

## About Lent

“Lent” comes from the ancient word lencton - the time of year when the days grow long. The season begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday, covering forty days (excluding Sundays). The five Sundays during Lent are followed by Palm Sunday, which marks the beginning of Holy Week.

In the early church, Lent was the time of preparation for the Easter baptism of converts to the faith. Persons who were to receive the sacrament of baptism, “new birth,” were expected to fast and prepare during these weeks.

Therefore, one of the major themes of the season is the meaning of baptism, which reflects the origins and continuing focus of the season. Another theme is fasting. The forty weekdays of Lent represent the days of fasting and temptation that Jesus

spent in the wilderness. Self-denial is an opportunity for discipline, the sacrifice of our will to the purpose of God. Lent is also a time for reconciliation with God and to consider the nature of the ministry of Jesus, what does it mean to be a disciple.

This year at St. Mark's, Lent is also a season of invitation. Our Lenten discipline as a congregation has two parts this year. First, please consider participating fully in everything we have to offer in the coming weeks. Second, invite someone to join you, whether it is on Sunday morning, for a fish dinner or for one of the various midweek offerings.

This brochure outlines the many opportunities during Lent to learn, explore and invite. We encourage you to observe a “Holy Lent” and bring someone along to enrich the journey.

[www.saintmarkserie.org](http://www.saintmarkserie.org)

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Saint Mark's  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

KEEPING A HOLY

LENT

AN INVITATION

## Devotions for Lent

### Evening Prayer & Scripture Study

*Tuesday Evenings beginning at 7:00 P.M.*  
 March 12, 19, 26 April 2, 9, 16

The *Daily Office* is the use of prayers to mark the times of the day and to express the traditions of the praying community. *Morning Prayer* and *Evening Prayer* are at the heart of our Anglican Spirituality. Lent provides you with the opportunity to participate in *Evening Prayer*, praising Christ at sunset, every Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. This brief service is followed by a more detailed discussion of the readings heard during the service. You may participate in just the service or both.

### Taizé at St. Mark's

*Thursday Evenings beginning at 6:00 P.M.*  
 March 7, 14, 21, 28 April 4, 11

Come and experience a community of welcome and inclusivity. Taizé is an evening service of quiet, contemplative prayer. It includes candlelight, scripture and prayerful meditation through song. You may participate as much or as little as you want. We hope to create a thin place where you may encounter God and experience the power of silence. **Prayers will be offered for the households of St. Mark's.** Complete schedules will be made available through our weekly emails.

## Lenten Services at St. Mark's

### Ash Wednesday (March 6)

7:00 P.M. Ash Wednesday Service with Communion and Distribution of Ashes

### Fridays in Lent (March 15, 22, 29 April 5, 12)

5:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross

## Holy Week & Easter at St. Mark's

### Palm Sunday (April 14)

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Palm Sunday Services  
 10:00 A.M. Activities for Children

### Tuesday (April 16)

7:00 P.M. Evening Prayer

### Wednesday (April 17)

7:00 P.M. Taizé

### Maundy Thursday (April 18)

7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday Liturgy with Footwashing

### Good Friday (April 19)

12:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross  
 7:00 P.M. Good Friday Liturgy

### Easter Sunday (April 21)

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Easter Sunday Services

## Don't Forget...

Fish Dinners are a Friday tradition in Lent at St. Mark's and we need your help! Dinners will be held on March 15, 22, 29 April 5, 12.

Volunteers are needed to set up, serve tables, work in the kitchen, and clean up. We also need volunteers to supply desserts each week. This is an enormous undertaking and we need as many hands as possible.

If you can help, please contact Carly Rowe at 868-6966 or Craig Dressler at 868-9704

Fish Dinners are served from 5:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. on Friday evenings. The cost is \$10 for adults or \$5 for children. Anyone under 5 eats free!