

## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends in Christ,

I'm currently writing to you from my favorite coffee shop – The IngleBean Coffee House in Millheim. Slow crowds this morning have allowed me to sit at my favorite table. I love sitting here because it allows me to be surrounded by its unique art and decor, while also being able to gaze at the coffee shop's back porch. Right outside my window, in a far corner, peeking from the ground, there are tiny flowers attempting to snap through the cold.



This familiar image, small buds and spring greens bursting through the wretched winter, has long been associated with Lent. The word “Lent” itself comes from the old English word for “spring.” Lent is warmth breaking through dark and cold nights; bright colors disrupting long, grey days; and new life where death once grazed. All these analogies and images capture the truth of the Easter event – Jesus’ glorious resurrection from the dead.

Whether you're giving up something for Lent, taking something up, or not doing anything at all, the

ultimate practice is to draw ourselves closer to God, to draw ourselves closer to the hope of the resurrection. We do this by examining our lives and seeing where we're in need of God's love, grace, and mercy. We might be in need of God in our prayer and worship life, in our homes and families, in our professional and vocational endeavors, etc. My prayer for you this Lent is that you'll take the time to look inwardly and see what in your life is in need of renewal and refreshment. I pray that you will believe in our Lord's glorious resurrection by allowing yourself to experience your own Easter moment – new life and new possibilities breaking through the staleness and darkness of life.

Lenten Blessings, ~Father Carlos †

## FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH



In others words, let each one deny themselves some food, drink, sleep, needless talking and idle jesting, and look forward to holy Easter with joy and spiritual longing.”

—1 Thess. 1:6

To help prepare for Lent, here is a short koan (lesson) taken from Joan Chittister's book, *A Spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*:

The Zen Master received a visitor seeking guidance, but instead of listening, the visitor kept talking about his own concerns and giving his own thoughts. After a while, the master served tea. He poured the tea into the visitor's cup until it was full and then kept on pouring. Finally, the visitor could not bear it any more. “Don't you see the cup is full?” he said. “It's not possible to get in anymore.” “Just so,” the master

said, stopping at last. “And like this cup, you are filled with your own ideas. How can you expect me to give you Zen unless you empty your cup?” Lent is the time for emptying our soul and letting the spirit fill us. Maybe—just maybe—we need to try to trust the process of letting God work in us instead of doing all the work ourselves. God will nourish us in due time. During Lent, try reading a short meditation or verse, sit with it, and allow it to fill you with a sense of spiritual well-being. The monastic process of emptying our cups allows it to trim our souls and scrape away the sludge of everyday life. The rule of Benedict tells us Lent is the time to make new efforts to be what we say we want to be. Let us approach this time, and let God work in us. Amen+

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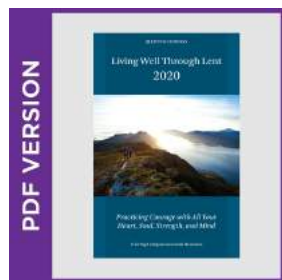
When you see this newsletter, it won’t be long before our St. Patrick’s Day Dinner (Saturday, March 14, from 4-7 p.m.). This is one of the major fund raisers for our budget. Please consider dining in or taking out a meal, and take this opportunity to invite a **friend**. The meal is \$20 (as last year); \$15 for children under 12. This meal is really one of community fellowship. We can use all the help we can get on March 14, especially towards the end for cleanup. If there are any questions, let me know. Please look at our Facebook page, which Fr. Carlos updates with events on a regular basis.

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We are collecting cereal for the food bank during March to help with the shortage they are experiencing. ~Deacon Alex

### FREE LENTEN DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE

*Living Well Through Lent 2020* is a free publication available from [Livingcompass.org](http://Livingcompass.org). Included are readings from our Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) and



articles from eight featured writers to help us reflect on this year’s theme of “Practicing Courage with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind.” Their diverse and rich voices encourage us to understand that, in order to prepare for the new life of Easter, we need to be intentional about discerning what it truly means to practice courage with our whole being.

Daily emailed devotionals during Lent are also available; sign up at [livingcompass.org/lent](http://livingcompass.org/lent).

### 2020 YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO WASHINGTON D.C.



Father Carlos and Mrs. Ellen Dyakiw want to invite our parents and youth to our 2020 youth pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. This pilgrimage is open to middle and high school youth. Dates are Friday, June 19 – Sunday, June 21. We are happy to announce that a site has been secured for our three-day stay: The Epiphany Mission Center. The goal of this pilgrimage is to connect our youth to the wider church (the Church Catholic) and to deepen their sense of Christian responsibility.

We will visit important sites and landmarks in our national and religious life, while allowing ample time for our youth to reflect and process. We will end our time in Washington, D.C., by participating and serving at the Church of the Epiphany’s Welcome Table, a worship service and breakfast fellowship for the homeless.

Parents, stay tuned as an email with more information, including a schedule and budget, will be sent out in early March. In order to move forward with this pilgrimage, we need **five** youth to commit by April. Please keep our leaders, parents, and youth in your prayers as we explore offering this formative experience.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Learning to serve our community was the goal as children prepared, set up, and served during coffee hour last month. To celebrate Valentine's Day, they gave the gift of their love along with a little chocolate and other tasty snacks. Upcoming projects will extend to the local community and beyond.



The congregation was invited to attend a blessing of the new classrooms. Prayers were read, and holy water was sprinkled to celebrate the three spaces we now have as formation classrooms. A big thanks to

Susan Hochreiter and to the Brandt family, whose generous contributions made furnishing these rooms possible.

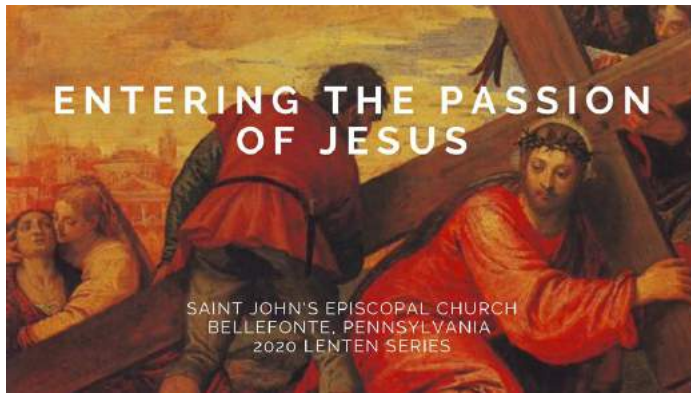


## CHANGE IN STAFF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Trish Weidemann, our faithful parish secretary, has accepted a new job as an accountant in State College. Due to her new work schedule, we will see some changes in the office. Trish will continue serving as the point person for orders, general emails, printing weekly materials, seasonal mailings, and volunteer coordination. However, she will no longer serve in the mornings, but rather in the evenings and Sunday mornings.

You will notice the latter portion of her schedule, Sunday mornings, is new. Trish will now assist us in strengthening our Sunday hospitality, as well as helping to organize Sunday fellowship and other seasonal activities. I will be changing Trish's title from *Parish Secretary* to *Parish Coordinator*, as she will no longer serve in a traditional secretary role. Office hours will be changed to **9 a.m.-12 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)**. I'm excited for this change, not only for Trish, but for us as a parish.





**March 5, 12, 19, 26 & April 5**  
**5:30 p.m. Parish Meal and Learning Series**  
**(Fellowship Hall)**

*Entering the Passion of Jesus* is a five-week learning series exploring Jesus' final days in Jerusalem. We'll examine the events surrounding our Lord's passion and death, and reflect on their impact on the early Church and the Church today.

**6:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Church)**

The devotion known as Stations of the Cross is an adaptation of a custom that is widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem. Through prayer and Holy Scripture, we'll recount and contemplate on our Lord's passion and death.

All meals will consist of a hearty soup and salad dinner, accompanied by delicious bread. Learning series and Stations sessions are separate from one another and are not interdependent. Please join us as often as you can.

**HOLY WEEK AT SAINT JOHN'S**

**PALM SUNDAY ☒ APRIL 5**  
 8:00AM LOW MASS  
 10:00AM SOLEMN MASS

**MAUNDY THURSDAY ☒ APRIL 9**  
 7:00PM SOLEMN MASS, FOOTWASHING &  
 STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

**GOOD FRIDAY ☒ APRIL 10**  
 12:00PM THE SOLEMN LITURGY:  
 VENERATION OF THE CROSS & MASS OF  
 THE PRESANCTIFIED  
 6:00PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**HOLY SATURDAY ☒ APRIL 11**  
 8:00PM THE GREAT VIGIL & FIRST MASS  
 OF EASTER

**EASTER DAY ☒ APRIL 12**  
 8:00AM LOW MASS  
 10:00AM PROCESSION & SOLEMN MASS  
 MUSIC: HAYDN, MASS NO.2 IN F MAJOR

**Vestry Members:** Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Matt Perkins (Jr. Warden), John Fusco, Carol Fyfe, Debra Cree, Susan Christy, Peggy Jackson, Thomas Quigley, David King, Charlotte Zmyslo



# March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>First Sunday in Lent</b> Low Mass 8am Solemn Mass 10	2 7 pm Men's Group  8 pm AA Mtg	3  7 pm AA Mtg	4 9:30 Monthly Parish Requiem - Lady Altar  12 pm AA Mtg	5  5:30 pm Parish Meal & Learning 6:15 pm Stations of the Cross	6 Community Lunch 11:30 am Presbyterian Church	7 
<b>8</b> <b>Second Sunday in Lent</b> Low Mass 8am Solemn Mass 10	9 7 pm Men's Group  8 pm AA Mtg	10  7 pm AA Mtg	11 9:30 Mass & Healing - Lady Altar  12 pm AA Mtg	12  5:30 pm Parish Meal & Learning 6:15 pm Stations of the Cross	13	14  Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner 4 - 7 pm Parish Hall
<b>15</b> <b>Third Sunday in Lent</b> Low Mass 8am Solemn Mass 10	16 7 pm Men's Group  8 pm AA Mtg	17  7 pm AA Mtg	18 9:30 Mass & Healing - Lady Altar  12 pm AA Mtg 7 pm Vestry Meeting	19  5:30 pm Parish Meal & Learning 6:15 pm Stations of the Cross	20	21
<b>22</b> <b>Fourth Sunday in Lent: Laetare Sunday</b> Low Mass 8am Solemn Mass 10	23 7 pm Men's Group  8 pm AA Mtg	24  7 pm AA Mtg	25 9:30 Mass & Healing - Lady Altar  12 pm AA Mtg	26  5:30 pm Parish Meal & Learning 6:15 pm Stations of the Cross	27	28
<b>29</b> <b>Fifth Sunday in Lent: Passion Sunday</b> Low Mass 8am Solemn Mass 10	30 7 pm Men's Group  8 pm AA Mtg	31 11:00 am Diocesan Renewal of Vows  7 pm AA Mtg				