

## Lent 2012

### Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, 7:00 p.m.

### Evening Prayer at St. John's Episcopal

Bethlehem Chapel

Every weekday at 5:15 p.m.

### Tuesday Nights Together

Suffering...Is there a Point?

Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m.

### Worship and High School Class

All Souls Church

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

### Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 1

### Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 5

Passion Vigil from 5:30 p.m. through

Friday 5:30 p.m.

Worship 7:30 p.m.

### Good Friday

Friday, April 6

12 noon at St. John's Episcopal

### Holy Saturday

Saturday, April 7

Taize Service, 7:30 p.m.

### Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 8

Worship 10:00 a.m.



### Suggested Prayers for Lent

My soul's desire is to see Your face and rest in Your house. My soul's desire is to study the Scriptures and learn Your ways. My soul's desire is to be free of fear and sadness and to share in Christ's risen life. My soul's desire is to imitate You, my King, and sing Your praises always. My soul's desire is to enter the gates of heaven and gaze upon the light that shines forever. Oh Lord, You alone know what my soul truly desires and You alone can satisfy those desires. Amen (adapted Celtic Prayer)

### A Confession of Sin

O Lord, I come to You to confess my sin and seek Your forgiveness. Forgive the sins I can remember and also the sins I have forgotten. Forgive the wrong actions I have committed and the right actions I have omitted. Forgive the times I have been weak in the face of temptation and those when I have been stubborn in the face of correction. Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements and those when I have failed to boast of Your works. Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others and the leniency I have shown to myself. Forgive the lies I have told to others and the truths I have avoided. Forgive the pain I have caused others and the indulgence I have shown to myself. O Lord though my sins are like scarlet, wash me and they shall be as white as snow, though my sins are red as crimson, forgive me and they shall be like wool. Amen

### A Daily Prayer

O Lord, grant me to greet this day in peace. Help me in all things to rely upon Your holy will. In every hour of this day reveal Your will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout this day with peace of soul and firm conviction that Your will governs all. In all my deed and words, guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events, let me know that all are sent by You. Teach me to act firmly and wisely without embittering or embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of this coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will. Teach me to pray. You, Lord, pray within me. Amen (An ancient Greek Orthodox prayer)

## Lenten Disciplines

FOR

*ASSIST-JC*

And

Other Followers of  
Jesus



"Like clay in the  
hand of the  
potter, so are you  
in my hand..."

God

(as quoted in Jeremiah 18.6)

The purpose of this Lenten Calendar is to help you observe the forty day period of prayer, penance and spiritual exercises in preparation for the proper celebration of Easter.

To discipline yourself, to refuse to give in to your "I want it now" side because you have promised God for these 40 days that you will deny yourself. This is your gift back to God for His gift to us in Jesus Christ.

The Lenten Discipline consists of three separate parts:

### Corporal or External Fasts

This includes the abstinence from certain foods, drinks and amusements, i.e. music and parties during Lent. You are encouraged to choose an external fast simply because we so seldom discipline our appetites in this culture.

### Spiritual or Internal Fasts

This includes abstinence from "all evil"—sin. St. John Chrysostom (347-407 A.D.) taught that "...the value of fasting consists not so much in abstinence from food but rather in withdrawal from sinful practices. St. Basil the Great (329-379 A.D.) explains: "Turning away from all wickedness means keeping our tongue in check, restraining our anger, suppressing evil desires and avoiding all gossip, lying and swearing. To abstain from these things—herein lies the true value of fast!"

### Spiritual Changes

This includes the practice of virtues and good works as positive actions. These are intentional replacements of the negative actions being eliminated during Lent. The great leaders of the Christian Church during its early years (known as the Church Fathers) insisted that during Lent, the faithful attend as many Lenten worship services as possible.

*Many, if not most, Protestants have abandoned the practice of Lenten Discipline or reduced it to a simple, "What are you giving up for Lent?" without any stress on one's spiritual growth or amending one's life-style.*



*"In order to be Christians, we should resemble Christ, of this I am firmly convinced. Gandhi once said that if Christians lived according to their faith, there would be no more Hindus left in India. People expect us to be consistent with our Christian life."*  
Mother Teresa

*"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about such things. Whatever you have learned, received, or heard from me put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."*

St. Paul (Philippians 4.8-9)



The following are Lenten Disciplines that have aided Christians in the past to experience a holy and fruitful Lent. Make every effort to choose one from each list...or determine your own. Do not be overly ambitious. Better to begin with small steps...

### External Fast Practice

- ⊕ At meals, take smaller portions of what you like and more of what you dislike.
- ⊕ Take smaller helpings of each item.
- ⊕ Eat and drink nothing between meals.
- ⊕ Use no sweeteners in food or drink.
- ⊕ Eliminate caffeine from your diet (as found in coffee, tea, soda, chocolate).
- ⊕ Reduce or eliminate the radio, T.V. or video and instead read spiritually uplifting material (Scripture, Christian biographies, etc.).
- ⊕ Pray the daily prayers and attend Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Sunday Worship.

### Internal Fast Practices

- ⊕ Avoid unnecessary talking; instead pray silently.
- ⊕ Exercise patience in all things with everyone.
- ⊕ Don't complain about anything.
- ⊕ Curb anger and go out of your way to be kind to those who anger you most.
- ⊕ Don't concern yourself with another's business.
- ⊕ Avoid gossip and add nothing if gossip creeps into conversations around you.
- ⊕ When asked to do something extra, do so with a joyful and pleasant attitude.
- ⊕ Speak in a pleasant tone to everyone... especially in your family.
- ⊕ Avoid using the telephone.
- ⊕ Tell the truth in all your dealings.
- ⊕ Avoid any vanity or calling attention to self.

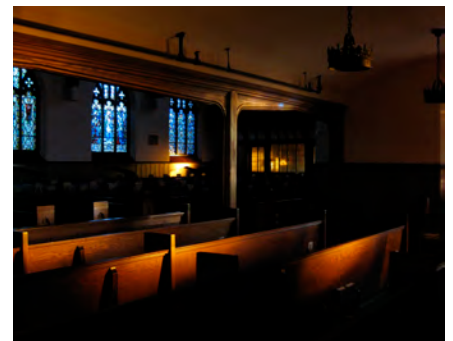
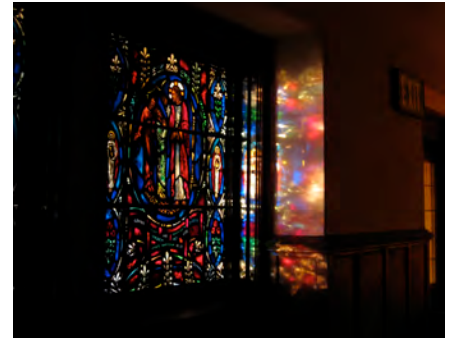
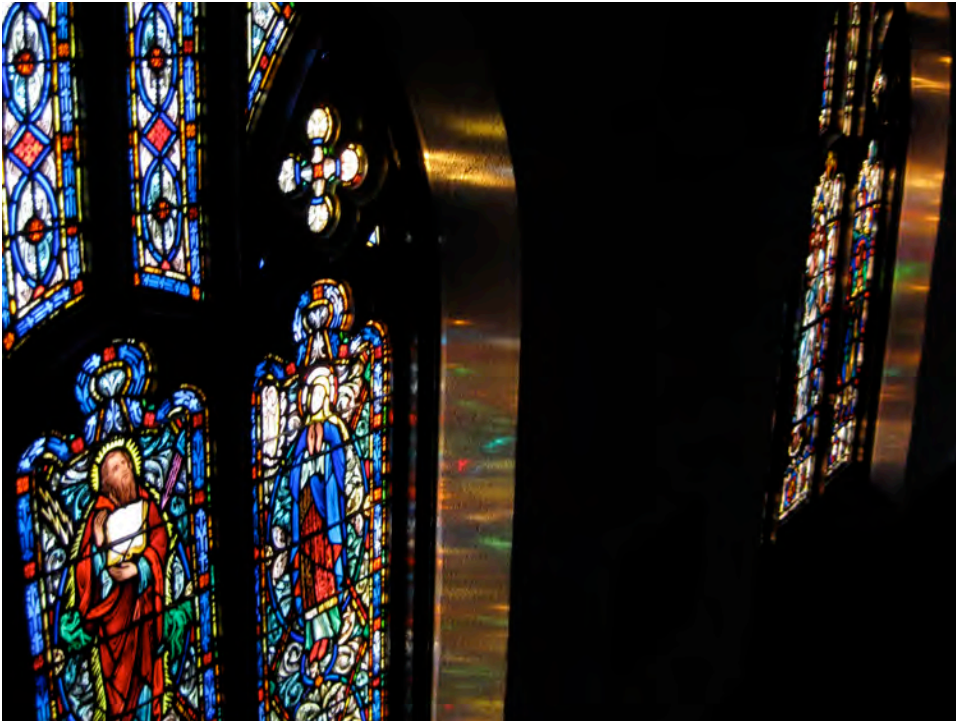
### Spiritual Change Practices

- ⊕ Practice humility in all your actions.
- ⊕ Be generous; help someone in need.
- ⊕ Look for opportunities to be helpful.
- ⊕ Do a job that needs to be done on your own.
- ⊕ Be courageous; walk away from impure situations.
- ⊕ Don't be idle. Do something for others.
- ⊕ Go out of your way to help or talk to a person whom you find unusually difficult

# The Passion Vigil- 2012

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

24 HOURS TO FOLLOW IN JESUS' FOOTSTEPS



The **Passion Vigil** is a time of watching and waiting as we read, pray and experience the events of Jesus' last hours of life on earth before the crucifixion. It is a holy day...a day set apart and we have used this time every year to focus our minds and hearts on the life and death of Jesus so that we can be ready for Easter, the Resurrection and a week of Christian service in Eastport.

We have done lots of fund-raising and with it team-building has been happening. The Vigil is expressly for Soul-Preparation. It is as important if not **the more important part** of getting ready for mission work of any kind. You've got to know why we do what we do. Understanding the motivation for Christians to serve the world is key to being ready to "go on mission." The Vigil begins on April 5 (Maundy Thursday) with the Seder meal at 5:30 pm. It is followed by the Maundy Thursday Worship Service at 7:30 pm and then an overnight "vigil" that runs through Friday, April 6 concluding at 5:30 pm. During the entire Vigil, there are numerous and varied activities and spiritual disciplines to engage the participants' minds and hearts.

## More Information:

- As part of your soul's preparation for the trip to Eastport you are expected to participate in as much of the Vigil as possible.

**Adult travelers** are asked to attend the Seder and the Maundy Thursday service at All Souls unless you have a similar event at your own place of worship.

**Student travelers** are asked to attend the Seder and the Vigil.

- Bring your Bible, sleeping bag, comfortable clothing, a willing soul, permission slip, \$5.00, pencil or pen, toiletries.

- Please RSVP by Friday, March 30. Call the church office at 942-7354 or email [churchoffice@allsoulsbangor.org](mailto:churchoffice@allsoulsbangor.org)

**All Souls Church+10 Broadway+Bangor, Maine**



March 1, 2012

Dear Attendance Personnel,

All Souls Congregational Church has a very active youth program. Part of its strength comes from its emphasis on the training of the souls of teens. Friday, April 6, is Good Friday. For millennia Christians have observed this holy day through prayer, fasting and worship. The youth of our church have been invited to participate in a Good Friday vigil as spiritual preparation for Easter. The Vigil actually begins on Thursday evening and will continue until Friday evening. This student has chosen to participate. Please allow an excused absence for the observance of this recognized holy day.

Sincerely,

*Renee U. Garrett*

Renee U. Garrett

Minister of Christian Nurture