



Trinity Topics

March 2018

Phone = (217) 245-5901

info@trinitychurchjax.org

Website = www.trinitychurchjax.org



“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them?”—Isaiah 58:6&7

“What are you giving up for Lent” is the question on everyone’s minds in this season. Yet Lent is about more than simply *giving something up*. I’ve written about the spiritual benefits of fasting and abstinence before, and I heartily encourage everyone to practice them this Lent. This season is also about *taking something up*. Along with eating less, drinking less, watching less television, we pray more, we read the Bible more, and especially give more alms to the needy. I write to encourage all of us to consider making acts of charity part of our Lenten discipline this year. While our pledge offering to the Church does support many worthy causes, almsgiving is an extra offering given directly to the poor. From the abundance of God’s gifts to us we give a small amount to see to the desperate needs of the world.

Lent is hopefully an opportunity to find new clarity into the meaning of Jesus and his many works of love for us. Jesus was born for us in Palestine so many years ago. Jesus died for us on the Cross, and he rose again for us on Easter day. Jesus lives for us still and offers us new life if we believe. Our Lord says to us in the Bible “You received without payment; give without payment (Matthew 10:8).” God blesses us so that we will bless the whole world. This plan goes all the way back to Abraham himself. “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing (Genesis 12:1&2).”

Almsgiving is more than simply giving to charity—that would be to make *the poor* an abstraction. In making almsgiving a discipline we strive for that sincere compassion and concern for all people that is the heart of Christian faith and life. Charity is to give ourselves to another person because we can no longer discern the difference between our own good and the good of our neighbor, or the need of our neighbors and our own needs. Put another way, we come to recognize ourselves in the poor and the suffering. We come to recognize Jesus himself in the beggar on the street corner so that we can more clearly discern His presence to us in His Church and in the Eucharist.

There will be many opportunities to give alms at Trinity Church during Lent. Our Sunday School, will be collecting mite boxes for the Heifer Project, which is a marvelous program that provides livestock for families in the third world. Their fundraiser will culminate in our annual Lunch and Games on March 4. We are collecting new and gently used shoes for the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches and food for the Jacksonville Area Food Center as well—both of which can be left in the baskets in the hallway outside the parish hall. I hope our community can give generously to all of these causes as a mark of our faith in God’s presence with us.

Fr. Zach Brooks +

Holy Week and Easter Services:

Holy Week is the climax of the Christian year, culminating in the Paschal Triduum and Easter Sunday.

- Holy Week will begin with **Palm Sunday** on March 25. The 10 o'clock service on Palm Sunday will begin in the churchyard for the Procession of the Palms.
- The Paschal Triduum is one long, three-day service that begins on **Maundy Thursday**, March 29, at 7 pm. The service will include foot washing and a watch at the Altar of Repose until midnight.
- **Good Friday** on March 30, will be celebrated at 7 pm with the traditional "Creeping Towards the Cross" and the recitation of the Solemn Reproaches.
- **Holy Saturday**, on March 31, at noon, will be a simple, meditative service of prayer as we prepare for the Vigil.
- Finally, the **Great Vigil of Easter**, celebrating Jesus' resurrection from the dead, will be celebrated on March 31, at 7 pm. We will host our friends from St. Luke's, Springfield again this year. This solemn and beautiful service will include the lighting of the New Fire, the reading of the Prophecies, and Renewal of our Baptismal Vows.
- Of course, we will gather on April 1, at 10 am for a joyous Festal Eucharist for **Easter Day**.
- The Paschal Triduum ends at sunset on Easter Day.
- Please make time to attend these services and consider inviting friends and neighbors to experience our worship.

Christian Initiation

The Easter Vigil and Easter Day have been considered the most appropriate occasions for baptism since the earliest days of the Church. If you would like to have a child baptized, or be baptized yourself, please contact the parish office soon to schedule baptismal preparation.

A Note on Confession from Fr. Zach

I am available to hear confessions after the daily 10 o'clock service, or by appointment. Confession with a priest is attested in the New Testament and has always been available in the Anglican tradition. It is a powerful, spiritually edifying practice for putting away destructive habits and moving on from troubling moments in one's life. The form for Confession begins on page 447 of the *Book of Common Prayer*. Usually, a penitent kneels at the altar rail and whispers what is on his or her heart to the priest, who is sitting nearby. The priest might offer some advice, recommends a few short prayers or other spiritual exercise, and then offers the forgiveness of God. Of course, what is offered in Confession is an absolute secret. I have undergone this sacrament multiple times myself, and every time I have left the service feeling worlds better. There is no point in carrying that baggage around! Please consider making this rite part of your Lenten preparation for Easter. I can also arrange for a priest from Springfield to come hear your Confession if there are matters you would rather not discuss with me.

Fr. Zach

News & Announcements

Mothering Sunday

The Fourth Sunday in Lent has been called Mothering Sunday. In keeping with this English tradition, the men and boys of Trinity Church will honor the women and girls of the parish by serving a breakfast at 9 o'clock.

The Heifer Project International

Let us not forget what the HPI is:

Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. By giving families a hand-up, not just a hand-out, we empower them to turn lives of hunger and poverty into self-reliance and hope. With gifts of livestock and training, Heifer projects help families improve their nutrition and generate income in sustainable ways. We refer to the animals as "living loans" because in exchange for their livestock and training, families agree to give one of its animal's offspring to another family in need. It's called Passing on the Gift – a cornerstone of our mission that creates an ever-expanding network of hope and peace.

The Church School Children encourage you to support their Lenten project.

Lunch and Games to support the HPI will be on Sunday, March 4.

Please support the Bake Sale on March 18.

Keep filling your mite boxes; they will be collected on April 8.

Food Bank

Please remember to keep bringing items for the Jacksonville Area Community Food Center. The items most needed are: cereal, canned chicken, macaroni and cheese, soup, and peanut butter. They also appreciate ready to eat meals, such as canned pasta and stew. But all items are welcome. We will deliver donations at the end of each month.

Special Offerings

The Ash Wednesday offering was \$310. Please remember that all of the special offerings go to the Outreach programs of Trinity Church. There will also be special offerings received on Good Friday and on Easter Sunday.

Good News

On February 8, **Harper Emiko Yamada** was born. She is the daughter of Brad and Jessica Yamada. She is the granddaughter of Kip and K-Lou Ashmore. Welcome to the world, Harper!

Claire Van Aken is a member of the State Championship J'ettes of Jacksonville High School. It takes a lot of hard work, practice, and dedication to be able to compete at this level. Congratulations, Claire!

Marley Van Aken was given the Sparkle Award at Washington Elementary School. The principal says that a room lights up when Marley enters. We are proud of you, Marley!

****If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.***

Sunday, March 4, 11:15 am

Lunch & Games

To support the Church School's
Lenten Project

Trinity Fellowship
Tuesday, March 6, 7 pm

We are studying Moses.

ECW

Build your own salad. Bring a salad ingredient. Lettuce
and beverages are provided.

Monday, March 12
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Vestry Meetings

Tuesday, March 13
(special Mission Leadership meeting)

Tuesday, March 20
7:00 pm

Sunday, March 18

Bake Sale
After the 10 o'clock service

(to support the Church School's Lenten Project –
Heifer Project International)



The Parish Office is accepting
donations for the Easter flowers.
Envelopes are on the table in the lobby.
Please use the envelopes.

SERVICES IN MARCH 2018

Sunday, March 4
THIRD SUNDAY in LENT

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, March 7:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, March 11
FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, March 14:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, March 18
FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Monday, March 19
St. Joseph

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, March 21:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, March 25
PALM SUNDAY

8:00 am = The Proper Liturgy & Eucharist

10:00 am = The Proper Liturgy & Eucharist

Wednesday in Holy Week, March 28
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, March 29
7:00 p.m. Proper Liturgy for Maundy Thursday

Good Friday, March 30
7:00 p.m. Proper Liturgy for Good Friday

Holy Saturday, March 31
Easter Eve
12 noon - Proper Liturgy for Holy Saturday
7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

***Morning Prayer is said at 10 o'clock
on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.***