



MARCH, 2023
From the Desk of The Rev. Joe Pierjok

SPIRIT of GRACE
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COFFEE HOSTS
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Hess
12, 19, &
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Have you found yourself asking what is “fasting” and why does the clergy encourage us to partake in fasting? And why do we place a focus on fasting during Lent? Well, read on, beloved!

Historically, Christians have prepared for the celebration of the Resurrection by fasting. Fasting was thought to be beneficial to the Christian because evil spirits used food as a means of entering the body. Fasting then limited the possibility of the Christian to contract an evil spirit. Over time, however, fasting became more of a discipline for Christians. During this period of fasting, Christians would not eat any food during the day until the middle of the afternoon. Even though the body strongly desired food, the Christian was to put this desire aside and focus instead on the things of God, the very Word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. The roots of fasting can be traced back to the writings in the Old Testament. Fasting was a means for God’s people to practice control over the body. Understood in that light, fasting is still valuable for Christians today. Many of us love to eat. And we don’t just eat a little or until we are full, and we don’t always eat the best things for us. We often eat more than we should. We do so because we allow the body to control what we eat and how much. This does not have to be for God’s people. Paul writes to the Galatians, “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh... And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:16–17, 24). Such desires of the flesh appear in other ways along with gluttonous eating. Truly, there are many ways in which we as Christians can practice self-control, whether that be with social media or gossip, etc., which is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

None of this talk of fasting is to lead us as Christians to conclude that we must do these things to please God or to earn or keep our salvation. Quite the contrary. We are encouraged to do these things because we have been set free to do so. The driving force behind all this preparation in Lent is true repentance. As Christians, we are to abhor our sinful natures and to confess that we are poor, miserable sinners. We are led by the Spirit to truly repent of our sins and of ourselves, meaning that we are to turn away from all that is sinful and genuinely desire to live the lives Jesus Christ has set us free to live. Not because we must, but because we truly want to as God’s children, as brothers and sisters in Christ. Having repented of our sins, God faithfully forgives us all our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness because of the perfect work of salvation that Jesus has done for us all.

Vestry Update

Each meeting began with a prayer led by Zelma Watts, who then presented the Holy Cow! survey results. Afterward, the floor was open for parishioners to share their thoughts.

Questions regarding the survey focused on the accuracy of the results and how the information would be used. The results show that we are a healthy, growing church, concerned with growing our mission to be the hands and feet of God in the world. Most in attendance agreed that the results were an accurate reflection of how they feel. Conducting the survey allowed us to assess who we are and what is important to us as a community. The results will be used to guide future plans for ministry and develop opportunities for parishioners to become more involved in church life.

A variety of questions were asked regarding a search committee. A year ago, guidance from the Diocese was to move slowly and consider carefully what we needed in a search process. Since that time, we have learned that a search process is not required, and is only utilized if a suitable candidate is not already available. Fr. Joe has discerned a call to stay at Grace Church. Many voiced their opinions that, given this information, a search process is not necessary and the position of full-time rector should be offered to Father Joe. He knows us, he has grieved with us, and he is helping us to move forward. He has the energy to lead us, he is here because God sent him to us, and we need to make a decision based on the work and exceptional leadership shown by Fr. Joe and Fr. Collin.

Those in opposition offered various reasons: we should do a search because that “is the proper process,” and it would allow every member of the congregation to provide input rather than just those who attended the meetings and filled out the survey. Another stated that a search is necessary to ensure we have found a qualified candidate. A suggestion was made to form a search committee, not to search for a candidate, but as a process of discerning our mission to move forward.

Concerns were raised that Fr. Joe’s recent engagement would affect his ability to lead the congregation. Fr. Joe addressed those apprehensions by relating the personal journey he has traveled. If anyone continues to have concerns regarding Fr. Joe’s private life, they are asked to speak to him directly. A parishioner stated that “if a priest isn’t honest with you, you’ll never have the real deal.” With Fr. Joe, we have the honesty and trust that it takes for us to have the stability we need to move forward.

The Vestry would like to thank everyone who attended the listening meetings, and for sharing your thoughts and opinions. While we are not always in agreement with each other, listening, hearing, and seeing others’ perspectives helps us grow in our relationships with each other and with God. We appreciate everything you do to build up Grace Church!

The PARISH PRAYER LIST

St Luke's: Louise Barton, Johnna Collins, Tom Huntley, Mary Lambert, JoAnn Pritchard

Oak Pointe: Nancy Frerer, Richard Goolsby, Lida McCulloch

Wildwood: Helen Moss, Steven Goodman

Moberly: Eric Adams *OKC:* Kay Graham

Lockwood: Edith Walters *College View:* Carolyn Johnson, Roger & Sherrie Stinnett

Parishioners: Delores Arner, Chesney Family, Gary Cole, Lynette Gass, Marilyn Kelley, Frank Lane, Dale Looney, Rick Olson, Sam Platt, Susan Ross, Karen Rouse, Vincent Wilkowski, Hans Ytell

Current: Sharon Anderson, Jim Bracht, Alyson Brown, Sue Butler, Della Castillo, Heather Dabney, Julie Giblin, Nelle Hoenshell, Jim Huggard, Bob Karraker, Tammy Larimore, John McAfee, Terry Michael, Chelsea Miley, A'Donna Mortimer, Betty Moss, Tony Nail, Gladys Newport, Ginia Oehlschlager, Morgan Schott, Brenda Weir

CONGRATULATION TO

Birth of Mava Palma, parents Jose and Mitzi, Feb 20

ANNIVERSARIES

17 Bill & Melissa Stremke
18 Don & Lynette Gass
19 Mike & Jacque McDonald
27 Will & Maggie Flanigan
29 Dennis & Ginnie (Wallace) Sawyer

NEW ADDRESS

Mike Robertson Jr, 675 County Road 170, Diamond MO 64840

SAINT & FEAST DAYS

MARCH

20 St Joseph, 6 pm

25 The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary, 5 pm

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kirby Newport, Tim Putnam, Sue Friede
- 2 Carolina Martinez
- 3 Mike Robertson, Nancy Dymott
- 4 Cindy Rogers, Loren Erwin, Jory Mertens
- 5 Cheryl Hill 6 Melissa Slates
- 7 Mike McDonald, Brianna Mertens
- 8 Peggy Ralston
- 9 Chase Taylor, Jon Haffner
- 10 Ginnie Wallace, Alyssa Hess, Owen Kester
- 11 Laramie Sweet, Cindy Thompson
- 13 Carolyn Cole, Scott Goade
- 14 Angie Harwell
- 16 Connie Leek, Catherine Marsden, Brooklyn Rhymer 17 Kevin Curtis
- 18 Dana Frazier, Jeanne Goolsby
- 19 Jane Goade
- 20 Jay Thompson, Chanleigh Miles
- 21 Becky Edds, Stephanie Palma, Brisa Figueroa 23 Betty Goodman
- 25 Mariah Marsden 26 Mary Kirby
- 27 Keri Kirby, Samantha Slates, William Tolle 28 Averl Heese
- 29 Bonnie Jones, Anne Maschger
- 30 Daniel Lanham

La Cuaresma: Preparación para el Crecimiento Espiritual.

Siendo una de las prácticas más antiguas de la cristiandad, la tradición de la Cuaresma ha cambiado considerablemente a lo largo de los años, pero su propósito siempre ha sido el mismo: el autoexamen y el arrepentimiento, demostrados en diversas formas de ayuno.

La palabra «cuaresma» proviene de una palabra del latín que quiere decir «cuarentena», y designa los 40 días en los cuales los cristianos se preparan para celebrar la Resurrección de Cristo en el día de Pascua (Semana Santa).

En algunas tradiciones cristianas, el tiempo de Cuaresma comienza con una señal de arrepentimiento: la colocación de cenizas mezcladas con aceite sobre la cabeza o la frente. Este día se conoce como Miércoles de Ceniza.

Sin embargo, para los creyentes es importante recordar que la Cuaresma debe verse a través de la Cruz. Sin importar qué tipo de práctica espiritual realicemos durante este tiempo, debemos tener en mente que si en verdad creemos que Cristo murió en nuestro lugar y ya pagó la deuda por nuestros pecados, entonces Él ya ha ganado el cielo para nosotros.

El tiempo de Cuaresma debe servirnos para analizar nuestro corazón, arrepentirnos de nuestros pecados y alejarnos de ellos. Debemos recordar que las Escrituras dicen que podemos «... acercarnos confiadamente al trono de la gracia» para encontrar ahí «la gracia que nos ayude en el momento que más la necesitemos» (Hebreos 4:16).

Al hacer esto, nos acercaremos a Cristo y buscaremos parecernos más a Él. El objetivo no es simplemente quedarnos en el sentimiento de arrepentimiento y culpa por nuestros pecados, sino dar un paso más, dejar nuestros pecados atrás y por la gracia de Dios, restaurar nuestra relación con nuestro Salvador.

Para los cristianos de los primeros siglos, esta época sagrada que precede a la Pascua solía ser un tiempo de formación para los nuevos discípulos. Sin embargo, la Biblia nos dice que, tanto si se trata de un nuevo creyente como de uno experimentado, todos debemos tomar un tiempo para crecer como discípulos de Cristo.

Segunda de Timoteo 2:20-22 nos da un buen ejemplo de cómo podemos llevar a cabo esta preparación espiritual:

«En una casa grande no solo hay vasos de oro y de plata, sino también de madera y de barro, unos para los usos más nobles y otros para los usos más bajos. Si alguien se mantiene limpio, llegará a ser un vaso noble, santificado, útil para el Señor y preparado para toda obra buena. Huye de las malas pasiones de la juventud, y esmérate en seguir la justicia, la fe, el amor y la paz, junto con los que invocan al Señor con un corazón limpio».

As some of you know I am involved in a relatively young ministry within the life of the Episcopal Church known as the Order of Naucratus. Naucratus was the brother of Macrina the Younger, Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, and Peter of Sebaste. Born around the 330's ad Naucratus was a talented speaker and known for being quite athletic and proficient in just about any endeavor he ventured into. Around the age of 21 Naucratus returned to his family estate to care for his mother and the elderly in the area, being led by divine providence. He became a skilled hunter and lived in the forest next to a flowing river, where he would fish and hunt for those under his care. But Naucratus died young in a hunting accident with a friend while trying to provide food and other resources for those he looked after. Not much else is known of this saint of God but he has given inspiration to some in the Episcopal Church. The Order of Naucratus is a small group as of right now and currently has a presence in the diocese of Texas, West Michigan, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and soon to be West Missouri too. Our ministry is to connect outdoor enthusiasts, particularly hunters and anglers, but not limited to them alone, with the church, and to gain a greater theological understanding of our outdoor activities. We do this by living into a 3-fold rule of life of Prayer, Conservation and Christian Charity. This rule of life is meant to order ourselves towards a greater relationship with God. Depending on the context of where the order finds itself determines its ministry in the community. For instance, in West Michigan the order has established a fishing tournament and partner ministry programs where good, fresh, clean, harvested protein is safely processed and packaged for giving to the hungry via protein food banks/pantries. In Louisiana, we host a feral hog hunt where gather to hunt, fish in the nearby river, enjoy fellowship, prayer, Holy Eucharist, crawfish boils(!) and depending on the time of year there may be the occasional jaunt off the property during downtime to take in some of Baton Rouge' carnival celebrations for Mardi Gras. We process the harvested protein together and evenly distribute it amongst ourselves to share with others wherever we may be headed back to. This year two of Grace Church's parishioners are joining me on this hunt so they can become more familiar with what this ministry is all about! It is our hope that we can return and begin to develop our chapter of the order right here in our neck of the woods. We have a lot of work to do to but when its work you love its all the more worthwhile. If this ministry is something you would be interested in learning more about email me or catch me after Mass sometime and I would LOVE to discuss it more with you.

DATES to REMEMBER

MARCH

Every Friday during LENT Stations of the Cross , English at noon ,
Spanish 7 pm

Every Wednesday during Lent, Jory Mertens will be leading an Adult
Class on the book of Isaiah and the Gospel of Mark, after Eucharist

4 Hispanic Spiritual Retreat 8 am—2 pm

11 Men's Retreat 9 am—3 pm

11 Fun Day at St Luke's 1 pm

12 Even Song 6 pm

14 & 28 Knitters 6 pm

17 Adult Dinner Group—bring potluck. 6 pm

19 Choir for a Day, for more information contact Peter Frost

29 Newsletter Folding Party 3 pm

DINNER CLUB

Adult Dinner Club would like to start with a potluck on Friday evening,
March 17, at 6 pm. All families are invited to attend.

Nursery will be provided.

CHOIR FOR A DAY

If you are interested, please contact Peter Frost for more information.
(417-793-6409) The choir will be singing March 19.

TEA & THEE LADIES

FELLOWSHIP:

Every Wed, 10 am

BIBLE STUDY:

Every Thurs, 11 am

In-person or via Zoom (link sent weekly to email list)

FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP:

Every Thurs, 3 pm

Pull up a chair and make new friends!

MEN of GRACE FELLOWSHIP

1st & 3rd Sat, in March, 9 am

Men of the parish are invited to join in the fellowship and activities.

VESTRY

Tuesday, March 21, 5:30 pm

CAREGIVERS TOGETHER

4th Tuesday, 3 pm

KNITTERS

March 14 & 28, 6 pm

FOLDING NEWSLETTER

Tues, Mar 29, 3 pm

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Begins March 12. Be sure and “Spring Forward” before retiring for the night, Saturday Night.

It is later than you think!

ST LUKE’S EVENT

On February 4th a group from Grace visited residents at St. Luke's Nursing Home. During this visit we all enjoyed chatting and playing bingo. We played several rounds of bingo and helped them as needed. Each resident winner got a lottery ticket, but unfortunately we had no big lotto winners this round. The residents thoroughly enjoyed the company and conversations as well as watching the smaller children play. We are going to set up a monthly visit, with our next one being **March 11th at 1:00 pm**. We usually play bingo during our visits, as it is one of their favorites, but we also can include other activities as well. During our December visit, we played bingo in addition to making Christmas crafts, playing inflatable bowling, and eating cookies. Please join us, all ages, in March to put a smile on a beautiful face, enrich some lives, and have some fun!

MINISTERS of WORSHIP: MARCH

Wed, Mar 1: 6 pm

Reader: Regina Newport

Chalice: Jory Mertens

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

Fri, Mar 3: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Mar 4: 9 am

Sacristan: Debby Orr

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

II LENT

Sun, Mar 5: 8 am

Reader/Chalice/Server: Bill Putnam

Prayers: Shirley Gollhofer

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

10:30 am

OT: Barbara Mountjoy

NT/Chalice: Elaine Wurst

Prayers/Chalice: Mark Sponaugle

Mentor: Shawnda Eley

Server: Tyrese Hill

Cross:

Torches: Lincoln & Barrett Cook

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

AV: Elisa White

Ushers: Austin & Jennifer Rhymer

Wed, Mar 8: 6 pm

Reader/Chalice: Jon Haffner

Sacristan: Debby Orr

Fri, Mar 10: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Mar 11: 9 am

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

III LENT

Sun, Mar 12: 8 am

Reader: Ashley Rouse

Prayers/Chalice: Dean Dankelson

Server:

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

10:30 am

OT: Paige Rhymer

NT/Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Prayers/Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Mentor: Kirby Newport

Cross: Brooklyn Rhymer

Server: Olivia Pierce

Torches: Allie Rhymer & Alana Harris

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

AV: Jennifer Rhymer

Ushers: Max Hill & Steve Erwin

Wed, Mar 15: 6 pm

Reader/Chalice: Jory Mertens

Sacristan: Debby Orr

Fri, Mar 17: 10 am

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

Sat, Mar 18: 9 am

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

5 pm

Reader: Glenda Erwin

Chalice:

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

IV LENT

Sun, Mar 19: 8 am

Reader: Nancy Dymott

Prayers: Jacqui Johnson

Chalice: Dean Dankelson

Server:

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

10:30 am

OT/Chalice: Ruth Hartman

NT: Regina Newport

Prayers/Chalice: Larry Hartman

Mentor: Elisa White

Servers: A J Rhymer

Cross: Connor Wilkowski

Torches: Barrett & Lincoln Cook

Ushers: Chris Orr & Tom Flanigan

Sacristan: Debby Orr

AV: Jim Wakefield

Wed, Mar 22, 6 pm

Reader: AJ Rhymer

Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Sacristan: Debby Orr

Fri, Mar 24, 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Mar 25: 9 am

Sacristan: Debby Orr

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

V LENT Sun, Mar 26: 8 am

Reader: Shirley Gollhofer

Prayers: Ashley Rouse

Chalice/Server: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

10:30 am

OT: Brian Jones

NT/Chalice: Jory Mertens

Prayers/Chalice: Andy Lynch

Mentor: Elaine Wurst

Server: Tristan Lynch

Cross: Trenton Lynch

Torches: Peyton Lynch &

Carson Stremke

Ushers: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Sacristan: Debby Orr

AV: Mike Robertson &

Brooklyn Rhymer

Wed, Mar 29, 6 pm

Reader/Chalice: Jory Mertens

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

Fri, Mar 31, 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

DAILY READINGS in MARCH 2023

Wed, Mar 1: *Deuteronomy 9:13-21, Hebrews 3:12-19, John 2:23—3:15*

Thurs, Mar 2: *Deuteronomy 9:23—10:5, Hebrews 4:1-10, John 3:16-21*

Fri, Mar 3: *Deuteronomy 10:12-22, Hebrews 4:11-16, John 3:22-36*

Sat, Mar 4: *Deuteronomy 11:18-28, Hebrews 5:1-10, John 4:1-26*

II LENT, Sun, Mar 5: *Genesis 12:1-4a, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17*

Mon, Mar 6: *Jeremiah 1:11-19, Romans 1:1-15, John 4:27-42*

Tues, Mar 7: *Jeremiah 2:1-13, Romans 1:16-25, John 4:43-54*

Wed, Mar 8: *Jeremiah 3:6-18, Romans 1:28—2:11, John 5:1-18*

Thurs, Mar 9: *Jeremiah 4:9-10, 19-28, Romans 2:12-24, John 5:19-29*

Fri, Mar 10: *Jeremiah 5:1-9, Romans 2:25—3:18, John 5:30-47*

Sat, Mar 11: *Jeremiah 5:20-31, Romans 3:19-31, John 7:1-13*

III LENT, Sun, Mar 12: *Exodus 17:1-7, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42*

Mon, Mar 13: *Jeremiah 7:1-15, Romans 4:1-12, John 7:14-36*

Tues, Mar 14: *Jeremiah 7:21-34, Romans 4:13-25, John 7:37-52*

Wed, Mar 15: *Jeremiah 8:18—9:6, Romans 5:1-11, John 8:12-20*

Thurs, Mar 16: *Jeremiah 10:11-24, Romans 5:12-21, John 8:21-32*

Fri, Mar 17: *Jeremiah 11:1-8, 14-20, Romans 6:1-11, John 8:33-47*

Sat, Mar 18: *Jeremiah 13:1-11, Romans 6:12-23, John 8:47-59*

IV LENT, Sun, Mar 19: *I Samuel 16:1-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41*

Mon, Mar 20: *II Samuel 7:4, 8-16, Romans 4:13-18, Luke 2:41-52*

Tues, Mar 21: *Jeremiah 17:19-27, Romans 7:13-25, John 6:16-27*

Wed, Mar 22: *Jeremiah 18:1-11, Romans 8:1-11, John 6:27-40*

Thurs, Mar 23: *Jeremiah 22:13-23, Romans 8:12-27, John 6:41-51*

Fri, Mar 24: *Jeremiah 23:1-8, Romans 8:28-39, John 6:52-59*

Sat, Mar 25: *Isaiah 7:10-14, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38*

V LENT, Sun, Mar 26: *Ezekiel 37:1-14, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45*

Mon, Mar 27: *Jeremiah 24:1-10, Romans 9:19-33, John 9:1-17*

Tues, Mar 28: *Jeremiah 25:8-17, Romans 10:1-13, John 9:18-41*

Wed, Mar 29: *Jeremiah 25:30-38, Romans 10:14-21, John 10:1-18*

Thurs, Mar 30: *Jeremiah 26:1-16, Romans 11:1-12, John 10:19-42*

Fri, Mar 31: *Jeremiah 29:1, 4-13, Romans 11:13-24, John 11:1-27*

