer
Feb. 12 Mary Rose
Feb. 14 Christopher Hastie
Feb. 26 Luke DeGroot
Marian Wentworth
Feb. 27 Charlotte Perry
Feb. 28 Linda Hastie
David Nice

Marriages:

Feb. 15 Richard & Susan
Bertolet
Feb. 17 Ryan & Elizabeth
Beebe
Feb. 18 Ralph & Bobbie
Gilkerson
Feb. 20 Keith & Sara
Frister
Feb. 22 Bruce
& Sally Bauder

Departed:

Feb. 1 Madeleine Geiger
Feb. 2 Adelaide
Rickenbacker
James Stanley
Feb. 3 George
Wiemann, III

Feb. 4 Mildred Roessler
Feb. 5 Richard Awrans
Feb. 6 David
Rickenbacker
Catherine
Kappauf
Lenore Curtin
Feb. 7 Bert Smith
Alfreda Bean
Janet Maurer
Feb. 10 Samuel
Rockafellow
Dorothy Bilyk
Feb. 11 Clarence Hawk
Reuben Dunbar
Feb. 13 Dorothy Redfield
Feb. 14 Robert
Paxson, Jr.
Marie Lightcap
Harriet Greenholt
Feb. 17 George Kerr
Robert Dunston
Feb. 18 Howell Hastie
Geraldine Gardy
Feb. 20 Daniel
Buckley, Jr.
Jane Wetherill
Feb. 22 Arthur
Leatherman
Feb. 26 Martha Buck
Feb. 27 George
Thompson
Paul Fern
Feb. 28 Ada Justice

**If your sacramental anniversaries are not on file,
PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE
(215-348-5511, ext. 10)**

LEADERSHIP

The Vestry is chaired by the Rector and seated with elected Members as Stewards for oversight and coordination of Christian Formation, Worship, Buildings & Grounds, Outreach, and Finances. Please speak to them with your insight to ministry opportunities and with “Who God is calling us to be.”

THE VESTRY OFFICERS FOR 2009

Jeanie Hosutt ('10), Rector's Warden, 215-453-9543

David Taylor ('09), Accounting Warden, 215-489-0343

Kay Johnson ('10), Treasurer, 215-348-7757

Wendy Brumbaugh ('09), Secretary, 215-257-7431

Vestry Members

Christian Formation	John Canterbury ('12)	215-348-0196
Social	Steve Rubenstein ('11)	215-345-9276
Library	Peggy Davis ('12)	215-230-9987
Outreach	Robert Ball ('12)	215-345-6625
Evangelization	Anne Shute ('09)	215-345-8954
Grounds	Tom Smith ('10)	215-340-0153
Property	Bill Angell ('11)	215-345-5618

Submissions for the monthly newsletter must be made in writing, preferably in digital format, to the Parish office by the **15th** of each month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Please email your article or item to the Parish Office at Office@StPaulsDoylestown.org. Or, please mail your article to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 84 East Oakland Avenue, Doylestown, PA 18901

SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

84 East Oakland Avenue

Doylestown PA 18901

Office: 215-348-5511

Fax: 215-348-4966

Office@StPaulsDoylestown.org

The Rev. Christine E. Mottl,

Interim Rector

Mr. Richard C. Spotts,

Director of Music

Mrs. Angela Stoots,

Parish Administrator

Mr. Erich M. Kessling, *Sexton*

www.StPaulsDoylestown.org

The Parish Office is open Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
84 East Oakland Avenue
Doylestown PA 18901

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