



The SPIRE

*The Newsletter of the
Episcopal Church of the Ascension,
Sierra Madre, California*



March 2019

Upcoming Events

March 5th – 5:30pm—7pm/Hawks Hall
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 6th – Ash Wednesday Services
(7am, Noon, & 6pm)

March 13th – 6:30pm/Lenten Study

March 15th – 6:30pm/Lenten Devotional

March 19th – 7:00pm/Hawks Hall
Vestry Meeting

March 20th – 6:30pm/Lenten Study

March 22nd – 6:30pm/Lenten Devotional

March 24th – Noon/Library
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

March 27th – 6:30pm/Lenten Study

March 29th – 6:30pm/Lenten Devotional

From the Rector



For the last couple of decades, one of the signs of Lent here at Ascension is our use of the wooden tabernacle in place of the bronze one we use most of the year. (A tabernacle is a special freestanding box in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved.) I would encourage you to get up close to see it.

On the door is carved a depiction of a mother pelican feeding her babies. In Christian art, this image is a feminine depiction of Christ shedding his Blood for humanity. In early times, it was thought that the mother pelican would pierce her breast in order to provide for her young.

Our wooden tabernacle is left from the days when the Parish House served as the convent for the Community of Saint Mary Sisters when they ran the Ascension Parish School. They had their own chapel - in what became the dining room after they left. (The wooden candle sticks used during Lent on the side altar are also from the sisters' chapel, as is the stone in the side altar.)



While Lent is supposed to be a time of looking inward and looking ahead to prepare for Easter, I also love that it can be a time for remembering our past. On Holy Saturday, in the midst of all the busy preparations for the Feast of the Resurrection, I always feel a bit sad putting away this lovely reminder of the sacrifice of Christ.

May your Lent be rich, MAB+



7am,
Noon,
&
6pm

March 6th

Mass & Imposition of Ashes

February Pledge Payment Snapshot



2019 Budget: \$220,881

YTD Budget: \$36,813.50

YTD Actual: \$40,737.00

Difference: \$+3,923.50

SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, March 5th, 2019

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Come have your fair share of Pancakes for Supper!

Time: 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Where: Hawks Hall

Cost:

\$6.00 Adults

**\$4.00 Children twelve and
under or \$20 for a family of
four or more!**



All proceeds will be donated to Friends in Deed.

And you thought there was nothing to do during Lent!

Start the Season with Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 5 from 5:30-7:00.

Attend

- An Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 am, Noon, and 6:00 pm.
- Tuesday morning Stations of the Cross and meditation in the chapel at 10:00 beginning March 12 and continuing through April 9.
- Wednesday Study Discussion Group of the book *Breathing Under Water* with our Ministry Discernment candidate Tim Hartley at 6:30 beginning March 13 and continuing through April 10.
- Friday Lenten Supper and Discussion with Pastor Josh at 6:00 beginning on March 15 and continuing through April 12
- Sunday Bible Study of the Gospel of John's account of the last week of Christ's life beginning March 3 in the library at 9:15 and continuing through April 14.

Donate to ER&D Chicken Drive



Our Lenten Outreach project will be CHICKENS with Episcopal Relief & Development. Each donated chicken gift will help train families and community groups in developing countries to raise poultry and sell surplus stock and eggs in the marketplace.

Look for chickens in church during Lent and please turn in your contributions by Palm Sunday 4/14.

Participate in Lent Madness beginning Thursday March 7

Here's how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at <http://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 Saintly Sixteen; eight advance 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.

If you're looking for a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational, occasionally goofy, and always joyful, join the Lent Madness journey. Lent needn't be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to get closer to Jesus Christ?



Stations of the Cross Devotion on Tuesdays

The devotion known as the Way of the Cross is an adaptation to local usage of a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem: the offering of prayer at a series of places in that city traditionally associated with the Lord's passion and death. Our adaptation of stations of the cross, written by our deacon, will be celebrated every Tuesday during lent at 10:00am in place of our usual morning prayer service. All are welcome to participate in this service; there is a place for all. **Submitted by Mike Beach, Verger**

Lenten Outreach



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Episcopal
Relief & Development

Healing a hurting world

Look for chickens in church during Lent and please turn in your contributions by Palm Sunday 4/14.

Thanks, Scott Callihan, Outreach Ministry Leader

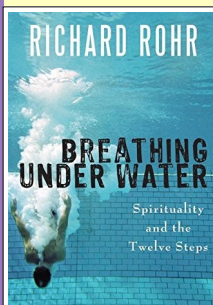
The Gooden School
will be joining Ascension
in in this outreach
effort. The school
will be collecting coins
during chapel
services throughout Lent.

Lenten Fridays @ Ascension



When: Evening Prayer 6:30 PM - Dinner 6:45 PM
Where: The chapel and Hawkes Hall
What: Tasty Meatless Potluck Dinner and theological conversation
Why: Lent is a holy time for prayer and community!
What dates: Friday March 15, 22, 29; April 5

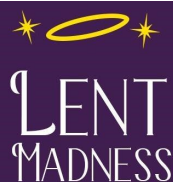
Come share prayer time, a tasty and filling meal, and prayerful conversation. There will be a sign-up sheet for meatless pot luck dishes. Any questions, please talk to Pastor Josh.



Lenten Study on Wednesdays

Our new Ministry Intern Tim will be leading a discussion group on Richard Rohr's *Breathing Under Water* on Wednesdays at 6:30 - 8:00 (March 13th - April 10th.) **All are welcome!**

About this book: "In this exploration of Twelve Step spirituality, Rohr identifies the Christian principles in the Twelve Steps, connecting The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous with the gospel. He draws on talks he has given for over twenty years to people in recovery and those who counsel and live with people with addictive behavior. Rohr offers encouragement for becoming interiorly alive and inspiration for making one's life manageable for dealing with the co-dependence and dysfunction (sin) rampant in our society."



About Lent Madness

Lent Madness began in 2010 as the brainchild of the Rev. [Tim Schenck](#). In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church's Calendar of Saints, Tim came up with this unique Lenten devotion. Combining his love of sports with his passion for the lives of the saints, Lent Madness was born on his blog "[Clergy Family Confidential](#)" which has subsequently moved locations and become "[Clergy Confidential](#)."

The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance 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. 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 saintly kitsch. **If you're not sure about terminology, [check out our glossary](#). It's free!**



Tim and Scott discussing the relative merits and saintliness of Athanasius vs. Florence Nightingale

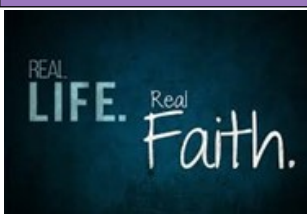
The major change from 2010 to 2011 was the introduction of four "celebrity bloggers" to champion particular saints through the Faithful Four. In 2012 we partnered with [Forward Movement](#) and Executive Director Scott Gunn to create our own website and broaden the number of people involved in the writing process, with Tim and Scott serving as the self-appointed Supreme Executive Committee.

Along the way we've added more celebrity bloggers, a poster-sized bracket, weekly Monday Madness videos, and the *Saintly Scorecard*, an annual publication containing all 32 first round bios, information about how to participate in Lent Madness as a congregation, and an essential Vocabulary List to decipher all things Lent Madness.

We've also inspired thousands of people along the way by forming an online community of people who are passionate about taking their faith but not themselves too seriously. Articles and spots about Lent Madness have appeared in the *Washington Post*, NPR, Huffington Post, FOXNews, NBC, USAToday, and even *Sports Illustrated*.

As Lent Madness continues to grow and evolve, what won't change is the essence of Lent Madness: allowing people to get to know some amazing people who have come before us in the faith and reminding one another that there's no reason for a dreary Lenten discipline. If this helps people connect with the risen Christ during this season of penitence and renewal, and have a bit of fun in the process, then it continues to be worthwhile. We hope you'll participate fully this Lent and vote with reckless abandon! (*Once* — this isn't Chicago). <https://www.lentmadness.org/about/>





“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change and the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.” From the very first days of recovery, the serenity prayer has been an important part of my life, and I’ve come to realize there’s no shame in recovery. After all, we’re all in recovery from one thing or another. We’re all a little bit broken.

In a few weeks, we begin our observance of Lent and the opportunity to courageously observe and embrace our brokenness anew as we embark on figuring out just what recovery means to us in this season of our lives. So much has changed since last year, hasn’t it?

Very often things that have become ingrained in us, like the serenity prayer, take on new meaning depending on what’s happening in our lives **right now**. I’ve been thinking a great deal about what keeps me from changing the things I can change in my life. And it’s that thought that I’m going to carry with me through Lent. I guess it’s all about removing distractions, and perhaps that’s why Jesus went off by himself for 40 days and why we’re asked to follow.

I’ve gotten a little head start on the process, and here’s what I’ve realized so far. Sometimes I get overly obsessed about things I can’t change and become convinced that I can change anything. That may be true some of the time when it comes to me, but not when I think I can change someone else. This type of thinking allows me to create distractions and get caught up in someone else’s drama; and believe me, I have enough of my own. How many times do I want to miss my exit on the freeway?

This Lenten season, I’m going to work on letting go of what I can’t change. It may be as simple as keeping my own side of the street clean and leaving yours to you. Perhaps the best thing we can do for ourselves and those around us is to set a good example knowing that serenity is contagious.

On the road to Resurrection, take the serenity exit.

Live well, live blessed, and keep your broom close by.
Deacon Ed+

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

March begins with the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, when we celebrate the Transfiguration of Christ. This ushers us into Lent ~ the tone of our music becomes more contemplative, even solemn, and *Alleluias* are shelved until Easter. Choral anthems for the month, representing the sixteenth to twenty-first centuries, include:

March 3

The exuberant *The Glory of Christ* by K. Lee Scott, contemporary American, coupled with Dmitry Bortniansky’s (Russian, 1751-1825) exquisite *Cherubim Song* (No. 7).

March 10

John Goss’ poignant *O Savior of the World; Ave Verum Corpus* by Edward Elgar. Both of these composers were English. Goss lived from 1800-1880; Elgar, 1857-1934.

March 17

Two anthems by Walter L. Pelz, one of my favorite contemporary American composers: *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days* and *Love and Mercy*. Both of these gorgeous anthems are scored for choir, organ, and oboe.

March 24

Deeply Lenten *Hide Not Thy Face* by Richard Farrant and Samuel Webbe’s *Lamb of God*. Again, English composers both ~ Farrant, 1525-1580; Webbe, 1740-1860.

*O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:
Be with us, we beseech thee, as we seek to perfect the praises of thy children on earth;
and grant to us even now such glimpses of thy beauty
that we may be made worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

~ The Royal School of Church Music



Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist

What is Ash Wednesday and where did it originate?

The first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday comes the day after Shrove Tuesday. Traditionally a day of repentance, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent

At Ash Wednesday Masses and services, ashes are imposed on the foreheads of the faithful. The priest or minister marks the forehead of each participant with black ashes in the shape of a cross. Traditionally, the ashes come from the burning of the previous year's palms. At Ascension, parishioners bring the palms they have saved from last year to the church the week before Ash Wednesday. These are burned and used to create the ashes which Father Michael imposes on us. When applying the ashes, the priest says, "Remember, O man, that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return" to remind us of our mortality. After the service, a worshipper traditionally retains the cross until it wears off.

Lent has been observed as a preparation for Easter since the fifth century. In the medieval period, Ash Wednesday was the required annual day of penitential confession occurring after fasting and the remittance of the tithe.

Ashes were used in ancient times to express mourning. Dusting oneself with ashes was the penitent's way of expressing sorrow for sins and faults. Following that tradition, the Anglican Book of Common Prayer designates Ash Wednesday as a day of fasting.

Lent lasts 40 days not counting Sundays because by our tradition every Sunday is a little Easter.



EASTER FLOWERS

WE ARE HARDLY INTO LENT, BUT PLANNING GOES ON FOR OUR EASTER CELEBRATION IN 6 WEEKS. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO ONCE AGAIN TRANSFORM OUR SANCTUARY INTO A GLORIOUS SPACE IN WHICH TO CELEBRATE OUR RISEN LORD...DONATION ENVELOPES FOR EASTER FLOWERS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH AND ON THE RECEPTION TABLE IN HAWKS HALL IN ORDER FOR NAMES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN ON EASTER, DONATIONS MUST ARRIVE BY APRIL 14.

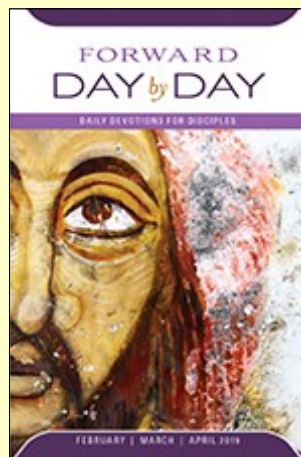
THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY.
ST. ANNE'S ALTAR GUILD

EASTER MUSIC



Please consider making a contribution to our Easter music program. Music offering envelopes will soon be available at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

Thank You for your support.



Don't forget to pick up a copy of the new **Forward Movement Day by Day Booklet** located at the back of the church or on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

A \$2 donation is requested.

Donations Needed for Easter Egg Hunts!

It's not too early to bring in Easter Candy! The 2019 Easter Egg Hunts are just around the corner. Please consider donating. A basket will be available in Hawks Hall throughout Lent.

The final day for collection will be April 14th.

Requested Items include:

- Plastic eggs for stuffing (both large and small sizes)
- Jelly beans
- WRAPPED candy (chocolates, candies, gummy snacks)
- Other non-food treats (stickers, small toys, pencils, etc.)

Other Items that we'd appreciate include:

- 2-4 Party Streamers in pastel colors for boundaries
- White Vinegar & Egg Dye Kits for Hard Boiled Eggs
- Easter Baskets or Gift bags with Handles for children who might not have their own basket

Thank you so much for your kindness and support for this fun tradition.

YOUTH GROUP

March Youth Formation

9 AM - Youth Group: Lenten Journeys

10:15 AM - Pre-School & Elementary Sunday School: The Miracles of Jesus



SAVE THE DATE!

THURSDAY, APRIL 18th

3:00 PM—4:30PM

EASTER EGG STUFFING & DYEING PARTY

Youth Group (Grades 5 and up)

Meet in Hawks Hall to help prep for the 2019 Easter Egg Hunts!
This activity offers 1.5 Service Hours to participants.

Church of the Ascension Event Calendar- 2019

Tuesday, March 5	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wednesday, March 6	Ash Wednesday Services
Wednesday, March 13	Lenten Study
Friday, March 15	Friday, Lent Devotional
Wednesday, March 20	Lenten Study
Thursday, March 21	House Church/Dinner
Friday, March 22	Friday, Lent Devotional
Wednesday, March 27	Lenten Study
Friday, March 29	Friday, Lent Devotional
Wednesday, April 3	Lenten Study
Friday, April 5	Friday, Lent Devotional
Wednesday, April 10	Lenten Study
Friday, April 12	Friday, Lent Devotional
Sunday, April 14	Palm Sunday/Holy Week Begins
Thursday, April 18	Youth Activities in preparation for Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 21	Easter Sunday
Thursday, May 16	House Church/Dinner
Sunday, June 2	Ascension Sunday
Sunday, June 9	Pentecost
Sunday, June 16	Trinity Sunday/Last Day Choir
Sunday, September 8	Fall Kick-Off
Thursday, September 19	House Church/Dinner
Saturday, September 21	Heal the Bay—Coastal Cleanup Day
Sunday, October 6	Blessing of the Animals
Thursday, October 17	House Church/Dinner
Thursday, October 31	Halloween Activities at Ascension
Thursday, November 21	House Church/Dinner
Saturday, November 23	Savor the Flavor Shopping Party
Monday, November 25	Women's Room Thanksgiving Luncheon
Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving Day Mass
Sunday, December 8	Christmas Pageant Rehearsals Begin
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Service/Pageant
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day Service

Our vision is that The Episcopal Church of the Ascension serves Christ today for those who will come to know Christ tomorrow.

WORSHIP, FORMATION, PASTORAL CARE, FELLOWSHIP, OUTREACH, PRESENCE
25 E. Laurel Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024 ~ 626-355-1133 www.ascension-sierramadre.com

MARCH 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass 2pm EFM Mtg/Library Brawner Baptism	4 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel Fr. Bamberger Out of Office/Clergy Support Group	5 10am Prayer in the Chapel 5:30pm-7pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Hawks Hall	6 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE TIMES 7am, Noon, 6pm 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	7 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	8 Spiritual Direction 10:30—Noon Rector's Office (Private)	9
10 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass 2pm EFM Mtg/Library	11 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	12 10am Prayer in the Chapel	13 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall Lenten Study 6:30pm/Hall	14 7am Mass 8:05—8:35 Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	15 Lenten Devotional 6:30pm Chapel/Hall	16 Baby Shower 2pm—7pm Hall (Private)
17 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass 2pm EFM Mtg/Library Covering Clergy- The Rev'd Pastor Joshua McGuffie	18	19 10am Prayer in the Chapel Vestry Mtg Hall/7pm	20 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall Lenten Study 6:30pm/Hall	21 7am Mass 8:05—8:35 Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	22 Lenten Devotional 6:30pm Chapel/Hall	23
Fr. Bamberger Out of Office/Vacation						
24 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass Noon—PMC Meeting/Library 2pm EFM Mtg/Library	25 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm APRIL SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	26 10am Prayer in the Chapel Daisy Troop Mtg 4pm—5:30pm Hall (Private)	27 5:30pm Yoga/Hall Lenten Study 6:30pm/Hall	28 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	29 Lenten Devotional 6:30pm Chapel/Hall	30
31 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass 2pm EFM Mtg/Library	Spire Creator: Kim Lumino, Parish Administrator					