

The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



MARCH 2011

Enter here . . .

for a foretaste of Heaven's Banquet and the pursuit of Truth and Beauty



LENT is the period of fasting, sobriety and meditation. This season recalls the period of Christ's fasting and meditation in the wilderness, so traditionally is for a period of forty

days--from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. The term is derived from an old word for 'lengthen' which referred to the lengthening days of early spring; the season of penitence and preparation for Holy Week and Easter which begins on Ash Wednesday (see *BCP*, 264-65).

On Ash Wednesday, we enter into one of the most important seasons of the church year—Lent. The word “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, or spring, the time of year when the days begin to lengthen. Lent itself is always the same period of time, but its starting date is tied to the movable feast of Easter and can be as early as February 4 or as late as March 10.

Lent has two major focuses:

†The first is on **baptism**, which in the early church occurred only at Easter. The Sunday readings provide a short course on the meaning of baptism.

†The second Lenten theme, one with which most of us are now familiar, is that of **fasting and renunciation**.



Prayer for Ash Wednesday

O loving God, we come to the Holy season of Lent truly sorry for our sins that have often separated us from you. We confess that we need to repent of our offenses against you which we have committed by thought, word, and deed. We humbly pray for your mercy and forgiveness. We pray for a new quest for holiness on our part that we may become faithful and righteous servants of Christ. In His Name, we pray. *Amen.*

stations
of the
cross



Along with faithful attendance at Mass on Sundays and during the week, if possible, each Wednesday offers the opportunity to walk the Way of the Cross with Jesus after the 12:10 pm Unction Mass. This devotion is open to everyone and can be a life-changing experience.



Special Lenten Days and Services in March ~

SHROVE TUESDAY (the day before Lent begins)

ASH WEDNESDAY (the first day of Lent)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS (or Way of the Cross)



Observing Lent

This custom is to mark the season of Lent by giving up some things and taking on others. Both can serve to mark the season as a holy time of preparation. Some examples of things people give up for Lent include sweets, meat for all or some meals, and alcohol. In most cases, giving up something for Lent can be made more meaningful by using the money or time for another purpose. For example, meal times on fast days could be spent in prayer. Another example is that if you give up meat during Lent, the extra money that would go to meat dishes can be given to a group, such as St. Michael's Meals Program, which works to feed those in need in our community. Some things added during Lent are daily Bible reading, fasting on Fridays, times of prayer, taking a course of study related in some way to spirituality.

see *OBSERVING* on Page 2

Note that the season of Lent is forty days plus the six Sundays. This is because Sundays are celebrations of Jesus' resurrection and are always an appropriate day to lessen the restrictions of Lent, So that if you have, for example, given up chocolate for Lent, you could indulge in a weekly candy bar on Sunday.

Lent is also an especially appropriate time for the sacrament of confession. While confession to a priest is not required to receive God's forgiveness, it can be a meaningful rite of reconciliation to God.

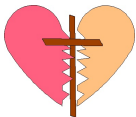


DID YOU KNOW . . .

VIGIL

Originally, a vigil was a fast day observed on the day before certain major feast days. In the 1979 Prayer book, a new service called the Great Vigil of Easter (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 285) became a way to celebrate Easter on Holy Saturday.

from the An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church



CONFESSION DURING LENT

The priests of the parish are available anytime during the year to celebrate reconciliation but especially during Lent. Look for the published times in the bulletin or make an appointment with one of the priests. Never made a confession? Just ask a priest for guidance. Look up the "Reconciliation of a Penitent" in the Book of Common Prayer. What to confess? Some use the Ten Commandments, but perhaps the best examination of conscience can be made by using the Baptismal Covenant found in BCP pg. 292. Remember, the absolution given a good confession unleashes a deep spirit of freedom and joy!



LENTEN COURSE -

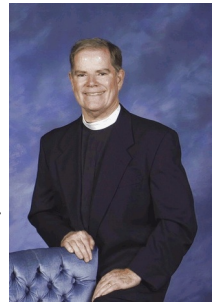
"BEACONS IN THE DARKNESS:

Spiritual Leaders of the modern age."

Monday evenings following the 5:30 pm Mass in the Parish Center with a simple soup supper and a study group from from 6:00 to 7:15 pm on March 14, 21, 28, and April 4 and 11.

Dr. Jon Rinnander will facilitate reading and discussions about the lives of several exemplary men and women from the Moravian, Anglican, and Roman Catholic tradition. Each left a distinctive mark on the development of Christian life. Among the persons we will study are Count Zinzendorf, William Law, John Wesley, Jeanne Jugan, Giovanni Bosco, and Evelyn Underhill, Dorothy Day, and William Stringfellow.

**A MESSAGE
FROM THE RECTOR**



Dear Friends:

Time is sure going by fast. We are about to conclude the season of Epiphany and enter Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 9th.

As you know from my sermons, I love the liturgical church year. Inspired by the Spirit, it informs and provides a context for the spiritual journey through life. In the first weeks of Epiphany, for example, we have celebrated the identity of the Child as God's own beloved Son, and in these last weeks, helped by Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, we have looked into our own hearts to see how *we* have manifested God's presence to the world.

Here comes Lent. Just when we need it. Why? Because it will allow us time to really grow the Christ-life within us. It's what we *do* that makes us Christians, not simply calling ourselves that name.

We'll have many opportunities to grow this Lent (which means "springtime" when days "*lengthen*"). There are times to grow inwardly through prayer (daily services and Stations) and study (the Lectionary Bible Class and Monday evening "Beacons" class). There are times to serve others (at Poz Café on March 17th, Casa Maria, Primavera, and welcoming our Guatemala visitors).

Let's put ourselves in God's hands and just show up this Lent! The Holy Spirit will do great things in us, and we will grow!

Peace and Love,



The Heart of St. Michael's

A bequest to St. Michael's is truly a gift of a lifetime.

Please consider to remember our parish
in your will or estate planning.
Contact the church office for more information.



BRIEFLY NOTED by Les Stephens
Not always right, but never in doubt

Margaret Winton is a key member of our MASH Unit suffering in a difficult recovery from a knee replacement procedure.

Junior Warden Steve Coulter has suffered through a year to give back. Initially, Steve survived a life-threatening ordeal and more recently lost his mother, Lillian Joyce Coulter, a strong woman of many accomplishments. Steve deserves our prayers and support in all that he does for St. Michael's.

Alan Schultz, our renowned musician and composer, is completing a commissioned tune for the Tucson Junior Strings which will be performed on tour in Canada.

To no one's surprise, the Arizona government whined about the natural gas cutoff during the recent cold snap. Arizona, with no gas or oil wells, has never contributed to the pipeline. We do have two helium wells to help fill your balloons for future Valentine's Days. New Mexico, which has abundant gas and oil and has helped fill the pipeline forever, also had cutoffs without a whimper.

Pima County took some of the attention away from *Rio Never* by hiring a high-salaried engineer who had previously defaulted and walked away from a consulting contract with the county. It took a few hundred thousand dollars to clean up the mess he had left.

Betty Miller, sister of Alice, came through a cataract implant procedure with flying colors.

RIP~ Elfriede Martha Brown and Sarah Drollinger, two fine women of different generations and backgrounds, answered a summons from the Lord.



“March is a month of considerable frustration - it is so near spring and yet across a great deal of the country, the weather is still so violent and changeable that outdoor activity in our yards seems light years away.”

Thalassa Cruso



APRIL issue copy deadline
Wednesday, **MARCH 16, 2011**
please submit to: church@stimichael.net
or the church office

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
ST. MICHAEL'S
Saint Patrick's Day
Buffet

Traditional Patty's Fare
PEASE PUDDING (SPLIT PEA SOUP)
CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE,
IRISH POTATOES
"LUCK OF THE IRISH" DESSERT
GREEN BEER
SPICED APPLE CIDER



♪ sing-a-long
Dirty Duck Pub ♪



Thursday, March 17, 2010
6:30 pm
Parish Center
\$10 per person (offering for child's meal)

Enjoy an evening good food, sing-a-long & fun
SIGN-UP ON RESERVATION CARDS AT THE CHURCH & OFFICE



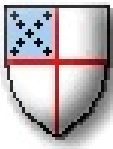
PERFECT GIFT FOR EASTER

The Book of Pipes is a memorial and historical listing of loved ones, living and deceased, who have made a difference in our lives, our community, and the world. Your name, a name of a loved one living or deceased can be inscribed in *The Book of Pipes*. Each dedicated pipe is \$100 per person remembered or honored.

Please contact the parish office, 886-7292, for more information. Brochures are always available in the back of the church or in the parish office at any time. Also to be published is *The Stories Behind the Book of Pipes*, telling the stories of all the people inscribed.

This is a wonderful way to honor, memorialize, or to give thanks to a special person in your life.





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ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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http://smallangelstucson.org



Vestry

The Rev. John R. Smith
Priest & Rector

Debbie D'Amore Stephen Coulter
Senior Warden Junior Warden

Les Clark Carolyn Schlager
Treasurer Clerk

Al DeAugustine

Ron Cross

Richard Dolan

Steve Larsen

Michael Leeming

Penny MacArthur

Lisa Sharp

Joyce Tracy



SUNDAY MASS

7:45 am Mass
with Homily

9:00 am Family Mass
9:45 am ~ Sunday School / Child Care

10:15 am High Mass
with Sermon

5:00 pm Mass
with Homily

Weekday Mass

MONDAY ~ 5:30 pm Low Mass
for Nuclear Disarmament

WEDNESDAY ~ 12:10 pm Low Mass
and Unction

SATURDAY 8:30 am Low Mass

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Clergy

The Rev. John R. Smith
Priest & Rector

The Rev. Canon Ed Harnsberger
The Rev. Joel T. Ireland
The Rev. Michael Meyers, Deacon
Assisting Clergy

Staff

Jane Haman *Organist/Choir Director*

Nancy Vernon *Parish Secretary*

Karen Blocher *Bookkeeper*
Webmaster

Barry Bedrick *Parish Day School*
Headmaster

