



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

515 Franklin Avenue • River Forest, Illinois 60305-1719

P: (708) 366-7730 • F: (708) 366-1277

The Reverend Peter N. Campbell, Priest-in-Charge

March 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

March 5th happens to be the beginning of this year's Lenten journey. That's right, March 5th is Ash Wednesday. It seems late, but that's just the way it worked out this year.

To help us focus on this topic, I will use Wayne Simsic's book, Praying with Thomas Merton. It is one among many of the *Companions for the Journey* series, published by Saint Mary's Press. Other titles currently available (either from me or the Christ Church library) are (Praying with) Benedict, Catherine of Siena, Dominic, Francis of Assisi, Hildegard of Bingen, John of the Cross, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila and Thomas Aquinas. Each would be a worthy companion in Lent.

The Merton book contains suggestions for its use: carve out intentional time and space; open oneself to prayer; preview each meditation; read the meditation; and, reflect on the meditation (various ways are given).

The 'Introduction' contains a brief biography. While his personal history is informative, sketching aspects of his formation (and he certainly did suffer his own 'slings and arrows of outrageous fortune'), his spiritual journey is even more important.

Thomas Merton was a twentieth century Trappist (the Cistercian Order of Strict Observance) monk. He was a passionate, prolific writer on spirituality and mysticism who maintained that, "the contemplative experience, which leads to a unique unity with the divine and a new vision of life, is not only for monks but for all Christians." (p. 15)

Merton is appropriate for us today because he is a spiritual master who invites us down a path we all can follow. He reminds us that all of us can receive the gift of the contemplative experience if we are true to God's call and grace on our own pilgrimages.

The book contains 15 brief meditations (5-6 pages), with prayers and exercises in each. Some of the meditations also contain drawings, for those who enjoy that medium. It is an enlightening book, a worthy companion for the 2025 Lenten journey.

Peace be with you,
Pete+

AROUND AND ABOUT CHRIST CHURCH

The Bishop is coming, the Bishop is coming...

The Rt. Reverend Paula E. Clark has rescheduled her visit to Christ Church. She will celebrate and preach on August 17th. Stay tuned for further details as the date approaches.

Easter Flower Decorations

Offering envelopes for Easter Flowers will be included in the Sunday bulletins in April. Your donation will provide for flowers for our church at Easter. The donations may be made "In Loving Memory" of departed loved ones or "In Thanksgiving." Print the name(s) on the Easter Flower Envelope. Please write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line of your check to *Christ Church*, so that your donation may be properly recorded. You may put the envelope in the collection basket on Sundays or mail it to the church.

Shrove Tuesday, March 4th

Our annual pancake supper will be from 5:30 - 7 p.m. The fare will be pancakes, fruit, sausages and traditional paczkis. Everyone is welcome to come and bring family and friends.

Ash Wednesday, March 5th

"Ashes to Go" distributed from our sidewalk ministry 7:30 - 8:15 a.m.

Holy Eucharist/Imposition of Ashes at 12 noon.

2025 Lenten Meditations booklets are available free of charge on the table in the Narthex.

SALE OF OUR FAMOUS EPISCOPICKLES

Pickles are still here and are ready to take home, but they are going quickly. You may pick them up during the week between 1 and 4 p.m. Please call the church office at 708-366-7730 to make arrangements with Julie. They are \$7 per jar, payable when you get them.

People to remember in our prayers

Andrew, Nancy, Joy, The Reverend Bob Wyatt, Tony, Alayna, Emily Gracia, Lou Dasaro, Diana & Robert Morris, Terry Kearns, Cindy Pierpaoli, Marc & Sylvette, Diane, Christina & Dean, Peter & Peggy, Merik, Kasia, Lamont, Jan Santos, Faith, Ceil, Maureen Puleo, Andy Longinow, The Rev. Mary Frances, Nicholas, Christina, Nancy Stiller, Doreen, David, Courtney, Buff Martin, Jordan, John, Hilde, John, Dom, Darlene Downs, The Aronson family, Mike & Marilyn, Marc, Gail Goodwin, Emily Gracia, Frank Cassello, Patrick & Veronica, Buzz, Cecelia, Chris, Regina, Betty Moody, Judy Skowronek, Ron, David Avalos, John Geyer, Bill Edson, Brennan Keefe, Eliza Ann, William Keating, John Langknecht, Ada, Jamie, Darcy, and those in our armed forces:

BEYOND HUNGER

Please keep bringing non-perishable food items, regular size toiletries and cleaning products. **Note: check all items for “sell by/expiration date”**, the item must be factory sealed and not open, and any brands with identities based on racial stereotypes will not be accepted. Please bring them on Sundays and place in the basket in the Narthex.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY IN MARCH

4	Fr. Pete	9	Buzz Hunter	29	Karen McCarthy
7	Bill Schaubel	24	Jill and Michael McReynolds		

IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

Tuesday, March 4th – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5th – Ash Wednesday

“Ashes to Go” distributed from our sidewalk ministry,
7:45 – 8:15 a.m.

Holy Eucharist/Imposition of Ashes at 12 noon

Friday, March 7th – Men’s and women’s lunches at noon, Madison Park Kitchen.

Sunday, March 16th – Vestry meeting after the 10 a.m. Eucharist

Saturday, March 29th – Open Mic, 6 – 9 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL

Friday, April 4th – Men’s and women’s lunches at noon, Madison Park Kitchen.

Sunday, April 13th – Palm Sunday – 7:30 and 10 a.m. Eucharist

Thursday, April 17th – Maundy Thursday, 6 p.m., Eucharist followed by Agape meal

Friday, April 18th – Good Friday, 12 noon, Stations of the Cross

Sunday, April 20th – Easter Day, 10 a.m. Eucharist (only one service)

Sunday, April 27th – Vestry meeting after the 10 a.m. Eucharist.

Prayer Fasting Works of Love



40 Days