



ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2019

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

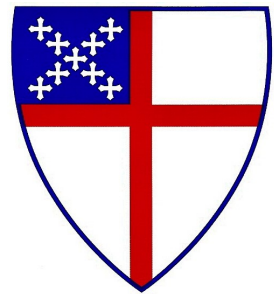
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here we are on the cusp of Lent. It is hard to believe how quickly the seasons roar by but the calendar doesn't allow us to go more slowly. (Given the superfluity of snow, I'm just as glad. I want to see the grass again.) For my letter this month, I thought I'd just mention something about how I view Lent as a joyous season which sometimes strikes others as odd.

To begin, "serious" and "joyful" are not mutually exclusive at all. We can be seriously joyful about our relationship with God. And what I mean by that is if God is love, and God is most certainly love, then in behooves us to give thought and prayer to how we are engaging with God and God's love. And, of course, this makes sense if we just think about everyday life. My game of golf (Please, Lord, do something about the snow!) takes on a far more joyful sense when I give some serious thought to my swing. Remembering what I was taught in lessons, trying not to be distracted by the last shot that went into the lake, taking the back swing a bit more slowly, and being willing to have a result that is less in length and accuracy compared to the same of Tiger Woods, all lead to a more cheerful result. Similarly, focusing seriously on that which contributes to the joy found in faith, naturally invites a joyous season.

The second thing that can bring about a joyous Lent is to lighten the load. Shawn and I are working on the Lenten Video Greeting for the website and Facebook with that as the theme..lightening the load we carry through the journey of Lent. Giving up stuff to make the hike through Lent is actually contributive to joy. If you have ever taken unnecessary weight in a backpack, as I have, you know it dampens the experience of enjoying nature. So that which you give up for Lent might be seen as just having a lighter backpack. Each distraction we can jettison can make for a more enjoyable 40 day trip.

The third thing is the most obvious to anyone who has ever been lost. Way back when I would drive cross country to Boston for seminary, I would often travel late into the night, sometimes not stopping until 3:00 in the morning. On two occasions, once in the middle of the nowhere and another time in the midst of a large city, I got lost trying to find my way back to the freeway, having searched for an open gas station. Indeed, the first time I drove into the Boston-Cambridge area, I was lost for several hours. (Remember there was no cell phone in 1976. No "Siri! Where am I? How do I get there?") At night, being lost can be terrifying. During the day it can be frustrating beyond measure. Repenting, which is very serious, just means turning around and finding your way back. In our case during Lent, to God. Nothing can be more delightfully enjoyable than that.



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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR (cont'd)

So enjoy Lent to the fullest and let the season transport you to a most festive Easter. The 12th Annual Chili Open, Lent Madness, our community offerings, the ERD Lenten Blessings Coupon Books and our time together in prayer, worship and fellowship will all contribute to the loveliness of this time together. Let us have holy fun!

Faithfully yours,

Bradley

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, March 5th, 2019

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall



Serving:

Huckleberry Pancakes
Sausage
Bacon
Veggie Sausage

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES MARCH 6, 2019



On March 6, Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday.

This particular observation, in which a season is given over to self examination, prayer, and repentance, dates back to the Seventh Century. It originally began on a Sunday. Because there was a desire to make it forty week days for fasting (Sunday always is a feast day and the fast is broken.) four extra days were added a few centuries later and that was the advent of Ash Wednesday. On that day we will have **three services**, one at **the Springs at 10:00** in Whitefish, another at **All Saints' Church at Noon**, and a third for **children and youth** at **Cynthia Benkelman's house** (contact Cynthia for information). All services will have the imposition of ashes, reminding us of our mortal nature, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, reminding us even more importantly of our companionship with one another and with God, through Christ, as well as our living in the midst of eternal life. You are invited to attend and begin your pilgrimage through Lent.



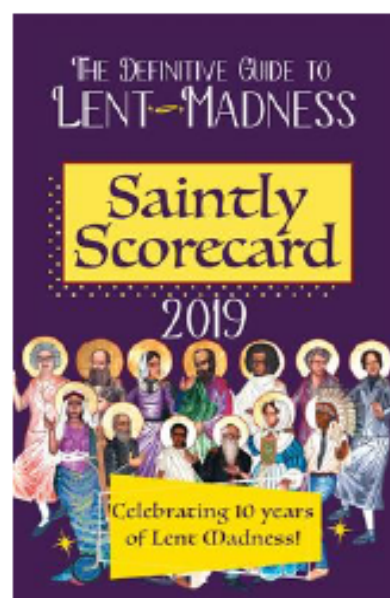
For the 6th year, All Saints' will once again participate in the world's most popular online Lenten devotion

LENT MADNESS

Every Wednesday during Lent: March 13, 20, 27, April 3, and 10, we will gather in Memorial Hall at 5:30 for a light supper and then from 6:00 until 6:45 we will examine the lives of 32 saints as they enter the "Lent Dome" to battle it out in the saintly brackets.

Participants will receive a *Saintly Scorecard* booklet which contains biographies of the 32 saints and a full color fold out bracket.

As is our usual practice to help us prepare the right amount of food, sign-up sheets will be posted in Memorial Hall, you can call 862-2863, or send an email to allsaintsmt@gmail.com. But as always, even if you don't sign up please feel free to join us as there is always an over abundance of food.



LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH, 2019

ONCE AGAIN THE LAKE MISSOULA CLERICUS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DIOCESE OF UTAH HAS PRODUCED REVISED AND UPDATED LENTEN "COUPON BOOKLETS". THESE ARE DESIGNED TO HELP PEOPLE GIVE TO THE EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND OUT OF THE ABUNDANCE OF BLESSINGS WHICH SHOWER DOWN UPON US ALL.

USING THESE COUPONS IS NOT ONLY FUN BUT FOR FORTY DAYS YOU WILL BE REMINDED OF SIMPLE BLESSINGS THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE GO UNNOTICED.

WE WILL HAVE THESE AVAILABLE SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD
AND THROUGHOUT LENT.



All Saints' Community Lenten Outreach Discipline Lent 2019

This Lent, as has become our custom over the last six years, members of All Saints' Church are invited to celebrate a relationship with 3 organizations clearly doing the work of God in our Community.

The Abbie Shelter is a long standing friend of ours in that over the years we have been privileged to assist them in not only providing shelter for abused women and their children, but also to help them have a 24 hour telephone crisis line and provide counseling. Last year our efforts helped fund the renovation of their counseling office, and because of our long standing support, they hung a commemorative plaque in thanksgiving for our being in partnership with them. What a remarkable thing for those seeking direction, comfort, and relief from abuse, to see that All Saints' provided the space for their pilgrimage to begin a new life. This year we continue our support for them by helping to fund small refrigerators to go in the residents' rooms. At the moment the one refrigerator is not big enough to hold both community meal food and smaller items that residents may need for themselves and their children.



Last year we began a partnership with an organization new to our family of friends, Farm Hands - Nourish the Flathead. Nearly 1 in 6 Montana children live in food insecure homes, unsure of where their next meal is coming from. Through the Montana Food Bank Network's Backpack Program, children are given a



backpack filled with enough child-friendly, non-perishable food for one child to enjoy a breakfast, lunch, and snack on Saturday and Sunday as well as milk, juice, and a treat. Normally Farm Hands provides an apple and an orange to help fill these students' backpacks prior to their going home for the weekend. However, Farm Hands does not have in their budget enough money to give young people fruit for Spring Break, March 23rd through the 31st. So once again this year to help meet the needs of 200 children and youth in the Columbia Falls School System, who rely on the Backpack Program to get them thru the weekend free from hunger, we are pledging to help Farm Hands. It doesn't seem like much, an apple and an orange for a weekend, to those of us who take such pleasures for granted, but to these students, it is a remarkable gift, an absolute luxury, which also enhances their nutrition well being. We've been invited to meet that need and also brighten another two weekends of their fruit distribution to these 200 young people, with an extra serving of fruit for their weekend.

If All Saints' engages in the generosity it has shown in the past, we can present each of these ministries, \$1,000 this year. This is not just about doing something good for others, it is our way to sacramentally change a donation of money into the gifts of God and thus become part of the lives of those in the wider community that needs our holy companionship. This discipline of ours is yet another way Lent becomes a joyous season.

🌶️ 12th 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 9, 2019 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 8, 2019)
- WHERE:** All Saints' Episcopal Church - 2048 Conn Road, Columbia Falls
- WHO:** Anyone who wants to help support local animals - no golf experience needed
- HOW:** Register (or for more information) email allsaintsmt@gmail.com
or call 406-862-2863 or 406-291-3613

Your \$20 "greens fee" gets you 9 holes of snow golf and a catered lunch.

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 - serving the Blackfeet Reservation.

Suggested donation of \$20 for the Friday night party.

MARCH 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|---|---|--|---|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Services at 9 and 11 am Bible study 12:30 | 4 | 5 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-6:30 pm Memorial Hall | 6 Ash Wed Svc's Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs 12 noon service All Saints' 4 pm ASY service | 7 Noon service at AS Book Study following | 8 Chili Open Party 7:00 pm Pomerantz Residence | 9 Chili Open 10:00 am |
| 10 Services at 9 and 11 am Bible study 12:30 | 11 | 12 | 13 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs Lent Madness 5:30 pm | 14 Noon service at AS Book Study following | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:30 | 18 | 19 | 20 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs Lent Madness 5:30 pm | 21 Noon service at AS Book Study following | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Services at 9 and 11 am | 25 | 26 | 27 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs Lent Madness 5:30 pm | 28 Noon service at AS Book Study following | | |

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL AND ALL SAINTS' YOUTH

By Cynthia Benkelman

Children's Chapel: On the last Sunday before Lent, March 3rd, Children's Chapel, will depart from the parables we have been studying to talk about the "transfiguration". During the season of Lent, Godly Play stories start with the birth of Christ. As we travel through Lent, there will be a story about him every week culminating in the mystery of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Children's Chapel begins right before the readings when the children go to Memorial Hall. All youth who are old enough sit in a circle and listen to a story. They hear a story and then talk about the spiritual questions it inspires. This is a Montessori-based program widely used in the Episcopal church as well as others. Younger children often like to do art as a response to the story while others like to use the resources in the Godly Play room, such as Bibles and commentaries to look further into the story. They also like to tell in their own way stories they have already heard. Older children return to church at the Peace to participate in communion, and nursery children return, either at the Peace or closer to communion, depending on parents' wishes.

Youth: There will be an after school Ash Wednesday service for young people so they can participate in the same service held during the school day. Ash Wednesday is about repentance which is viewed as a joyful turn-ing toward what we need for our priorities to be and away from those things getting between us and God, our friends and family, and the priorities we have discerned.

This is another way for young people to participate in one of the early traditions of Christianity. We certainly want them to experience every element of the church, as it is very much their church.

The youth service will be held March 6th at 4:00 pm at Cynthia Benkelman's home. It is located very close to the Whitefish schools. Please call or email Cynthia for directions or to set up a car pool. Her information is below in the church organization section. High school students are close enough they usually walk over together.



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Church location:
2048 Conn Road
Columbia Falls, MT

Church mailing address:
PO Box 1923
Whitefish, MT 59937

Phone: 406-862-2863
Parish Office Administrator: Shawn Sloan
E-mail: allsaintsmt@gmail.com

Bradley's E-mail: canonwirth@gmail.com
Cell phone: 406-250-1690

Christian Formation Minister/Children and Youth: Cynthia Benkelman
cgraine@montanasky.us
406-261-9636

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>

YouTube link: http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA

Webpage link: <http://www.allsaintsmt.org>

Vestry members:

Rector: Reverend Canon Bradley Wirth
Senior Warden: Ben Pomerantz
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Benkelman
Betsy Paugh
Shawn Sloan
Heidi Sobczak

Diocese of Montana:
www.diomontana.com
All Saints' website: www.allsaintsmt.org
E-letter editor: Jan Rayford
khatlover@msn.com or
origkhatlover@gmail.com