

# Grace-filled Voices

February 10, 2015

## Lent is Approaching

by Fr. Joe Rees

“And after Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.” Matthew 4:2.

It always amazes me to read that it was after 40 days Jesus became hungry! It's hard enough for me to go one day without food! And it was then that Satan really attempted to deceive Him and make Him fall. What Jesus does in that period of fasting and praying with battles against the flesh and the devil, is nothing short of miraculous. Jesus shows us how to defend against the evil one and his evil ways. “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”(v.4) That was such a remarkable truth and it still applies to us today. This is why we are who we are as Anglican Christians. We live on the Word of God as the truth that sets us free from sin and death. It is the Word then that we must adhere to and live under in obedience. I see where countless people have let go of the Word of God in their lives and they are reaping the destruction of their lives.

Lent is approaching. We are about to publish a wonderful guide that daily considers the Word of God and gives us all renewed life. It's by many of our people who have written daily devotionals. I commend it to you. It is our daily bread

from God. Yes, each one of us who give attention to the Word are receiving nutrition for our souls. We must stay with the Word. We must eat it. With it we will thrive for God.

When you consider the ancient practice of Lent (which is an old English word for Spring), the new life that comes in the springtime brings new growth. However, if we have old rot in our stems we won't flower properly nor will we produce fruit that we were meant to do by God. In this preparatory time before Lent begins, let us consider how we might add, not take away, good fertilizer and water with cultivating efforts to our lives. First, consider being in the Word of God, the Scriptures, each day. Second, be in prayer not for yourself but how we might do the Lord's will each day. Third, challenge ourselves to let the Word inspire us to use our spiritual gifts in a bold new way. Do something with the Spirit of God this Lent. Let's get going with new inspiration for the ministries of this parish.

So while giving up carbs or cookies or ice cream is good for our waistlines, using our spiritual gifts empowered by His Word and with faith that He is using us for His glory will add muscle to our whole body and increase the strength of our community of believers. Add to your lives spir-

itual devotions to Jesus who devoted His whole life to us. With Jesus' Word we too can defeat the evil one's scheme to make us slaves of his desires instead of loving servants of the Lord. Add time for Jesus each and every day and taste the sweet victory of His Life in yours!

Let's have a wonderful Lent filled with new excitement of the Holy Spirit's work in our midst! To God be the glory!!

Love in Christ,  
Fr. Joe

### **Ladies' Lunch Social**

All ladies of the church are invited to Café Rosarita for a "no host" lunch on Thursday, February 12, 2015 from 11:30 to 12:30.

They have a special \$5.00 lunch menu. Come have lunch with other ladies from the church, chat and visit, eat good food. Please wear something red! It's important that you call the church office to let us know you are coming as the restaurant will set a table for us to sit together.

Tonight—February 10, 2015

Join Pastor Kathleen Adams in her teaching—**Hearing Jesus Speak to the Church—Exploring the Seven Churches of Revelation**. This is the third of 3 teachings on a subject that may well help us with our discernment process to find a new priest. 7:00 p.m. at Grace.

Fr. Joe and Pastor Kathleen will be at a Clergy Retreat with Bishop Keith and all the clergy of the Diocese of Western Anglicans this week from Wednesday noon until Friday afternoon. They will check in with the office from time to time in case there is an emergency. The regular 10:00 a.m. Wednesday service will be held as usual.

Please pray for Trish Stewart and Thor Strom, our delegates to the House of Delegates meeting on Saturday. Pray for Linnie Phelps, our alternate delegate. Lots of important decisions are made for the church in these meetings so their role is very important.

## **This Week at Grace**

**February 10, 2015—February 18, 2015**

### **Tues. February 10**

11:30 a.m. Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. "Hearing Jesus Speak to the Church"  
Exploring the 7 churches of Revelation

### **Wed. February 11**

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service  
3:30 p.m. No Staff Meeting  
6:30 p.m. **Soaking Prayer**

### **Thurs. February 12**

7:00 a.m. Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Sr. Women's Bible Study  
3:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### **Fri. February 13**

Fr. Joe's Day off  
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Healing

### **Sat. February 14**

House of Delegates Meeting—please pray.  
8:00 a.m. Men' Bible Study  
9:30 a.m. Prayers & Squares

### **Sun. February 15, 2015**

#### **Last Sunday After the Epiphany**

9:15 a.m. Nursery opens  
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service  
9:30 a.m. Children's Church  
11:15 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship  
11:15 a.m. Prayer Team Meeting

### **Mon. February 16, 2015**

Church Office Closed for President's Day

### **Tues. February 17 2015**

11:30 a.m. Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper & Fellowship

### **Wed. February 18, 2015-Ash Wednesday**

6:10 a.m. Br. Benno's Team  
10:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service  
with Imposition of ashes  
2—4 p.m. Fr. Joe & Pastor Kathleen will hear  
confessions.  
Please make an appointment.  
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service  
with imposition of ashes

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### **Bible Readings for February 15, 2015**

1 Kings 19:9-18  
Psalm 27:1-5  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Mark 9:2-9

Our readings come from the Lectionary in the  
Book of Common Prayer. We are in year B.

## **Sunday Servers**

<b>February 15, 2015</b>	<b>Last Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
First Reader	1 Kings 19:9-18	Linnie Phelps
Psalm Reader	Psalm 27:5-11	Frances Slaughter
Second Reader	2 Peter 1:16-21	Dick Phelps
Intercessor/Acolyte		Kari Campbell
Lay Euch. Ministers		John & Myrna Lipnicke
Sub-Deacon		JR Fox
Early Intercessors		Jan Simon, Pastor Dorothy Worly
Welcomers		Margaret Olson, John Gerhart
Ushers		Dick Sholly, Jim Livingston
Vestry Person of Day		Dick Sholly
Healing Ministers		John & Liz Gerhart
Counters		Cline Handy Helen Reid