

MAGNA CARTA

SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA
Volume I, March 2016

St. Edmund's parish

is part of the global
Anglican Communion
The Most Reverend and Right
Honorable Justin Portal Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

+

The Episcopal Church in the United States

The Most Reverend
Michael Curry
Primate and Presiding Bishop

+

The Diocese of Los Angeles

The Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno
Bishop Diocesan
The Right Reverend Diane Jardine
Bruce
Bishop Suffragan
The Right Reverend Mary Glasspool
Bishop Suffragan

+

Saint Edmund's Church

The Reverend Canon George F.
Woodward III
Rector
The Reverend Canon Colville Smythe
Assisting
The Reverend Canon Judy Heffron
Assisting
Brother Michael Jones, AOHC;
Spiritual Direction

+

The Vestry

Mrs. Sylvia Smythe, Senior Warden
Mr. Jose Guerrero, Junior Warden
Mrs. Amy Hulick, Clerk

Class of '16

Jim Balbin
Jose Guerrero
John Miller
Sylvia Smythe

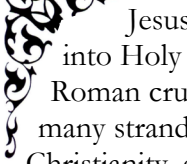
Class of '17

Amy Hulick
Danny Jones
Bob Mueller
Brad Thurlow

Class of '18

Nancy Dini
Michael Harrigan
Stephen Rolfe
Robert Wycoff

From the Rector



Jesus was a Jew. Keep this firmly in mind as we move through Lent and into Holy Week. Jesus was born a Jew, lived as an observant Jew, and died a Roman crucifixion because he was a troublesome Jew. There were at least as many strands of 1st Century Judaism as there are varieties of 21st Century Christianity, and they got along with one other no better. Some Jews were pietistic, and some were revolutionary. Some strands of 1st Century Judaism were as eager to accommodate powerful political interests as contemporary American political figures are eager to court particular strands of Christian expression. Jesus didn't please any of the religious powerhouses of his day.

The last of the Gospels to be written was the Gospel attributed to St. John around 90 A.D. By that time, the followers of the Messiah Jesus and the followers of other strands of Judaism had grown hostile toward one another, and not without reason. The Temple had been destroyed by a Roman onslaught after a zealous rebellion against Roman oppression in Jerusalem in May of 70 A.D. and the sight had not been pretty. Tacitus says the Jewish resistance during the rebellion in Jerusalem numbered 600,000 and Josephus sets the figure at one million. Under Vespasian, conqueror of Britain, Galilee was invaded, and then Jerusalem, where resisting Jews, viewed as Americans might view the Taliban, were massacred with relentless efficiency.

Followers of Rabbi Jesus were not Zealots, tended toward non-violent subversion, and joined the larger Jewish Diaspora, dispersing through the Empire rather than remaining in solidarity with the staunch defenders of Jerusalem. Through this lens one can better understand the animosity between the early Johannine Christian strand of Judaism, with their inclusive welcome of Gentiles and commitment to Jesus as the Christ, and the Jewish purists offended by their flight from the last stand (or one of them) in Jerusalem against the Roman occupation.

These nuances were not always clear as the Christian Church developed an entirely Gentile identity and came to dominate social and political structures throughout the Eastern Byzantine Empire and the Western Roman Empire.

And so to the troublesome passages in St. John's Gospel developed and are read devoid of helpful social context. These become especially unsettling in the Good Friday Passion Narrative, traditionally read as a drama during Good Friday services. "*Pilate said to them, "Here is the man (Jesus)!" When the chief priests saw him they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him: I find no case against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he claimed to be the Son of God."*" (St. John 19: 6-7). This passage, among others in John's Gospel and elsewhere, fostered overt anti-Semitism among the now Gentile Church through the centuries, and led to

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suspicion, oppression, pogroms, and apartheid ghettoization of Jews at the hands of majority Christian populations.

The otherwise much vaunted Reformer Martin Luther wrote “my advice is, first, that their synagogues be burned down, and that all who are able toss sulphur and pitch. It would be good that all their books—their prayer books, their Talmudic writings, be taken from them, not leaving them one leaf.” It does not take much of a stretch to perceive how these views inspired the pagan Nazis toward their 20th Century systematic genocide of 6 million Jews.

Christians have been complicit in oppression and genocide. This seems a human tendency. Contemporary Jews are under-performing in their treatment of Palestinians, having not learned sufficiently from their own group experience, oppressing minority Arab Christian (many Anglicans among them) and Muslim Palestinians alike. Muslims oppress Christians systematically in Pakistan and in about every other place in which Muslims dominate, and Hindus persecute both Christians and Muslims in India. Non-theists are perhaps less restrained, with the worst genocides of the 20th century occurring under officially Communist regimes in the Soviet Union, China, and Cambodia. The tendency to objectify and eliminate “the other” is not specific to religion, but is an endemic human characteristic.

Useful Christianity strives to mitigate this human tendency, perhaps most immediately, for Americans, in the unhelpful objectification of all Muslims under the black flag of the worst and most vile expressions of Islam. This can only be helpfully achieved if we recognize that there have also been (and continue to be) vile expression of Christianity. The best restraint of bad religion is good religion, and good religion is the only buffer against the worst tendencies of non-theism. If we are not rigorous, our sacred texts can still be heard as an endorsement of anti-Semitism. If we are clear in how we interpret Christian sacred texts, we are able to offer a powerful antidote to hate among a species for which hate is the default set-point.

You may note, during public reading of Christian Scripture in Holy Week and on other occasions, that I alter some wording in order to make perfectly clear our rejection of anti-Semitic interpretations. God understands my intent, and you must also.

GFW+

HEALING HEARTS ACROSS BORDERS

The February trip was again a huge success. Adding to the success was the four bags of Sweaters, jackets, little girl outfits and the cash donation we received from St Edmunds and the National Charity League MSA. Big thank you to Jim Longhorne, Billy Youngblood and Laureen Chang.

Between now and May, when the next medical team goes to Tijuana, we are in a very desperate need of dental supplies.

Ask your dentist for donations, pick up supplies at the 99 cent or Dollar tree stores. You have no idea how much they are appreciated by the dentist or two who are there seeing 600 sets of teeth and needing supplies for the clients to take home. Mother's day May 8 is last date for these donations.

Call Pam or Anne for pickups if needed. Thanks so much. - *Pam Risinger*



THE NOVEL PACK BOOK GROUP

The Novel Pack book group continues to meet monthly (first Tuesdays, except for April) in member's homes, enjoying good reads, lively book discussion and delicious fare. Feel free to join us for one time, or on an on-going basis! Here is our spring schedule—the June hostess TBA:

April 12 (NOTE—2ND TUESDAY), *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie: A Flavia de Luce Mystery*, by Alan Bradley. Pam Payne hostess; Susan Jackson, discussion leader.

May 3, *Boys in the Boat*, by Daniel James Brown. Debra hostess; Lisa discussion leader.

June 7, *The Orphan Train* by Christine Baker Kline. Hostess? Anne, discussion leader.

Contact Sylvia Smythe, 626-791-3111 or cssmythe@charter.net for more information.



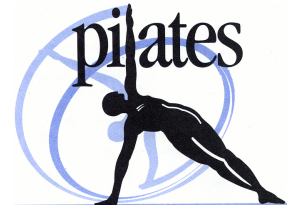
PILATES AT ST. EDMUND'S IS BACK

Pilates is a system of exercises designed to improve physical strength, flexibility, and posture, and enhance mental awareness. Tori Mordecai, a Body Arts and Science International (BASI) trained Pilates instructor with over 14 years of practical experience, will be teaching a mat class in the St. Edmund's Fellowship Hall each Tues. from 1:15-2:15 PM.

Wear comfortable clothing you would wear for yoga, plan on bare feet or slip-

proof socks and BRING YOUR OWN MAT. Class time will be confirmed each Monday on Tori's Facebook page.

If you are not on Facebook, please check with the church office. You should check with your doctor prior to beginning this class. Please be prepared to sign a waiver and release of liability form prior to beginning your first class. A suggested donation of \$5-10 per person, per class will go directly to St. Edmund's Church.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men of the parish meet for conversation, Bible study and a home-cooked (with love) breakfast on the second Tuesday of each month.

Our upcoming breakfast date is 6:30am Tuesday, March 8. Hal and Marguerite

Hennacy host us in their home: 3531 San Pasqual, about a mile east of San Gabriel Blvd, in Pasadena.

To assure your place at the table, RSVP the Hennacys: 792-1882. Bring your Bible!



LENT AT ST. EDMUND'S



EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS

The Altar Guild invites you to remember beloved friends and relatives with an Easter Memorial or Thanksgiving. In keeping with Easter tradition, the Chapel and Church will be filled with Easter lilies and spring flowers to celebrate the risen Lord. Please complete

the Easter Memorial envelope found in the pews or in the Church Narthex and enclose your donation. Your envelope can be deposited in the collection dishes any Sunday or mailed to the Church office no later than March 21st. Thank you for your support.



PALM SUNDAY CROSSES Please join the Altar Guild for the making of Palm Crosses on Saturday, March 19th, at 10:00 a.m., in Fellows Hall. This annual event is a wonderful way to prepare for Holy Week and Easter Sunday, as well as to enjoy St. Edmund's fellow-

ship. We could really use your help! Folding palms into crosses is not hard. All you need is a pair of scissors. Instruction and refreshments will be provided. Please let us know if you will be, or are interested in joining us by e-mailing Isabel (isabelroa@aol.com).



PALM SUNDAY NOISEMAKERS! Please bring bells, maracas, percussion instruments or whatever you have at hand to Church on Palm Sunday,

March 20th, at 10 a.m. so that we may make a joyful noise unto the Lord in our procession around the Church!



VOLUNTEERS FOR HOLY WEEK Volunteers are needed for the following services:

- Maundy Thursday: Twelve people needed for the washing of the feet on Thursday, March 24th at 6 p.m. in the Chapel.

- Good Friday, March 25th: Eight Passion Narrative Readers needed per service, 12 Noon and 6 p.m. in the Chapel.

Please sign up in the Narthex or e-mail Isabel (isabelroa@aol.com) if you are interested.



EASTER EGG HUNT Easter Sunday is right around the corner (March 27th) and we need filled plastic eggs for the Easter egg hunt.

Please let Heather Blackstone, (saintedmundsyouth@gmail.com), know if you could bring a dozen or more filled eggs.

WE LOVE OUR VISITORS



The parish Welcome Committee asks your help. When you encounter a visitor on Sunday---whether it be before, during or after church--introduce yourself and welcome them, then pass their name and any other information on to a Welcomer, or to the clergy. Visitors who make one personal connection when they take the plunge to try a new church...are much more likely to come back!

At the 10:00am service, St. Edmund's Welcomers are Laureen Chang, Linda Chang, Wendy Greenleaf, Veronica Guerrero, Jose Guerrero, Susan Heard, Susan Liu, Mike Mathis, John Miller and Cynthia Schulte. Thank you for helping us welcome our visitors.

Fr. Colville Smythe



NEWS FROM SAINT EDMUND'S NURSERY SCHOOL

St. Edmund's Nursery School's Open House will be on Tuesday, March 15th beginning at 5:30pm. All families are welcome to stop by and view our school and see the wonderful things our students have been working on.

Our annual Parent Party Benefit Fund-raiser will be held on campus, Friday, April 29th beginning at 6:30pm. Please help us celebrate "Draft Day."

With family and community support we will continue to make St. Edmund's Nursery School a leader in Christian pre-school education.

Please inquire at the school if you are interested in receiving an invitation for this event. We would certainly love to have you.



ENGLAND PILGRIMAGE THIS JUNE

St. Edmund's exciting pilgrimage to England is now fully subscribed with 22 travelers. However, I am keeping a waiting list of others who would like to go! Sometimes people have to change plans, so space may open up.

Please let me know if you would like me to put you on the wait list: cssmythe@charter.net , or 791-3111. Tell me if you would like to receive the itinerary and prospectus. (It's a great read!). *Fr. Colville Smythe*



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday, March 20th

8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

The Blessing of Palms and Holy Eucharist. 10:00 a.m. in the Church

The Blessing of Palms and Procession, Choral Holy Eucharist.

Bring Noisemakers!

(Child care provided at the 10 a.m. service)

Maundy Thursday, March 24th

6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Washing of Feet & Institution of the Eucharist

Good Friday, March 25th

Noon in the Chapel

6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

The Solemn Collects and Veneration of the Cross with Sermon.

Great Vigil, March 26th

7 p.m. in in the Chapel

Kindling of he Pascal Fire and First Mass of Easter

The Feast of the Resurrection, Sunday, March 27

7:30 a.m. in the Chapel:

The Feast of the Resurrection and Festal Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. in the Church:

The Feast of the Resurrection and Festal Holy Eucharist.

(Dove Release and Easter Egg hunt to follow on the Close)

(Child care provided at 10 a.m., no Sunday School)

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Preparations for the Easter Sunday Festival Eucharist are underway featuring the Choir of St. Edmund's, several guests from the Los Angeles Opera, and Trumpeter James Wilt of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. We will feature the music of John Stanley, Dan Forrest, Healy Willan, and Henry Purcell. The St. Edmund's Bell Choir, under the direction of Sylvia Smythe will be playing at the 10AM service. They will also be playing on Sunday May 22, so mark your calendar.

For those of you who are pipe organ enthusiasts, on November 21 from 1:30-4:30, St. Edmund's hosted the American Guild of Organists for a Master Class with world renowned organist Frederic Blanc. It was a huge success, and the renowned St. Edmund's Organ once again impressed people from around the globe!

More news for the pipe organ enthusiasts, the recitals for the Spring Organ Recital Series have been announced. Ned Tipton, Canon Director of Music for St. John's Cathedral, the mother church of our diocese, will give a long awaited recital on St. Edmund's Famous Organ. Also joining us this season is the fabulous Jaebon Hwang, principal Organist at Westwood United Methodist Church, and USC Alumna.

April 17, 2016 at 4:00 PM –
Robert Hovencamp

May 1, 2016 at 4:00 PM – Ned Tipton

May 8, 2016 at 4:00 PM – Jaebon Hwang

*Robert Hovencamp,
Organist/Choirmaster*



BELL CHOIR

To honor St. Edmund's 75th Anniversary, the Bell Choir has added performance dates: In addition to Easter Sunday March 27, and Christmas Eve, we will play in church on May 22 and on the

Feast of St. Edmund's, November 20. Thanks to a gift from ringer Bob Packer we now have three octaves of the hauntingly beautiful choir chimes in addition to our four-octave set of handbells. Enjoy!



SNAP SHOTS OF ST. EDMUND'S



Songs by Heart Concert held at St. Edmund's on February 14th.



St. Edmund's Annual Meeting.

FROM HEATHER BLACKSTONE . . .



Following the Annual Meeting in January, I was asked to write a little bit about some of the projects I have been working on these past few months. There is still a lot of exciting events to plan so included are some of the things I am hoping to accomplish in the upcoming year.

Sunday school

As our Sunday school is on the smaller side, we decided to make things easier for the teachers by having all of the students gather in the Parish Hall at 10 am where we do a quick game as people trickle in, followed by an introduction to the lectionary passage. Students then break into their regular classes where they have discussion, craft and snack. At 11 am we all return to the Parish Hall for a closing prayer practice. We have found the students like having time to interact with each other and helps break up the time in the classroom. It also allows for me to really indulge in teaching the passage for the day. I try to include as much biblical, historical and cultural background as possible and hope in the future to include more props and other teaching implements to fill the story out more fully.

Youth Group

As many of the high school students are busy acolyting, doing sound or teaching on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings are their time for study, prayer and hanging out. This year we have been looking at issues of race, identity and stereotypes using excerpts from Ta Nehisi Coates book “Between the World and Me” and a series that ran on MTV called “White People”. For the remainder of Lent we will be using Adam Hamilton’s curriculum “Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White”. In addition to the programs offered on Sunday evenings, I have organized several events for all of the various age groups in our Sunday school and youth program. We have seen movies at the El Capitan, gone to musicals at the Music Center and the Pantages as well as attended concerts. I am

hoping with the warmer weather to add beach trips, rock climbing and perhaps a weekend retreat.

Nursery School

While the majority of focus is on our youth, I really want to strengthen the connection between the church and the Nursery School. Therefore I have joined the SENS board, volunteered at the Fall Festival and attended the Halloween carnival, Pow Wows and Christmas Plays. Every day I read to a different class during pick up. I also have been creating age appropriate handouts for the various religious holidays so students are able to learn a bit more about our faith.

I continue to produce the weekly “Faith Builders” publication, begun by my predecessors. This includes all updates on all youth events and is available to everyone. If you would like to be included on my mailing list, please email me your address at saintedmundsyouth@gmail.com

-Upcoming Events-

March 8—Quaff & Query

6:30 pm | Congregation Ale House

March 13

2nd Sunday Children Lead Worship
Cassandra Kirby’s Last Day as Sunday School Director

March 20—High School trip to see “Once”: 1 pm | Pantages Theater

April 10

2nd Sunday Children Lead Worship

April 12—Quaff & Query

6:30 pm | Congregation Ale House

April 23—Passover Seder

5pm | Fellows Hall

May 8

2nd Sunday Children Lead Worship
Mother’s Day Celebration

RECTOR'S CROSS



DEBRA SPAULDING

Debra Spaulding arrived with her family to St. Edmund's in 2003 and she has been integral to parish efforts since crossing the Narthex threshold.

She prefers to work quietly and is unlikely to be entirely happy about this acknowledgment, but work she does, in the kitchen, on youth committees, and in parish boardrooms.

Debra's devotion is well-understood on the Altar Guild where she has served since 2009 as the Captain of Team One, often at the helm for the major Christmas and Easter endeavors, with a talent for floral design beside which even creations by Jacob Maarse pale.

Debra extends friendship and concern to her Altar Guild co-laborers and offers caring leadership and cohesive team spirit. During Altar Guild Director Diane McCracken's recent sabbatical, it was Debra who stepped in and took the helm with grace and ability, though sometimes Episcopalian mystogogia eluded her. "Father George, I can never remember the word...what do you call that gold water-shaky thing?" ("An Aspergillum," the Rector responds!)

Debra has been a diligent partner in all parish fundraisers, and served as Chair for the very successful autumn event at the Old Mill this past September 26th, even pressing Zach into hard labor, and Brian too, fresh off the plane from China! Her remarkable poise, attention to detail, perseverance, and follow-through all shone and made this Rector's heart proud.

As we have worked to deepen our ties with our parish nursery school and diminish the impression of two institutions sharing space, Debra stepped into the gap and has for some years acted as our Vestry liaison to the Nursery School board of councilors. The nursery school board meetings are monthly, begin with dinner, and often run late. Debra has gained the trust and respect of the hard-working women of the board of councilors, who are not, in the main, parishioners of St. Edmund's.

Debra's work with the school has given strength and impetus to our efforts, and allowed to press forward in the creation of a greater sense of shared solidarity and direction. Debra recently joined the Executive Com-

mittee ably led by Nancy Adams, and comprised of school and parish representatives who act as a governing and advisory body for school-church issues, bridging the board of councilors and the parish Vestry.

A leading member of the parish Good Works Partnership Committee Debra has taken active part in the formation of parish social-action. She was a leading member of the Imagine LA Team which, over the course of the last 18 months, has helped a mother and daughter family transition from homelessness to independent living.

Debra acted as mentor to Rayan, our Imagine LA mother, providing financial and budgeting guidance. She established a strong rapport with both Rayan and her daughter with equal measure of respect and healthy support as they navigated extremely challenging life situations, and, in large part because of the work of Debra and the Imagine LA Team, did so successfully. This relationship continues after formal completion of the Imagine LA program.

Debra has signed on as St. Edmund's Parish partners with Episcopal Migration Ministries and Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service to accompany an immigrant family as they resettle here in Los Angeles.

Debra, I would be pleased if you would come forward to receive the 2016 Rector's Cross.

GAIL ROLFE

Gail Rolfe, husband Steve and son Nate arrived at St. Edmund's from another local Episcopal Church. There was some initial skepticism over an Episcopal Parish in San Marino. Would this just be a country-club annex? But they had heard good things about our youth program. Nate, now off at Haverford, bonded with then youth director Josh Keaney during a difficult baseball season, and Nate probably led the way to parish affiliation. But as the commercial ad from 1971 said: "Try it, you'll like it!" and the Rolfe Family conversion has been fulsome and complete.

Gail's career was in banking and she worked and lived in Mexico City. Spanish language has been a passion of hers since high-school days with a host-family in Managua, Nicaragua, so I thought Gail would be a natural for the Diocesan Foundation Cristosal group. Gail

joined together with parishioners Brian Tyler and Ren and Jim Fakonas and our cohorts around LA, meeting regularly over pupusas to further the work of Foundation Cristosal in this area.

Gail was later invited to join the international board of Foundation Cristosal for which I serve as Vice President. This commitment involves an annual February trip to El Salvador, where we will be flying next Tuesday as a matter of fact. On one of those trips the taxi driver from the airport to San Salvador mistook Gail and I for a married couple, and Gail informed him in perfect Spanish that her actual husband was back in California and much better looking. Steve has been a very good sport about her travels through the peaceful by-ways of El Salvador.

Once a banker always a banker, and Gail's abilities to read, interpret and manage spreadsheets and all things fiscal was seized on by the board of Foundation Cristosal, for whom she has performed yeoman's service. She has assisted Cristosal in our evolution into the "go to" human rights organization in El Salvador on issues of forced displacement, and as a bright star among NGOs focused on Central American.

Gail's fiscal acumen has landed her in key roles at St. Edmund's. Elected to Vestry in 2013, Gail has provided accounting assistance to the parish bookkeeper and has greatly improved our reporting and tracking instruments. Our auditor is very pleased, as is the Vestry. As her Vestry term concludes, Gail has agreed to present Financial Reports to the Vestry each month and offer guidance forward, and you will hear from her later this morning. She has collaborated with Peter Brockett in Vestry relations, and as we have worked with our nursery school to develop new accounting

procedures, clear reporting structures, and appropriate investment of funds; a time-intensive labor.

Gail has taken the lead in obtaining the loan to accomplish the Rectory renovation, and spent at least two sleepless weeks preparing the financial information required by the Diocese, appearing before the Corporation of the Diocese together with Alan Steinbrecher and myself January 19th in a successful presentation of parish goals and methods of achieving our aims.

There are things Gail prefers to working with spreadsheets! She has been a leading member of our Good Works Partnership Committee in addition to her efforts with Foundation Cristosal, participating in Service Sundays and all other efforts, and serving on the Imagine LA Team which helped Rayan and her daughter transition from homelessness to independent living. She is, as with Debra Spaulding, now involved in the parish team led by Mel Keaney and working with IRIS in the sponsorship of an immigrant family through St. Edmund's.

In 2013 Gail joined in spearheading the Martín Chalifour Recital and Reception, and has assisted in efforts with Laureen Chang returning Mr. Chalifour to our Nave this coming May 15th, an anchor event celebrating our 75th anniversary year.

Gail served under Sylvia Smythe's leadership on the Discernment Committee selecting our new parish youth director, ending in the successful call of the Reverend Heather Blackstone last summer.

I would be pleased, Gail, if you would come forward to receive the 2016 Rector's Cross.



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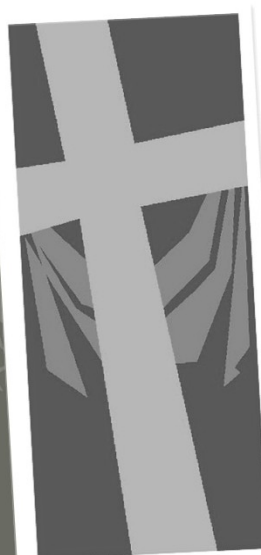
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of preparation leading up to Easter. It is the forty days plus the six Sundays before Easter. For centuries, it has been observed as a special time of self examination and penitence. Lent is a time for concentration on fundamental values and priorities, and is not a time for self punishment. Sundays during Lent are celebrations of Jesus' resurrection and are always an appropriate day to lessen the restrictions of Lent. Lent is also an especially appropriate time for the sacrament of Confession. While confession to a priest is not required to receive God's forgiveness, it can be a meaningful rite of reconciliation to God and neighbor.

Observing Lent

The custom is to mark the season of Lent by giving up some things and taking on others. Both can serve to mark the season as a holy time of preparation. Some examples of things people give up for Lent include sweets, meat for all or some meals, and alcohol. This can be made more meaningful by using the money or time for another purpose. For example donate money saved to the Episcopal Relief and Development Nets for Life campaign or meal times on fast days could be spent in prayer. Some things added during Lent are participating in the Making Faith Lenten class and daily devotional or meditation.



Lent