

THE Shepherd's Fold

March 17, 2024

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

**“SO, COULD YOU NOT STAY AWAKE WITH ME ONE HOUR?”
(MATTHEW 26:40)**

Lent of 2000 had been like every other Lent in my life. I had given up sweets or wine or something. Actually, I think that year I gave up my daily afternoon habit of running by the Dairy Queen for a large order of fries and a large Diet Coke. Anyway, I knew all about Lent, or at least I thought I did. It was a time of repentance, a time to examine my life, a time to think about Jesus on that cross. But Lent of 2000 would prove to be different for me.

You see, that was the year that God called me to really participate in Lent. God called me to the Wednesday morning Eucharist. God called me to confession which I did with a priest through The Reconciliation of a Penitent. But most important, for me at least, God called me to sit vigil with the reserved Sacrament in the hours between Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

I signed up to be in the church between 3 and 4 a.m. I got up at 2:30 and threw on my work out clothes. No need to shower or put on make-up because the church would be dark and there would be few, if any, people there with me. I took my Bible so that I could reread the Passion story in the quiet of the church. When I arrived, Reynolds Jarvis was there outside the church. Part of his call each year was to be there in the garden all night to provide a presence for those who chose to sit vigil. I slipped into the church through the south transept door. The church was dark and so very, very quiet. There was a person in the transept on the side opposite the memorial to Mary Cumming Cuthbert. I chose to situate myself in the nave, pulpit side, ten rows back beside the memorial window to Lt. Carter Burdell Hagler. I zipped up my jacket against the chill and placed my Bible beside me on the pew. It was much too dark to read. The only light in the church was in the chancel. I could see the reserved Sacrament on the altar. I could hear and feel to my bones the silence in that darkened church. I pulled down the kneeler to pray. But I was so overwhelmed by the holiness of the moment that all I could do was to kneel in the wonderful and magnificent presence of God.

Never before had I felt the weight of sin as palpably as I did that night. Oh, I had felt shame before. I had felt guilt. But never before had I experienced the actual heaviness, the suffocating density, the staggering burden of my sin. And to think that my thoughts, my words, my deeds had caused pain and suffering to those who love me...and especially

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to Jesus who bore the weight of my sins as he carried them, for me, to the cross. It was on this night that I, for the first time, realized why Easter, and not Christmas, is the holiest day of the Christian year. I had known intellectually that Jesus had died for me and been raised from the dead for me so that I could have eternal life. But not until I had come face to face with my own sin and wrestled with the horror of it all, did I really understand how beautiful Easter is. Not until that Good Friday morning had I gotten even a glimpse of what Jesus had done for me.

And so, this passage comes to mind, "(N)ow Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory..." (Luke 9: 32). Now, I'm not saying that I experienced the Transfiguration that night. What I am saying, though, is that staying awake with Jesus for that one hour did allow me to experience, as never before, the love that God has for me and the sacrifice that Jesus made for me. Can you stay awake with Jesus one hour?

Keep on keeping on...

Bunny+

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SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The work of the Rector Search Committee is nearing completion. We have narrowed our list of potential candidates to four. These four were invited to visit the church. Two candidates have already come, and two more are scheduled to be here during this week. After these visits, we anticipate making a recommendation to the Vestry before Easter. Please keep us in your prayers as we approach the final stages of this challenging process.

- Ashley Pritchett and Neal Dickert

BIBLE STUDY - LETTING GO

Lent is about letting go of past hurts,

grudges, and resentment. It is about self-examination and forgiveness. Forgiving others. Forgiving self. And sometimes even forgiving God. Starting **March 6th**, join Bunny for a Lenten Bible study on forgiveness. Wednesday mornings at 10 am in the conference room.

THE LAST WAGS IN LENT

We end our Lenten WAGS Series with the last part of the story of Les Miserables, an epic tale of sin, forgiveness, and redemption. We will discuss the themes illuminated in the portion of the movie that we just watched. Whether you know it by heart or have never encountered it, Victor Hugo's examination of what it means to be Christian is more instructive to us today than ever. Supper this week is WifeSaver Chicken, Mac and cheese, Green Beans, and Banana Pudding.



GETHSEMANE WATCH

The Church will be open all night following the Maundy Thursday, **March 28th**, service until Good Friday morning, **March 29th**. Sit with Jesus before the altar for 30 minutes to an hour. This profound, meaningful time brings you into the mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. You can sign up for 30-minute slots at bit.ly/gethsemanewatch.

WILD GAME DINNER

You are invited to attend the EDS Annual Party! **March 16th** at 6:00 at the Walton Way Campus. This year's theme is a Wild Game Dinner. 9 chef teams are grilling, frying, and cooking all of the food, including our parishioners. Ellis McCutcheon and Kevin McDougal are frying quail, Jim Wynn, Rob Wynn and Lucas O'Meara are doing a crawfish boil. David Perkinson, EDS Head of School,

is frying fish. And that's just a sample of the delicious cuisine! This is going to be a fun casual night, and we would LOVE for you to join us to support EDS, a mission of Good Shepherd. Tickets are \$75. You can buy tickets at *www.edsaugusta.com/current-families/the-eds-association/annualparty/*. If you can't make it, please consider buying a raffle ticket for a cash prize. Tickets are \$10, and one winner will win half the proceeds! You do not have to be present to win. For more information email Katie at katiewynn92@gmail.com.

KANUGA

Good Shepherd Parish Retreat,
September 20-22, 2024.
Registration coming soon!

BACK TO THE BIBLE

For the monthly readings pick up a bookmark or navigate to our B2B page: goodshepherd-augusta.org/b2b.



Scan me



Easter Eggs needed for Easter Sunday, 3/31. Please drop filled eggs to Church office by March 25th.

Lent & Holy week at GOOD SHEPHERD

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14TH, 7:00 AM,
12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

12:00 PM FRIDAYS IN LENT

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 24TH, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM,
11:15 AM, AND 6:00 PM

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

MARCH 25TH 7:00 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

MARCH 26TH, 7:00 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

MARCH 27TH, 7:00 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST

MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 28TH, 7:00 PM, FOLLOWED
BY ALL-NIGHT PRAYER VIGIL. SIGN
UP AT BIT.LY/GETHSEMANEWATCH

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29TH, 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM
STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 1:00 PM

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

MARCH 30TH, 7:00 PM

EASTER DAY

MARCH 31ST, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM
11:15 AM, 6:00 PM

EGG HUNT AFTER 9:00 AM SERVICE

WEDNESDAYS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

WAGS SERIES ON FEBRUARY 21ST &
28TH, MARCH 6TH, 13TH & 20TH.

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, March 17, 2024

8:00 am

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams
PreacherTed Clarkson
Organist Wayne Lord
Lay ReaderLynn Tyson, Camilla Davis

9:00 am

Celebrant..... Joe Bowden
PreacherTed Clarkson
Organist & ChoirmasterJim Nord
Lay ReadersBob Nesbit, Katie Tracy
UshersBill Hollingsworth, Drew Daniel
Vergers..... Mark Pritchett
Acolytes..... Kate Lee Smith, Rob Wynn,
George Wynnt

11:15 am

Celebrant.....Bunny Simon Williams
PreacherTed Clarkson
OrganistJim Nord
Lay ReadersJennie Haynes, Andrew Austin
UshersPaul Trotter, Mike Leverett
Vergers..... Lee Neel
Acolytes.....Charlie Hargrove, Sam Hargrove
Julian Barrett, Catherine Barrett, South Bryan

6:00 pm

Preacher & Celebrant.....Ted Clarkson
OrganistNick Lowery
Lay ReadersJim Price, Faith Moore

All Services

Altar Guild Team IV
Breakfast Ministry Team II
Vestry Person of the Day Tom Smyth

YOUTH NEWS

Head to the Shell Newsletter for details & to sign-up for up coming events.
For any questions, email Mary Grace Wynn at mgwynn@goodshepherd-augusta.org.

YOUTH GROUP: Youth Group continues this Sunday, **March 17th!**
We look forward to a fun evening of fellowship, gym time, and dinner!
Youth Group schedule is as follows:

- 5:00 - 6:00 pm: Rite-13: Meet in Youth Lounge (Room 303)
- 6:00 - 6:30 pm: Rite-13 & J2A: Gather for Dinner in Small Parish Hall
- 6:30 - 7:30 pm: J2A: Meet in Youth Lounge (Room 303)

SOLEMN COMMUNION: We will celebrate Solemn Communion at the 9am service this Sunday followed by a reception in the Parish Hall at 10am. We hope you can join us to celebrate this group of students, their catechists, and their commitment in preparation for Solemn Communion.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: For grades 6th-12th, Christian Formation will continue as normal at 10 am in Rooms 208 and 303. For grades 5th and below, join the reception in the Parish Hall.

