

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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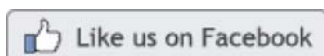
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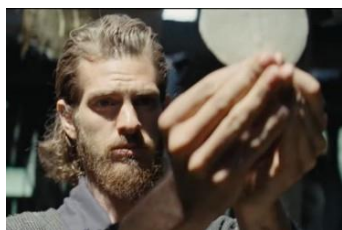
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### **SILENCE**



**A DISCUSSION**  
**This Sunday @10 am**

**PRAYING AS A**  
**PARISH FOR LENT**

## March 5, 2017

The First Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

If you come to church this Sunday (and I haven't the slightest doubt that you will) you'll notice quite a change in the order of service. We'll begin with the Penitential Order, which includes a recitation of the Ten

Commandments and the refrain of either "Amen. Lord have mercy," or, "Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law." On the altar you will see no flowers, and at the Breaking of the Bread in the Eucharist will come that tricky moment when you want to say, "Therefore, let us keep the feast. *Alleluia*." But the fact is, we are not supposed to say the "A" word for some weeks to come. Why not? Because last Wednesday we arrived at Lent, the season of preparation for Easter. Lent is to be a time of self-denial and penitence, not indulgence and celebration.

The Gospel reading for the First Sunday in Lent always tells the story of how Jesus, after his baptism, went out into the wilderness and fasted for forty days and forty nights. Obviously, he needed to eat and drink something or he would have died. But the point is that for a lengthy period of time, Jesus did without his normal level of sustenance. It was a time of physical temptation and spiritual warfare. At the end of the experience he emerged from the wilderness with an increased awareness of his identity and mission.



### DAILY DEVOTIONS BY E-MAIL...

(You can still sign up!) Consider taking two minutes out of every day to pray using a brief, daily devotional guide written by Grace Church parishioners for each other and delivered daily (Mon-Sat) to your e-mail inbox.

*These devotions began on Ash Wednesday, Mar 1, so sign up now by clicking [here](#).*

### Please pray for...



#### *Those who suffer*

Larry Birns  
Nita and Max Slover  
Robert Zaytoun  
Wayne Faust  
Carol Haines

From the early days of the church, Christians have attempted to follow the pattern of Jesus and set aside a period of rigorous self-examination and penitence. A classic, visible, measurable way that many people observe Lent is by giving something up, by denying themselves a particular pleasure that perhaps has begun to infringe on what ought to be higher priorities in life. The purpose is not a heroic exercise of will power (which may only lead to the deeper sin of pride), but a renewed reliance on the Lord instead of the crutches we often turn to for support.

Here are a few bits of trivia regarding Lent:

- It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at the Easter Vigil, this year on Saturday, April 15.
- It is forty days long, but does NOT include the five Sundays in Lent, or Palm Sunday. Note the preposition. Sundays are IN Lent, not OF Lent. If you hear people talking about the Sundays of Lent, correcting them probably won't make you popular. Abstain from flouting your superior knowledge.
- The word "Lent" seems to derive from the Old English "lencten," which means spring. The term probably has roots in Old German as well, where the word "lenzin" refers to the lengthening of days - once again, spring.

Lately it's been impossible not to notice that the days are indeed getting longer. They are being stretched. It's time to stretch ourselves. This Lent I have my list of pleasures to give up and prayerful actions to take on. I invite you, also, to the observance of a holy Lent.

See you in church.

[The Rev. J. Donald Waring](#)  
Rector

## This Sunday

March 5th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

Josephine Ferraiuolo  
Howard Small  
Trish Lawrence

### 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring  
Music: The Girls' Choir with Adults

*and those who have  
died.*

### 6 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Mary Cat Young  
Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

***SILENCE – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM.*** On the First Sunday in Lent a panel of speakers will lead a discussion of the book and movie *Silence*, an engrossing tale about the challenges faced by 17th century Jesuit missionaries in Japan at a time when all Japanese Christians were under intense persecution. *Silence* raises thought-provoking questions about faith that are forever relevant. *All are welcome to attend, but do go see the film or read the book to be a more informed participant.*

**20'S AND 30'S-*ish* SUNDAY BRUNCH** – Young adult parishioners and guests are invited to brunch after the 11 o'clock service and coffee hour on Sunday, March 5. We'll meet in the Rectory Garden by the 802 Broadway gate and walk to a nearby restaurant. Plan to bring \$10–20 in cash. *RSVP to the [Rev. Chase Danford](#).*

**A SUNDAY EVENING LENTEN SERIES** On March 5, find out why people eat fish on Friday and give up chocolate with "Lent 101." On March 12, we will discuss "Refugees and the Church." On March 19, we'll learn about the Christian martyrs and Ignatian spirituality of the book and film, "Silence." On March 26, we will confront "Anti-Semitism in the Passion Narratives," and on April 2, "Holy Week 101" will take us from palms and foot-washing to the Cross and the Empty Tomb. Held in the Chantry immediately following the 6 pm service (approx. 7 pm).

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS** – Two couples have agreed to be the co-chairs of our upcoming, as-yet-to-be-themed capital campaign to fund restoration of the nave ceiling. Thanks to **Meg and Owen Boger**, and **Sarah Cogan and Doug Evans** for taking on this vital parish responsibility.

### *Coming Soon*

**MAR 8, 15, 22, 29 – CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER** – Led by parishioner Currie Estreich, contemplative, or "centering prayer" is an ancient Christian practice of being still and quiet and connecting with the Spirit of God dwelling in each of us. For more information, contact Currie [here](#). Held in the Chantry at 5:30 pm, just prior to the 6 pm Eucharist.

**MAR 12, 19, 26, APR 2 – WHAT'S ON THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR? – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM.** On the Second through Fifth Sundays in Lent the preacher of the day will lead a conversation on the scripture readings of the day. This will be a chance for them to share thoughts that they couldn't fit into their sermon, the things that ended up "on the cutting room floor."

**20'S AND 30'S-ish LENTEN SUSHI FRIDAYS** at Grace and other NYC Episcopal churches. Grace will host at 7 pm on Friday, Mar 24, with a tour of the church (perfect opportunity to invite a friend!), sushi, salad, and the brief but beautiful service of Compline (Night Prayer). [Contact Fr. Chase](#) for details on Sushi Friday opportunities with the diocesan Young Adult Network in other weeks during Lent.

**MAR 12 – NEWCOMERS' CLASS** – Newcomers to Grace Church are warmly invited! Held on the second

Sunday of each month in the Reception Room at 12:30 pm, each class will discuss how to become a member of Grace Church, as well as a variety of special topics (**this month: Church History**). We suggest that you attend at least three classes throughout the year, as a way to get acquainted with the clergy, meet other newcomers, and grow in your faith.

**MAR 14 – OPEN DOOR MINISTRY WINTER RECEPTION** (Inquirers welcome!) This team of friendly volunteers provides a welcoming presence to weekend visitors, answering questions about our beautiful building and church community. Please join us for dinner, fellowship and answers to your questions about volunteering. Tuesday, Mar. 14, 7–8:30 pm in the Reception Room. *RSVP and/or info: contact Singleton Cox [here](#).*

*To find service information,  
you may visit [www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org), updated weekly.*

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