

LENT 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During this special time of purification, we have a series of concrete ways that the Church proposes to us and that help us to live the Lenten dynamic.

Above all, the life of the prayer which is an indispensable condition for the encounter with God. In prayer, if the believer enters into an intimate dialogue with the Lord, allows the divine grace to penetrate into his heart and as Saint Mary does, opens the prayer of the Spirit by cooperating with her with a free and generous response.

Likewise, we must also intensify the listening and attentive meditation to the Word of God, by attending frequently to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist, as well as the practice of fasting, according to the possibilities of each one.

Mortification and renunciation to the ordinary circumstances of our lives also constitute a concrete way to live the spirit of Lent. It is not so much about creating extraordinary occasions, but rather about knowing how to offer those daily circumstances that are annoying to us. Of accepting with humility, joy and happiness, the different setbacks that are presented to us every day. In the same way, knowing how to renounce certain legitimate things helps us to live detachment.

Among the different Lenten practices proposed by the Church through the years, the experience of charity occupies a special place. This is how for example St. Leo the Great reminds us: "These Lenten days urgently invite us to the exercise of charity, if we wish to reach Easter sanctified in our being, we must place special interest in the acquisition of this virtue, which contains in itself all the other virtues and also covers a multitude of sins." I think this experience of charity must be lived in a special way with the one we are closest to, in the concrete environment in which we develop: family, classmates, co-workers, neighborhood, etc.

My invitation to you, take the opportunity of Lent to develop a better spirituality, a better life and a better approach to those in need, the less fortunate. Also take the opportunity to be a better family in Christ.

*In Christ,
Fr. Bernal +*

Estimadas hermanas y hermanos,

Durante este tiempo especial de purificación, tenemos una serie de caminos concretos que la Iglesia nos propone y que nos ayudan a vivir la dinámica cuaresmal.

Sobre todo, la vida de la oración, que es condición indispensable para el encuentro con Dios. En la oración, si el creyente entabla un diálogo íntimo con el Señor, permite que la gracia divina penetre en su corazón y como santa María, abre la oración del Espíritu cooperando con ella con una respuesta libre y generosa.



Del mismo modo, también debemos intensificar la meditación escuchada y atenta a la Palabra de Dios, asistiendo con frecuencia al Sacramento de la Reconciliación y de la Eucaristía, así como la práctica del ayuno, según las posibilidades de cada uno.

La mortificación y la renuncia a las circunstancias ordinarias de nuestra vida constituyen también una forma concreta de vivir el espíritu de la Cuaresma. No se trata tanto de crear ocasiones extraordinarias, sino más bien de saber ofrecer esas circunstancias diarias que nos molestan. De aceptar con humildad, alegría y felicidad, los diferentes contratiempos que se nos presentan cada día. De la misma manera, saber renunciar a ciertas cosas legítimas nos ayuda a vivir el desapego.

Entre las diferentes prácticas cuaresmal propuestas por la Iglesia a través de la historia, la experiencia de la caridad ocupa un lugar especial. Así es como, por ejemplo, San León Grande nos recuerda: "Estos días cuaresmal nos invitan urgentemente al ejercicio de la caridad, si queremos llegar a la Pascua santificada en nuestro ser, debemos poner especial interés en la adquisición de esta virtud, que contiene en sí misma toda las otras virtudes y también cubre una multitud de pecados. " Creo que esta experiencia de caridad debe vivirse de manera especial con la que estamos más cerca, en el entorno concreto en el que nos desarrollamos: familia, compañeros de clase, compañeros de trabajo, barrio, etc.

Mi invitación a ustedes, aprovechar la oportunidad de la Cuaresma para desarrollar una mejor espiritualidad, una vida mejor y un mejor acercamiento a los necesitados, a los menos afortunados. También aprovechar la oportunidad de ser una mejor familia en Cristo.

*En Cristo,
Fr. Bernal +*

From Fr. Alex...

LENTEN SEASON

We recently started Lent in our Church when we celebrated Ash Wednesday; this day is the first day of this season which will take us to Easter Sunday; it is very important to pay attention to our spirituality which considers the Greek word "metanoia" is used in the Bible to signify change of heart.

This term suggests repudiation, change of mind, repentance, conversion and reformation. It is a tradition in our Church to practice penance and deep prayer life; it is also the time to pay attention to the Sunday readings to experience this spiritual transformation. In the Episcopal Church we use the color purple to express our desire to repent from our sins. In the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 4, we find the temptations of our Lord; we can learn from this Gospel the need to be stronger in our spirit to overcome daily temptations. We will have the opportunity to cultivate the spirituality of Lent through practices at our Parish like stations of the cross and our personal prayer during these forty days.

May this Lent be a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord!

*In Christ,
Fr. Alex +*

Recientemente iniciamos el tiempo de Cuaresma con el Miercoles de ceniza que viene a marcar el camino para celebrar el Domingo de Pascua; la palabra griega que leemos en la biblia es "metanoia" que quiere decir cambio de mentalidad, arrepentimiento, transformacion spiritual; en pocas palabras es un cambio interior.

Todo esto se alcanza por la gracia de Dios que trabaja cuando oramos y hacemos el esfuerzo de cambiar interiormente. Podemos estar atentos a las lecturas de cada Domingo de Cuaresma para llegar a un sincero cambio en nuestras vidas. El Evangelio de Mateo 4 nos narra las tentaciones de Jesus; encontramos que tuvo un ayuno de 40 dias y pudo vencer las tentaciones; es por esto que nosotros necesitamos practicar la espiritualidad de la Cuaresma para estar fuertes ante las tentaciones. El color morado en nuestra Iglesia nos invita a la penitencia al ayuno.

Que este tiempo de Cuaresma sea una experiencia de cambio para celebrar con gozo el Domingo de Pascua !

*En Cristo,
Fr. Alex +*

From the Senior Warden...

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day, or also known as the *Feast of St. Patrick* is a festival day of cultural and religious celebrations which are always held on 17 March, the traditional death date of St. Patrick the foremost patron saint of Ireland. One of the most beloved saints around the world, St. Patrick is probably recognized almost at once by his wearing of the bishop's mitre and his casting the snakes out of Ireland. Saint Patrick was a 5th Century Romano-British missionary and bishop in Ireland. Kidnapped at age 14, he spent six years working as a shepherd and during this time, found "God". According to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity and spent many years in his conversion efforts.

A familiar legend tells of Saint Patrick who was faced by a group of pagans that demanded proof of how the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) can be three persons and one at the same time. Patrick took a shamrock from the ground and questioned the pagans thus: If the shamrock has three leaves, why only one stem? Or why does the shamrock have three lobes (i.e. a round projecting part similar to an ear lobe). When the pagans could not answer the shamrock's mystery, he then said "How can you hope to understand the profound mystery of the Holy Trinity if you cannot explain the leaves of the shamrock.

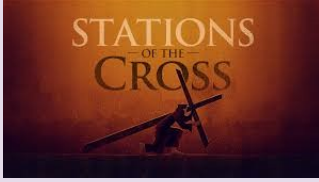
Saint Patrick's Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early 17th Century. This day commemorates Saint Patrick and his arrival in Ireland and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations normally involve public parades, marching bands, festivals and the wearing of green attire. On Saint Patrick's Day, it has become customary to wear shamrocks, green clothing or green accessories.

Modern day celebrations have been greatly influenced by those of the Irish diaspora (i.e. a scattering) and particularly by those that have been developed in North America. A fair amount of criticism of Saint Patrick's Day celebrations have been forthcoming because it is felt that the day has become too commercialized and for fostering negative stereotypes of the Irish people.

Have a blessed Lenten Season,

Joe Maldonado

March at St. Christopher's



Stations of the Cross

6:00 p.m. every Friday in Lent

Daylight Savings Time

Begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 8

*Be sure to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before
bed on Saturday, March 7*

Saturday, March 7

9:00 a.m. Vestry Meeting

*Happy
Birthday*

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

*Iker Herrera 2
David Garcia 9
Holly Truesdale 26*

MEETINGS

SUNDAY, MARCH 7
9:00 a.m. Vestry Meeting

TUESDAY—THURSDAY
MARCH 10 –12

The Rector will be away at the
CPG Convention in Houston

COLLECTION FOR EASTER EGG HUNT

Plastic eggs and candy are needed for the
upcoming Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 12

You may bring your donations on any Sunday
during the month of March

We will stuff the eggs during Coffee Hour
on Palm Sunday, April 5

We also will need volunteers to hide the eggs on
Easter Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

If you are able to help, please let
Fr. JJ or Holly know!

Thanks!

EASTER MEMORIALS



A pocket with forms for
Easter Memorials and Thanksgivings
will be posted on the bulletin board
in Rice Hall

Please print your memorial or
thanksgiving as you would like it listed in
the Easter Sunday bulletin insert

You can use a form or email Holly at
htnec@elp.rr.com no later than
Sunday, April 5 (Palm Sunday)

From the Diocese of the Rio Grande

Best Hygiene Practices for the Eucharist

Care required to ensure good health

As the flu season continues, and amid growing concerns about the possible spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, now is a good time to remind everyone about best practices for hygiene during Eucharist and other services.

Parishioners who are coughing or sneezing should refrain from handshaking during the Peace. Fist bumps, elbow bumps, friendly waves, and peace signs are all acceptable substitutes.

Avoid intinction (the dipping of the bread into the wine). Intinction does little to avoid the spread of disease and may actually increase the spread, as the bread or wafer spends more time in the (possibly unclean) hand before being dipped in the wine.

There has never been much evidence of risk of disease associated with the shared communion cup, but of course each parishioner must make up their own minds about its use.

Churches should make hand-sanitizers available for parishioners to use. Sanitize hands before and after contact with others.

In addition, priests presiding at the Eucharist, communion administrators and servers should wash their hands, preferably with an alcohol-based (minimum 60%) hand-sanitizer.

Best hygiene practice should continue to be observed in all pastoral contacts.

Las mejores prácticas de higiene para la Eucaristía

Cuidados necesarios para garantizar una buena salud.

A medida que continúa la temporada de gripe, y en medio de las crecientes preocupaciones sobre la posible propagación del coronavirus COVID-19, ahora es un buen momento para recordar a todos las mejores prácticas de higiene durante la Eucaristía y otros servicios.

Los feligreses que tosen o estornudan deben abstenerse de apretar las manos durante la Paz. Golpes de puño, golpes de codo, olas amistosas y signos de paz son sustitutos aceptables.

Evite la infección (la inmersión del pan en el vino). La intuición hace poco para evitar la propagación de la enfermedad y en realidad puede aumentar la propagación, ya que el pan o la oblea pasan más tiempo en la mano (posiblemente sucia) antes de sumergirse en el vino.

Nunca ha habido mucha evidencia de riesgo de enfermedad asociada con la copa de comunión compartida, pero, por supuesto, cada feligrés debe decidir sobre su uso.

Las iglesias deben poner a disposición de los feligreses desinfectantes para las manos. Desinfecte las manos antes y después del contacto con los demás.

Además, los sacerdotes que presiden la Eucaristía, los administradores y servidores de la comunión deben lavarse las manos, preferiblemente con un desinfectante para manos a base de alcohol (mínimo 60%).

Se deben seguir observando las mejores prácticas de higiene en todos los contactos pastorales.



MARCH PRAYER LIST

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

Linda East (Member), Erika Dominguez and family (Members) Robert Soto (Member), Mary Hernandez, (Member), The Bishop family (Members), Patty Lane (Member), Luis Garcia (Member), Mary Reyes (Cano), Ray Vega (Vega), Gary Welsh, Richard and Kathy Schofill (Truesdale), Kevin Salcedo, Joe Heidrick (Shinn), Fernando Peña, Christy Darling, Jerry Brown (Shinn), Hank Hosford (Mowad), Octaviano Tavares (Rodriguez), Donna Hvizdos (Hudak), Maria Morgan (Anderson), Irma Lopez (Mowad), John Hudak (Hudak), Skip Bambrook, Bill Fields (Fields), Alyson, Manuel Vida, Mariann Chavez (Shinn), Bob St. Jean (Truesdale), Roman Morales and family, Estela and Jesus Salcido, Mrs. Zapata, the Gomez Family (Cano), Sammie Garcia (Shinn), Alyson (Navidomskis), Chasaidy Cantrell (Truesdale), John Tobin (Navidomskis), Jay Stevens (Mowad), Molly (Mowad)

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

The families and friends of all who are serving at home and abroad

Please contact Holly to add or delete names

OUR MINISTRIES

HOLY WEEK IS COMING APRIL 5 - 11

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 PALM SUNDAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 7
Chrism Mass at St. Alban's

THURSDAY, APRIL 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Footwashing
Altar of Repose immediately after

FRIDAY, APRIL 10 GOOD FRIDAY

12 noon Good Friday Liturgy in the Chapel
6:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy with
Nails of the Cross

SATURDAY, APRIL 11 HOLY SATURDAY

6:00 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter

SOUP KITCHEN

Saturday, March 14

Gloria Rodriguez and Raquel Gonzalez Menu:
Soup, Salad, Burrito, Postre

Saturday, March 21

Carol Garcia and Denise Anderson
Menu: Soup, Salad, Tacos, Postre

***Menus may change**
without previous notice

If you would like to contribute to the
Soup Kitchen, make your check out to
St. Christopher's with *Soup Kitchen* on the
memo line



CAMP STONEY REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Family Camp

June 11 - 14

(All Ages: parent/s required)

Cost: \$350 - \$550 family of 4,

\$25 for additional family members.

Families participate in traditional camp activities as well as a chance for quality time while sharing and growing in their faith together. The long weekend provides a great way to introduce younger children to camp and for alumni to return.

Hobbit Camp

June 14 - 20

(Ages 8-13, Grades 3rd-8th)

Cost: \$350 to \$550

Campers grow in their relation with Christ as they explore the world of J. R. R. Tolkien's shire. Campers participate in themed arts and crafts projects, in Worship and Bible Study as well as reenacting one of J. R. R. Tolkien's iconic books through costumed skits.

Adventure Camp

June 21 - 27

(Ages 12-17, Grades 7th-12th)

Cost: \$450 - \$650

Teens are invited into God's creation through wilderness hiking, sleeping under the stars, white-water rafting, visiting New Mexico's treasures and other activities! This camp helps teens explore their relationship with Jesus through Bible Study and Worship.

Camp Hippogriff

June 28 - July 4

(Ages 8-13, Grades 3rd-8th)

Cost: \$350 - \$550

A fantasy camp to explore the Christian themes found in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter through Bible Study and worship. Play Quidditch, visit Diagon Alley, put on skits, make themed craft projects, participate in classes, swim, hike, and take archery lessons

Summer Fun Camp

July 12 - 18

(Ages 8-12, Grades 3rd-7th)

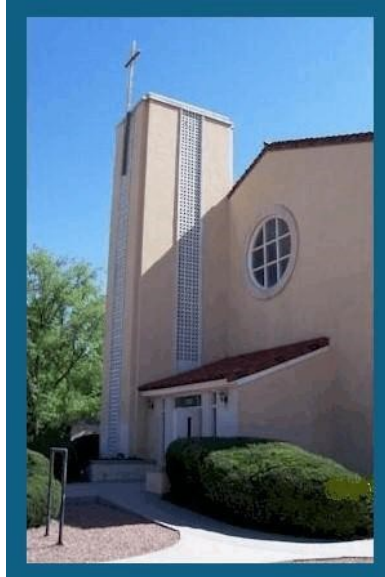
Cost: \$350 - \$550

Enjoy camp activities like Archery, Arts & Crafts, Field Games, Swimming, Campfires, Bible Study and much more while exploring who you are in Christ.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:

<https://www.campstoney.com/copy-of-camp-stoney>

**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

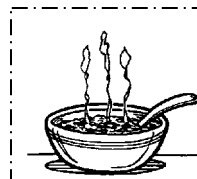
WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Thursday

Eucharist & Healing 10:30 a.m.



St. Christopher's

Soup Kitchen

Outreach

11:00 a.m.

2nd & 3rd Saturday of each month

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

**CLERGY AND STAFF
The Reverend Canon José J. Bernal
Rector**

**The Reverend Miguel Ramirez
Associate Priest**

**The Reverend Alejandro Reyes
Associate Priest**

**Holly Truesdale
Parish Administrator**



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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rector

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday

**Fr. Bernal will be also available
on Saturdays by appointment.**



**Administrator
and Church Office
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
Administrator in Office
at home on**

**Monday and Wednesday
852-3954 or 252-2475**

Church Offices Closed on Friday

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.*

