



# The Messenger

## March 2024

### *Rector's Report*

On Ash Wednesday, I was asked how one offers a Lenten salutation. “Happy Lent” seems like a contradiction in terms; “Merry Lent” perhaps even more so. “A good Lent unto you and yours” hardly sounds like a greeting card I want to receive. But then I am not sure I would want someone to wish me a “Penitential Lent” either. Or for someone to croon “Have yourself a miserable little Lent. Let your heart be dour” – even if penitence is the appropriate mood of the season.

So, is there a proper adjective to use?

Personally, I opt for “blessed” – “Have a blessed Lent.” The word indicates something is sacred or holy, and what is the observance of Lent if not something sacred and holy; the time we snatch back from the worldly forces that distract and pull us away from God is sacred and holy time. In newsletters during Lent, I have also often wished you all a “prayerful” or “reflective” or “fruitful” Lent. These terms certainly point to the introspective work we are called to do during that sacred and holy time in Lent, as well as my wish that the work is fruitful for your soul.

Someone reminded me today of another spectacular word to accompany Lent: *transformation*. “Have a transformational Lent.” Now that has a nice ring to it. Lent is

indeed transformational, if we let it. We come before God, mired in sin, and with contrite hearts we offer it all to God to transform. We ask God to cleanse our hearts of selfishness, indifference, and overindulgence, and we ask God to give us that new life in Christ, dedicated to love and service.

The transformation we undergo in Lent may very well lead to something different; we are not the same after these forty days as when we began. But that does not necessarily mean we must be transformed into something completely new; though that, too, is certainly possible. The operative Lenten word is “repent,” which means to turn around, or go in the other direction. Therefore, the transformation we experience during Lent may be more akin to a *rediscovery*. The unearthing of the people God really created us to be that, for one reason or another, got buried and forgotten.

The transformational power of Lent cannot be overstated. With the right motivation and hard work, we can become someone completely new, someone we hardly recognize but are so glad we’ve found. Or the transformation can be a little more familiar, becoming that someone we always knew was inside us waiting to be rediscovered.

May you all continue to have a truly transformational Lent. And, in the spirit of Ash Wednesday, remembering that we are dust and to dust we shall return, I offer you one of my favorite benedictions, based on the words of Henri-Frédéric Amiel: “Life is short. We don’t have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with you now and forever.” Amen.

Peace,  
Fr. Brian

## Prayers of the People

Periodically, I will check in to see if there are any names on our prayer list read during the Prayers of the People that may be removed. Often, I do not know the circumstances behind a request, which is perfectly fine, but that also means I do not know when or if circumstances have changed. So, if you notice someone for whom prayers have been offered for a while, and you know their ordeal has passed, simply let me know they can be taken off my list.

Again, my practice is to leave names on the list if I know the need is long-term. Names written in the prayer request notebook in the Narthex are typically for that Sunday, unless otherwise specified.

Thank you, Fr. Brian.

## **Easter Schedule**

Palm Sunday, March 24th

9:00am

Maundy Thursday, March 28th

Agapé Meal to follow

6:00pm

Good Friday, March 29th

12:15pm

Easter Vigil, March 30th

8:00pm

Easter Sunday, March 31st

9:00am

## Server Schedule

### March 3rd

**Chalicerist:** Chuck Terpening  
**Lector:** Candy Colby  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jon Watson

### March 10th

**Chalicerist:** Chuck Breo  
**Lector:** Martha Furst  
**Acolytes:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Chad Enright & Jeff Francis

### March 17th

**Chalicerist:** Carol Francis  
**Lector:** John Gush  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jon Watson

### March 24th

#### **Palm Sunday**

**Chalicerist:** Chuck Terpening  
**Lector:** Claudia Smith  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Chad Enright & Jeff Francis

### March 31st

#### **Easter Sunday**

**Chalicerist:** Chuck Breo  
**Lector:** Gail Hunt  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jon Watson

If you are unable to serve on the dates assigned, please make sure you get someone to replace you and notify the church office.

## Treasurer's Report

Below is a comparison of the January 2024 financial results compared to January 2023.

	2024	2023	Difference
<b>Total Revenue</b>	53,754	60,950	(7,196)
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	14,739	14,424	315
Building & Grounds	2,825	3,973	(1,148)
Other	3,700	4,143	(443)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>21,264</u>	<u>29,614</u>	<u>(8,350)</u>
Gain (Loss)	32,490	31,336	1,154

The above summary compares the revenues and expenses for January 2024 to January 2023. It is way too early in the year to draw any conclusions from this analysis.

However, there are 2 items I would like to highlight. Revenue for January 2024 is \$7,196 less than January 2023. That is not necessarily a concern. If we receive less pledge revenue now, we can expect to receive more than 2023 in the remainder of the year.

Also, the \$7,074 paid for property and liability insurance in 2023 was a billing timing issue. Normally that payment would have been made in December 2022 so it make January 2023 expenses higher than normal.

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## ***Bits and Pieces***

***Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers:*** The soup suppers will begin at 5:30 p.m. A vegetarian soup is still needed for March 13th and 20th, sign up sheet is on bulletin board next to kitchen.

***FACC Monthly Donation*** for March is jelly.

***ECW First Friday Lunch*** Friday, March 1st at 11:30am.

***Don't forget!*** Daylight Savings Time begins on the second Sunday of March! Move your clocks ahead one hour at 2:00am on March 10th.

***People of Grace Breakfast*** Saturday, March 16th at 8:00am at Nine East Coffee Shop. All are welcome to attend.

***Vestry Meeting*** Sunday March 17th after the 9:00am service.

***Flowers for Easter*** Each year the sanctuary is decorated with Easter flowers. If you would care to donate in memory and/or thanksgiving, please print the name(s) on the outside of the envelope. A list of those being honored or held in memory will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Envelopes for donations are included in the newsletter and will also be available in the narthex.

***Deadline*** for the April Messenger will be March 21st

### **2024 Vestry**

Wardens:	Chuck Breo, Senior Warden Mike Shore, Junior Warden
Vestry:	Chad Enright,* Martha Furst,* Deborah Lischwe, Chuck Terpening

\* new vestry members

## *March*



2nd	Mark Moderow	17th	Bob Crawford
	Laurie Gungel		Mary Lehnhard
5th	Deborah Lischwe	25th	Cierra Mathews
9th	Becky Lafferty	26th	Lucy Prall
10th	Chuck Terpening	29th	Carrie Helm
14th	Francis Crowe	31st	Neil Dreier
16th	Rayma Pinney		

- Music has the power to shape a culture.

—Aristotle

- God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

—Anonymous

- People see God every day; they just don't recognize him.

—Pearl Bailey

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Miracles  
Happen

March Newsletter