

"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." (Book of Common Prayer, Liturgy for Ash Wednesday, p. 265)

Dear People of St. Philip's,

Lent has arrived! Our Christian tradition calls us to repentance and self-sacrificing behaviors, which are certainly good for the soul...but this year, we also invite you to engage in a fun-filled process of getting to know the "Saints of the Church". Discover their good works in the name of Christ, good, sacrificial work, which allowed Christian faith to flourish, sometimes in times of great darkness...so...

Let the Madness begin! "Lent Madness" is an on-line game created by two Episcopal priests who wanted to find a creative way to help people learn more about the various "saints of the church." During Wednesdays in Lent, at the 12:00 noon Eucharist and our 5:30 Soup Suppers, we will be sharing stories of some of the saints of the church. It has long been my hope to find an engaging way to introduce the broad spectrum of men and women who the Christian Church has upheld as "saints", people who carried forth the love, justice and compassion God revealed in Jesus Christ. The time has come, as we combine our in-person studies of the saints with the on-line game, LENT MADNESS!

Lent Madness began this week. It is sponsored by the *Forward Day by Day*, publishers of the daily devotion booklets many of us use in daily prayer year-round. This week many of us also began voting for our favorite saints, but you can catch up! (No cash betting, please...but if you do, and you win, you know that 10% goes to the church, then the I.R.S. gets their tax cut!). Seriously, though, each day of Lent, Feb. 11 -March 23, you, too, will have the opportunity to vote for your favorite saints.

"Lent Madness" is done much as the College Basketball "top 16" teams vie for position to receive the NCAA basketball championship, known as "March Madness". You can see "Bracket 2016", revealing the 32 Saints who will be considered each day, if you click on this link: lentmadness.org/bracket/. If you wish to vote for a specific saint, you can also see which saints will be voted on which day by scrolling down to the calendar on that same link. We have a print out of the calendar and a large poster of Bracket 2016, as well as printed versions in the church foyer for you to "keep score". Each day two saints are described and you get to vote for your favorite, until we come to the final two on Holy Wednesday, March 23. At that point the final saintly winner will receive The Golden Halo!

To learn more about Lent Madness, and to vote, please log on to Lent Madness and come to St Philip's, on Wed. evenings 5:30-7, food, fellowship and PICK YOUR FAVORITE SAINT! Or, as your Holy Lenten observance, for the next 40 days you can simply hole yourself up in a dark, quiet, lonely room wearing sack-cloth and holy beads, reciting prayers while throwing ashes on your backit's up to you!

In Christ's compassionate love, *Pastor Mary*



This Week: Feb. 14-Feb. 20

Wed, 10:30, **Theology Book Group**, Sanctuary
Weds. 12:00 Noon **Communion**
Wed., 5:30, **Lenten Soup Supper**, Parish Hall
Wed, 5:30, **H.S. Youth: God Talk**, Youth Room
Thu, 5pm, **Food Pantry**, Foyer
Sat., 5 pm, **Overnight Guests**, Parish Hall

**Choir for Holy Week/
Easter services**

Please let me know if you would like to take part in a choir to

sing at the services during Holy Week (20th - 27th March), and if so, what part you sing (soprano, alto, tenor, bass). Once I know how many singers we have, I'll convene rehearsals, so please indicate which times would or would not work for you. Sue Morris (Interim Music Coordinator) [831-325-9330](tel:831-325-9330), morrisr5@sky.com



Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30pm

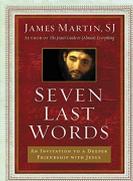
Please join us for **Food /Fellowship/Faith** - a simple meal of soup, bread, salad. Serving 5:30-7. We will take a look at the various saints celebrated in Lent Madness that week, and you can choose to vote for your favorites right then!

Hey, High Schoolers - During Lent

Wednesdays, Feb. 17-Mar.16

5:30 pm, sharing Soup Supper
6:30 to 8:00 pm, Group meeting

Youth group for high schoolers and young adults eats with the whole community for Soup Suppers, then gathers in Room 3 for fellowship and faith. **Ok to bring homework!** Young adults Alex Titus and Nikki Olivas help lead discussion. **Invite your friends!**



Theology Book Group, Wednesdays, 10:30-12

We are reading The Seven Last Words: An Invitation to a Deeper Friendship with Jesus, by Jesuit Fr. James Martin, editor of "America" Magazine. He is a wonderful writer and homilist. With the warmth, wisdom, and grace that infuse his works, Father James Martin explains why Jesus's crucifixion and death on the cross is an important teaching moment in the Gospels. Jesus's final statements, words that are deeply cherished by his followers, exemplify the depth of his suffering but also provide a key to his empathy and why we can connect with him so deeply. **PLEASE JOIN US!**

