

THE SAN JOAQUIN ANGLICAN

The Bishop's Corner

“Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.”

With this collect from the Ash Wednesday service we began the season of Lent. For those of you new to the liturgical life the Season of Lent is the forty days immediately preceding Easter. It is intended to be a time of preparation; preparation of our hearts and minds, our souls and bodies to receive the Risen Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

During the season of Lent all Christians are encouraged to journey both inward and outward. Inwardly, Christians are invited to intentionally set aside time for prayer and communion with God. Of course, we are to do this daily all of our lives -- yet during the season of Lent that prayer is done with particular attention to the inward analysis of our lives and honest self appraisal. Just as stated in the collect, God has created all things and hates nothing that he has made. Therefore, as creatures of God, we are not hated or kept at arm's length but invited into an intimate relationship with Him. However, our sin, our self indulgent appetites, our selfishness separates us from God and therefore the experience of his Grace in its fullness. Self examination is never easy but always necessary if we hope to bridge that gulf that is the result of our sinful lives. During the Season of Lent Christians are encouraged to partake of the sacrament of reconciliation in which we meet with our priest, confess our sins, and seek counsel and absolution for our sin. I want to encourage you to take advantage of this sacrament and seek your parish priest or Rural Dean to participate in this sacrament. Of course, sacramental reconciliation is in addition to private acts of reconciliation. The promise of Christ is that forgiveness of sin is ours if we ask with a sincere and contrite heart and intend to amend our lives.

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE

March 10th - Standing Committee Meeting

March 13th - Rural Deans Meeting

March 11th - 3 Lent - Bishop at San Pedro y San Pablo Arvin

March 17th - Diocesan Council @ St. Columba; Ordination of the Rev. Jonathan Canary to the Priesthood at St. Columba.

March 18th - 4 Lent - Bishop at St. Clements, Woodlake

March 25th - 5 Lent - Bishop at St. James, Sonora

March 28th - Visioning Meeting with Clergy & People of St. Philip's, Coalinga

March 29th - Mass of Chrism at St. James' Cathedral

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CLERGY CONFERENCE 2012

The Clergy Conference for 2012 is set for April 30 – May 2. The theme of the conference is Congregational Growth and Development. It will be led by Bishop Eric Meenes.

The conference will be held at ECCO. Registration can be on-line by going to www.eccoyosemite.org (click on “Reservations” and then on “Spring Clergy Retreat”). Clergy spouses are welcome and encouraged to participate!

Parish *reports*

Celtic Service on the Feast of St. Patrick

Saturday March 17, 2012; 7:30 PM

Special Musical Guests:

Wrenwood Celtic Ensemble Linda Snoddy;
Master Piper

Irish Dinner at 6:00 PM

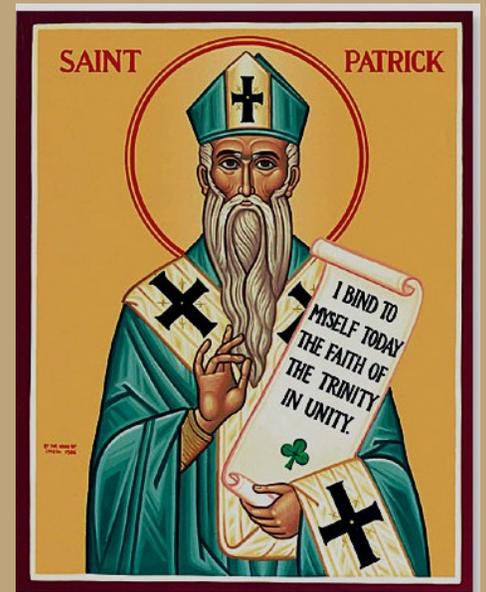
Worship & Holy Communion

According to an Ancient Celtic Rite

All Saints Anglican Church

3200 Gosford Rd. Bakersfield CA 661-832-8582

All are WELCOME!



Archbishops Duncan's Invitation to a Holy Lent

By Archbishop Robert Duncan

22nd February, A.D. 2012

Ash Wednesday

Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. [Joel 2:13]

So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled with God. [I Cor.5:20]

TO ALL WHO SHARE IN THE LIFE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA:
Beloved in the Lord,

We have come again to the awesome season of Lent. The name of the season comes from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning spring. Our English word lengthen comes from the same root, for this is the season when days lengthen in the Northern Hemisphere. This is the season when we, too, are lengthened or stretched because we are invited to get our relationship with our God and our relationships with each other restored and renewed. Getting things right is hard work, often painful work, but from the effort comes the immense fruitfulness of an Easter and Pentecost - a summertime, if you will - of our souls. Lent is when I must prune my roses - and when I need to allow my Lord to prune me - so that a riot of color and beauty and fragrance can occur in a couple months' time.

As I have said my prayers in recent days, I have had a very strong sense that it was time to write you again, both to invite you into the opportunity of Lenten discipline and devotion and to share with you the results of some of the corporate pruning our God has already been engaged in.

HOLY LENT

Self-examination and confession are foundational to the Christian life. Whether it is the "sinner's prayer" that invites the Lord Jesus in the very first time, or the penitential opening of daily morning and evening prayer, or the regular accountability of the sacrament of reconciliation, we cannot make progress without personal repentance and conversion. Because we are sinners, the need to restore right relationship - with God, with our spouse, with our parents, our children, our friends, with our priest (or our people), with fellow-workers and fellow-worshippers, with neighbors, with the poor and needy - is as constant as our need to breathe and our need to give thanks. "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a Holy Lent."^[1]

Immersion in God's Word and contemplation on the mighty acts of our Savior in his Incarnation, Passion and Death-on-the-Cross are also means by which our lives - both individually and corporately - are anchored in Christ. There is no substitute for them, and there is no exercise more central to our discipleship than these twin enterprises.

KERN DEANERY DAY DEFINITELY A DELIGHT!

Clergy and laity of Bakersfield and other Kern County communities enjoyed a morning of welcome, worship, and words of wisdom.

Hosted by St. Luke's and its Rector, Fr. Jack Estes, their parish hall was well suited for a series of presentations -- with topics ranging from disaster preparedness to community gardens to prison ministry to a pilgrimage to Israel.

Facilitated by The Very Rev. N. John Riebe, these speakers and some of their comments were:

Church and family disaster preparedness for earthquakes, floods, and terrorism was discussed by John Pryor, representing Kern Leadership Alliance, a collaboration of virtually all churches in Kern County. We need to be prepared at both levels -- individually and corporately. The "really big one" is coming. Families need to store ample food and water. Churches need to be equipped and trained to continue their ministries uninterrupted -- when they'll be needed more than ever. Both clergy and laity should consider training to help others in the wake a disaster.

Our growing Hispanic ministry in Kern County was discussed by Fr. Estes and Fr. Estaban Salazar. Demographics -- especially outside the borders of Bakersfield -- are skewed heavily with mostly Spanish-speaking communities -- 88% in nearby Arvin! It's essential that these individuals and families be served. Despite many obstacles, Fr. Salazar is moving forward with this ministry -- not just in east Bakersfield but throughout Kern County.

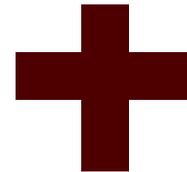
Prison ministry is expanding locally, according to Deacon John LaMar. He is seeking those within our churches who want to be trained to help not only those who are incarcerated but also members of their families. The key is intervention before they make other decisions or take other actions that will be very detrimental to them. Serving as a "first responder" in this context helps avoid these adverse outcomes. Call John LaMar to become part of this important ministry.

Garden Project Ministry has grown from small backyard gardens to sizable community gardens. Produce from tomatoes to lettuce -- and well beyond -- are grown in properly prepared ground. Fruits are grown in citrus and other trees. Tools and equipment for all phases of this process are on hand and "all hands" are invited to

Gleaners and our local Food Bank. This ministry also has major implications for disaster preparedness.

A pilgrimage to Israel in June was announced by Fr. Riebe. Space is still available for about 14 people for the 12-day trip. As one visitor to the Holy Land commented on her return, "Before this trip, I read the bible in black and white. Now I read it in Technicolor!" To be included in this life-changing event, contact Fr. Riebe. The cost is very reasonable and includes all travel, housing, and food costs in the "package" that's been arranged.

The next Deanery Day will be on Saturday, May 12, at St. Paul's in Bakersfield. Suggestions for speakers and topics are always welcome. To do so, contact Fr. Riebe at All Saints Church at 661-832-8582 or frjohnplus@yahoo.com.



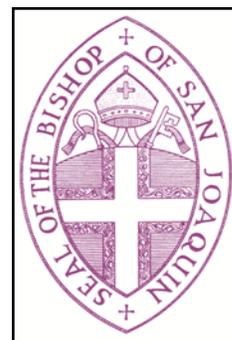
The Bishop's Corner

The inward journey of Lent is also marked by acts of self-denial. Self denial is intended to help us remove distractions from our lives and concentrate on our relationship with God. I want to encourage us to take sincerely that call to self denial. Too often we take the easy path saying, “no meat on Friday”, for example and fail to remove the major obstacle... perhaps gambling has become important in our lives...or perhaps we sit in front of a TV for hours, time that could have been spent in prayer and study are spent in numbing ourselves. Of course, the list could go on and on and on. One traditional form of self-denial is that which Jesus himself demonstrated: fasting. Consider the discipline of fasting one day a week. Then take the money that would have gone toward food to be put toward some form of outreach to the poor and hungry who go without food - - not as an act of self denial but of necessity. Through your fasting and prayer, ask the Lord for clarity of mind and vision for your ministry and the ministry of your congregation and the diocese.

The outward journey of Lent is marked by acts of self-sacrifice and service to others. I want to encourage the Christians in the Diocese to volunteer their time and talent to different ministries inside and outside of the church. The opportunities are endless for service but if you would like specifics please see one of your Vestry members who will be more than happy to set you up.

I began this article with the Collect for Ash Wednesday. I would like to conclude it with this invitation from the same Ash Wednesday Service: *“Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.*

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.”



The San Joaquin Anglican is published monthly by The Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin, California.

Submissions will be accepted for consideration anytime; Contributions must be received by the 20th of the month for possible inclusion in the newsletter in the following month.

Please send these to june@sjoaquin.net

Thank you!

CALENDAR

3/3 - Commission on Ministry

3/10 - Standing Committee Meeting

3/13 - Rural Deans Meeting

3/11 - 3 Lent - Bishop at San Pedro y San Pablo Arvin

3/17 - Diocesan Council @ St. Columba

3/18—Ordination of the Rev. Jonath Canary to the

Priesthood at St Columba.

3/18—Celtic Mass at All Saints', Bakersfield

3/18 - 4 Lent - Bishop at St. Clements, Woodlake

3/25 - 5 Lent - Bishop at St. James, Sonora

3/28 - Visioning Meeting with Clergy & People of St. Philip's, Coalinga