



St. George
Anglican Cathedral
Ocala, FL 34471

St. George's Newsletter
Issue #1 * 3/1/2009



*Keeping
a Holy Lent*

What is lent all about?

Inside

The Fool hath said in his heart, there is no God!

Let's talk about reaping and sowing. A discussion that relates well to today's society.

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The forty-day period is symbolic of the forty days spent by Moses and Elijah in the wilderness; during the days of Noah God made it rain for forty days and forty nights (they were in the ark for much longer); the Jews wandered forty years traveling to the Promised Land. Jonah in his prophecy of judgment gave the city of Nineveh forty days' grace in which to repent. Jesus retreated into the wilderness and fasted for forty days of temptation to prepare for his ministry.

The Lenten period of forty days owes its origin to the Latin word *quadragesima*, originally signifying forty hours. This referred to forty hours of complete fasting, which preceded the Easter celebration in



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Reaping and Sowing

In this country even our poor live better than the majority of the world. We live in a land of great material wealth, but you have to wonder what will be the price we will have to pay for all the babies we kill each year (we know that this is happening closer to us)? What will be the price we will have to pay for the bankrupt morals we have?

In the Old Testament God was always smiting the Israelites for something they did wrong, because he loved them. The Israelites complained because the other non believing tribes appeared to have it so much better, to get away with doing wrong-they were told because those tribes didn't believe, their material wealth would falter & they would be damned here & through all eternity.

Sometimes it feels that we are that non believing tribe for all our wealth, what

price will we have to pay for all that we have done & continue to do what we know is wrong. Are we really getting away with anything, will we recognize our Father's voice, admonishing us when we go against his wishes? Our world is off kilter, we need to return to our roots, pray, be proud of our heritage & pray some more because our Father gave us a wonderful world to live in & it is our responsibility to take care of each other & follow our Lord.

God has the power to change all in one second, but He wants to do this change within you and me. At least we need to try to change our lives and reflect Jesus to the ones we are closer to. Don't use the excuse: many people believe that sin doesn't exist or let's do this or that because many people say that is correct. No the truth is truth and a lie is a lie.



Monthly letter

Lent is not all about giving things up. It's also about adding good things to our lives or to others' lives -- the kind of good things that follow on what Jesus asks of us, especially that which relates to what we're giving up. Try these:

- Reconcile yourself to someone you don't like, or even hate or did something bad to, or just intentionally stayed away from.
- Do acts of kindness for people, just because the opportunity's there; give them little tastes of God's love.
- If you haven't taken the time lately to be in a refreshing, natural spot, do so. I live on Long Island, which has wonderful beaches and bayside spots to enjoy some peace and rest. You have places where you live, too. Even if it's a brief stay, even a half-hour or so, try it.
- Take some time to study about what causes poverty. Follow the threads as far as you can. Not only does it better help you serve Christ, but you also add into yourself a useful education in economics, sociology, and biology.
- Study, meditate, and pray over one or two Scripture passages for each day, through a daily lectionary (assigned Bible readings for each day), the Daily Office (Scripture-based devotions for set times of day), or devotional booklets or email lists.
- Think upon something ordinary that you do every day, and think about God while doing it, in a way that ties into what you're doing. Or think of a place you come to regularly, and each time think where Christ might be in this place, what Christ might do there, or what you might be led to do for Christ.
- Check out your ethnic heritage. How do Christians in it mark the season? There are, for example, Irish carchas and Italian quaresima traditions that may be helpful.
- Attend special worship services. Perhaps it's a liturgical church's daily morning or evening prayer service (Matins and Vespers). Perhaps it's a Wednesday Lenten service. Or maybe it's time you started going to a Sunday morning services every Sunday, at least for the season.
- Try to find a new way every day to bring to mind Jesus' death on the cross, and why it happened.
- This year, my Lent add-in will be to re-involve myself with hands-on, face-to-face ministry work. I've gotten away from that the past few years, through supporting others when they do it, and for doing face-to-face work that can only be seen as 'sharing the good news' or 'serving others for Christ' in a very vague way (which for me, as for most, shoves Jesus to the far back corner, a place He never belongs). Maybe you need to do this, too?



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the early Church. The main ceremony was the baptizing of the initiates on Easter Eve, and the fast was a preparation to receive this sacrament. Later, the period from Good Friday until Easter Day was extended to six days, to correspond with the six weeks of training, necessary to instruct the converts who were to be baptized. English word lent came from ancient Anglosaxon name of March - lenct (since the main part of lent before Easter usually was in March).

A strict schedule was adhered to in the teaching of the converts. In Jerusalem near the end of the fourth century, classes were held throughout seven weeks of Lent for three hours each day. With the acceptance of Christianity as the state religion of Rome in the 4th century, its character was endangered by the great influx of new members. To combat the hazard, the Lenten fast and practices of self-renunciation were required of all Christians. The less zealous of the converts were thus brought more securely into the Christian fold. There are two guiding principles for the observance of Lent. During this season, the faithful are to grow in their love of Jesus Crucified, and they are to practice extra penance for their own and other people's sins.

Lent is...

a time of penance and interior renewal. It brings us the unique opportunity to work towards conversion and to prepare ourselves for the Easter season.



Our Church Outreach

We help support Interfaith Emergency Services: Interfaith serves about 35,000 clients each year by providing food, shelter, clothing, and emergency relief and prescription medications. The food pantry on N.W. Second Street serves about 100 families every day. Interfaith has never gotten any government support. They receive their support from volunteers and donations from Churches and area residents.

Our Church Mission Statement:

To provide to Ocala and Marion County the most complete and authentically correct Anglican expression of the Worship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ within the boundaries of a loving and Supportive Catholic Community.

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Quotes from Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Archbishop Fulton John Sheen (May 8, 1895 December 9, 1979) was television's first preacher of note, in the early 1950s on the DuMont Television Network. DuMont was searching for programming ideas and put on a series of rotating religious programs with a Protestant minister, a Jewish rabbi and a Catholic bishop. While the other shows did not catch on, the bishop (Sheen) became an overnight hit, found a sponsor in Admiral television sets, and was DuMont's only Emmy Award winner in its brief period of broadcasting. It also held the distinction of being aired on more stations than any other regularly scheduled DuMont program.

JOY:

"Joy is not the same as pleasure or happiness. A wicked and evil man may have pleasure, while any ordinary mortal is capable of being happy. Pleasure generally comes from things, and always through the senses; happiness comes from humans through fellowship. Joy comes from loving God and neighbor. Pleasure is quick and violent, like a flash of lightning. Joy is steady and abiding, like a fixed star. Pleasure depends on external circumstances, such as money, food, travel, etc. Joy is independent of them, for it comes from a good conscience and love of God."

SANCTIFYING THE MOMENT:

Every moment brings us more treasures than we can gather. The great value of the Now, spiritually viewed, is that it carries a message God has directed personally to us.

The Divine Beloved speaks to the soul in a

whisper, but because the soul is waiting for a trumpet, it loses His command.

The big, world-shattering things many of us imagine we would like to do for God, might, in the end, feed only our egotism. On the other hand, to accept the crosses of our state of life because they come from an all-loving God is to have taken the most important step in the reformation of the world, namely, the reformation of the self.



The phrase that sanctifies any moment is, "Thy will be done."

Each trial is an occasion for faith and an opportunity for virtue.

A MORAL UNIVERSE:

God willed to make a moral universe, and the only condition upon which morality is possible is freedom. In the very nature of things, ethics and morality can exist only upon the condition of a veto. A victory may be celebrated only on those fields in which a battle may be lost. Hence, in the Divine order of things, God made a world in which man and woman would rise to moral heights, not by that blind, driving power that makes the sun rise each morning, but rather by the exercise of that freedom in which one may fight the good fight and enjoy the spoils of victory, for no one can be crowned unless he has struggled...

So you see, it is up to each one of us.

Anglican Church Calendar for March

- 1 David, Bishop of Menevia, Wales, c. 544
- 2 Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, 672
- 3 John and Charles Wesley, Priests, 1791, 1788
- 7 Perpetua and Her Companions, Martyrs at Carthage, 202
- 9 Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, c. 394
- 12 Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604
- 13 [James Theodore Holly, bishop of Haiti and Dominican Republic]
- 17 Patrick, Bishop and Missionary of Ireland, 461
- 18 Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, 386
- 19 Saint Joseph**
- 20 Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 687
- 21 Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1711
- 22 James De Koven, Priest, 1879
- 23 Gregory the Illuminator, Bishop and Missionary of Armenia, c. 332
- 24 [Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, 1980]
- 25 The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 27 Charles Henry Brent, Bishop of the Philippines, and of Western New York, 1929
- 29 John Keble, Priest, 1866
- 31 John Donne, Priest, 1631

Holy Day of Obligation, Precept Days

A Day in which attendance at Mass is required. All Sundays are holy days of obligation. In some countries, the Sunday requirement may be fulfilled by attending Mass on Saturday evening. Non-Sunday obligatory days vary by country. Sometimes, if a feast falls on a Saturday or Monday the day is no longer a day of obligation. Some are transferred to Sundays. Check with your local parish for exact information.

The Holy Days of Obligation:

- All Sundays
- Mary, Mother of God - Jan. 1
- Epiphany - Jan. 6 (or nearest Sunday)
- St. Joseph - Mar. 19 (not obligatory in US)
- Ascension of Christ- (40 Days After Easter Sunday)
- Corpus Christi - (Thurs. after Trinity Sunday, or nearest Sunday)
- Ss. Peter and Paul - June 29 (not in US)
- Assumption of Mary - Aug. 15
- All Saints Day - Nov. 1
- Immaculate Conception - Dec. 8
- Nativity (Christmas) - Dec. 25

– Annual Pledge Drive –

We are asking you to consider making a commitment to the St. George. Our goal is to increase participation by encouraging every household to make a gift at a level that is appropriate for them.

The strength of St. George's lies in the extraordinary partnership between the clergy, congregation and vestry who share the vision of making our church a "Christ Centered" faith community that values education and outreach.

Because our generous members are willing to commit the resources necessary to support the ministries that are at the core of our faith, St. George's annual budget has been adequate to support our needs, but not to fully support our clergy.

Our Rector, Bishop Rushlow has been a blessing for the church. In addition, we are blessed to have Father James Dean, associate pastors, and 3 deacons. We have several parishioners who act as Children, Youth, and Adult Sunday School teachers. We have an Organist, a choir and many parishioners who volunteer to help clean the church, the grounds, serve meals at our functions, and cook food for after church coffee and at potluck suppers. And lastly, our vestry is made up of volunteers that keep the church humming along.

Because of this remarkable clergy, staff, volunteers and vestry, along with your generous support, St. George's is able to continue functioning as your church home.

We encourage you to reflect on the blessings you have received in your life and consider making a pledge at a level that is comfortable for you.

Support for St. George's is an investment that demonstrates that you believe in our mission to "gather in love to serve the Lord".



– Upcoming Events During the Lenten season –

Lenten Services:

Ash Wednesday - February 25
 1st Sunday in lent - March 1
 Wednesday Service/Potluck - March 4
 2nd Sunday in lent - March 8
 Wednesday Service/Potluck - March 11
 3rd Sunday of lent - March 15
 Wednesday Service/Potluck - March 18
 4th Sunday of lent - March 22
 Wednesday Service/Potluck - March 25
 5th Sunday of lent - March 29

St. George Ocala

St. George is a member of the Communion of English Catholic Churches – We offer Traditional Catholic Worship in the Anglican Rite and all the beauty of the traditional Mass. We consider that the Mass is Christ centered and filled with all the beauty of the historical Church. We are a reconciling church where all those separated from God are welcomed and embraced by a loving Catholic Community.

If you are without a church home and family, you'll find a beautiful home and loving family at St. George.

Come find out more, our communion is open to all baptized Christians.



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NEWSLETTER From:

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This newsletter will be emailed to all members of the St. George congregation having an email address in PDF format. It will also be available for download on the St. George website ... <http://www.stgeorgeocala.com> ... For those who do not have access to the internet, we will have copies for you to pick up in the narthex on the first Sunday of every month. If you don't get a copy inform one of the Vestry members who will obtain one for you.