

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

March 11th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

How about taking up something for Lent?

SHROVE Tuesday pancake suppers are, for Anglicans and Episcopalians, the last vestige of the old Pre-Lenten carnival – the veritable orgy of eating, drinking and merry-making that traditionally preceded the forty day fast.

Christians in many parts of Europe still observe the Pre-Lenten Carnival; none more so than the Germans who start the carnival season (called *Fasching*) well before Christmas and, from then on, celebrate at frenetic pace until Ash Wednesday.

Lent is one of the oldest of all the Church seasons. Its observance can be traced back to the second century. In very early times, there was no set period for the Lenten Fast. Often, the period of abstinence lasted merely a couple of days.

The emphasis was not on our Lord's trials and sufferings, but on his triumphant Resurrection. This was by no means illogical. After all the focus of the faith has always been concentrated primarily upon the life-giving Resurrection promise.

Lent was, thus, a time of rejoicing rather than penitence. In our language, at least, its name reflects the fact: "Lent" is the Anglo-Saxon word for "spring." Lent only gradually became associated with Christ's Forty Days of Fasting in the Wilderness. It seems that the change in focus took place during the 4th Century.

The earliest surviving reference to associating it with our Lord's Temptation in the Wilderness is to be found in the Festal Letters of St. Athanasius, who played a prominent role in the Council of Nicea of 325 AD. (This was the council that formulated the Nicene Creed.)

Lenten observances have never been uniform throughout the Church. The Eastern Churches spread the season over eight or

In the days before refrigeration, modern food processing and factory farming, the Lenten season fell at a time when there was generally an acute shortage of food. Meat was hard to find because the cattle – slaughtered and salted or smoked at the end of the summer – had been eaten.

Sheep could not be slaughtered because of the approach of the lambing season. Eggs were unobtainable, because hens were hatching their annual broods.

(Ever wondered about the origin of Easter Eggs, Easter Lamb and Easter Chicks? Easter coincided with the reappearance of all three commodities.)

With even fish in short supply because winter storms made fishing difficult, the majority of the population had little more than grains, vegetables and milk to fall back on.

Lenten abstinences practiced by Christians today are pale in comparison with those of past generations. They accepted, uncomplainingly, the absence of all but the most basic necessities.

We, by contrast, often take Lent as a welcome opportunity to attempt – often unsuccessfully – to give up a modest number of extravagances in a bid to shed the extra poundage accumulated over the Christmas holiday.

In fact, abstinence is often no hardship at all in these days of plenty. A young friend was once asked what she was going to give up for Lent. "Eggs," she replied, without hesitation. He mother then explained that the child absolutely detested eggs.

With this in mind, maybe the time has come for us to redefine our notions of fasting. To be sure, we shouldn't give up abstaining from our favorite foods, but perhaps we should start taking up things for Lent as well – something that helps a good cause or puts to good use the money we save by fasting.

Indeed, this would be entirely in keeping with the Quinquagesima Collect – the collect that sets the tone for Lent:

O LORD, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. AMEN.

The collect, of course, reflects the great Quinquagesima Epistle, the 13th Chapter of St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians – in the KJV translation one of the most glorious pieces of prose in the English Language.

When it comes down to it, St. Paul is always on the money. The idea of taking something up, rather than giving something up, could, I guess, be considered a literal interpretation of the term "a profitable" Lent. **GPH**

Join us when we study The Shroud of Turin

THE Shroud of Turin – a relic many Christians believe to be the cloth in which Jesus was wrapped after being taken down from the cross – has long fascinated both believers and disbelievers alike.

It has been embroiled in controversy ever since late 1970s when, for the first time, it was subject to scientific scrutiny. Images discovered on the reverse of the shroud are bound to intensify the debate.

Why not come to this year's Lenten Series and discover what the experts are talking about?

The first study will take place after Evening Prayer at 6.15 PM on Wednesday, March 12th and the series will continue through March 19th, March 26th, and April 2nd, concluding on Wednesday, April 9th.

As usual, we will be providing beverages, hearty winter soup and the best bread in Baltimore. If you think you'll be hungrier than that, just bring a sandwich. **GPH**

Lenten Studies

Wednesdays, March 12th through
April 9th, 2014
6.15 pm

(Following 6.00 pm Evening Prayer)

"The Shroud of Turin"

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Breakfast Fellowship at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Wednesdays, 6.30 PM: Bridge Group meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

Tuesday, March 11th, 7.00 PM: Parish Life Committee meets in Quimby Hall.

Wednesday, March 12th, 6.15 PM: Lenten Studies begin in Quimby Hall.

Thursday, March 13th, 2.00 PM: Afternoon Tea in Quimby Hall

Wednesday, March 19th, 12.00 Noon: The Ladies Who Lunch at Christopher Daniel

nine weeks, while we in the West have tended to follow the less extravagant observance of a six-week fast. But if the Lenten Fast in the West is shorter than it was in the East, it was almost certainly more rigorous.

Join us for Afternoon Tea Thursday, March 13th, at 2.00 PM.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

March 16th, 2014

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Thessalonians 4:1-8
The Gospel: St. Matthew 15:21-28

11.00 AM CHORAL MATINS

The Psalter: Psalm 142

The First Lesson: I Kings 8:37-43

The Second Lesson: I Thessalonians 4:1-8

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Plan to join us on March 19th

THIS month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at 12.00 Noon at Christopher Daniel, on Wednesday, March 19th. Why not join us for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal? Good food and good fellowship -- what more could you want? To reserve your place call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680.

✠ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✠

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as the guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice & Dr. Bob's Place. To add a name to the prayer list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office at 410 560 6776.

RECOVERY: Fr Guy✠, Fr. Mike✠, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, Suzie, John, Rodney, Hamilton, Donald, Annie, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Linda Lou, Edie, John, Adele, Baby Charlie, Angie, Oona, John, Cary, Janna, Martina, Leela, Bobby Sally, Isabelle, Julie, Ray, Courtney, Mary, Phyllis.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, John, Hannah.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes.

Update from Carolyn Kerouac

HELLO St. Stephen's parishioners! Fr. Mike is home, comfortable and so happy to be there, with good food, comfy chairs, and normalcy. Thank you all for your cards, visits, food gifts, and prayers for healing. Weather permitting, he will be in church each week beginning his preaching schedule on Sunday, March 2nd, and preaching every other Sunday, and perhaps a seat at the Lenten series...

✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

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Web Address: ststeve.com

RECTOR: The Rev. Canon Guy P. Hawtin

VICAR: The Venerable Michael Kerouac

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Happy Riley
(410- 252-8674)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATORS: Happy Riley (410-252-8674)
Martha Miller (410-321-9038)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00 am: Said Eucharist

9.15 am: Sung Eucharist (*with Nursery & Church School*)

11.00 am: Choral Mattins (*1st Sunday: Choral Eucharist*)

6.00 pm: Choral Evensong (*1st Sunday only*)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6.00 pm: Evening Prayer

Friday Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5.00 pm: Family Eucharist.

**COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN
LENT AND EMBER DAYS**

O LORD, who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights; Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness, and true holiness, to thy honour and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, wold without end.

AMEN

O ALMIGHTY God, who hast committed to the hands of men the ministry of reconciliation; We humbly beseech thee, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit to put it into the hearts of many to offer themselves for this ministry; that thereby mankind may be drawn to thy blessed kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Pages 124 and 260

Return Service Requested

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