

The Call to A Holy Lent

Easter is coming early this year. That means, as of your reading this message, Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent is just a week or two away. So, it's time to start thinking of getting ready for it, and what you will do to truly "observe" it. I found this following article on another Diocesan website, and it has, very succinctly, helped me to focus my own observance. I share it with you now in the hopes that you will also find it helpful for your observance.

Fr. Rick

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. In the Episcopal tradition, our liturgy directly invites us into a holy season of specific practices aimed at helping us reconnect with God in preparation for the celebration of Easter [with this call], "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word."

Ash Wednesday, or the time leading up to Ash Wednesday, provides an appropriate time to explore with people of all ages in your community what it means to "observe a holy Lent." Find out what people have done in the past that helped them feel that they engaged in a "holy Lent." Inquire about the practices they plan to adopt this year.

This is also a great opportunity to provide some specific guidance on the practices suggested by the Book of Common Prayer. What are some practices for self-examination that people might use during Lent? What are some prayer practices that people of different ages could engage in doing Lent? What particular scripture might folks engage with during Lent?

We Are Dust

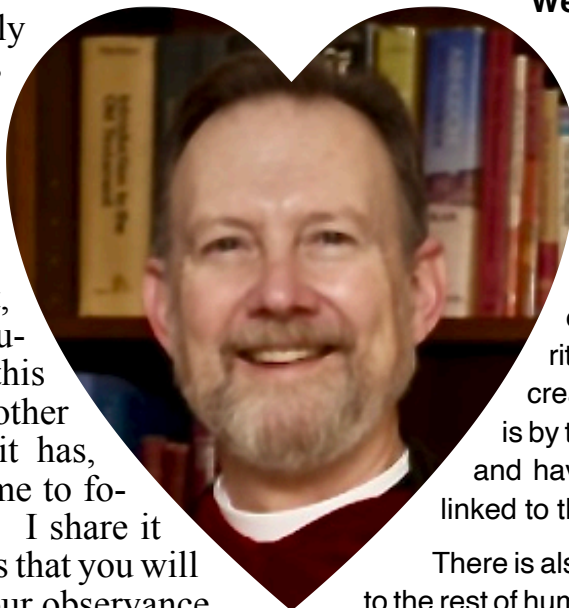
Many Ash Wednesday liturgies provide an opportunity for worshipers to receive the mark of the cross in ashes on their forehead accompanied by the words, "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." There are many layers of meaning within this simple, powerful ritual. There is the call to remember God created us from the earth (Genesis 2:7). It is by the grace of God that we live and move and have our being and we are inextricably linked to the earth from which we were created.

There is also the call to remember our connection to the rest of humanity. We are all made from the same "stuff." We come from dust, and we dwell in skin, bone, blood, and cartilage. And there is the call to remember we will return to the earth from whence we came (Genesis 3:19). Ash Wednesday provides us that rarely comfortable, but certainly important opportunity to sit with our own mortality.

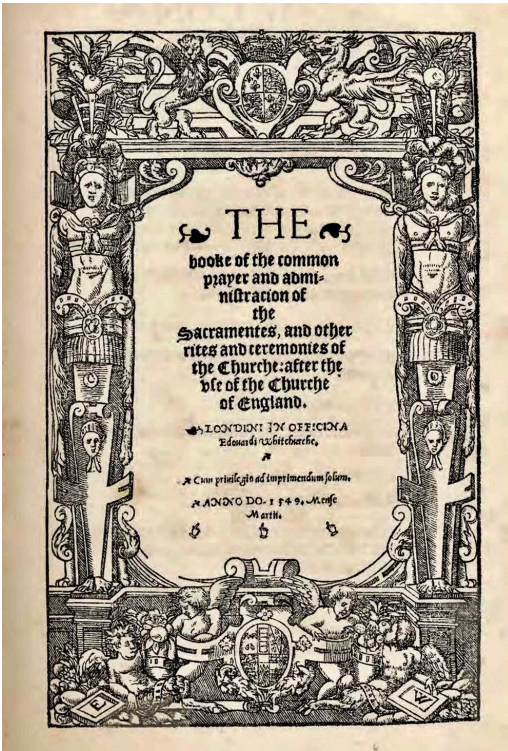
Repentance

Lent is a penitential season in the church, a season with a particular emphasis on repentance. To repent is to both acknowledge that we have not loved God with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves AND to make every effort to do things differently. Repentance is about turning away from behavior that is not in alignment with these two great commandments. Rather than something to check off the to-do list, repentance is a practice.

Being human means we will never be fully without sin, and we will never outgrow the need for God's forgiveness. While repentance is certainly a powerful teaching point around Ash Wednesday, we must not focus so heavily on sin during this season that people forget they are beloved children of God.



The First Book of Common Prayer is Edited



Few people were satisfied at the outset by the first English Prayer Book. Conservative clergies were uneasy with what seemed to them to be innovations, while the radical reformers felt that its services were patterned far too closely along the lines of the traditional services of the Medieval Church. The chief opposition to the Prayer Book came, and continued to come for some years, from those reformers who were most affected by the Protestant influences reaching England from the Continental reformed Churches.

In the midst of violent controversy, Cranmer made some drastic modifications to the 1549 Prayer Book, largely in the direction of extreme simplicity in the services. In the Communion Office in particular, the service was reduced to its bare essentials. All of the ancient Psalms, salutations, and other devotional enrichments were pared away. Intercessions for the dead and other forms of prayer which might lend themselves to any interpretation along the lines of the old religion were omitted. Even the Administration Sentence of the Communion was reduced to Take and eat this in remembrance... for fear that the men who heard the old words The body of our Lord Jesus Christ... might be beguiled into some Romish

superstition. The various prayers of the Communion Office were arbitrarily rearranged so that the service bore little resemblance in shape to the medieval Mass. With these revisions, the second prayer Book was issued in 1552. Time would show, however, that it was no more satisfactory to the extreme reformers than the first Prayer Book of 1549.

The Prayer Book of 1552 was short-lived. Scarcely had it come into use than Edward VI was succeeded by his Roman Catholic sister Mary I. Repealing all the religious acts of her brother's short reign, she returned England to the national Catholicism of Henry VIII. Immediately the old Latin services again came into use. Two years later, Mary took the step she had long hoped for and restored England to outward obedience to the Papacy.



Queen Mary I
luminarium.org



Queen Elizabeth I
britannica.com

When Elizabeth became Queen, the Prayer Book entered upon the final phase of its development. She restored to the Church the Prayer Book of 1552 with some slight modifications, notably the use of both Administration Sentences in the Communion Office. But the close connection between the Prayer Book and the historic services of the Church was still distasteful to those reformers who hoped that Anglicanism would move further in doctrine and practice towards the Protestant Churches on the Continent.

Excerpted from "the Struggle for the Prayer Book," The National Church, 1945



St. John's Chapel, Del Monte & Our Military Connection



David Jones, longtime member of our congregation, is undertaking the daunting task of chronicling the members of St. John's who have served in the military. Our connection to the military goes back even before the US Navy acquired the Del Monte Hotel. David is asking everyone in the congregation to search their memories and provide him with names, photographs in uniform (or partial thereof), any military memorabilia, and any history you might have. He can be reached at davediane1@comcast.net, or you're welcome to chat with him during "coffee hour" after service on Sundays.

And Voices from Our Very Own Members!



LTC Zach Taylor & Family

Merry Christmas!
As we begin our last few months in Lithuania, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for this beautiful country and the time we have had here. We are so sad our tour here is ending, but we look forward to the future!
Zach continues to enjoy the rewarding work as a military attache at the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius. He was promoted to the "Old Man Rank" of Lieutenant Colonel, and was so happy his parents could attend the ceremony. Caroline continued her work with the AISV school board and the International Church of Vilnius. In her spare moments she practices the accordion and serves as a room parent! Henry has continued playing the piano and, in typical 5th grader fashion, enjoys playing video games and football (soccer) with pals. Louisa is our violin playing social butterfly. She attended Suzuki camp this summer and spends every spare moment reading. Thomas is our big boy, going to full-time preschool at AISV, where he has made so many friends. He's our future superhero, and he still radiates joy.

May God's Peace be yours this Christmas season! Sending hugs and love!


Four Chaplains Day



Four Chaplains Day is celebrated on February 3 every year in recognition of four Army chaplains who acted in the spirit of heroic sacrifice and humanitarianism onboard a sinking ship. It was 1943 and the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, packed to capacity. Tragedy struck when a German submarine fired a torpedo at the ship, sinking it and killing the hundreds who were onboard.

The Four Chaplains on board the ship were Reverend George L. Fox a Methodist, Jewish Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Father John P. Washington a Catholic, and Reverend Clark V. Poling from the Dutch Reformed Church. Many witnesses remember their courage, support, and prayers for the many distressed people onboard. They offered their life jackets to four people in need and consequently had to remain on the sinking ship, comforted only by the thought of their actions and the fact that they were going to meet their Maker soon.

St. John's Chapel, Del Monte February 2026 Schedule

Date	Activity	Notes
February 1 Septuagesima	10:00 AM – Morning Prayer 11:00 AM - Birthday Celebration for Eva Richards	Licensed Lay Reader Conducting Parish Hall
February 8 Sexagesima	10:00 AM - Holy Communion 11:30 – Vestry Meeting (following service)	Fr. Rick Miles Presiding Centennial Hall
February 14 Valentines Day		
February 15 Quinquagesima	10:00 AM - Holy Communion	Fr. Rick Miles Presiding
February 17 Shrove Tuesday	5:00 - 6:30 PM – Pancake Supper	Parish Hall; Donation \$5.00, children free
February 18 Ash Wednesday	1:00 PM - Holy Communion Imposition of Ashes	Fr. Rick Miles Presiding
February 22 Lent 1	10:00 AM - Morning Prayer	Licensed Lay Reader Conducting

(NOTE BENE: Schedule subject to change dependent on front office)

Dear Cynthia & the St. John's Chapel Community -
Thank you for your help and generous support for the 28 families in Blessed To Be A Blessing program. With your support, we provided 2 vans full of gifts and over \$5000 in gift cards! Truly an amazing year!

Thank you so much for your help and support! Very much appreciated!

Jeannette Ramirez
St. Mary's - By-The-Sea

A note of thanks for St. John's outreach participation.

Altar Flowers: The Flower Chart is in its usual place in the Parish Hall. Reserve those important dates now. Costs are \$30.00 for regular seasonal flowers, greenery and candles, OR \$40.00 for roses.



Volunteers Needed for All Ministry Areas

We need help in all ministry areas including acolytes, altar guild, lay readers, and ushers. If you're able to assist even one Sunday a month please contact the Church Office at (831) 375-4463

CHRIST BEFORE US



SHARE ABUNDANTLY IN
EVERY GOOD WORK
2 CORINTHIANS 9:9

Annual Giving Campaign - Pledge Card 2026

St. John's Chapel + Del Monte

Our/my gift is \$ _____ per [week | month | year] for an annual total of \$ _____
(circle one)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone(s): _____ E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

☐ I do not wish to receive pledge envelopes. (you will automatically receive pledge envelopes unless you check the box.)

It's Not too Late to Pledge!

Pledge cards (see above) are still being accepted for the 2026 Pledge Year. We need your help! The new St. John's budget will be drafted with pledges as a major source of income. If you need a pledge card, there are extra cards on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. You may also email or call the church office to have one sent to you. The Vestry appreciates your continued support as we begin our 135th year. It's not too late to pledge!

St John's Chapel Current Financial Encapsulation 2025 Year to Date¹

Income	\$ 221,716.00
Expenses	\$ 223,130.00
Bottom Line (+/-)	\$ -1,414.00

¹ as of Sunday 20DEC25

Prayer Lists Reset

It's time to do a reset of the lists of people for whom we pray. We will purge these lists and begin anew on Sunday, January 4, 2026. If you have names of people you'd like to add to the prayer list, please email or call the office.

stjohnschapel@redshift.com

(831) 375-4463

For all names added, please give us your contact information (as requester) and expect a monthly call or email for an update on the status of your requests. This will help us to manage the lists and help us all to pray better.

We'll be celebrating St. John's 135th Anniversary on June 14, 2026, with several special observances. To help fund the event, Elizabeth Barratt is offering for sale this set of 8 luncheon/dessert plates from the historic Hotel Del Monte. Although priced at \$120 per plate, she is offering them to St. John's members at \$100 each for 7 plates in pristine condition, one for \$75 with a small chip not visible on the top; or \$775 for the set. These Syracuse China Co. plates date to the 1930s. If you are interested, please email Elizabeth at HRHANDQE3@gmail.com or call 831-241-6927.



Can You Help St. John's Cut Expenses?

Dear Parishioners,

We are always in need of extra toilet paper and paper towel supplies. If you're shopping at COSTCO or another big box store, would you please pick up a packet of these items and bring them to church on Sunday? These small donations really add up in helping the Chapel defray extra expenses. Thanks so much for your help!

BENEFIT SHOP

THE BENEFIT SHOP ACCEPTS

Clean, gently used clothing
Clean, working small appliances
Clean Kitchen items
Chinaware, Glassware
CDs and DVDs
Knick knacks and bric-a-brac
Small furniture items in good condition
Art and Art objects
Holiday items
Jewelry

WE CAN NOT ACCEPT

ELECTRONICS: such as MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, PRINTERS, COPIERS, LAPTOPS, CELL PHONES, TELEVISIONS, OR COMPUTERS.

Soiled or worn-out clothing or shoes
Cassettes or VHS videos
Non-working small appliances
Broken, chipped, or cracked items
Worn kitchen ware
Broken jewelry or watches

Please Note: We do not have the woman-power to dispose of unsaleable items. Please do not leave items at the gate, it is unlawful.



And, of course - Our **annual meeting** on January 18th, 2026. As was to be expected there was great food and camaraderie to be had - along with the business, of course

Editorial Policy

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