



Trinity Topics

March 2023

Phone = (217) 245-5901

info@trinitychurchjax.org

Website = www.trinitychurchjax.org



**“Put on the whole armor of God,
that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”—*Ephesians 6:11***

Lent can make us keenly aware of the war in our souls. We are supposed to give things up, and we enter Lent believing that we are capable of resisting temptation. But, no matter how hard we try, no matter how trifling the thing we give up, it is still hard. As St. Paul writes, “I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.” We Christians yearn to be saints. We want fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We want intimacy with our Creator and Redeemer. But we yearn for many things, and we are left torn between those things that can give us life, and those things that are destructive to our souls—what the *Book of Common Prayer* calls “inordinate and sinful affections.”

This isn’t to say that all desire is bad. Some of the things we want are harmless, and there is nothing wrong with finding happiness in the little pleasures of life. We don’t give up chocolates or meat in Lent out of some idea that misery is next to holiness. What would life be without a cold beer on a hot day or sleeping in late on the occasional Saturday morning? When these desires get out of hand, however, they become destructive, like when simple pleasure in a beer becomes an insatiable need to drink all the time, or our comfort in a warm bed keeps us away from church on Sunday morning. Some desires are simply incompatible with our desire to be saints. Some of them will take us further and further away from that ultimate purpose until we forget all about the things that matter most and delight in things that will only make us miserable in the end. Unfortunately, knowing things like malice and envy are wrong somehow fails to make them less appealing in the moment of temptation, and we can only regret them after the fact.

Our first weapon against temptation is prayer. God is what our hearts truly yearn for, and the more we open our hearts to him the less we will turn to things that will not give us life. The more we open our hearts to his mercy, the more he will give us strength against temptation. The more we listen for God’s voice, the more wisdom we will have to recognize temptation and avoid it. This last point about prayer is important because the greater part of resisting temptation is not being in a position where we might be tempted in the first place.

The next weapon against temptation is fasting. Resisting temptation is honest to goodness work, and studies have shown that our willpower becomes tired just like our muscles at the end of a day. Well, if our willpower can become tired like muscles, it can be trained like our muscles. By giving up snacks and meals we train our willpower on small things so it will be stronger against big things. In fasting we train our souls to hunger for God instead of food or material possessions. Jesus, after all, is the bread of heaven, and without him we are wasting away no matter how much we feast.

Our third weapon against temptation is giving alms. Our world teaches us that happiness is just one more purchase away, and we end up with basements and attics full of junk that makes us miserable. Break the cycle in Lent by giving everything you can to the poor. Give until you must adjust your budget to accommodate your generosity. We won’t be taking our junk with us into heaven—there it will be our generosity that makes us rich.

Thanks be to God that we are not left without weapons against temptation. We should use them and not fool ourselves into thinking we can work ourselves out of a lifetime of habit, instinct, and impulse out of sheer force of will. If it were that easy everyone would do it!

Father Zachary Brooks +



A Course in Anglican History: Part XLVIII

King Charles II is fondly remembered to English history as “The Merry Monarch.” His long and stable reign is known for the revival of English art and literature, the sciences, and Anglican religion after the fanaticism and austerity of Puritan ascendancy. There was occasional dismay among his subjects at the lavish lifestyle he funded with their taxes, though he otherwise avoided political disputes in his government. The main point of contention at the end of Charles’ reign was the line of succession. Despite siring over a dozen bastard children with his many, many mistresses, his wife Catherine of Braganza never gave birth to a living heir, leaving his Catholic brother James as next in line. Charles ordered James’ children at the time (Mary, Anne, and Isabel) to be raised as Protestants, which kept Protestant objections to James’ succession down to a low simmer for the time being. Though the throne might pass to a Catholic, his subjects could rest assured that it would then pass to one of his Protestant children after him. Despite his ostentatious practice of Anglican religion throughout his life, Charles converted to Catholicism on his death bed. However, it’s not clear who came up with the idea, and by that point he had been ill so long that there is legitimate question of how aware he could have been of his conversion. Besides occasionally pushing back against the excesses of the anti-Catholic sentiment of the government and country, Charles had few religious disputes to manage during his reign. The Church of England seemed to lose interest in fighting theological disputes. It was by his reign that the Church was slowly becoming a department of the state, as it was in many countries of Europe at the time, with its vicars and bishops becoming akin to civil servants. English Christianity could settle into its ways because Englishmen worried less about dogma and ritual and rested assured that their religion was English. The greatest objection to Catholicism was that it was *foreign*. People saw Catholics less as Godless heretics and more as infiltrators of foreign powers.

This column is a monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.

News & Announcements

Outreach

Souper Bowl Sunday was a great success. We delivered over 150 cans of soup and some other items. Don't forget to bring nonperishable food items so that we can continue to support the Jacksonville Food Center throughout the entire year.

Parish Life

The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was attended by more than 40 people. It was so good to see everyone. A big thanks needs to go to Janet Cisne and all of her volunteers who made this a big success.

United Thank Offering

As has been the custom, the Spring Ingathering for UTO is the last Sunday in March. This year it is on March 26. On the table in the lobby, there are boxes for you make regular offerings at home, or there are envelopes into which you may make a one-time offering.

Ash Wednesday

The special collection was \$754. This included offerings people made at the pancake supper. This money, along with the Good Friday, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas offerings, goes to outreach programs of the parish.

Church School – Heifer Project

The teachers and children have kicked off their Lenten project. The children have had fun learning about the project and how it helps people. In so doing this, each one has chosen an animal or agriculture area to support.

Thank you to all who supported their bake sale last Sunday by purchasing items and making special donations. They earned \$732.25! We need to especially thank Gayle Clark and Hilda Radcliffe, who with their families, provided many delicious items for the sale.

They will sponsor a lunch after church on March 26 to earn more funds toward their goals.

Boxes to collect money at home are available in the foyer.

Sunday Ministers

We can always use more volunteers to serve as lectors, acolytes, and ushers. Please let Fr. Zach or Jo Ann know if you would like to serve.



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

Daylight saving time 2023 in Illinois
will begin at 2:00 AM on
Sunday, March 12



Spring Forward!

Lectors

March 5 Cathy Nelson
March 12 Alice Tracey
March 19 Nancy Taylor Porter
March 26 Paula Woods

Acolytes

March 5 Bruce Evans
March 12 Clayton Robb
March 19 Bruce Evans
March 26 Clayton Robb

Ushers

March 5 Chuck Crim
March 12 Bob Hardwick
March 19 Chuck Crim
March 26 John Clancy

Trinity Fellowship
Tuesday, March 7
7:00 pm

ECW
Thursday, March 9
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Mothering Sunday
March 19
Breakfast 9:00 am

Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, March 21
7:00 pm

**SUNDAYS IN
MARCH 2022**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

March 5: **The Second Sunday in Lent**
March 12: **The Third Sunday in Lent**
March 19: **The Fourth Sunday in Lent**
March 26: **The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

WEDNESDAYS

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

HOLY DAYS

Monday, March 20: **St. Joseph, tr.**
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Saturday, March 25:
**The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus
Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

*Morning Prayer is said
at 10 o'clock
on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.*

**Spring Ingathering of
United Thank Offering**
March 26



The Parish Office is accepting
donations for the Easter flowers.
Please send your check by **March 29**,
so that we can complete the order.