

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

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MARCH 2016

LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

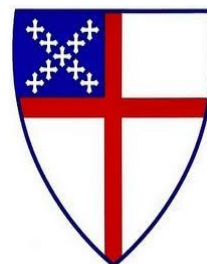
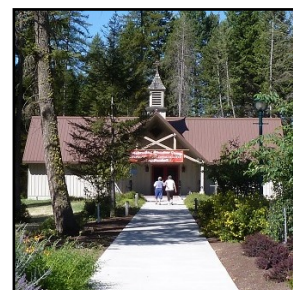
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The ways of the world are such that we sometimes get ahead of ourselves. A month and a half or so ago (as I write this) we received word from one of our church supply companies that we needed to get in to them our order for palms because if we didn't we might not get our ashes for Ash Wednesday on time. Just this morning, the newspaper emailed me and asked us to renew our Easter ad. (The vestry decided not to run an ad in the paper this year and to focus on spreading the word through social media. According to the research, that is how people find out about what we are doing.) And, of course, that great barometer of when we should be getting ready for any big day, Walgreen's, the next morning after Valentine's Day, was putting out Easter Candy. In short, if we are merely awake, we know well in advance that March 27th of this year will bring us news of an empty tomb. As a matter of fact, when I ordered my liturgical calendar back in October, there the date was, imprinted with all the confidence in the world.

Related to that, all of us read the Bible backwards. We know how the story ends and then begins again with the birth of the Church and the actions of the disciples who now know faith quite differently than they did prior to the resurrection. And so somber as Holy Week will be, beginning with Palm Sunday and going through Good Friday...up to the beginning of the Easter Vigil on Saturday, we still get ahead of ourselves and well in advance of the day, get the seersucker sports jacket pressed and buy the Cadbury Chocolate Easter Eggs for the basket. As one of the insurance ads on TV says, "This is what you do."

So if, in fact, Easter is coming, why go through Holy Week? Why not skip the depressing stuff and move on to that which is filled with joy? And the answer, or at least one of the answers is, quite simply, that if we do not appreciate the depth of Christ's love as was seen in the whole of the Passion, then it becomes hard to really appreciate the Easter event. If, in fact, we don't rehearse the awfulness of the days in which he faced power and ultimately crucifixion, then it is very hard to see what was redeemed in total. Jesus just did not pull us out of having a bad day but rather made possible the release from the power of sin and the sting of death. And to really, really appreciate that, it is helpful and useful to hear the story again, in all its suffering as well as its glory.

Elsewhere in this e-letter you will find descriptions of the various services we



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RECTOR'S LETTER (CONT'D)

will have during Holy Week and I hope you will mark them down on your calendar and attend as many as you are able. I am confident that it will help you see the glory of God more clearly.

I wish for you a very blessed Holy Week and a happy Easter. It will be a privilege to be with you as we share in this pilgrimage.

Faithfully yours,

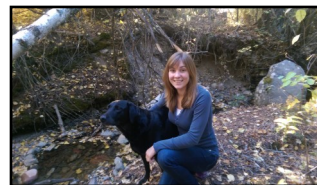
Bradley

REMINDERS

Don't forget that Lent Madness continues on **March 2nd, 9th, and 16th**. Supper is served starting at 5:30 and the discussion of the saints begins at 6:00 and winds up around 6:45. It's never too late to get in on the fun!

On February 14th, we were fortunate to have Kiera Lake speak to us on her life and how the Flathead Youth Home helped her become the successful young woman she is today. This Lenten period, we are supporting The Flathead Youth Home by contributing the cost of their meals for the 40 days of Lent.

If you weren't fortunate enough to be with us on that Sunday Kiera spoke to us, you can find her talk on our webpage or on our YouTube page in the videos of the February 14th sermon. The web addresses for the two sites are on the last page of the e-letter in the church information section.



CHILI OPEN

For the ninth year in a row, the most celebrated winter golf tournament in Montana will take place on the church grounds Saturday, March 12th, 2016. Join us for this wonderful snow golf tournament that raises much needed funds for The Flathead County Animal Shelter, The Flathead Spay and Neuter Task Force, The Humane Society of Northwest Montana, and Spay Montana - Browning.

"Green Fees" which include golf and lunch are \$20 per person with the entirety of what is raised being donated to help the most vulnerable of God's creation, dogs and cats who are homeless and abused. A Friday night pre-tournament fund-raising party (see below) has a suggested donation of \$20. Again this year, holes in one can be purchased for \$50 each. (In the event of severely inclement weather, golfers will be notified that the event will be postponed to the following week.)

The pre-tournament party on Friday, March 11th, will be beginning at 7:00 pm. It is an evening of wine/ soft drink/and appetizers and will be held at the Pomerantz home at 342 Plantation Drive, north of Kalispell off Whitefish Stage Road.

The flyer for the Chili Open is on the following page.



9th Annual Chili Open

A golf tournament in the snow to benefit vulnerable dogs and cats in Northwest Montana.



WHAT: A golf tournament in the snow, silent auction, and pre-event party

WHY: A fundraiser for local animal welfare organizations

WHEN: Saturday, March 12, 2016 with tee off times of 10:30 or 12:45
lunch served between tee offs (12 noon) with silent auction during lunch
(Kick off party - 7 pm Friday, March 11, 2016)

WHERE: All Saints' Episcopal Church - 2048 Conn Road, Columbia Falls
(Kick off party - 342 Plantation Drive, Kalispell)

WHO: Anyone who loves animals and wants to help support them

HOW: register (or for more information) email allsaintsmt@gmail.com
or call 406-291-3613

Your \$20 "greens fee" gets you 9 holes of snow golf, lunch donated by Famous Dave's, Loula's, and Tupelo Grille. During lunch a silent auction will be held and the entirety of all money raised goes to support The Flathead County Animal Shelter, The Spay and Neuter Task Force, The Humane Society of Northwest Montana, and Spay Montana - Browning. There is a suggested donation of \$20 for the kick off party on Friday night.

HOLY WEEK THROUGH EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, March 24

The Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar

Noon and 7:00 p.m. at All Saints'

Maundy Thursday focuses on two great moments in the life of the church, the first being the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the second being the giving of the new commandment that we love one another. (The service gets its name from the Latin, *mandatum novum*, meaning "new commandment.") At both services, which date back to the 4th century, we will observe the commemoration of this Lord's Supper and, at the evening service, we will strip and wash the altar and then remove the consecrated bread to the Altar of Repose. There is a tradition that people observe a vigil at that altar. Some churches carry the vigil all throughout the night. At All Saints' we will have time for people to remain for a while, if they would like, for silent prayer and meditation. It is a lovely service that centers around one of the two great sacraments of the church.

Good Friday, March 25

The Good Friday Liturgy

Noon and 6:00 p.m. at All Saints'

3:00 p.m. at The Springs in Whitefish

Good Friday centers on the Passion as recorded in the Gospel according to John and the Solemn Collects. We will have communion from reserve sacrament. We distribute the consecrated bread from that remaining from the Maundy Thursday service of the night before as Good Friday is the only day in the year in which the Holy Eucharist is not celebrated. While the service is indeed solemn, it is not grim. Instead it reminds us of the depth of the love of Christ and how he still lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Good Friday does much to make Easter full.

Good Friday, March 25

The Stations of the Cross

5:30 p.m. at the path next to the church

The Stations of the Cross mirror the last hours of the life of Jesus, from his being condemned to die on the cross, which took place outside the home of Pilate, to his entombment at a place upon which the Church of the Holy Sepulcher stands in Jerusalem. The practice probably began in Jerusalem to help pilgrims remember not just the actual walk of Christ but also spirituality and the story behind it. And then in the Middle Ages, it found its way into a service that was practiced all over Christendom. At All Saints' we wind our way on our path through the woods, stopping at 14 "stations" for a very brief meditation and prayer. The walk takes about 20 - 25 minutes and then we enter the church for the Good Friday Liturgy and Communion from Reserve Sacrament.



EASTER SERVICES (cont'd)**Easter Eve, Saturday Evening, March 26****The Great Vigil of Easter, Baptism and the Reaffirmation of our Baptismal Vows, and the****First Eucharist of Easter, 7:00 p.m. at All Saints'**

This service is one of the most ancient services observed in the Christian Church. Accounts of it go back to the middle of the second century and what we do here at All Saints' on Saturday evening would look very familiar to Christians of primitive times.

One of the oldest traditions in the church is the lighting of the first flame of Easter and then bringing it into a darkened church chanting "The Light of Christ. Thanks be to God." The light is then passed to all. Following that, the Exsultet is similarly chanted and then there are a series of readings followed by baptism and/or the renewal of baptismal vows. It is the service that concludes Lent and it is also the occasion on which we resume the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. In some traditions, it is to Easter what the Midnight Mass is to Christmas Day with many calling it their Easter service and observance.

The Sunday of the Resurrection - Easter Day**March 27 Festival Eucharists****9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. at All Saints'**

The worship for this day is familiar because every Sunday in our life together celebrates the resurrection of Christ and his love for us through the Holy Eucharist. This service goes back to the earliest moments of the Christians who gathered in the upper room having had that remarkable meal with Jesus on the night before he died for us. In it, we join our Lord and "the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven" in celebrating the vanquishing of the power of sin and the sting of death.

You are welcome and encouraged to include these services in your Holy Week discipline.

DON'T FORGET! THERE WILL BE AN EASTER EGG HUNT AFTER BOTH SERVICES ON EASTER SUNDAY.



MARCH 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	3 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1pm	4	5
6 Services at 9 and 11 am	7	8	9 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	10 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1pm	11	12 Chili Open
13 Services at 9 and 11 am	14	15	16 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	17 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1pm 	18	19
20 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:15	21	22	23 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	24 Maundy Thurs. services Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm 7 pm service at AS	25 Good Friday services Noon - AS 3 pm – The Springs 5:30 pm – Stations 6 pm –AS	26 Easter Eve service 7 pm - AS
27 EASTER Services at 9 and 11 am 	28	29	30 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs			

A LITTLE HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN THE USA

The Charitable Irish Society of Boston organized the first observance of Saint Patrick's Day in the Thirteen Colonies in 1737. Surprisingly, the celebration was not Catholic in nature, Irish immigration to the colonies having been dominated by Protestants. The society's purpose in gathering was simply to honor its homeland, and although they continued to meet annually to coordinate charitable works for the Irish community in Boston, they did not meet on 17 March again until 1794. During the observance of the day, individuals attended a service of worship and a special dinner.

Today, Saint Patrick's Day is widely celebrated in America by Irish and non-Irish alike. For most Irish-Americans, this holiday is both religious and festive. It is one of the leading days for consumption of alcohol in the United States, as individuals are allowed to break their Lenten sacrifices for the day in order to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. The consumption of artificially colored green beer is a common celebration. Green Beer Day, for instance, is a tradition among students at Miami University (Miami of Ohio), dating to 1952; the day has been held on the Thursday before spring break due to the fact that Saint Patrick's Day often occurs during the spring recess. Many people choose to wear green colored clothing and items.

Seattle and other cities paint the traffic stripe of their parade routes green. Chicago dyes its river green and has done so since 1962 when sewer workers used green dye to check for sewer discharges and had the idea to turn the river green for Saint Patrick's Day. Originally 100 pounds of vegetable dye was used to turn the river green for a whole week but now only forty pounds of dye is used and the color only lasts for several hours. Indianapolis also dyes its main canal green. Savannah dyes its downtown city fountains green. Missouri University of Science and Technology - St Pat's Board Alumni paint 12 city blocks kelly green with mops before the annual parade. In Jamestown, New York, the Chadakoin River (a small tributary that connects Conewango Creek with its source at Chautauqua Lake is dyed green each year.

Traditionally, those who are caught not wearing green are pinched "affectionately".

Information comes from Wikipedia, a non-copywrite site



Happy St. Patrick's Day !

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

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Christian Formation Minister/Children and

Youth: Cynthia Benkelman

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*Glory to God, whose power, working
in us, can do infinitely more than we
can ask or imagine: Glory to him
from generation to generation in the
church, and in Christ Jesus forever*

Find us here:

Just click on the link!

Facebook link: [https://
www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt](https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt)

YouTube link: [http://
www.youtube.com/channel/
UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA)

Webpage link: [http://
www.allsaintsmt.org](http://www.allsaintsmt.org)

Vestry members:

Rector: Reverend Canon Bradley Wirth

Senior Warden: Heidi Sobczak

Junior Warden:

Treasurer: Carl Thomas

Clerk: Kathy Thomas

Cynthia Benkelman

Clarice Brooks

Ben Bushnell

Jan Rayford

Shawn Sloan

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