



St. Augustine Episcopal Church

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March, 2025

Dear St. Augustine's family:

Lent is a combination of my favorite and least favorite seasons of the church year.

The reason is pretty much the same in both categories. It is a time to be introspective and to think, and to improve our relationship with God. That's a lot on one plate.

I do like to think and be introspective. I am also very interested in improving my relationship with God.

However, it is the result of thinking and being introspective that leads me to what I need to do to improve my relationship with God.

And those are the aspects that put me in a "grrrr" mood.

I don't think any one of us can claim to be perfect, but good grief, I can really come up with a list of my imperfections.

The one that surfaces almost all of the time is judgment. When I have conversations with friends and colleagues, the one trait that we are all most rigid about in ourselves is judgment.

Luke 6:37 gives the best advice. It reads, "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven."

As I personally navigate the Lenten season, I am going to again focus on improving my record of judging. If I judge less, and forgive more, I might be able to help more. That is what Jesus' example has always been.

Speaking of Lent, I suggest you take some time for yourself. Whether it is to think introspectively or participate in some church events, Lent is often a time for personal growth.

In addition to Sunday service at 9 a.m., Mass is also offered at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. Stations of the Cross will be held at 5:30 p.m. each Friday.

During lent there will be a weekly discussion centered on the Living Well Through Lent 2025 devotional booklet. We will hold this discussion in conjunction with St. Matthias. You may join by zoom or in person. As I write this, Mother Deborah and I have not finalized details of when we will hold these sessions. I will share that as soon as I have it pinned down.

I wanted to take advantage of the attention on former president Jimmy Carter in selecting a book for discussion on Sundays at the end of coffee hour. Availability of books by Carter has been limited because of his popularity. I have had to change my choice of a discussion book a couple of times.

Finally, I was able to find several copies, through multiple sources, of "The Virtues of Aging." I have ordered the books and supposedly they will arrive before you receive this newsletter. From the few excerpts of the book that I have read, I believe we will learn a lot. Carter writes of personal experiences with the aging process, and his own emotions and reactions. I think we will have a lot to talk about.

Later on in Lent, we will offer the opportunity to make Resurrection Gardens. I'm hoping that this year, my grass will at least sprout!!! Two years in a row I had nothing growing. The rock looked pretty lonely. (I think there might be a sermon hidden in that last statement.)

Faithfully,

Meredyth+

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is March 5. We will have Mass with imposition of ashes at 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held at 5:30 p.m. On Good Friday, Stations will be at approximately 2 p.m., following the service.

Correct church mailing address

If you are mailing items to the church, please use our P.O. Box 771 address. Previously, if mail was addressed to our street address, it was generally put in our Post Office box. That's not the case anymore. The mail addressed to the church is delivered to the rectory. Yes, I can bring it to the church, my concern is that it will get mixed up with my mail and get misdirected. Thanks for changing your routine. (M+)

ECW News from Barb Hagen

A huge THANK YOU to everyone for supporting the Valentine's To Go Dinner fundraiser. A special thank you to the cooks – Judy S, Coralie, Karen and Dawn and those who made cupcakes, Donna Z, Deb L, and Mother Meredyth and to those who donated funds for the supplies and a big THANK YOU to all of you who bought meals and cupcakes! I think everyone at church was involved in some way and it all makes a difference!

ECW

ECW will meet at noon on Tuesday, March 4. This will be a business meeting and a potluck. Please bring a dish to pass. We will be going over details for the Spring Bazaar. More info to come soon on the bazaar, which will be Saturday, April 5.

SUNDAY: Worship 9 a.m.

The Meeting ID: 812 8610 0297. Passcode: 94205

To connect through video:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84626513503?pwd=TTVoVWxmbExJMGZVUnhCYWNCSnhxQT09>

To connect by telephone: 1-312-626-6799.

Office Hours

Office hours are generally 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Mother Meredyth is in the office during the office hours, on Monday, as well as additional times. If you are planning to stop in to see her, please call first to make sure she is available.