

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Eblast

February 19, 2026



**Worship with us Wednesday at 12:05 p.m.
Saturday at 5:15 p.m. + Sunday at 11 a.m.**



LENT

Within the church year, Lent is a season that encourages us to look at our own mortality (hence the ashes on Ash Wednesday – “remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.”) It is a season of deeper reflection, a time where you are encouraged to deepen your prayer life, to fast and be intentional about charitable giving whether of your treasure or your time. These disciplines are meant to help us (re)turn toward God. At the Church of the Redeemer, along with our partner parish St. John Lutheran Church, we offer you the following resources to assist you on your spiritual journey:

BIBLE STUDY: Beginning Monday February 23 at either 10:00 a.m. or 6:35 p.m. in the South Wing of St. John. The evening session will also feature a 30 minute time of fellowship with soup, bread and salad beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will be reading Will Willimon’s Last Supper: Conversations that lead to the Cross.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: In addition to our 12:05 p.m. Eucharist, immediately after this service (about 12:35) we offer a contemplative time with Stations of the Cross. This journey around the Nave takes approximately 15 minutes.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT DEVOTIONAL: Yesterday, we provided you with a daily devotional as an attachment to an email in a .pdf format (see page 4)

LENT MADNESS: In a play on “March Madness” join the leadership of the Forward Movement in a lighthearted effort to select the saint most worthy to receive the “Golden Halo.” You can access it here: [2026 | Lent Madness](#)

OTHER DEVOTIONALS: In our booklet rack in the Narthex you can find issues of *Forward Day by Day* and *Our Daily Bread*. You can also access *Forward* materials here: [Daily Prayer: A Resource of Forward Movement](#)

February 21 & 22 Lessons

First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm: 32

Second Lesson: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Serving in Worship

Worship Assistant: Amy Murrelle

Usher: Glenn Murrelle

Greeter: Margaret Cole

Acolytes: Kayla Marshall

Sophia Storelli

AV Operator: Rosemary Firestine



Kay Lattimer	2/19
Doreen Marshall	2/20
Sherrie Gabauer	2/20
Michael Atanasoff	2/23
Mitzi Mohn	2/26
Seth Murrelle	2/26
Aimee Marshall	2/26
Ray Penoyer	2/28

Scripture Reflection

How might you grow in faith and draw near to Jesus through the forty days of Lent? Let Jesus' three responses to the devil be your guide: (1) study Scripture (live by the Word of God); (2) seek reconciliation with God and others (do not put God to the test); and (3) be active and intentional about participating in the worship of our congregation (worship the Lord your God).



February Food Item



For the month of February we will be collecting canned tuna and chicken for our local food pantries.

St. Mary's Rummage Sale

On Friday, March 6th from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday March 7th from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. St. Mary's will hold a rummage sale. We will be accepting clean rummage. **NO LARGE APPLIANCES OR ELECTRONICS, and ABSOLUTELY NO BOOKS, DVD'S or CD'S.** We will be accepting rummage through **FEBRUARY 22**, but nothing after that. If you have rummage that you need to drop off between now and then, please contact the church office (570) 888-2270 during office hours. Or you may reach out to Rose Carpenter or Glenda Hinsman. If you have access to the building and bring rummage, please leave it on the stack of white tables in the hallway downstairs in the Parish Hall.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

You are invited to join us on February 20th, from 6-8 p.m. for fun and games in the South Wing. Invite your friends and feel free to bring your favorite game along with you to share.



Sunday School News

The Lent program for this year is once again Heifer International. This program allows the children to buy an animal(s), bees, trees and other things for the needed country. In the church there is a Heifer table with information about the program and containers to put donations or take a Heifer mite box home and bring it back on Easter.

Recycling: The Sunday school continues to collect recyclable cans and bottles in support of the Easter mite box donations to Heifer International. Please keep bringing them in when you can.

Thank you for your continued support,

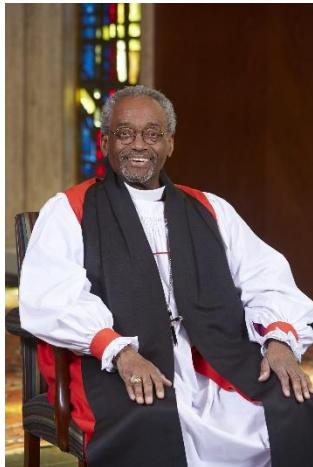
Betsy



St. Mary's Guild

Rummage Sale Set-Up will begin on Thursday March 5th at 9 a.m. We are in need of volunteers to help set up and work the sale. There is a sign-up sheet in the church for anyone willing to help.

March Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 5th, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Nancy Whitt and Rosemary Firestine will discuss with us their careers in the Coast Guard. All ladies from St. John and Redeemer are invited to attend.



The Rt. Rev. Michael Bruce Curry is the 27th presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church and no Black History Month review of bishops of African descent would be complete without him.

At the church's 78th General Convention in June 2015, he was elected to a nine-year term in this role as presiding bishop and primate and was installed in November of that year; he retired in 2024.

Throughout his ministry, Bishop Curry has been a prophetic leader, particularly in the areas of racial reconciliation, climate change, evangelism, immigration policy, and marriage equality. The animating vision and message of his ministry is Jesus of Nazareth and his way of radical, sacrificial love, and he regularly reminds

Episcopalians they are "the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement."

Widely regarded as one of the most dynamic preachers of our time, Bishop Curry was ordained a priest in 1978 and served parishes in North Carolina, Ohio, and Maryland until his election as the 11th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina in 2000.

Bishop Curry has been extensively involved in Crisis Control Ministry and the Absalom Jones Initiative, founding ecumenical summer day camps for children, preaching missions, creating networks of family day care providers and educational centers, and brokering millions of dollars of investment in urban neighborhoods.

The descendant of enslaved Africans brought to North America by way of the trans-Atlantic slave routes, Bishop Curry was born in Chicago in 1953. His father was also an Episcopal priest, and after Bishop Curry's mother died when he was young, he and his sister were raised by their father and grandmother in western New York.

Bishop Curry attended public schools in Buffalo, graduated with high honors from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School. He furthered his education at The College of Preachers, Princeton Theological Seminary, Wake Forest University, the Ecumenical Institute at St. Mary's Seminary, and the Institute of Christian Jewish Studies. He holds honorary doctorates from Yale University, Virginia Theological Seminary, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and Episcopal Divinity School.

The author of five books and a regular guest on national and international media outlets, Bishop Curry was named the 2018 religion newsmaker of the year by the Religion News Association.

A resident of Raleigh, North Carolina, Bishop Curry is married to Sharon (Clement) Curry, and the couple has two adult daughters, Rachel and Elizabeth.

Source: [Michael B. Curry – The Episcopal Church](#)



Episcopal Relief & Development invites you to develop Holy Habits this Lent.

For 15 years, Episcopal Relief & Development has been blessed by the opportunity to join readers on their spiritual journeys with thought-provoking meditations.

Written by Sister Monica Clare, an Episcopal nun, author and unlikely TikTok star, our 2026 meditations offer an invitation to rediscover—or deepen—holy habits of prayer, worship and Scripture engagement. These holy habits provide a path to a life rooted in God, given shape, meaning and direction.

Visit our website to subscribe to daily emails, download a PDF, read the meditations and access a Group Study Guide to reflect on the meditations and Scripture with others.



Episcopal
Relief & Development

Lenten Worship Practices

You will notice differences in our worship during the Lenten season. For example, the word “Alleluia,” goes away. Traditionally our Sunday School children make a poster of their hand prints around the word “Alleluia” and hide the word in the bell tower to be displayed on Easter.

We do not sing the “Gloria” substituting either a “Kyrie” or “Trisagion” instead. Our hymns tend to be in minor keys, meaning they can have a mournful or dirg-y quality. In place of a blessing, there is a “prayer over the people” which is more in keeping with the earliest practices of the church.

The first Sunday (or Saturday) in Lent we begin our worship with The Great Litany. This litany is a long, corporate prayer of confession, intercession and supplication bringing the needs of the people, the nation and the world before God. Praying the Great Litany is especially appropriate in Lent. On the successive Sundays in Lent, we begin our worship with “A Penitential Order.” Kneeling is the traditional posture for those with penitent hearts. For those with penitent hearts and bad knees, you are invited to sit.

The appearance of the church itself is subtly altered. The candleabras are removed. Flowers are either silk or not provided at all. Some crosses are veiled or better yet, removed from the Nave. In Pryaer Book Rubrics Expanded, by Byron D. Stuhlman, it says:

The Lenten Season has come to have an austere quality to it that seems appropriate to its character as a time of fast and preparation. A feast is best appreciated after a fast...It has become customary to avoid ornament in church during this season...It became customary to veil even crosses during Lent because they were thought of as signs of victory. This is certainly appropriate for a Christus Rex or an elaborate jewelled cross. It makes no sense for a crucifix or a simple cross. (p. 81-2)

For this reason, none of our crucifixes will be veiled and the plain processional cross is not veiled.



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Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:1)

The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

Each line of the puzzle has one word hidden in a list of random letters. The blank space is a missing letter that belongs to that word. Fill in the missing letter.



1.	U	M	H	R	B	R		A	D	J	S	P	O
2.	Z	F	P	E	W	O		L	D	Q	Y	X	V
3.	J	I	H	E	B	D		S	E	R	T	S	W
4.	M	R	C	Y	H	A		T	O	N	E	R	X
5.	B	L	S	A	R	M		U	N	G	R	Y	G
6.	M	W	O	R	S	H		P	T	R	Z	X	J
7.	R	Z	C	T	E	M		T	E	D	Q	R	Q
8.	T	K	A	N	G	E		S	P	Y	I	Y	X

desert
tempted

hungry
stone

bread
worship

world
angels

The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.



- ___ 1. To feel a need or desire for food
A. hungry B. thirsty C. tired D. tempt
- ___ 2. A small rock
A. boulder B. mountain C. world D. stone
- ___ 3. A food made of flour and water, shaped into loaves, and baked
A. pizza B. pie C. bread D. stone
- ___ 4. To try to get someone to do wrong
A. worship B. tempt C. angel D. hungry
- ___ 5. To show a strong feeling of love and respect for God
A. devil B. angel C. worship D. tempt
- ___ 6. A heavenly being, often shown as a human figure with a halo and wings
A. fairy B. devil C. temple D. angel
- ___ 7. The evil ruler of Hell, and enemy of God
A. angel B. world C. devil D. hungry
- ___ 8. The entire Earth and all the places and things on it
A. space B. moon C. world D. galaxy