



February 27, 2009

The Prodigal

“Where in seeking him we are found by him.”

The Rev. Willie Dávila, Priest in Charge

Ms. Lila Vaughan, Editor

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

I have been swimming lately and because of that, I am getting Spring fever. There is an association I make between swimming, Spring and vacation time. I really do not know where it comes from but I start thinking of vacation time and far off places I would like to go and visit. I’ve been in the Caribbean only once in the summer and that one time has made its mark on my consciousness. Beautiful white sand beaches and relaxing sounds of the waves along with a best seller on the lap- - - what better can it get? But here we are in Lent! Like most things, at least for me, it comes in the wrong time of the year. It ought to be scheduled during August. If I am not going to enjoy certain things I might as well be miserable along with the heat of summer. (I believe that I can make a case of changing the season by referring to the Desert experience of Jesus.)

However, the Season of Lent is fixed on the Church calendar for all time and place. The Season of Lent is ultimately derived from the wilderness experience that the people Israel went through after being liberated from Egypt. It was an experience where they had to rely and trust in God. It was an experience of testing, tempering, as steel is made stronger through the heat of fire, that the people Israel became a faithful people. So too we are called to be prepared as a people to be more observant and faithful as followers of Jesus Christ.

The Bishop of our Diocese has asked us to look deeply into ourselves and take stock of how we reflect the love of God to the World. He asked a very provocative question to the people gathered at the Annual Council held in McAllen. He asked, “How do you demonstrate your faith so that your neighbors know that you are a Christian?” The other question was “How do you foster your relationship in Christ?” Those are very pertinent questions that we should wrestle with during the Season of Lent.

Most Christians also view Lent as a time to engage in special disciplines, both spiritual and physical. Fasting, more vigorous cycles of prayer, acts of charity are common ways in which Christians strive to keep a holy Lent in preparation for the joy of the resurrection at Easter. This Lent we will have United Thank Offering mite boxes for your use, and a Lenten program

to be used as a catalyst for self-examination, reflection and prayer. Fasting is most appropriate during Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Lent is a time of breaking our strong independent spirits so that ultimately we have to rely on God to help us be representatives of Christ to the World that desperately needs to hear of his love.

In His Name & Service,

SUNDAY READINGS

March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29	April 5
Genesis 17:1-7,15-16	Exodus 20:1-17	Numbers 21:4-9	Jeremiah 31: 31-34	Isaiah 50:4-9a
Romans 4:13-25	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Ephesians 2:1-10	Hebrews 5:5-10	Philippians 2:5-11
Psalm: 22: 22-30	19	107: 1-3, 17-22	55:1-13	31:9-16

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m.				
Johnnie Marie Steve	Lila Wiley	John Richard (E)	Johnnie Marie Steve	Lila Wiley
10:30 a.m.				
Carmen (E) Kevin Pam © Sam (P)	Christine Louie Lynne © (E) Warren (P)	David Lucie Jack © Jeri (P)	Sam Pam Kevin © (E) Kathryn (P)	Warren Lynne Louis © Carmen (P)
<u>Host/Hostess</u> Lucie	Kevin	Cathy	Kevin	Cathy
<u>Keeper of the Key</u>				
Joel	T. J.	Lucie	Cathy	Kevin
<u>Ushers:</u> Lucie	Ava	Cathy	Joel	Ava
<u>Acolytes:</u> Austin Kyle	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
<u>Hospitality</u>				
Sherman	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
<u>Altar Flowers</u>				
Vaughan	Open	Norman's	Open	Harris
<u>Oblationers</u>				
Larmond	Buentello	Darabie	Ramirez	Buentello

WORKDAY- -MARCH 14th

Our next Workday is scheduled for March 14th at 8:00 a.m. We will trim the Mesquite trees and clean up the playground area. We will also clean out the portables and our storage rooms. Lunch will be provided!

EPISCOPAL VISITATION

Bishop Gary Lillibridge will be with us on March 8, 2009. He will be here for his yearly visitation and to Celebrate, Preach, Confirm and Baptize the newest members of our Church. These are important events in the life of the Church and everyone should come. The Bishop is the Chief Pastor of the Church and his role is to unite and encourage the faithful for the ministry of the Church. There will be a reception for the Bishop and the members after the 10:30 a.m. Service.

LENTEN PROGRAM

The Lenten Program for this year will be based on the Kaleidoscope Bible Study method. Instead of having a lecture on biblical passages, the process involves listening intently to what the Scripture might be saying to us. The process has been used by the Thursday morning bible study class and has helped us to be better attuned to God's Word and at the same time build community. Please come and give it a try!

BOOKS SUGGESTED FOR LENTEN STUDY

The Birth of Christianity : Discovering What Happened in the Years Immediately After the Execution of Jesus by John Dominic Crossan. This is not a new book; it was published in the late 90's. What is good about this book is that the writer tries to give you a glimpse of the early Church without the influence of St. Paul. Some have argued that the Christian Church was so structured by the writings of St. Paul that it is difficult to see what the early Church looked like. The writer does a good job of having the reader rethink what the Church was about.

The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan (Paperback, Jan 30, 2007). We rush through the events of Holy Week and usually the focus is on the last day: The Passion. Borg and Crossan give us a day by day account of what Jesus was about that there should be no doubt why he was crucified. The writers capture a vivid portrayal of the Historical Jesus.

IT'S THE POKY AGAIN FOR FATHER WILLIE!

Father Willie is a celebrity in our community and that is why he has been ordered to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association or face jail time. (MDA is a voluntary health agency working to defeat neuromuscular diseases through programs of worldwide research, services and public health education.) The Lock Up is scheduled for March 12, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. Every dollar raised is needed. Help with the cause and bail Father Willie out!!

IT'S WEIGHT WATCHERS EN ESPAÑOL!

Representatives of Weight Watchers, our own Janie López among them, will begin a class for Spanish speaking people. There is a real need in our Community for these types of classes and I hope that if you know of someone who needs help in this area of preventive health you let them know about these classes. With the high incidence of Diabetes and needless loss of limbs, diet and good health conscious teaching is saving lives.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Laura, Mike, Jody, Moises, Patrick, Gabriel, Elena, James, Danielle, Jo Beth, Maria, Nancy, for those seeking a place to belong; for our Church and its growth; for our children; for marriages; for refugees; for those who have lost their homes because of hurricanes; for the people of Haiti and Cuba ; for the Iraqi people, for the people of Afghanistan, for those who serve in the Armed Services; for those in prison or detention; for those who suffer addiction; for the unemployed; for the homeless; for those who have died, and for peace.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF RECONCILIATION
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 (361) 852-9677/web page: church-of-reconciliation.org

“We are a diverse community, one under God, joined together to celebrate the love of Jesus Christ through worship, outreach and the Call to service.”

BIRTHDAYS

Sara Snyder Ramirez	March 10	Kristin Isabel Davila	March 13
Alexandria Nicole Guillen	March 30	Stella Cook	March 22

<p><u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE:</u></p> <p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p><u>3rd Sunday-</u> Anointing & Laying on of Hands</p>	<p><u>OUTREACH MINISTRIES</u></p> <p>2nd Tues. of the Month Salvation Army Canteen</p> <p>3rd Sunday- food drive for Cliff Maus Village Pantry</p>	<p><u>TUESDAY:</u></p>
<p><u>WEDNESDAY:</u></p> <p>12:10 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p>	<p><u>THURSDAY:</u></p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p><u>SATURDAY</u></p>

*OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY -THURSDAY 10:00 A.M. -4:00 P.M.