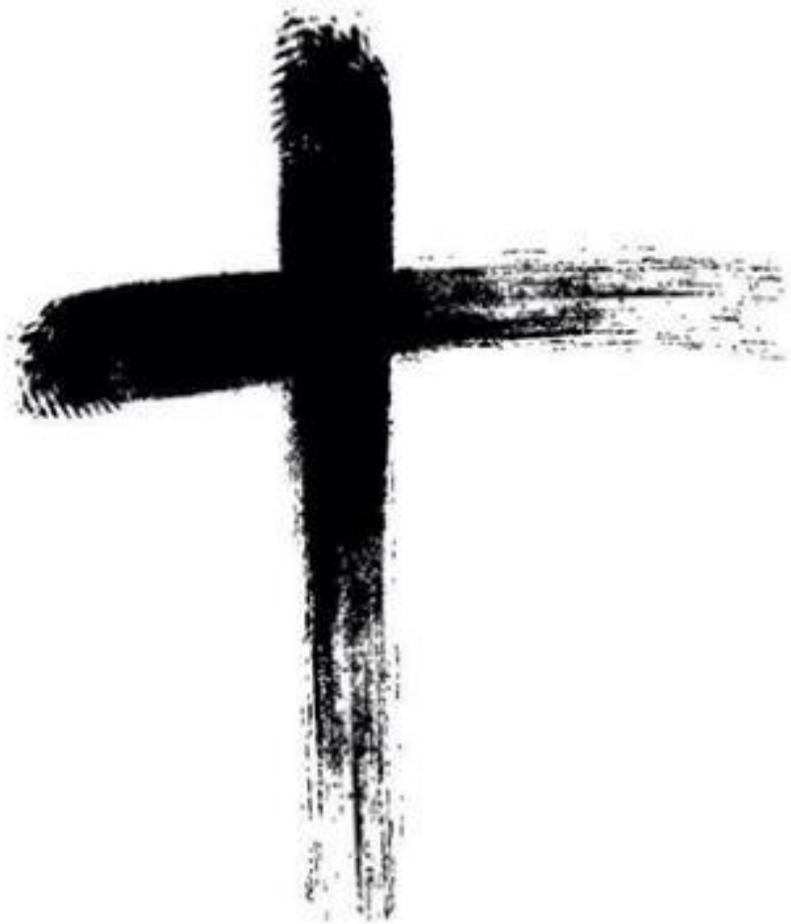


Ash Wednesday

An Invitation to a Holy Lent



March 2, 2022

Welcome to
St. Mark's and St. John's

Help yourself to coffee in the "cafe".

Feel free to bring it to your pew. We're casual.

We invite children to make themselves at home at our children's table where there are weekly activity bulletins, crayons, etc...

Our live YouTube broadcast will begin at 12 pm

As always, the link to our live-recorded

YouTube channel is available on our website,

stmarksandstjohns.org

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Deacon: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins:

People: God's mercy endures forever.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Clergy Enter in Silence and Congregation Stands

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift-up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103: 8-14

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

**He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger forever.**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.

**As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

For he himself knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Deacon: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So, whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let

your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Silence for reflection

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT *Please stand*

Deacon: Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated

from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

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. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all are seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The ashes are imposed with the following words

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your
loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.**

And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment

**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

**Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.**

Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.

**Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice;
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Most holy and merciful God:

**We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word,
and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride,
hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other
people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more
fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our
dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:
for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference
to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our
neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who
differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern
for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Deacon: Almighty God, who desires not the death of sinners, but
rather that they may turn from their sins and live, has given power
and commandment to ministers to declare and pronounce to people
who are penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. God
pardons and absolves all those who truly repent. We ask that the rest
of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so we might find joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace. Remember the poor.
People: Thanks be to God.



LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES

Morning Prayer on Zoom - Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 9:30 am beginning Thursday, March 3rd.

Healing Service with Eucharist in person - Wednesdays at 12 pm (noon)

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remembering a Member of our Community

Isaiah Pierre, grandson of SMSJ parishioner Dorothy Barnes, passed away unexpectedly this past Saturday at age 25. Our thoughts and prayers are with his grieving family.

March Newsletter

We are currently in the process of creating our March Newsletter! If you have anything you would like us to add, please send your idea/story/update to our administrative email, admin@stmarksandstjohns.org

Garden Design Community Forum

Join us on Tuesday, 3/15 at 6:00pm to see final garden designs for the Parsells, Denver, and Children's garden plots through our Partners for Places grant. Zoom information will be on our website.

Pastor Cindy on Vacation

Pastor Cindy will be away from Wednesday (2/23) returning on Friday (3/4) with Lenten morning prayer at 9:30 am. For pastoral emergencies please contact Deacon Mike Finn at (585) 301-0241.

“Seed Sowers and Storytellers”

Beginning March 8st, SMSJ will become the host site for this new afterschool program. It will run twice a week for 10 weeks, focusing on School 33 children ages 3-6. The program is led by the Freedom Scholars Learning Center and Cornell Cooperative Extension

Bible Study

Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke will resume on March 9, 2022.

Prayer Concerns and/or Thanksgivings

Our newsprint “Prayer” board is back. You are welcome to light a candle and put the name(s) of those you would like us to hold in prayer. First names will be shared during the Prayers of the People. If you would like to include any of these names on our regular prayer list, please email Terri Censak at scensak@frontiernet.net.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

If you'd like to serve as a Reader and/or a Eucharistic Minister, please let Deacon Mike or Pastor Cindy know. The March schedule is attached. If you are unable to serve a particular weekend, please find a replacement and let Deacon Mike know.

Worship Leaders of March of 2022

Date	First Lesson and Psalm	Second Lesson	Prayers of the People
2/27	Mary E	Stephanie S	Tom F
3/6	Mary Ellen F	Sharon K	Heather G
3/13	Walt S	Samantha G	Paula V
3/20	Bob V	Michele H	Kathy J
3/27	Joe C	Bob C	Deb S
4/3	LaVonne N	Theresa H	Terri C
4/10	Tom F	Mary E	Stephanie S
4/17	Joe C	Bob C	Deb S
4/24	Kathy J	Bob V	Michele H
5/1	Bob C	Deb S	Joe C
5/8	Bob C	Terri C	LaVonne N

Date	Hold Cup Tray	Give Single Cup	Collect Cups
2/27	Dorothy B	Kathy J	Bob C
3/6	Sharon K	Joe C	Children
3/13	Terri C	Mary E	Children
3/20	Mary E	Terri C	Theresa H
3/27	Michele H	Nancy W	Dorothy B
4/3	Bob C	Dorothy B	Children
4/10	Joe C	Sharon K	Children
4/17	Michele H	Nancy W	Dorothy B
4/24	Theresa H	Terri C	Mary E
5/1	Stephanie S	LaVonne N	Tom F
5/8	Heather G	Mary Ellen F	Deb S



**ST. MARK'S &
ST. JOHN'S**



**ONLY A MONTH+
BEFORE WE START SEEDS**

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COMMUNITY GARDENS BY GOING TO:**

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