



Holy Comforter Episcopal Church March, 2019

Good News from Holy Comforter

Ash Wednesday

12:15	Imposition of ashes and Eucharist
1:30 – 3:30	Ashes to Go! Drive to the parking lot on Chenango
6:00	Choir Rehearsal
7:00	Imposition of ashes and Eucharist



Wednesday Night Schedule during Lententide

The Bible study series will be the Kings of Israel set within an abbreviated form of the *1928 Book of Common Prayer* Evening Prayer Service beginning at 6:30:

March 13	Saul	The first King by divine election
March 20	David	Successor to Saul by divine election
March 27	Solomon	The third King by dynastic succession
April 3	Josiah	Reform King in Judah during of the Kingdom's division
April 10	Jesus	The True and absolute King of Israel

Choir Rehearsal

Rehearsal continues on Wednesday nights at 7 PM

Participating in the choir would be a great Lenten practice to add – rather than abstain

Wednesday Night Dinners during Lententide



No dinner Ash Wednesday

Dinners for the next five Wednesday nights begin at 6 and will be soups and salads. Bring your favorite soup or salad and perhaps some bread!

Private Confession and Absolution during Lent – by appointment only

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10 – spring forward on Saturday, March 9!

LENT THROUGH EASTER SCHEDULE

Wednesday the 6th ...Ash Wednesday (No Bible Study or dinner)

12:15 pm Imposition of Ashes & Eucharist

7 pm Imposition of Ashes & Eucharist

Friday the 9th ...Fish Fry

Sunday the 10th- SAID GREAT LITANTY AT 8:30 EUCHARIST

SUNG GREAT LITANY at 10:30 Eucharist

Wednesday the 13th ...6pm...Lenten dinner and Bible Study with soup, salad & dessert followed by The Kings of Israel taught by Fr. Preston

Friday the 15th ...Fish Fry

Wednesday the 20th ...6pm...Lenten dinner and Bible Study with soup, salad & dessert followed by The Kings of Israel taught by Fr. Preston

Friday the 22nd ...Fish Fry

Wednesday the 27th ...6pm...Lenten dinner and Bible Study with soup, salad & dessert followed by The Kings of Israel taught by Fr. Preston

Friday the 29th ...Fish Fry

April

Wednesday the 3rd ...6pm...Lenten dinner and Bible Study with soup, salad & dessert followed by The Kings of Israel taught by Fr. Preston

Friday the 5th ...Fish Fry

Wednesday the 10th ...6pm...Lenten dinner and Bible Study with soup, salad & dessert followed by The Kings of Israel taught by Fr. Preston

Friday the 12th ...Fish Fry

Sunday the 14th (**Palm Sunday**)

Tuesday the 16thTME...7pm

Wednesday the 17th ...6 pm... Peach Street Film Society....6pm

Thursday the 18th ...Foot washing at 6 pm & 7 pm...Maundy Thursday Eucharist followed by Prayer Vigil (from immediately following the Eucharist until 3 pm Friday before the Good Friday service).

Friday the 19th ...noon...Stations of the Cross prayer service

3 pm...Good Friday prayer service with reserved Eucharist.

Saturday the 20th ...10 am...Holy Saturday prayer service

Sunday the 21st (Easter Sunday)

....Contemplative prayer service at Sunrise

9:30 Annual Vestry Casserole breakfast

10:30 Easter Service with All Parish Picture to follow, followed by the

Children's Easter egg hunt

Wednesday the 24th ...6 pm...No Bible Study or Dinner

A purpose for Lent

A few years ago I was given a book by François Fenelon a 17th century French Roman Catholic Archbishop, called *Meditations of the Heart*. The book has proven a wellspring of poignancy for me in many respects but specifically in regards to helping me better understand Lent, especially why we practice Lent. With so many devoting themselves to sacrificing things near and dear to them, for forty long days, it helps to discuss why we enter into an exercise of self-denial...why it's good take stock of our lapses in piety and why this season of restarting is so beneficial. Said differently, why the penitential path is where our hearts yearn to tread. Archbishop Fenelon's meditation called, *A Holy Mind* seems a good place to begin to answer these worthy questions:

There is a great difference between a clever mind, a great mind and a holy mind. The clever mind is pleasing because of its charm. The great mind excites our admiration because of its depth. But only a right spirit can save and make us happy through its consistency and uprightness. Do not conform your ideas to those of the world. Distrust the mind as much as the world esteems it.

What we call "mind" is a certain facility for producing brilliant thoughts. But nothing is vainer. We make an idol of our minds, just as a woman who thinks herself beautiful makes an idol of her face. Our thoughts reflect who we are.

We must reject not only this false glitter of mind, but also every trace of human wisdom, no matter how sincere and useful it may seem. Like little children, we must enter into simplicity of faith, into forthrightness and innocence, into dread of sin, into humiliation—and into the sacred folly of the cross.

What has been traditionally a season of preparation, the goal of Lent is not simply to punish ourselves. The goal of this preparation is much more profound than merely throwing sack-cloth and ashes on ourselves. Atonement is not our nature; it is a gift from God, a pathway to uncovering our true natures and true yearnings thereby reflecting on God's true nature.

We judge ourselves; taking stock of what tendencies, what habits may need to be stopped for a while or for good in order to see a little clearer. In acknowledging that we have strayed and been distracted from our true heart's desire and from our true Love...we reset ourselves; body, mind and spirit. Sacrifice and penance are ways we can begin to see that we have gotten bogged down with our own self-absorption, seeing life through our own self-seeking lens. And when we fast, when we give up those things we think are dear to us, something happens within...clarity happens.

The act of humiliation, as Fenelon puts it, or humbling ourselves...stepping away from our perceived 'needs' for a time. The mind begins to clear, reflecting what the body is doing...simplifying...de-cluttering...paying more attention to our deeper desires.

Lent is not about retribution from God. It's about preparation...movement to Him...our True Love. We repent to see Him more clearly and thereby seeing ourselves more clearly...seeing that we His and He is in us.

When we do as He did, we feel that something is different about us...acting as we were made to act. Our sacrifice is His sacrifice. Our temporary pain is an entering into the pains of the Cross, in some beautiful mysterious manner...the further we step away from our cluttered patterns the better we are to see His patterns...the more profoundly we can feel how his patterns are the deep yearnings of our mind, our bodies and our souls.

All of it is His gift...the clarity, the joining into His story of the cross and the awareness that He is always with us...is all gifts that Lent offers. May you experience the devotion and the self-denial as the perfect preparation to His resurrection...understanding that enjoining with Christ's, our True Love, death necessarily means you will soon enjoy His resurrection...the purpose of Lent.

Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
227 South Chenango Street
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Return Service Requested

Holy Comforter's Sunday School program has been revamped!

Each Sunday will begin at 9:30 am singing with Mr. Rodney Mason! (9:30-9:45). For all those wonderful voices that want a chance to sing in a children's choir this is your chance!

Immediately following choir practice each Sunday the kiddos will eat in the Parish Hall before Sunday School begins (again, each Sunday). The Sunday School teachers will be using a wonderful new Episcopal curriculum called *Weaving God's Promises* in the two newly commissioned Sunday school classes: a younger class (3 year old to kindergarten) and an older class (6 year old – 5th grade. The younger children will meet upstairs while the older class will meet in the former Godly Play room.

And a third class has been commissioned for our youth (6th grade to 12th grade)! Each Sunday after the second service the youth will meet for Bible Study, cooking and a variety of games (role-playing games and board games), according to the Sunday in the month.

Please, please, please involve your kiddos in this exciting time in the life of our parish. They are worth it; singing, eating and learning as one group will afford them to make memories they can carry their entire lives and strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ. This is truly a gift to them.

We begin the first Sunday in March.