

March 2019

Lent begins on March 6

Ash Wednesday begins on Wednesday, March 6 this year. There will be two Eucharist services with the imposition of ashes, times: 12PM and 7PM.

During Lent St. Paul's will host a series of evening of quiet dinners with readings, reflection and Compline. The dinners will begin on March 12 and continue each week of Lent concluding on April 9. The session will be from 5:30 to 7PM.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner planned for food, fun and fellowship

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual Shrove Tuesday/Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras potluck dinner on March 5, beginning at 5:30PM in the Great Hall.

Those attending are asked to bring especially decadent desserts and a beverage. Traditional Episcopal fare for Shrove Tuesday of pancakes and sausages with a lot of yummy toppings available. No sign-up is necessary.

The event is sponsored and prepared by the Vestry. Following dinner, children of all ages will parade to the tower and banish the Alleluias. The Alleluias will remain there until Easter Sunday.



THANK YOU to Florence Dukes, Chair, and the members of the African American Heritage Celebration Committee for presenting a month of out-

standing presentations and events.

Those of you that are interested in attending the play *Just a Conversation Over Chicken and Dumplings*, discussed on March 10, it will be presented by the Bronzeville Arts Ensemble on April 5, 6, and 7, 2019 in the Marcus Center Wilson Theater.

Do you abstain from "pleasures" during Lent?

from Greg Kostka, Chair, Planned Giving and Receiving Committee

Lenten season is fast approaching once again. Many expressions of our faith manifest themselves during Lent. You may give up chocolate or alcohol (or both!), but did you ever think of other forms of sacrifice?

While most people associate Lent with abstaining from certain pleasures, other forms include financial abstinence or directing funds to a good cause. As we know, St Paul's is blessed with an impressive line-up of far reaching Endowments especially the Outreach Endowment. The Endowments range from specific designated ministries to general unrestricted purposes.

A simple bequest of a fixed dollar amount per day throughout Lenten season is one great way to participate. Some people donate funds they accumulate from the coins they have left in their pockets or purses at the end of the day and others add in dollars and cents they find while taking a walk or jogging. On Easter Sunday write a check to the fund you wish to support and bring it to Church.

Giving is a powerful self-expression of who you are and where your heart flows. During this Lenten season if you find yourself leaning in this direction please let me know and together, we can have some of your resources follow your passion...



From the Rector...

LENT 2019: The Way Home

In his commentary on the Gospel of Luke, **Joseph Fitzmeyer, SJ**, succinctly describes the essence of Christian identity and being:

“to be a disciple of Christ one has to follow him along the road that he walks to his destiny in Jerusalem, his exodus, his transit to the Father [...] for Luke Christian discipleship is portrayed not only as the acceptance of a master’s teaching, but as the identification of oneself with the master’s way of life and destiny in an intimate, personal following of him.”

This Lent, we will embark on the above Gospel following as a community becoming and realizing more fully the Body of Christ.

For forty days, we will walk in the companionship of Christ as we make *our* return to God. Along this way we will reunite with those who are familiar yet have left this family of faith. We will meet those who have come to us in hope that our way is to be theirs.

In all of these encounters, we will be invited to move beyond *our* comfort zone as the *other* has. It is in this reconciliation, literally this “coming back around the table,” that we are invited to experience more fully the possibility and love that is God. This practice is rooted in the earliest tradition of Christianity when those who had fallen away were reconciled to the community and new members prepared for baptism and confirmation at the Easter vigil.

This dynamic process of encounter and transformation is beautifully expressed in the parable of the return of the prodigal son(s) in Luke’s Gospel (15:11-32). It is perhaps one of the richest stories of God’s love and invitation

to all to experience the reconciling nature of the Sacred. This story speaks of the human condition of pride and hubris, of jealousy and envy, of self-righteousness and contempt that both sons hold. Yet, more eloquently it proclaims the love of God that is beyond human experience and imagination – a love that ultimately challenges us to trust radically in that which is beyond our own limitation, judgment, and comprehension.

If we can develop the spiritual practice that allows us to enter again into God’s feast of love for all, most especially those whom we do not believe are deserving of the inheritance God extends, we can begin to prepare for our acceptance of the unimaginable gift of resurrection and transformation that Easter proclaims.

This Lent, we begin again that pilgrimage of return and reconciliation to God, to Christ, and to all of creation. Through contemplation, prayer, discernment and service, we seek to find the way home. Will we find the courage to enter into the feast?

Brad+

Outreach opportunity! Come one come all!

Please join us on Saturday, March 23, from 9:45AM to 1:30PM, to help prepare and serve guests of The Gathering a dinner-style hot meal.

The location is at St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, 924 West State Street; they have ample off-street parking. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve your community and get to know other members of St. Paul's.

Please sign up in the Information Center or call/text/email **Kathee Phillipson** at 414-412-6909 or katheep@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!



Adult Formation Sessions for February

Unless indicated Formation Sessions are held in the Community Room and begin at 9AM



March 3 – *How Churches can Re-orient the Direction of their Communities*; WISDOM’s State Director, **David Liners**, MA shares an approach to ending mass incarceration.



March 10 – *Lenten Sundays*, a panel of St. Paul’s “Bible Scholars” led by **Terry Zimmer**, MA will discuss why Lenten Sundays are not actually Lent.

March 17 – Committee Meetings, no programming

March 24 – *The Announcement to Mary in Art* (Luke 1:26-38); **Peter Larson**, MBA, a Milwaukee Art Museum docent shares a well-known story on the *Feast of the Annunciation*.



March 31 – *A Strategic Plan for St. Paul’s Next Decade*, **John Bauer**, PhD, St. Paul’s Senior Warden, leads us in a discussion about our future.

The Saintry Smackdown Returns! Give it a try!

Are you longing for inspiration? For the tenth year running, thousands of people are gearing up for *Lent Madness*, the “saintry smackdown” in which saints do battle to win the coveted Golden Halo during the season of Lent.

Lent Madness is blend of competition and learning, inspired by the ways in which God has worked through the lives of saintry souls across generations and cultures.

Loosely based on the NCAA basketball tournament, this online devotion pits saints against one another in brackets as voters choose their favorites throughout the season of Lent. This year’s competition begins on the Thursday after Ash Wednesday, March 7.

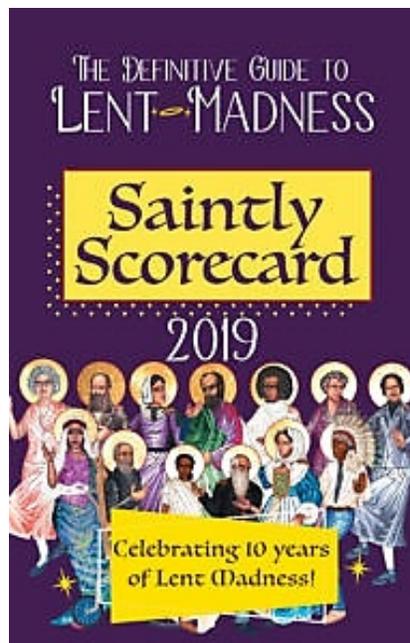
Here’s how to participate on the weekdays of Lent: information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next

round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Saintry Sixteen; eight advances to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two, to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo on the Wednesday before Maundy Thursday.

The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintry kitsch.

The full bracket is online at the *Lent Madness* website and, while it is not necessary to participate, you can use the

tenth anniversary *Saintry Scorecard*. This companion guide includes biographies of all 32 saints, a full-color bracket, information about how to fully participate. This item will be available to parishioner in the Great Hall on Sunday, March 3.





A Report from the Senior Warden... *John Bauer*

The Vestry held its annual organizing and planning retreat at St. John's on the Lake Saturday, February 9.

Newly elected members **Eric Dawson** and **Flo Dukes** joined reelected member **Sandra Halgerson**, Senior Warden **John Bauer**, and Junior Warden **Thomas Goode**. Continuing members include **Lela Joscelyn**, **Paulette Kelly**, **Michael Gauger**, **Lee Coppernoll**, Vestry Clerk **Chris Krueger**, and Father **Brad Toebben**.

Most of the morning was spent discussing the strategic plan and its proposed position statements, strategic goals and identifying the initiatives it will focus on in 2019. The Vestry has decided to accept the Strategic Plan as it has been developed thus far, recognizing that it will always be an evolving document, and one that will be updated every year.

We are still going to complete an informal capacity assessment to determine the ability of St. Paul's to accomplish its goals for the future and to determine those areas which will require strengthening. Once that is done, the completed Strategic Plan will be published and made available to members for their review and will be posted to the website. Printed copies will also be placed in the library for checkout.

We hope that all our members will read and respond to the Strategic Plan. It provides a lot of research background, financial and membership data, and information about the population in our community. It also describes the preferred future we have

defined for St. Paul's. I can guarantee that you will find it challenging. In order to reverse our slow gradual decline, some significant disruptive forces are going to have to be applied to how we carry out our ministry.

An adult forum has been scheduled for March 31 to give members an opportunity to respond to the document and to offer their opinions and suggestions.

The Vestry also decided that greater member engagement must take place if we are to effectively lean into our future. We are proposing several ways to accomplish this. First, a comprehensive survey will be prepared which seeks member opinion and advice on a wide range of topics. This survey will be considerably different than that which was used last spring. It will again be sent electronically with opportunities for each adult in a household to respond.

Second, we are planning to engage members in small focus groups in their own communities to discuss their membership, fellowship, music, spiritual growth, stewardship, congregational challenges and opportunities for growth. The data from the survey should also provide fodder for discussion. Feedback from small groups will help the Vestry function in a strategic and yet responsive manner to member opinions.

We are also in the process of clarifying the roles of committees, groups and organizations within St. Paul's to identify their members, to which person or committee they are accountable, and which Vestry member functions as the liaison. Better communication and coordination are the intended result. For those groups

that lack any type of organizing document or charter, we will be crafting descriptions for those groups to identify their purpose, their membership and accountability.

Finally, we held an informal discussion with our Rector as part of a mutual assessment, describing how we perceive our own individual ministries through the Vestry at St. Paul's, and how we can help support each other more effectively.

Vestry meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, beginning at 5:30 PM. Any member is welcomed to attend.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact any member of the Vestry. Their names can be found in the bulletin and last page of the Apostle, and their phone numbers and email addresses are listed in the church's directory.

Last, but certainly not least, the Vestry will be hosting the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on March 5. According to that most authoritative source, *Wikipedia*, Shrove Tuesday is the day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday, that is celebrated in some countries by consuming pancakes. The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word *shrive*, meaning "absolve" Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Christians who make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth they especially need to ask God's help in dealing with. Details can be found in an article about the dinner on page one.



Easter Sunday Breakfast...

Like last year, there will be only one service at 10:15AM, the Easter Breakfast will be served from 8:45 to 9:45AM. The menu will be scrambled eggs, sausage, mixed fruit salad, rolls, juice, milk and coffee. This will be a free will offering event.

As tradition, the cooking and serving will be done by **the Men of St. Paul's**. While we have had a standard crew, all who wish to volunteer should contact **Greg Kostka** gregory.a.kostka@morganstanley.com, **Paul Haubrich** paulh@uwm.edu, or **Bill Fry** williamlawsonfry@gmail.com.

Servings are plentiful, please feel free to bring a good appetite and a friend as we don't want any food left over.



The Thrift Shop needs your help!

Those of you that attended the January Annual Meeting learned that the Thrift Shop is not just something St. Paul's does just to be a good shopping stop for the community. The Shop is a very important resource for the Church's Outreach fund-

ing. Each year the funds raised are donated to six community nonprofits and two international groups.

During all of February and continuing until mid-March the Shop is closed for cleaning and restocking. As the Volunteers have been working, it has become apparent that we are in need of more donated merchandise.

We do appreciate your donations, but badly needed is:

- ❖ Spring and summer clothing for women, men and children
- ❖ Hard cover and paperback books
- ❖ Magazines no more than one year old

Donations may be brought to the Church and put in the kitchen any day between 9AM to 2PM except on Fridays and Saturdays.

IMPORTANT....

Please keep in mind, if you feel you would not give the items you are donating to a family member or friend, then most likely the items would not interest our customers. The Shop does not accept computers, printers, televisions, telephones and used plastic grocery bags.



**Book Club plans
March meeting**
The Book Club will meet on
**Tuesday, March 12 in the
Community Room at 7PM**
to discuss
Strength for the Struggle
by
Joseph Ellwanger.
ALL ARE WELCOME.



Misa Tango

Feel the emphatic rhythms of the Argentine tango showcased in Martin Palmeri's setting of the traditional Catholic Mass, featuring renowned bandoneon player, **Daniel Binelli.**

**Sunday, March 17, 2019
4PM**

**All Saints Cathedral
818 E. Juneau Avenue**

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www.stpaulsmilwaukee.org
lynne.fields@stpaulsmilwaukee.org
Rev. W. Bradley Toebben,
Rector
Rev. Sheila Scott, **Deacon**
John Bauer, **Sr. Warden**
Thomas Goode, **Jr. Warden**
Gerald Mainman, **Treasurer**

VESTRY

Lee Coppernoll
Eric Dawson
Florence Dukes
Michael Gauger
Sandra Halgerson
Lela Joscelyn
Paulette Kelly
Christine Krueger, **Clerk**

STAFF

Timothy Benson,
Music Ministry Director
Nevenka & Nikola Dedic
Housekeepers
Peter M. Johnson
Bill Jankowski
Buildings & Grounds Team
Lynne Fields
Administrative Assistant
Patrice Hansen
Accounting Assistant
❖
Mary Beth Haubrich, **Editor**
Sarah Gramentine, **Copy Editor**
❖

SUNDAYS

8AM, Holy Eucharist
10:15AM
Holy Eucharist with music
Nursery service available at 10AM

THURSDAYS

Evening Prayer, 5PM

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of faith being transformed through Christ to embody the healing presence of God's love to one another, our city and the world.



Lenten Poem

Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....
Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.

by Ann Weems