



THE CHURCH OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION

February 2013

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Church of the Transfiguration,

As you are no doubt well aware the date of Easter changes each year according to the lunar calendar. This year we have an early Easter (March 31) which means that Lent begins early. In fact Ash Wednesday falls on February 13 which is NEXT WEEK!

MARDI GRAS: PANCAKES AND TALENT

However before we get too caught up in the solemnity of Lent I would remind you that **Mardi Gras falls on Tuesday, February 12**. By long tradition in this parish we eat pancakes that day and then enjoy ourselves with a Talent Show. **The Pancake Supper begins at 6pm in the Parish Common Room and the Talent Show** follows at about 7pm in Guild Hall (above the Holy Family Chapel). One thing I can say with confidence is that there is no lack of talent in this parish! Please contact Claudia Dumschat if you have a talent to share.

ASH WEDNESDAY

On Ash Wednesday (February 13) there will be three masses with imposition of ashes at 8am, 12.10pm and at 6.30pm (a solemn mass with choir). As in recent years we offer ashes throughout the day in the chapel to those who cannot get to the liturgies.

LENT PROGRAM

Lent is a season of opportunity for spiritual reflection and growth. To that end I enclose a Lent leaflet outlining all our offerings to enable this. Read it carefully and try and commit yourself to some study, worship, or reflection to make this Lent significant. For those interested in reading there is a wide selection of books about spiritual growth in the bookstore. For those wanting to develop their biblical knowledge and understanding there is an excellent series of Adult Education Classes on the Wisdom literature of the Bible at 10am each Sunday. For those wanting to extend their devotional experience there are Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament each Friday during Lent at 6.30pm

QUIET DAY

For those seeking reflection and inspiration there is a **Quiet Day on Saturday, March 9 led by the former Presiding Bishop, Frank Griswold**. All these opportunities as well as the regular daily and Sunday worship of the church are ways of making this Lent significant for you. Many take on personal disciplines during Lent like saying daily Morning Prayer or using a book of daily Bible readings (see bookstore) or perhaps give up alcohol or chocolate or observe the traditional Friday fast (no meat). The

most important thing is to make Lent work for you. One discipline associated with Lent is to focus on the penitential life. In other words try making a spiritual review of your life and then make your confession. If you are not familiar with the penitential practice in the Episcopal Church speak to me or one of the other clergy.

CONCERT

On the weekend of **March 8 and 9** our music director, Claudia Dumschat, is putting on 2 performances of **Benjamin Britten's "Curlew River."** I strongly recommend you do not miss this wonderful piece which is not often performed. See details in the Lent leaflet.

I have always loved George Herbert's poem, "Lent," which begins "Welcome, dear feast of Lent." In the same vein I therefore wish you all a "Good Lent." It really is a time for positive growth and renewal in the spiritual life.

With my loving and prayer-filled good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Dumschat', written in a cursive style.

Rector