

The Net

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

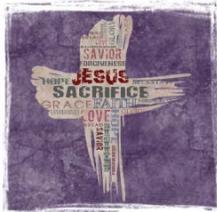
February 6 & 7, 2016

From dust to dust

By Fr. Ron Baird

Lenten activities begin the night before Ash Wednesday, which we call Shrove Tuesday (in French, Mardi Gras), traditionally with a Pancake Supper (see story at right). The word "shrove" is the past tense of the English verb shrive, which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by way of Confession and doing penance. Thus, Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the custom for Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent.

It is appropriate that we have a feast the evening before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, as it's our last opportunity to "stuff" ourselves with goodies before we enter into the serious discipline that is Lent.



Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, is a fast day in the Church. As you partake in the festivities of Shrove Tuesday, also plan to partake in the spiritual discipline of fasting on Ash Wednesday. Fasting helps us keep in mind the plight of those who don't have enough to eat, and also focuses our attention on the need to be "hungry" for the Gospel.

Of course, young children and anyone with special medical needs should not attempt to fast. The rest of us can gain much spiritually by submitting ourselves to this discipline.

THE CALL TO A HOLY LENT

In addition to the "liquids only" fast from sunrise to sundown, we pray that you will come to the altar of Christ at one of the two services that day, at 12 Noon and 7 p.m., to receive the imposition of ashes, to hear the call to a devout and Holy Lent and to receive God's mercy in the form of Christ's Body and Blood.

In order to experience the true joy of Easter, one must walk the Lenten journey. The imposition of ashes begins this journey by reminding us that we are but creatures of

Please turn to back

Pancake Supper Feb. 9

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held this year on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at the church. We will begin serving at approximately 5:30 p.m. and will continue until 7:30 p.m., or whenever the food runs out.

As in the past, there is no charge for the supper, although we will be accepting donations to help defray the costs. Friends and neighbors are welcome! Sign-up sheets are available at the church, or you may sign up online at standrewspolaris.org. Please be sure to sign up so we'll know how many guests to plan for!

Once again this year's event is hosted by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew in conjunction with the Kitchen Ministry. Please contact Ed Summers at 614-371-1649 if you have any questions.

Brotherhood on hiatus through Lent

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will not be holding its regular meetings throughout Lent in order to afford the members an opportunity to attend the church's Lenten Study Program.

We will resume our normal meetings on Tuesday, April 5.

Lenten Study Program begins Feb. 16

The 2016 Lenten Study Program will begin on Feb. 16, and continue weekly on Tuesdays through March 15. With programs for adults, youth and children, our hope is that families will come together to make this Lent a time of discipleship, fellowship and worship in preparation for Jesus's sacrifice on the cross. This year's theme is "Ultimate Questions: The Meaning of Life, the Universe, and Everything." Fr. Ron Baird will be leading adults and youth on an exploration of life's big questions, including, in Week 1, "Who is God, and how can we know him?"

In subsequent weeks we'll be considering: "Creation: How did we get here?"; "Human Beings and Sin: How did things get so messed up?"; "Is there any hope? What is salvation, and how do I know if I have it?"; "Is Jesus coming back? If so, what are we supposed to be doing between now and then?"

The study program will be held from 6:15 to 8 p.m. Each evening will begin with a simple supper of soup and salad, followed by a teaching by Fr. Ron Baird. Participants will then break into small groups for discussion and reflection. We'll

conclude with a brief time of prayer and worship. We're also planning a program for our children, which will include a lesson, music and crafts.

As in the past, we're asking parishioners to consider contributing to the meals by signing up to bring a soup or salad to share on one of the Tuesdays. We've got the first week covered, but still need food for weeks two through five.

Sign up sheets for the study program and meals are available in the Narthex and online at standrewspolaris.org.

Marriage Support Group meetings coming up

The Marriage Support Small Groups will meet on Friday, Feb. 12, in the church Sanctuary, and Wednesday, Feb. 17, at the Parish House. In both meetings, they will be viewing the next segment of the Love and Respect DVD on the subject of "The Energizing Cycle - C.O.U.P.L.E." All married couples are welcome!

Please RSVP to Larry and Patti Cooper, 740-369-0832 or polarismarriageenrichment@gmail.com.

The Daily Lectionary

Week of the Last Sunday in Epiphany • Feb. 7-13

Sunday, Feb. 7 — A.M.: Psalm 148, 149, 150; P.M.: Psalm 114, 115; Ecclesiasticus 48:1-11; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18; Luke 9:18-27

Monday, Feb. 8 — A.M.: Psalm 25; P.M.: Psalm 9, 15; Proverbs 27:1-6,10-12; Philippians 2:1-13; John 18:15-18,25-27

Tuesday, Feb. 9 — A.M.: Psalm 26, 28; P.M.: Psalm 36, 39; Proverbs 30:1-4,24-33; Philippians 3:1-11; John 18:28-38

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10 — A.M.: Psalm 95* & 32, 143; P.M.: Psalm 102, 130; Amos 5:6-15; Hebrews 12:1-14; Luke 18:9-14

Thursday, Feb. 11 — A.M.: Psalm 37:1-18; P.M.: Psalm 37:19-42; Habakkuk 3:1-10 (11-15)16-18; Philippians 3:12-21; John 17:1-8

Friday, Feb. 12 — A.M.: Psalm 95* & 31; P.M.: Psalm 35; Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32; Philippians 4:1-9; John 17:9-19

Saturday, Feb. 13 — A.M.: Psalm 30, 32; P.M.: Psalm 42, 43; Ezekiel 39:21-29; Philippians 4:10-20; John 17:20-26

Next Sunday, Feb. 14 — A.M.: Psalm 63:1-8 (9-11), 98; P.M.: Psalm 103; Daniel 9:3-10; Hebrews 2:10-18; John 12:44-50

* For the invitatory

Next Sunday's Lectionary • Feb. 14; The First Sunday in Lent (Year C)

Collect: BCP 218

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:9-16 (BCP 719)

Second Reading: Romans 10:8b-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Prayers for the Church

Following the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, please pray for Archbishop Frederick Hiltz and for the archbishops, bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and laity of The Anglican Church of Canada. The Anglican Eucharist was first celebrated in Canada in 1578 in Frobisher Bay by an Anglican chaplain attached to an Arctic expedition. The first Anglican church was a small chapel in an army garrison in 1698. The first Anglican church still standing, St. John's in Nova Scotia, completed in 1750, also became the first Anglican cathedral in North America.

The Anglican Church of Canada now numbers more than 500,000 active members in 30 dioceses and includes a large number of descendants of the original inhabitants of the area: Canadian Indians, Inuits, and Metis. Please pray especially for the Church's vigorous outreach to refugees and sponsorship of Syrian refugees in Canada. In an interesting side note, a refugee from Uganda in the 1970s is now one of the leading sponsors of a Syrian refugee family arriving in Canada earlier this year.

Following the ACNA Cycle of Prayer, please pray for Bishop M. Keith Andrews, D.Min., and for the clergy and people of the Diocese of the Western Anglicans.

Following the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, please pray for Fr. Jim Burr and the people of Bread of Life Anglican, Painesville, Ohio; and for Fr. Mark Engle, Deacon Terri Engle, and the people of Gateway Church, Canton, Ohio.

Following the Parish Cycle of Prayer, please pray for Larry and Patti Cooper; Phil, Lori, Jonathan and Hannah Cornett; the Youth Group; and the Facilities Team. Please also pray for those who work in the cold weather; may God warm them with his love, and give them respite when needed to come in, out of the cold.

Encouragement for your prayer time with God

Are you ready for God's next move? What changes will that involve you making? "For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance ..." (*Hebrews 9:15a*) " 'He who was seated on the throne said, "Look! I am making all things new." Then He said to me, "Write, for these words are faithful and true.' " (*Revelation 21:5*) "The Lord has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me." (*Psalm 18:20*) — *From the St. Andrew's Prayer Ministries Team*

Attention Ministry leaders! Please remember that your ministry reports for inclusion in the 2015 Annual Report are due no later than Wednesday, Feb. 10!

Holy Lent

Continued from the front

dust, created by God, and lost without his saving grace.

Many of us think of ourselves as immortal. It is important that we stop at least once a year to remind ourselves of the reality of death in our lives, and of our need for the salvation that is found in Christ alone.

Also during Lent, consider bringing whatever brokenness might exist in your life to Christ by availing yourself of the Sacrament of Holy Unction, or the Sacrament of Penance, called the Reconciliation of a Penitent in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Holy Unction, or the administration of oil with the laying on of hands and prayers for healing, is offered on Sundays during communion at the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Eucharists. At 9 a.m. the prayer intercessors are stationed to the left of the altar near the band equipment; at 11:15 a.m. they are stationed to the right of the altar, near the piano and organ.

The Sacrament of Penance is undoubtedly one of the least used sacraments available to Anglicans. Yet it remains an important channel of God's grace. Lent is a particularly appropriate time to make a private confession to a priest. More information about this sacrament will be provided in coming editions of *The Net*, and can be found on our web site, standrewspolaris.org. If you have additional questions, or desire this sacrament during Lent, please contact me at 740-548-5112, ext. 1, or rbaird@standrewspolaris.org.

Whether the wholeness you seek is spiritual or physical or both, in the sacrament of Holy Unction we come seeking the wholeness of God in our lives. It is appropriate for us to offer to God whatever brokenness we have, so that the healing power of his love might restore us to the perfection to which he calls us.

Whether your brokenness is a physical ailment, a broken relationship with a friend or child or spouse, or with God, whatever the need, you are invited to come forward to receive the sacrament. It is also appropriate for you to come forward to receive the laying on of hands for someone else who may be too ill to come to the altar of the Lord.

Most importantly, Lent provides an opportunity for all of us to come, to pray and to offer our lives to God as a "reasonable and holy sacrifice." May each of us find ourselves at Christ's altar in Lent!