



Episcopal Church of the Advent
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Dear Friends,

The season of **Lent** is upon us once again. This is a season of self-examination and repentance. Our church will be providing resources to help you with your Lenten journey.

We will begin Lent with **Ash Wednesday services** at 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm on March 5. The mark of the Ashes reminds us of our mortality and the need to repent of our sins. Please join us for this important start of the Lenten season.

From March 12 until April 16 we will offer the **Stations of the Cross service and soup suppers** on Wednesday nights. The service begins at 5:30 pm in the church and supper follows in the parish hall. This is a good weekly opportunity for meditation and fellowship.

Greg Schell and I will lead a class, "All about Lent" **between the Sunday morning services** from 9 - 9:45 am March 9 through April 6. We'll talk about Lenten practices in the Episcopal Church and around the world.

The books for Lenten reading have been ordered and will arrive soon. Please pay for your books when they arrive. I would love have a "**Coffee and Conversation**" about the books we are reading this season. [I need someone to take on coordination of this event.](#)

Lent concludes with **Holy Week Services**. Please put these in your calendar now, as these services, which ask us to walk the journey with our Lord, make Easter much more meaningful.

- **Palm Sunday** is April 13. Both services will gather in the parish hall for the Blessing of the Palms and process to the church for worship. As usual, please bring bells to ring during the procession.
- **Maundy Thursday** service on April 17 will be at 6:00 pm with the opportunity to keep watch with the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's altar from 7:00 pm on Thursday through 9:00 am on Friday.
- **Good Friday** service will be at 12:00 noon on April 18.

Keeping watch with the Blessed Sacrament has been an important part of Lent for me every year since I was able to drive. It is a special time of meditation and prayer during this Holy time of the year. If you have not been part of the watch in the past, I encourage you to participate this year. Sign-up sheets will be available in the church soon.

I pray for you and your family for this Holy season of self-examination and repentance. May you be blessed by your participation in our church's Lenten traditions.

Faithfully,
Alan+

FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

It is wonderful to finally be able to write this as an officially ordained Deacon! It was a wonderful day and I want to thank Father Alan, our wonderful choir, and our acolytes for the faith-filled support and work they did to make the service beautiful. A special thank you to Dr. Brenda Leonard and Robert Bullington for their brilliant, awesome work. Brenda was the Litanist and Robert, who led the hymn, *Come Holy Spirit*, sung at the moment of my consecration by our Bishop, with the combined choirs of Advent and Christ Church Somers Point. He also gifted me with a solo, *Love Bade Me Welcome*.

We also had a combined Acolyte core including Kona, Kendell, and Emma. Of all the comments about the service, the most were about the wonderful music and the skill and dignity of the Acolytes!

Thank you all for your prayers and support. I am so humbled to be serving The Church of the Advent as your Deacon!

In other news, our Pastoral Care team is up and running. We have six people on the team at present. Two have been issued their licenses, each of the rest have completed one of two supervised visits, which is required for licensing. When you see our visitor preparing to take communion to our homebound, they are sent out from our worship service with the sacrament to share with our family at home. It is a wonderful ministry and if you feel a call to join us, please speak to Fr. Alan or me and we will be happy to talk with you about it.

Finally, Lent will begin next week. We have so many opportunities for you to help you draw closer to God and strengthen your faith. I hope you will be able to join us as we walk the Way of the Cross so that you will be able to experience a truly Holy Lent and add a beautiful new meaning to our acclamation, **"We are the Easter People and Alleluia is our name!"**

Faithfully,
Deacon Charlene

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 PM at the home of Lynda and Corbin Cogswell. The book for discussion is Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. All are welcome. For more information please call Lynda Cogswell at 609-884-6675.

ALL ABOUT LENT

Good Day family and friends from Church of the Advent:

We are quickly approaching the Lenten season! A wonderful time in our church year spent in reflection, examination, prayer and repentance. This culminates for us on Easter Sunday with a renewal of the grace, mercy, and strength we receive from our Lord's death and resurrection.

This Lenten season, I am excited to announce I will be leading discussions with Fr. Alan's help on a variety of topics that I hope are enjoyable, educational, and useful for you individually and us as a church body.

There will be 5 classes broken down as follows:

March 9 - Lent 101

What is it? Why do we do it? How does it impact us as Episcopalians and Christians?

March 16 - Church Terms

Let's find out what these things we see and say actually are!

March 23 - Stations of the Cross

How many are there? Do all Christians have the same stations?

March 30 - The Passion Today

How can we relate and apply the teachings and wisdom of the Passion of our Lord to society today?

April 6 - Lenten Season across the Globe

What are some similarities and differences with Lent across different cultures?

We will be hosting these discussions on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. to accommodate both services and they will last about 45 minutes. I hope to see you there and I am excited to discuss, pray, and play an active part in our collective Lenten Season. Blessings!

-Greg Schell

LENTEN PARISH MUSTARD SEED PROJECT

For many years this parish, through the agency of its Outreach Committee, has provided monetary relief to the Collateral Repair Project (CRP), operating out of Amman, Jordan. There, with the local assistance of the international Anglican parish and global contributors like us, we have helped sustain a significant population of displaced and traumatized families and persons fleeing from the ravages of war in the Middle East and North Africa. The project operates two community centers in Amman that provide space and opportunity for social gathering, fellowship, education and skills training, advice, assistance with job placement, and the distribution of food, clothes, and household items. Two major activities are especially notable: the actually setting up of households to begin new, functioning lives in the local economy and a special educational, cultural, and social program for young women. A dollar goes a long, long way in Amman, Jordan. For the past two years, the parish has been able to facilitate matching, Sustained Development diocesan grants that leverage our own contributions up to \$750 each year.

Thus, what we do and how we witness our concern energizes other resources to complement our own giving. We should all feel good and offer thanksgivings that God has enabled us to do God’s work, touching so many lives.

Simply collect your loose change in the Mustard Seed Jar during Lent. Fr. Alan will bless the jars on Sunday, March 9, and you may take a jar home with you. We will collect the filled jars on Sunday, April 27, 2025. Rest assured that what you collect and donate will once again be cited in a sustained development goal grant request to the Diocese of New Jersey in support of this worthy project.

ECW NEWS

March 3 – Craft meetings start in preparation for our spring outdoor market that is scheduled for May 17. Come on over to the Parish Hall at 4:00 PM with scissors and ideas for spring crafts.

March 7 – Cape May Lutheran Church is hosting World Day of Prayer. The service begins at 12:00 Noon with Cape May churches participating. Come and celebrate Cook Islands in the South Pacific and stay for lunch with our neighboring church people.

March 21 at 6 pm – another fun Pot Luck Dinner. We are celebrating an ordinary day with an extraordinary get together. As usual, ECW will provide the main course which will be lasagna and we will contact you to let you know what “pot” you can bring. Look for the sign-up sheet in the church vestibule or call the office (609-884-3065) to let us know you are coming.

-Carol Obligado

March Birthday Celebrations

March Anniversary Celebrations

3	Ainsley Reed		
7	William DeHart		
10	Arlene Hauptman-Lehman		
14	Joseph O’Brien		
18	Amy Marie Reed		
22	Sharon Werth		
23	Werner Unzelmann		
27	Matthew Craig		
27	Patricia Keltie		
29	Lee Snyder		
30	Diane Dilworth		

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday: The Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

The 10:30 service is also livestreamed on YouTube

Wednesday: The Anglican Rosary at 9:00 a.m.

Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday: The Holy Eucharist at 12:00 Noon

SPECIAL LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Sundays: All about Lent Classes – 9:00 AM – Parish Hall

March 9 – Lent 101

March 16 – Church Terms

March 23 – Stations of the Cross

March 30 – The Passion Today

April 6 – Lenten Season across the Globe

Wednesdays: Stations of the Cross – 5:30 PM

Lenten Soup Supper–6:00 PM-Parish Hall

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2025	CHURCH OF THE ADVENT		From March 12, on Stations of the Cross followed by Soup	Wednesdays, Cross at 5:30 PM Supper in the Parish Hall	AA Meetings: Sun-4:00 PM Tues-7:30 PM Wed-7:30 AM	1 Vestry Retreat - 9 to 4 -St. Barnabas-Villas
2 Last Epiphany Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	3 ECW Crafts-4:00- Parish Hall Bible Study-7:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	4 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper-4:30-7:00 PM- Parish Hall-\$10 & \$5	5 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer-9:30 AM Ash Wednesday- Noon & 6:00 PM	6 Holy Eucharist-Noon	7	8
9 Lent 1 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com Livestream at 10:30 Lent Class-9 AM Free Concert-4 PM Reception follows	10 ECW Crafts-4:00- Parish Hall Bible Study-7:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	11 Men's Breakfast-8:00 AM Book Club-7:00 PM- Cogswell's home	12 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer-9:30 AM	13 Holy Eucharist-Noon	14	15
16 Lent 2 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Lent Class - 9 AM Vestry Mtg-Noon	22 ECW Crafts-4:00- Parish Hall Bible Study-7:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	18	19 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer-9:30 AM Outreach Mtg-3:00 PM- Parish Hall	20 Holy Eucharist-Noon ECW Mtg-10:30 AM- Parish Hall	21 Potluck Supper - 6:00 PM- Parish Hall	22
23 Lent 3 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Lent Class - 9 AM	24 ECW Crafts-4:00- Parish Hall Bible Study-7:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	25	26 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer-9:30 AM	27 Holy Eucharist-Noon	28	29
30 Lent 4 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Lent Class-9 AM	24 ECW Crafts-4:00- Parish Hall Bible Study-7:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003					