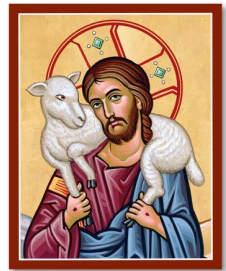


St. Francis Episcopal Church

March 2018 Messenger

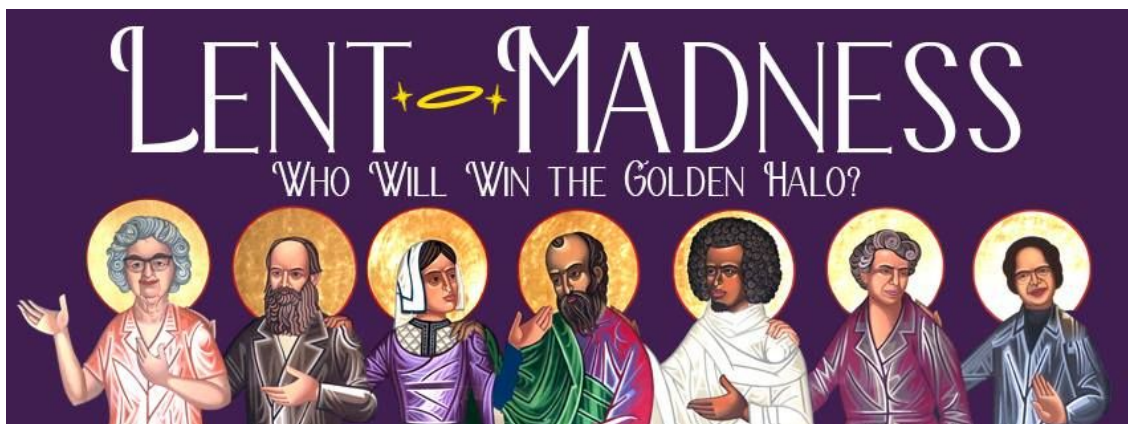
We believe in and are committed to one another's joy and transformation in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



TOP 12 PLAYS OF LENT (so far)

12. Parochial Report Accomplished-- We submitted our numbers to The Episcopal Church. Numbers don't tell personal stories of transformation, but they do give insight into our corporate values and the changes we go through. Way to go: Rev. JP Arrossa, Brenda Maldonado (Treasurer), Melonie Romero (Parish and Business Administrator)

11. Lent Madness 2018 gets underway.



Enough said.

10. New Members Welcome at Doug and Marcia Miller's home. Way to go Mother Jean and Vestry.

9. Youth Group Service Day! They cooked dinner for Casa Q and then shot each other with Nerf guns. Don't ask for a theological rationale here. :) Thank you, youth leaders, Brendan Gould, Austin Horn, & Annaka Westphal, and to all Youth!



Youth Leader Brendan Gould being shot with Nerf darts

8. Sunday School Teachers and Learners. Our amazing Sunday School teachers, Matt & Valeria Gallegos, Francesca MacDowell, Ralph Fevig, Maria Gould, & Mike Otero, are both teachers and learners, as they meet for Continuing Ed together once a month.

7. Welcoming and Preparation of Baptismal Candidates: Brantley (son of Ashley and Andrew), Linden (daughter of Craigen and Katie), Anthony, Johnny, and Madelynn (sons and daughter of Fr. Alex and Becca)

Will you support these people in their life in Christ? We will, with God's help.

6. All of St. Francis giving up bulletins for Lent and caring for God's creation.



We're working on it! Way to go, St. Francis, learning to use your Books of Common Prayer, your Hymnals, and your Bibles.

5. The choir. Chanting Psalms, singing Anthems, leading hymns. There's not much they can't do.
4. Hospitality. Thank you Willa & Pam Ward for much organizing of events. Thank you to the all-star Shrove Tuesday force: Bob & Gina, Daniel, Marv and Connie.
3. Altar Guild. Working behind the scenes to make all Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Lent, Baptisms, Funerals, and Weddings possible.
2. Ash Wednesday ashes to the Rio Rancho Fire Department. Thank you to our Firefighters for the ways you serve.
1. Every member of St. Francis, each of whom is an often unrecognized servant of many. Some give rides to others to church, others raise kids, still others pray for the community, still others collect recycling (keeping God's creation habitable and beautiful), and many others who give their lives in service and love.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, March 29th, 11am & 6pm. Foot washing, Agape Feast, & Holy Eucharist.

St. Francis will be joined by Albuquerque-area youth for the service and the overnight vigil.

Vigil with the Blessed Sacrament, March 29th, 8pm-March 30th, 9am

Sign up for a time to keep watch.

Good Friday, March 30th, Noon, 7pm. Veneration of the Holy Cross and Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

Easter Vigil, April 1st at 6am. Baptism of Brantley Shultz!

Easter Morning Service, April 1st at 10am. Renewal of Baptism.

March Important Dates

You can always view a current Calendar on our Website stfrancism.org

Bishop Visit, March 4th 10am service only

Unbinding Your Soul, Mondays, March 5th, 12th, 19th, 6-7:30pm

Family Promise, March 4th-10th

Altar Guild, March 24th at 10am

Prayer Shawl, March 10th at 8:30am

Daughters of the King, March 10th at 10am

Music Notes

Silence. That may seem a strange topic for a musician to write about. But I want to share some thoughts with you and Lent seems like a good time to do it.

First, you may have noticed that there are several places in the liturgy where we observe a short period of silence. In the prayers of the people we leave space for you to add your own prayers. Another such place is after the sermon and again at the breaking of the bread. No, I haven't fallen asleep or lost my place. The silence is meant to give us a short space in which to reflect on the sermon or to adore our Lord in the consecrated bread. If we always rush on to the next thing we may never process what has just taken place or what we have just heard.

Silence can sometimes make us nervous. We aren't good at just sitting and thinking. Most of us fill the silence in the car with the radio or a CD. If there is any silence in the home we tend to turn on the radio or TV - even when we aren't listening or watching! In the silence we realize how alone we are and for many of us that is scary.

Silence also has a very positive side and one which we as Christians need to cultivate. For in the silence we can find God. "For God alone my soul in silence waits." (Psalm 62:1, BCP) When there is a lack of sound we are also often brought face to face with who we really are. And since God is there, in the silence, that doesn't have to be scary.

In fact, if we really want to get to know God it will mean getting to know ourselves (both good and bad) as well. The clutter in our minds can make it hard to hear God.

Sometimes the removal of outward sound can make it a bit easier to focus.

This outward stillness is, of course, only one way to seek God. Music is certainly another channel that many of us find very useful. Sometimes in my prayer time I will pick a piece of music as background - something that I know will help draw my attention to God. But most of the time I prefer silence.

Even in music there are rests and periods of silence. Without them it would sound like one big run on sentence. I think sometimes our lives must seem that way to God. Do we ever really stop and listen? And so I commend to you our short periods of silence within the liturgy. And this Lent, why not try a bit of silence outside of church as well.

"For God alone my soul in silence waits; truly, my hope is in him," (Psalm 62:6 BCP)

Beverly Simmons, Minister of Music



Tax Information

If you have an IRA and are old enough to have required minimum distributions, keep reading. I just recently found out that I can have a portion (or all) of those required amounts sent directly to my charity of choice (i.e. St. Francis) and then that amount does not count as income for the year! Let me give you an example. Let's say I want to pledge \$5,000 to the church for the year 2018. My required minimum distribution from my IRA is \$6,500. If I instruct the holder of my IRA to send \$5,000 to the church (monthly, quarterly or whatever) then when I do my 2018 taxes I don't have to include that \$5,000 as income - only the \$1,500 that is left over and was paid directly to me. In the past I was able to itemize my deductions so this would not have been good for me. But now, with the new tax laws, I won't be able to itemize deductions because the standard deduction is so high. So now it is better to reduce my income in the way I have just described. You can start this anytime: you don't have to wait for a new year to begin. I hope this helps others, too.

Beverly Simmons

Unbinding Your Soul

Four Mondays in Lent: February 26, March 5, 12, 19. 6PM to 7:30PM

Led by Mother Jean Campbell

Unbinding your Soul, is a journey of prayer and community. This program comes out of a series called "Unbinding the Gospel" and is rooted in research done on evangelism in mainline churches. The upshot of the research was that many people in mainline churches, like the Episcopal Church, were hesitant to speak of their relationship with God, or were uncertain or questioned their relationship with God.

This is an opportunity for anyone, youth or adult; agnostic or mystic; new member or life-long Episcopalian to deepen your faith and your spiritual life.

Unbinding your Soul is an eight week journey of prayer and community. We will do the first four weeks in Lent and the group will decide if they want to continue the last four weeks in Eastertide. Each participant will need a book which includes a prayer journal. These will be available from the office. We ask that you sign up so we will know how many books to order.



Ministry News

Church Library

Checkout new additions whenever building is open and peruse Lenten materials (meditations, walking the labyrinth, etc.) and other titles of interest. For information contact Natalia Davis at 235-7602.

Prayer Shawl

Prayer Shawl will meet on March 10th at 8:30am.

Morning Prayer, Thursdays 9:30am

A group meets to pray for the church (yes, this Parish's members by name) and the world. Held in the Chapel. All are welcome to join.

Sunday Schedule for Youth and Children

Ages 0-3: Nursery care offered as volunteers are available.

Ages 4-11: Sundays, 10-10:30am, Children explore the lessons/themes of the day

Ages 12-18: Sundays, 9:15am, Youth ask deep questions of faith.

Nursing Mother?

The Parish Library (to the left of the red doors in the foyer) offers a quiet place with cozy couches. (Of course, you may also stay in the sanctuary; as you feel comfortable.)

Hospitality

We still need helpers for coffee hour. Please contact Pam or Willa Ward. 505-514-9662

Clare's Closet

We are happy to welcome new members Chris Robertson and Pat Kleker. As always, we are happy for new energy and ideas!

The Closet will be open Saturday, March 10th, 8:30-10 and Monday, March 12th, 11-1. It will also be open the second Sunday of each month after the second service.

We will be participating in Eggs n' Beggin Easter Event in Cabezon Park on March 24th!

We will be changing over winter clothes to spring and summer on Wednesday, March 28th, starting at 11am. This is a big job for Clare's Closet. If you want to help, please join us! Thank you for your prayers and support. Contact Bette Davis at 917-2277 if you would like more information about the work of Clare's Closet.

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King will meet March 10th at 10:30 at the church. We invite anyone that would like to know more about the order to meet with us. All are welcome.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild will meet Saturday March 24th at 10:00 at the church. We will be making palm crosses. It is a fun time for fellowship. Anyone is welcome, no special talent needed.

Book Club

Our next gathering is March 7th at 8AM, at Weck's, 1620 Rio Rancho Dr SE (just off Highway 528) in Rio Rancho.

2018 Book Selections

7 March -- *The Living God and the Fullness of Life* by Jurgen Moltmann (last half of book)

4 April --- *The Restoration Project: A Benedictine Path to Wisdom, Strength, and Love* by Rev Christopher Martin

2 May – *Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation* by J. Phillip Newell

6 June – *Invisible Lines of Connection: Sacred Stories of the Ordinary* by Lawrence Kushner

4 July – *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* (published in 2014) by Stanley Hauerwas and William H. Willimon

Lent Madness 2018 Update

We collected \$23.60 for charity (to be determined by bracket winner)!

There is still time to fill out a bracket! Winners will be revealed one round per week, beginning on the Third Sunday of Lent (Mar. 4) when the "Saintly 16" will be revealed. Keep your brackets, and bring them with you each week to track your winners and how you are doing (we'll provide a highlighter to highlight your winners).

Mondays, Feb. 26, Mar. 5, 12, 19, 6-7:30pm

Unbinding Your Soul, a 4 week series beginning on Feb. 26 will meet in the Chapel (through the red doors and to the right, past the library). Contact Mother Jean Campbell for more information: jccampbell1990@gmail.com, 845-505-9700

Family Promise, Sat., Mar. 10 (and other times through the week of Mar. 4-Mar. 10)

Partnering with All Saints Lutheran Church, to host families experiencing homelessness. Support needed to cook meals, take a shift at the church to be present with families, or provide transportation for families. Contact Deacon JP for more info., jp@alum.ssw.edu, 505-720-3771

Rite of Reconciliation (Confession)

Is something weighing on your heart? Mother Jean and Father Alex are available for confession by appointment. Schedule a time with them: jccampbell1990@gmail.com, 845-505-9700; or lenzoalexander@gmail.com, 267-928-9952

St. Francis Episcopal Church

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stfechurch@gmail.com, www.stfrancism.org

Office Hours

M-W-9:00 AM-3:00 PM,
Thursday-9:00 AM-12:00 PM,
Friday Closed

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