

Subject: Lent Is For Looking To Jesus
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
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St Francis



Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2015

Lent Is For Looking To Jesus

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the

*shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of
God.
Hebrews 12:1+2*

Looking In The Right Direction

Last week I shared about giving up hiding from God for Lent. I thought I might share one way that is a very challenging practice for me. My default practice is to do something I am good at and then keep moving. Most of the time that is something I need to do in my leadership position at St. Francis. Somewhere inside I am proud of being able to do that and do not really want God to change it in any way. I would much rather God just bless it and then we can both move on to other things. In that respect I am hiding what I do from God. To stop hiding those things I will be taking up this practice:

1. When an idea about what to do as the pastoral leader of St. Francis comes to mind I will be asking what God is saying to me about that idea before I do anything about it.
2. Then I will be asking God to direct me as to what steps to take.
3. I will ask the members of at least one of the leadership huddles I am in to keep asking me how that is going.

That way I keep looking to Jesus, the Founder and Perfecter of our faith. It also helps me to put aside every weight and sin that clings so closely, as the selection from Hebrews appointed for morning prayer this morning points out.

And You?

I would like to recommend a website page from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Old Bridge, NJ. I came across this while scrolling through Facebook:

<http://gs4nj.org/40-things-the-give-up-for-lent-the-list/>

You will find on this page an excellent list of 40 things to give up for Lent. You might find one that is right for you as it helps you keep your eyes on Jesus.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, February 22, 2015 worship at 10:00am

Sunday, March 1, 2015, worship at 10:00am

Sunday Sermons during Lent- Some of you have already noticed that I gave up preaching for Lent as well as giving up hiding things from God. We are having the leaders of our missional communities share their vision and

work with us on Sunday mornings. Bobbie Levines shared wonderfully about the work at Symphony Assisted Living. This coming Sunday MJ Weatherford will share about The Garden as it gets underway this spring. The following Sunday Richard Walker will be sharing about our outreach to the Parke, Centerville.

Please bring non-perishable food with you when you worship at St. Francis. The food will be distributed through the food pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services. You may leave your items in the box provided in the vestibule.

Centerville of Prayer

For Pakmail, Dave Fitzsimmons owner, that this business would connect many people and businesses as they ship special items around the world.

Diocese of Virginia

Congregations and clergy of Messiah, Chancellor; Trinity, Fredericksburg; St. Margaret's, Woodbridge; Aquia, Stafford; St. David's, Aylett; St. John's, Tappahannock.

Metropolitan Richmond

For the coming of God's kingdom in Metropolitan Richmond: For enhancemet of our common life in Jesus' Name through the Holy Spirit, and for the resurrection of metropolitan Richmond as a modern metropolitan city of hope for the world.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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