



THE SEASON OF LENT

Beginning 21 February 2021, we will begin our next religious season – that season being Lent. We began our first religious season in November 2020 - Advent. From there our next religious seasons were Christmas and Epiphany. During Epiphany we also somewhat celebrated the Three Kings Day, Candlemas and Posada. During Lent, we come to think about the fasting, sacrifice and death of our Christ.

The Lenten season is a forty-six (46) day period which traditionally begins with Ash Wednesday (17 February 2021) and continues on to the eve of Easter. The Sundays of this period are considered to be commemorations of the first Easter and are excluded from the fasting season which is the remaining forty days. The last week in Lent begins with Palm Sunday, which is called Holy Week. Lent is a period of preparation for Easter, which for Christians, is the highest festival/celebration of the Church Year. I should add that for some, Lent officially begins on 16 February which has come to be known as Fat or Shrove Tuesday and is also the “unofficial” last day of Epiphany.

Symbols for Lent include:

The Passion Cross and Palms: The pointed ends of the cross signify Christ's suffering and the palms denote the branches that were laid before him as he entered Jerusalem.

The Crown of Thorns with Nails: A familiar Lenten symbol.

The Cross and the Winding Sheet: The sheet represents the shroud in which Christ was buried in.

The Wounded Lamb of God: This symbol represents Jesus crucified.

Our themes for this season are penitence, morality, human limitations, self-denial, our need for a Savior and spiritual disciplines. Some Christians emphasize a “fasting” from food and other delights during this forty (40) day period.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Advent was the beginning of the holy seasons in our Christian calendar. It is a special time as Christians waited and prepared for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ whose birth we celebrated on December 25th - Christmas. From this event, we moved on to Epiphany which will last until the onset of Lent. On February 2nd we celebrate The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple, a Jewish rite that inducted Jesus officially into Judaism.

Shrove Tuesday, is a reminder to us Christians that on Ash Wednesday we will enter a season of penance (a confession of sin). Shrove is the past tense of *shrive*, which means to hear a confession, assign penance and absolve your sin. Shrove Tuesday is a reminder to Christians that we are entering a season of penance but because of the anticipation of the upcoming Lenten season, this day took on a festive nature.

Lent is the penitential period before Easter and has always been a time of fasting and abstinence (i.e. doing without food or drink). Lenten fasting is usually confined to only Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and other Fridays in Lent, however, that fasting proved to be quite severe in some cases as Christians abstained from all meat and items that came from animals such as butter, eggs, cheese and fat. That is why Shrove Tuesday became known as *Mardi Gras*, the French term for *Fat Tuesday*.

Over time, Mardi Gras extended from a single day to the entire period of Shrovetide, the days before the last Sunday before Lent through Shrove Tuesday. Shrovetide is also known as *Carnivale* meaning “a farewell to meat.” Shrove Tuesday became known as *Pancake Day*, because on this day, Christians used up their eggs, butter and milk to make pancakes and other pastries.

*Yours in Christ,
Joe Maldonado, Senior Warden*



FEBRUARY PRAYER LIST

Please keep these members and friends of St. Christopher's in your daily prayers...

Lois Kelley (Member), Laura Salcido (Member), Paula Dominguez (Member), Virgie Shinn (Member), Patty Lane (Member), Luis Garcia (Member), Linda East (Member), Mary Reyes (Cano), Roger McNeil (Mowad), Kevin Salcedo, Joe Heidrick (Shinn), Fernando Peña, Christy Darling, Jerry Brown (Shinn), Hank Hosford (Mowad), Noah Rios, Carlos Rubio, Sr. (Navidomskis), Octaviano Tavares (Rodriguez), Donna Hvizdos (Hudak), Alyson, Mariann Chavez (Shinn), Bob St. Jean (Truesdale), Roman Morales and family, Estela and Jesus Salcido, Sammie Garcia (Shinn), Chasaidy Cantrell (Truesdale), Lorin Garcia (Navidomskis), Patti Tobin (Navidomskis)

Almighty God, we commend to your care and keeping all of the men and women of our armed forces at serving at home and abroad and their families and friends

Please contact Holly to add or delete names

*Happy
Birthday*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jean Paul Bishop 2 Erika Dominguez 9

Joe Maldonado 14 Luis Garcia

Patti Lane 22

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

El Paso, Texas

For those not able to attend the Annual Meeting

Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting

January 24, 2021

conducted online via Zoom

Approved by the Vestry February 6, 2021 Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order after the service of Ante-Communion 11:42 a.m. Joe Maldonado, Senior Warden, led the congregation in prayer in English. In attendance were 21 congregants – All over 18 years of age. All materials for the online meeting were emailed to the congregation members a few days before the Annual Meeting.

2. **Minutes of the January 19, 2020 Annual Church Meeting:** The Minutes read.

A motion to accept the Minutes of the January 19, 2021 Annual Church Meeting was made by Bruce Truesdale, seconded by Martha Cano, and passed unanimously.

3. **Clerk for the Annual Meeting:** Senior Warden Joe Maldonado called for a Clerk for the Annual Meeting to be appointed. *A motion for Holly Truesdale to be appointed as Clerk for the Annual Meeting by acclamation was made by Virgie Shinn, seconded by Estela Salcido, and passed unanimously.*

4. **Senior Warden's Report:** Joe Maldonado

Joe reported that since March 15, 2020, all services and meetings have been conducted online via Zoom. Due to COVID-19, Soup Kitchen has been suspended, and lay ministries have not been able to function other than Altar Guild on a very limited basis. With Rev. Bernal leaving as of December 31, 2020, we are now having services online with supply clergy:

Rev. Canon Lee Curtis, CaTO; Rev. Alex Reyes, and Deacon Katie Hudak. We are continuing with staying in contact with parishioner by phone calls, emails, and texting.

The fencing and gate project is on hold. Repeated attempts to contact Alfonzo Ozaeta have failed to get results. The Vestry is now looking into getting another contractor to finish the gates.

Joe thanked Carlisle Navidomskis for her nearly 4 years of service on the Vestry, and our supply clergy for leading our online services.

5. **Financial Report: Bruce and Holly Truesdale**

Administration Report

Holly reported that all of the 2020 financial operations have been reconciled, and the 2020 Parochial Report has been approved and filed online with the General Convention.

2021 Church Budget: The 2021 Church Budget, approved by the Vestry on January 2, 2021, was presented. *A motion to accept the 2021 Church Budget was made by Virgie Shinn, seconded by Heather Bishop, and passed unanimously.*

During 2020, St. Christopher's developed and submitted Phase 1 and Phase 2 COVID-19 plans to the Diocese of the Rio Grande, as required. We were briefly in the Phase 2 plan with initiation of outdoor services, but a spike in positivity put us back into Phase 1 after our first outdoor service. At present, we remain in Phase 1 with no in-person services and meetings allowed. Until El Paso falls below 10% positivity rate, we will remain in Phase 1. Holly asked Deacon Katie to explain how the Diocese determines that. At a clergy meeting 4 days prior to this meeting, Canon Lee Curtis stated that the statistics are obtained daily through actnowcovid.org. At present, El Paso is 15%.

Holly sent out the current roster for Safeguarding Our Children certification a few weeks ago. She asked that anyone needing recertification please do so. Even though we are not holding any services or activities in person at the church, the Diocese, the National Church, and the Church Insurance Corporation require keeping certifications current.

6. Parish Election:

Vestry Election: The Senior Warden explained that though we can operate with only 3 Vestry members, it would be in the church's best interest to have at least 5. There were no nominations from the floor. However, **Edward Cowling offered to serve for 1 year, and outgoing Vestry member Carlisle Navidomskis offered to serve an additional year. A motion to elect Edward Cowling to the Vestry for 1 year, and to elect Carlisle Navidomskis for 1 year was made by Bruce Truesdale, seconded by Virgie Shinn, and was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

Delegates to the Borderland Deanery, Diocesan Convention (October 28-30, Santa Fe or online via Zoom if necessitate by COVID-19): Bruce and Holly Truesdale volunteered to serve as delegates. There were no other volunteers or nominations for delegate or alternate. **A motion to elect Bruce and Holly Truesdale as a delegates to the Borderland Deanery (formerly Southwest Deanery), and the 2021 Diocesan Convention was made by Virgie Shinn, seconded by Carlisle Navidomskis, and was passed unanimously by voice vote.**

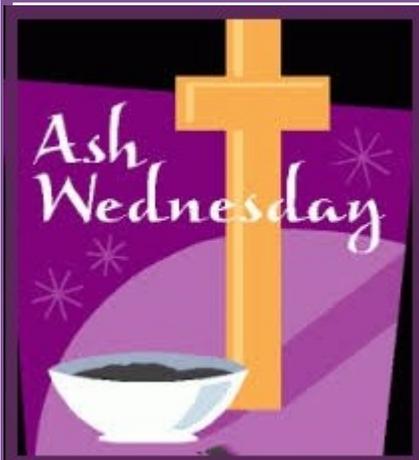
2021 Audit Committee/Finance Committee (for fiscal year 2020)

Holly Truesdale, Administrator, explained the requirements to be a member of the Audit Committee. Lois Kelley, Laura Salcido, and Martha Cano volunteered to serve. **A motion for Senior Warden Joe Maldonado, in the absence of a Rector or Vicar, to appoint these above parishioners to the 2021 Audit Committee was made by Bruce Truesdale, seconded by Heather Bishop, and passed unanimously.** The members of the 2021 Audit Committee for fiscal year 2020 are **Lois Kelley, Laura Salcido, and Martha Cano.**

7. The Senior Warden asked if there were any further comments or questions. Deacon Katie Hudak announced a Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark being hosted on Zoom beginning on Wednesday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m. She will send the Zoom information to Holly for dissemination to the congregation.
8. There being no further questions or comments, a motion to adjourn at 12:13 p.m. was made by Bruce Truesdale, seconded by Laura Salcido, and was approved unanimously. The closing prayer in Spanish was led by Rev. Katie Hudak, Deacon.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Truesdale, Clerk to the Annual Meeting



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Services online via Zoom

12:00 noon & 5:00 p.m.

Imposition of Ashes and Distribution of Communion Wafers will take place beginning 15 minutes after the end of each service, outdoors by drive-up, and will be available for 1 hour

Please enter through driveway by the pecan grove, remain in your car, and exit through the back parking lot on to Pecan St.

Masks are required! Thank you!

**CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE AND
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

300 Riverside Drive El Paso, Texas 79915

Church Office: 915 859-9329

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

Email:

stchristopherselpaso@gmail.com

Website:

www.stchristopherselpaso.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Thursday

Eucharist & Healing 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

No in-person services at this time



**St. Christopher's
Soup Kitchen**

is closed at this time due to COVID-19

***BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE
OF THE RIO GRANDE
The Right Reverend Michael B. Hunn***

CLERGY AND STAFF

***The Reverend Alejandro Reyes
Associate Priest***

***The Reverend Miguel Ramirez
Associate Priest***

***Holly Truesdale
Parish Administrator***



VESTRY

***Joe Maldonado - Senior Warden
Virgie Shinn - Junior Warden
Carlisle Navidomskis
Bruce Truesdale Edward Cowling***

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

***Administrator
and Church Office***



***9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Due to COVID-19
the Administrator is operating
the Church Office from
her home
852-3954 or 252-2475***

***Do not hesitate to call her 24/7
in the event of an emergency
or in pastoral need***

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S MISSION STATEMENT

***Our Mission, as vessels indwelt
by the Holy Spirit, is to proclaim
the Gospel and teach the Faith;
to bring Christ's healing power to
those who are wounded and hurting;
to share our blessings with those in
need; to administer the Holy
Sacraments; and to live our lives to
God's glory, sharing the love of
Jesus Christ with all people.***

