

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 48 No. 13

The Second Sunday before Lent (Sexagesima)

February 19, 2017

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

Monday, February 20

PRESIDENTS' DAY

No Services

Church Office Closed

Tuesday to Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer

8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Eucharist*

5:30 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

with Holy Communion

On Friday, February 24

FEAST OF SAINT MATTHIAS, APOSTLE

Morning and Evening Prayer

With Holy Communion

8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

KEEPING THE FAST OF LENT

Reprinted from 2016

Since ancient times, Christians have kept a public fast on the forty weekdays of Lent. Because in the late Middle Ages it was often treated as a meritorious work, atoning for sin, many Protestant churches stopped observing it. The Church of England, however, retained it; although its official Homily was explicit that fasting, like any good work, was not the *cause* of grace but its *effect*.

Lent is the Church's spiritual spring training, when in gratitude

for the free gift of God's forgiveness received by faith in the gospel, and in preparation for the celebration of Easter, Christians seek to amend their lives, as testimonies to the grace they have received from the crucified and risen Lord. The Church calls its members to do "works worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:8), chiefly the triad of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving enjoined in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6). The three belong together – for if we are to serve God (in prayer) and our neighbors (in giving alms) we must learn to deny ourselves (fasting). If we are slaves to our appetites and passions (whether gluttony, lust, envy or pride), we shall not be able to serve God or neighbor in righteousness and charity. Only in the temperance that self-denial brings can we be free persons in full possession of ourselves, and ready to serve him. The fast therefore is both inward and outward. In the words of Gregory the Great's hymn, "Give us the self-control that springs, From discipline in outward things, that from each stain and spot of sin, our souls may keep the fast within" #56.

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STANDING NOTICES

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary. Please call the Church Office to notify the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. David C. Barrow III

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne
10:30 a.m. Phillip Inglesby Jamie McClellan
Jackson McClellan Hawkins Pindar
Edwin Shepherd William Sills
Turner Stevens

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. M. Tyus Butler, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. W. Lee Belford;

And on the occasion of the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America taken by the Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard,
Mrs. Michael W. Rhinehart, Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan,
Mrs. Michael F. P. Maloney, Mrs. F. Debele Maner,
Mrs. William T. Moore, Jr.

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

The Women of St. John's Church

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FOR YOUTH:

CRANMER HALL-3RD FLOOR

CONFIRMATION CLASS-GRADE 6- *Catechism*
JR. HIGH -GRADES 7,8,9- *25 Lights of the World*
SR. HIGH -GRADES 10,11,12- *Reasons to Believe*

FOR ADULTS:

READING ROOM: *II Samuel*- Father Dunbar
CH3: *Joshua*- Jack Wray
CH2: Women's Small Group Faith Fellowship

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- Men's Breakfast with Father O'Brien
6:45 a.m., Parish House
Why Be Moral?
Thursday- *St. Luke* with Father Dunbar
7:00 a.m., Reading Room, CH3
Thursday- Men's Small Group with lunch
Noon- Fellowship Hall, CH1

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday- Book Study with Father O'Brien
9:15 a.m., Reading Room, CH3
Iris Murdoch's Under the Net
2nd & 4th Wednesday- Next meeting February 22
C. S. Lewis Reading Group
11:00 a.m., Reading Room, CH3
The Four Loves
2nd Wednesday- Next Meeting March 8
Daughters of the King
CH1 after Evening Prayer

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

In the ancient Church, the fast was austere: abstinence from flesh-meat, fish, eggs, cheese (all dairy products), wine, and oil throughout the forty (week-) days of the fast (Sunday is never a fast day), and often only one light meal at the end of the day, which might consist of bread, salt, water, and boiled vegetables. (The abstinence from oil is the origin of Mardi Gras – greasy Tuesday – when Christians used up all the fat in preparation for the beginning of the fast.) Later, fasting rules were relaxed and reduced to abstinence from flesh meat. In the reformed Church of England permission was given for two meals a day. As a work of repentance, the fast always entailed abstinence also "from all delicious pleasures & delectations worldly" (as the 16th Homily puts it). As late as the 18th century, this meant that the theatres and opera houses were closed for Lent - one of the reasons Handel wrote his oratorios, which as sacred music could be performed in this season. Still later a distinction was made between fasting (reduction in *quantity*) and abstinence (reduction in *quality*). The 1928 Prayer Book enjoins just two days of fasting (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) along with other days of abstinence (chiefly the other weekdays of Lent).

So the Church's discipline is not rigorous, and as necessity or

charity requires, other alleviations of and dispensations from the fasting rule can be made. (Little children, the elderly, those on special diets, soldiers and persons engaged in heavy labor.) What is my advice to parishioners? Because Lent is a *public* fast, a *corporate* action, a *shared* discipline, it makes sense to have a common standard. Abstinence from flesh meat is historic, and an easily-effected common standard. It is a good time also to cut back on other indulgences (alcohol, sweets, social media, computer games, and television spring to mind). The old rule holds that Lent is not a time for festivity. (That's why the only weddings permitted in Lent are very quiet ceremonies done in pressing circumstances.)

Whatever we may do, it's critical that there be *real*, not merely trivial, denial of self. If we cannot say "no" to our appetites and passions, we shall end up saying "no" to God. GGD

SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR

Immediately following today's 10:30 a.m. service, the Hon. William T. Moore, Jr. will administer the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America to the Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar on the steps of the Parish House (weather permitting). All are invited to the ceremony and a special coffee hour afterward.

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNIONCOLLECT, EPISTLE & GOSPEL (*no Gloria until Easter*).....Prayer Book, page 120*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*9:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - **Nursery** (*Cranmer Hall*)**9:30 A.M. – ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** (*Cranmer Hall*)*Supervised Fellowship and Fun is available for children from Preschool to Grade Five whose parents are attending class.***10:30 A.M. - MORNING PRAYER, SERMON & SUNDAY SCHOOL**

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| HYMN #149 <i>Awake, My Heart, and Render</i> | Selnecker |
| Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer | Prayer Book, pages 3-7 |
| Versicles and Responses..... | 7-8 |
| VENITE #608 | 9 |
| Psalm #44 | 394 |
| First Lesson: Genesis 6:5 <i>God sends a flood, and delivers Noah from it</i> | Insert |
| BENEDICITE | Insert |
| Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9 & St. Luke 8:4 | Insert |
| BENEDICTUS #638..... | 14 |
| <i>Children may exit following the cross for SUNDAY SCHOOL (Kindergarten – Grade 5).</i> | |
| Apostles' Creed..... | 15 |
| Versicles and Responses..... | 16 |
| Collect for the Day | 120 |
| Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace | 17-20 |
| HYMN #564 <i>How Firm a Foundation</i> | Lyons |
| Sermon | Father O'Brien |

OFFERING

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Sentences | |
| Anthem: <i>Unto the Hills</i> | Jane M. Marshall |
| Presentation of Alms: <i>All Things are Thine</i> #732..... | Gardiner |
| General Thanksgiving (<i>said by all</i>) and Aaronic Blessing | 19 |
| HYMN #415 <i>Jesus, Lover of My Soul</i> | Aberystwyth |
| VOLUNTARY: <i>Finale</i> | Alan Viner |

*Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service.**If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

12:00 P.M. (Noon)—HOLY COMMUNION (*Chapel - as at 8:00 a.m.*)