

# Lent and Easter 2016 at St Francis Church

## What is Lent?

Lent is another form of pilgrimage. It is an interior sacred journey toward Easter. It invites us into a sacred time. The season of Lent is meant to help us become even more the persons of God that we were created to be.

During Lent contemporary Christians generally intensify their spiritual life, like a retreat in daily life. Many read the Bible more, pray and meditate more, give up something enjoyable, attend a study group, attend more (weekday) services at church, and give more generously to worthy causes.

The church does not use "Alleluia" in worship during Lent, as well as flowers. There is sparseness and a starkness, to help orient us to what truly matters in life. When Alleluias and flowers return on Easter Sunday their reintroduction gives the Easter Season extra potency.

Enter your Lenten pilgrimage with expectation as you embrace the transforming grace of God.

With love and care for you all, Mo. Paula.

## Lenten Supper Program

A Lenten Journey: Finding our Story in the Story of God

Looking in to the Scriptures so that we might look out into the world

**Weds. February 17, February 24, March 9, March 16**, Supper at 6pm (*supper lovingly prepared and served by the Friars for a donation of just \$6 per person.*); *program starts 7pm, ending with Compline at 8pm*

This year we've invited the Rev. Bob Honeychurch to lead our series. Together we will explore what it means to become God's people for the world. What does it mean to be "church" and the Body of Christ to the world, not just on Sundays but especially Monday through Saturday at our workplaces and family life? What does it mean to be God's people and good neighbors in a rapidly changing world? How might we be people of Lent, people of wandering, as well as people of Easter, people of the Resurrection for our community and beyond? These are questions we will explore together during this year's Lenten Supper Series.

Each evening program will include a presentation and time for discussion in smaller groups and in the large group. Together we will challenge, support, and encourage each other to be light to our world.

The themes:

### **February 17 - Getting the Story Right**

There is "my" story, "your" story, and "our" story.. but how do they all find their heart in God's Story?

### **February 24 - Won't You Be My Neighbor?**

What is God up to in the neighborhood, and how can we join in that holy work?

### **March 9 - Missional or Mission-ish?**

Do we really have the heart for this work of changing the world, or are we just dabbling at the edges?

### **March 16 - The Magnetic Power of the Church**

How do we get beyond the notion that "they" should come to "us", and instead see ourselves as being drawn ever more into the world around us? We look forward to growing in our faith together!



*Bob Honeychurch is a nationally recognized teacher, preacher, conference and workshop leader in the Episcopal Church. He is the Professor of Church Leadership at Bloy House – the Episcopal Theological School at Claremont, in Claremont CA, where he teaches courses in Parish Leadership and Mission and Ministry. He also teaches Leadership in Ministry as a part of the summer intensive program at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA. He is currently also the Interim Rector at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Laguna Beach, CA.*

*Previously, Bob served as the Missioner for Congregational Vitality with The Episcopal Church Center from 2008 to 2012. Prior to joining the Church Center staff, Bob had been a parish priest for 24 years in the Dioceses of Montana, Idaho, and California.*

*Bob's passion lies in the area of building and sustaining healthy and life-giving models of congregational life so that the members of those congregations can experience holy transformation in their own lives, and then engage in the work of sharing with God in the transformation of all creation.*

# Lent and Easter 2016 at St Francis Church

## Who is My Neighbor?

Sundays in Lent - All About Islam

First Session is February 14 - led by our own Brian Bezner (teacher of World Religions).

*sponsored by the Justice and Peace Ministry*

In cooperation with Imam Ashraf Carrim from the International Institute of Tolerance in the South Bay, we are offering a brief introduction to Islam, so that we may deepen our understanding of it as Christians. We are very fortunate, as a Christian community, to have the opportunity to hear and learn about Islam from Muslims themselves, who can enlighten us about their religious practices and beliefs.

The series begins with a history lesson, looking at the origins of Islam. This session will be offered by our own Brian Bezner, who teaches World Religions. The other sessions will be offered with the help of members of the International Institute of Tolerance. (Sessions 2 through 5 may change in subject depending on speaker availability)

### **Tentative Schedule:**

- 1) The Emergence of Islam (Brian Bezner) - 2/14
- 2) The Teachings of Islam
- 3) The Branches of Islam
- 4) Living Islam
- 5) Islam in contemporary culture

## Lenten Quiet Day - Theme: "Mystical Hope"

March 8, Tuesday, 9:30 – 12:30, Boardroom and chapel

There was a little fish who asked the mama fish in a panic, "Where is the water?" The mama fish replied, "You are swimming in it!" This too is the grace of hope. We live in it without realizing it. There is much to appreciate and understand about the gift of mystical hope. Mo. Paula will be leading the morning with short presentations followed by time for reflection and group sharing. Please bring a bag lunch to share at the end of our time together.

*Sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women and ALL (men and women) are invited.*

**Please RSVP to the church office or on the sign-up sheet**

## Lent and Easter Worship

Taizé services for Lent

**Taizé for Lent - Tuesday, March 25; Taizé for Holy Week - Tuesday, March 22  
both at 7 pm in the Chapel**

Palm Sunday

**Sunday, March 20 at 10am – One service - main church**

Maundy Thursday -

**Thursday, March 24 at 6:30 pm Parish Hall**

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

**Friday, March 25 12:10 pm and 7 pm in the Church**

The Great Vigil of Easter

**Saturday, March 26 7:30 pm Chapel**

Easter Sunday "He is Risen!"

**Sunday, March 27th**

8am in the chapel, Rite I Holy Communion, and 10am in the main church Rite II Holy Communion.