

Subject: Giving Up
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
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St Francis



February 11, 2015

Giving Up

*If we have died with him,
we will also live with him
2 Timothy 2:11*

Lent Starts In One Week

One week from today is Ash Wednesday. Most Christians will be thinking

about the yearly discipline of lenten self-denial by asking themselves, "What should I give up for Lent?". Often the answer has to do with giving up chocolate, television watching, or some other habit. This can be good. I do, however, have a question, even a challenge, about that kind of choice: Does that choice have something to do with the way you follow Jesus? Is it self-denial that helps you become a stronger person (which is always a good thing)? If it is a discipline aimed at making you a stronger person will you be following Jesus more closely as a result?

Here's A Thought

During Lent (and any other time for that matter) we can rise to the challenge of being stronger followers of Jesus. We can be more and more open to Jesus in every area of our lives. Would you consider giving up hiding things from God as a Lenten discipline? The safest, most transforming person to whom you will ever confess anything is Jesus. Are there things you just do not want to bring up with Jesus at all? Maybe it is a sin you find yourself committing? It could be anything at all. He will not condemn you in anyway. Rather, He will continue transforming you. Maybe you are thinking about making some kind of change and you just do not want Jesus to have anything to do with it. You can come up with your own list of what you do not want to share with Jesus. Once you do, would you share one thing a day from that list with Him and ask Him to do with it what He wants? If you can't think of anything would you consider taking a few minutes on Ash Wednesday to ask Jesus this, "What do you think I am hiding from You?". Write those things down and bring one up with Him each day, or once a week, during Lent asking Him to do whatever He wants with it. That would be a tremendously powerful Lent. You could expect some freedom from shame, unforgiveness, or other aspects of your life. You will also find yourself worshiping more deeply, enriching your relationships, and seeing how to serve others more readily. In other words, you will be following Jesus more completely.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, February 15, 2015 worship at 10:00am. Bobbie Leviness will be sharing about the ministry at Symphony Assisted Living

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 6:15pm Ash Wednesday service

Sunday, February 22, 2015 worship at 10:00am. MJ Weatherford will be sharing about The Garden

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Essex Bank, that many families and businesses would increase their economic viability and position due to the work of this bank, and that the employees would lead healthy, full lives.

Diocese of Virginia

Congregations and clergy of Christ Church, Luray; St. Stephen's, Heathsville; St. Mary's, Fleeton; St. Michael's, Arlington; St. Andrew's, Arlington.

Metropolitan Richmond

For the coming of God's Kingdom in Metropolitan Richmond: For redemption of the divisions, prejudices, pettiness, despair, and discrimination of the past.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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