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The Steeple



Feb 21, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Taking Up Our Cross

Some thoughts about the Gospel this weekend: Mark 8: 31-38.

As you know, taking up our cross is a powerful and deeply symbolic concept that holds great significance in the Christian tradition. The cross represents the ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus Christ for the redemption of humanity. It serves as a profound reminder of love, forgiveness, and the promise of salvation.

For us, taking up our cross means more than just acknowledging the cross' historical significance – it involves embodying the teachings and values that Jesus exemplified through his life and death. It is about living a life of faith, compassion, humility, and selflessness, mirroring the ultimate act of love demonstrated by Jesus on the cross.

Following Jesus to the cross also implies embracing one's own crosses and challenges in life with grace and resilience, trusting in a higher purpose and divine witness. It encourages us to find strength in times of struggle, to persevere in the face of adversity, and to carry our burdens with a sense of hope and courage.

Moreover, following Jesus can be seen as a call to service and mission, to reach out to those in need, to advocate for justice and equality, and to spread love and compassion in a world that often feels divided and broken. It is a reminder to prioritize spiritual growth and transformation, to deepen one's relationship with God, and to seek a life of purpose and meaning.

In essence, taking up our cross is part of our journey of faith, the quintessential path of discipleship and devotion that invites believers to walk in the footsteps of Christ, to embody his teachings, and to bear witness to the transformative power of love and redemption. Bearing our cross is a daily commitment to living out the values of the cross in thought, word, and deed, and finding strength and inspiration in the enduring symbol of hope and salvation.

Together we pray: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Peace,
Nick+



Theologian's Corner:

Emily Malbone Morgan

Prophetic Witness, 1937

Emily Malbone Morgan was born on December 10, 1862, in Hartford, Connecticut. Her family were prominent Hartford citizens, and her Anglican roots ran deep on both sides of her family. With the support of Harriet Hastings, she was the founder of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross (SCHC), an order of Episcopal laywomen, in 1884. Rooted in disciplined devotion, SCHC became a strong force for social justice reform during the social gospel era around the turn of the twentieth century.

A primary inspiration for Morgan was her friendship with Adelyn Howard. Howard was homebound and sought Morgan's support for both spiritual companionship and shared intercessory prayer for others. In response, Morgan called together a small group of women that became the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross.

Morgan had a particular concern for working women who were tired, restless, and had little hope for a vacation. In response, Morgan and her Companions developed summer vacation houses across the northeast, where working women and their daughters could have some time away for physical and spiritual renewal and refreshment.

In 1901, the Society established a permanent home in Byfield, Massachusetts. With the construction of new facilities on the site in 1915, it took the name Adelynrood, which continues to exist as the headquarters and retreat center of the Society.

Morgan never married; she and her sisters in the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross lived a life of prayer, contemplation, and social justice, particularly for women. She died on February 27, 1937.

Together we pray: Gracious God, we give thanks for the life and witness of Emily Malbone Morgan, who gathered women to devote themselves to intercession, social justice, Christian unity, and simple lives: Make us, with her, companions in prayer and in faithful living, dedicated to the Holy Cross of our Savior, Jesus Christ; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please pray for: Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, Ben Baker, Diana Farris, Joel Hahn, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Dorothy Buchanan, Peggy Kauffman, Ryan Kiesel, Tony Clapper, Bruce Neiswander, Jack & Karla Stoecker, Joseph, Tim, Shania Smith, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, Tom Martin, Don Doty, Luke Karel, Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Nancy & Joe Norton, Jack Smith, , Sarah Winn, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Molly Ferguson, Tim Curry, Peggy & Joe Duncan, Shawn, Nancy Bradford, Stephanie Gallegos, and Pat Sare.

Please add the following to your prayers this First Week in Lent:

St John's, Norman

St. Anselm Canterbury-OU Campus Ministry

February Needs



Concern's needs for the month of February: canned green beans and peanut butter; homeless needs are single serve oatmeal and cereal.

At Luke's Place Feb 22, 2024 -Feb 28, 2024

- Feb 22nd Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am, Metcalf
- Rector's Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
- Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
- Feb 25th Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8am, Chapel
- Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
- Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am
- Godly Play, after children's sermon, upstairs
- Feb 26th Meditation Group, 3pm, Library
- Feb 27th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library
- Feb 28th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
- YD, 6pm, Rodgers
- Midweek Manna Supper, 6pm, Metcalf

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Feb 25th – Mar 2nd, 2024



Birthdays

Jeanne Eastman (2/27)
Jerry Nezam (3/1)
Alistair Larkin (3/1)
Steve McCraw (3/2)



Anniversaries

If your or a loved one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!

Burning of the Palms





YOU CANNED THE VAN!



Thank you to EVERYONE who donated canned goods!!!

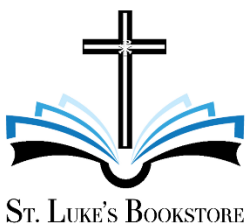
February Pack the Backpacks

Item is: Pencil Lead refills for mechanical pencils, HB 0.7 MM.

You can find this wherever school supplies are sold! We are shooting for 50. Can you help? Basket is in the Narthex!



WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF 35 packages of these!



Shop your St Luke's Bookstore for all your Lenten Devotional needs! Daily devotionals, daily prayer books, rosaries, and other items are on display. Come, shop and see if we have something that will aide you as you journey through Lent.

Images of Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed

Thank you to everyone who came out, ate, and donated!





Thank Cod it's Friday...

Starting this piece off with “as many of you know, we are now in the season of Lent” seems to be out of place, but I’ll do it anyway. As many of you know, we are now in the season of Lent. This time comes with great reflection, sacrifice, and no meat Fridays. As a child who grew up in a Southern Baptist pastor’s home, all I knew about Lent was that it was, “something ‘The Catholics’ do.” For a boy whose mother would buy me a Filet O Fish meal and have the person behind that counter of McDonald’s put it in a Happy Meal box, the season of Lent became known to me as “Fish Sandwich Season!”

I spoke with Fr. Nick about the idea of every week during Lent, I give a review of all the local fast food fish sandwich offerings. As anyone who has ever met this man knows, he welcomed and overwhelmingly supported the idea. So, with the support of the Rector, I now had the reason (excuse) to eat a fish sandwich for as Fr. Nick says during announcement time “the good of the order.” I did set some criteria for my journey of Fish Sandwich King and they were simple:

- Local to Bartlesville.
- Fast Food and relative inexpensive..
- Offered for a limited time seasonally

So, with these 3 things in mind, here goes nothing.

Valentines/Ash Wednesday evening, I found myself outside of the orange and white beacon of hope that has recently been erected in our small city, Whataburger. Spending much of my adult life until recently in Texas, Whataburger is more of an institution than just a fast food burger joint. But,

oddly enough, I've never had their fish sandwich with the best named offering on the list, the Whatacatch. Going in, I couldn't see this being bad, as everything I've ever had there has been top tier.

When buying the Whatacatch, I had high expectations. Whataburger's other handheld offerings have always been a delightful experience, but this one left me wanting more. Now saying this does not make it a bad sandwich, but if offered another option, I'd probably pick the other option. The fish was definitely pressed, but a large portion. The lettuce and tomato were a nice touch. But where I feel this sandwich really lacked was the tartar sauce. Tartar sauce is the quintessential ingredient for a great fish sandwich. It's what takes a fried fish from ordinary to extraordinary. With that being said, it's hard to give this sandwich much higher than 2 stars, which is a shock for me, as I've grown accustomed to loving everything from the orange and white.

Join me next week as we dive even deeper into the battle of aquatic fish handhelds supremacy as I visit the King of Burgers to see if their underwater alternative deserves its own spot in the monarchy of Fish.

Chase

Midweek Manna

Dinner & Program Provided,

Donations Accepted

6:00pm on Wednesdays during

Lent, Metcalf Hall

Join us!



ST. CRISPIN'S
Summer Camp
SUMMER 2024

EACH PERSON IS A UNIQUE CREATION OF
GOD, WITH GIFTS TO BE AFFIRMED.



STCRISPINS.ORG/CAMP

Contact Fr Nick if you know a child who wants to go!

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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