

LENT AT ST. JOHN'S

Monday – Thursday Mornings 7:30am: Morning Prayer in the chancel.

Sundays 5:30pm – Mar 10 - Apr 7 *Becoming the Story We Tell*

A process for re-entering the deep drama of the gospel, and restoring the connection between our baptism and our annual immersion in the story of Christ's Passion. We will gather for a potluck meal, study and discussion with a focus on story and sacrament in order to renew us in our baptismal identity and calling.

Sunday Mar 10 1pm – 3pm *Our Rabbi Jesus*

A presentation on what was considered Scripture by various Jewish communities during the time of Jesus, and how those sacred writings were used by Jesus in Matthew's Gospel. Led by Dr. Gordon Hamilton, retired Professor Emeritus of Old Testament Language and Literature at Huron University, London Ontario. Refreshments will be provided.

Fri Mar 15-Sat Mar 16 *Speaking of Sin, Recovering Repentance*

An overnight residential retreat at which uses Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Speaking of Sin: The Lost Language of Salvation* to explore why it is important to talk about the difficult themes of sin, repentance, penance in order to recognize the strengthen the language of grace.

Sun Mar 31 1pm – 3pm

The Seder Story: The Tradition of the Passover Meal

The Jewish Passover is inextricably linked to our Christian story, as Jesus would have celebrated the Passover throughout his life and became the Passover for us. Rabbi Steven Garten, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Israel in Ottawa will guide us through the traditions of the Jewish Passover and modern day Seder meal.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available from the clergy if you are carrying a burden or contrition which you feel called to confess. Feel free to speak with Canon Catherine, Fr. Jim or Fr. Brian.

Prayer Requests During Lent, Canon Catherine follows the monastic tradition of praying the *night offices*. If you have special prayer requests, please forward them to her in confidence using one of the "prayer request" envelopes available at the church entrances, or by placing them in one of the boxes marked "Prayer Requests".

Personal Study / Devotion Resources

- Society of St. John the Evangelist offers four different online programmes for personal use in Lent. Visit www.ssje.org and scroll down to Faith Formation to Save the (every) day at the bottom of the home page.
- Lenten coin folders are available at the church entrances.
- Consider a practical or spiritual practice you may take on during Lent that reflects one of the Anglican Communion's Marks of Mission <https://www.anglican.ca/ask/faq/marks-of-mission/>

THE JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

Lent is a forty-day period of fasting and preparation, and dates from the fourth century. It was, in particular a time of special discipline for those who were to be baptized at Easter. It has remained as an observance undertaken by all the baptized.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the forty days and, along with the other weekdays in Lent are days to be observed by special acts of discipline. (Sundays in Lent are days of resurrection. They have priority even over the traditional Lenten fast, and so are not counted in the forty days...a bit of a treat for those of you who choose to give up something!). We are invited in the exhortation on Ash Wednesday to "*observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.*" (BAS p. 282)

Lent is a period that depends on the Paschal Mystery – the life, death and resurrection of Christ, not so much as historical events but as events in the spiritual world, as mysteries which impinge directly on our lives in their depth and power. It is not a season about being miserable. It is a season which invites us to journey more closely with Jesus and enter more fully into the Paschal Mystery.

As we enter the season of Lent, St. John's and its liturgies take on some distinctive practices. The reredos is empty of flowers. The Paschal Candle is removed from its place by the font and font and crosses are draped in purple.

At the Wednesday Eucharist, we pray the additional collect for Lent following the Collect of the Day. At 10am on Sundays we begin with the Penitential order and the sentence of the day as a way of calling us into a time of self-reflection and examination. Gone is the Gloria; the Alleluias are buried until Easter. The psalms are sung by a cantor with the congregation joining in the refrain – an opportunity to hear the words of the psalmist in a different way and to respond to those words as a whole congregation. The intercessions take on a more plaintive tone.

Lenten liturgies allow us to step out of the busy and rushed world, into our worship where time takes on new meaning. Beneath the purple veil of penitence lies the profound journey of Holy Week, the Triduum and promise of the resurrection at Easter.

Personal Lenten Practices

During Lent, some choose to take on additional prayer, study, reading, or observe the daily offices. Liturgies are offered here at St. John's in Lent every day except for Fridays.