



The St. Thomas Times

St. Thomas the Apostle is a mission church that adheres to classical Anglican doctrine and principles. We subscribe to the Faith of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church as clearly expressed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. We are members of the Anglican Province of America, a continuing church grounded in the theology and language of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

Newsletter 6

Feb. 9th, 2018

From the Vicar

Lent

The three Sundays before Lent are called Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima, because they are in round numbers about 70, 60, and 50 days before Easter. These weeks serve as a preparation for Lent; and are best spent in thinking about the coming holy time, in making rules for spending it (*that you may not have this to do when the time has come*), and in asking God to help you in your desire to keep the season as you ought. Lent is the period of 40 days (*not counting Sundays*) before Easter; by keeping it we follow the example of our blessed Lord's fast and make ourselves ready for the festival of Easter. Jesus Christ hands down this time of fasting to us, and no real Christian will fail to keep it in some way. Spend what time you can spare on your soul. Examine your whole life, confess your sins to God with shame and sorrow, pray for pardon and strength to be better, give more to the poor, and deny yourself what you can with safety in food, ease, sleep, amusement, etc., Follow your Savior as closely as you can along His path of self-denial, and He will lead you in time to share His eternal joy.

This is a time which you may do much good for your soul, and you must give account to God by the use you make of it. Each Lent may be your last; lose no time then and do what you can it may leave you holier than it found you.

A Daily Prayer for Lent, until Holy Week

O Blessed Savior, Who did fast in the desert forty days, both to suffer for us, and to set us a holy example of self-denial; Grant that I may faithfully use this time which Thy holy Church has set apart, that I may imitate Thee in self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer. Thou Who was tempted for us, yet without sin, and give me grace to fight against all evil. Turn me unto Thyself with my whole heart, and give me a more earnest desire for holiness; that, sowing now in tears of true sorrow for my sins, I may hereafter reap in eternal joy, and be prepared by this sacred season for Thine eternal kingdom. Amen.

Feasts and Fasts

and

Other Events

Every Friday, (especially during Lent) – “Meatless Fridays,” Pg Li of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer says that Anglicans are required to fast not only on Fridays, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but that the Church requires “a measure of abstinence as is more especially suited to extraordinary acts and exercises of devotion” on the following days:

- I. The Forty Days of Lent
- II. The Ember Days at the Four Seasons, being the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after the First Sunday in Lent, the Feast of Pentecost, September 14, and December 13.
- III. All the Fridays in the Year, except Christmas Day, and The Epiphany, or any Friday which may intervene between these Feasts.

Feb. 10th – 10:00 AM – Parish work day, and training for acolytes, ushers, and readers.

Feb. 11th – 10:30 AM – Quinquagesima Sunday, Institution of the Vestry.

Feb. 13th – 6:30 PM – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in the Parish Hall. please see Mrs. Martha Gentry, and Mrs. Lou Evans for more details.

Feb. 14th – 6:30 PM – Ash Wednesday Mass and distribution of ashes. The First Day of Lent, and a Day of Holy Obligation.

Feb. 18th – 10:30 AM – the First Sunday in Lent.

Feb. 23rd – 6-8PM – Ladies of STAAC meeting.

Feb. 24th – Feast Day of St. Matthias, BCP xliv.

Feb. 25th – 10:30 AM – the Second Sunday in Lent followed by Parish Luncheon.

Fr. Geddings will be available by appointment to hear confessions during Lent. If you would like information on how to prepare for a confession please let Fr. Geddings know.

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Charles I, King and Martyr

(1600-1649)

Feast Day: Jan. 30th.

Charles Stuart, known to history as King Charles I of England, was born in 1600 and crowned King of England at Candlemas, in 1626. His Father, James I of England (and the VI of Scotland) was a convert from Calvinism. Charles, likewise, opposed Calvinism, even attempting unsuccessfully to impose the Prayer Book on the Church of Scotland, resulting in mass uprising and protest. Nevertheless, within England, Charles instituted reforms, maintained the order of bishops, and enforced ecclesiastical discipline, alongside his Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud.

King Charles was married to Henrietta Maria, a daughter of the King of France and a Roman Catholic, a move which made him very unpopular with the Puritans. Charles fought against the Puritans during the English Civil War, caused in part by his entering the House of Commons and attempting to arrest members thereof. Charles lost the war, and he was arrested, Archbishop Laud executed, and the Church of England disestablished. In its place, a Presbyterian form of church governance was instituted; ratification of which was sought from the King.

Charles refused to accede to the elimination of Bishops. For this, he was condemned to death by Parliament. He spent the majority of his time from his sentencing to his death in prayer. On the day his death, January 30th, 1649, he recited Morning Prayer with his Chaplain, listened to the Passion According to St. Matthew, and received Holy Communion. He was then executed, and his body deposited without ceremony and without the burial rites of the Church at Windsor.

His son, Charles II, escaped England and lived in France during the period of time, known as the Protectorate, when England was ruled by the Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell, and briefly, his son Richard. Charles II returned to England and was restored to the throne in 1660.

