

The Courier

Christ the King Episcopal Church

1224 North Jefferson Street

Huntington, Indiana 46750

FEBRUARY, 2026

A Few Words from Fr. Ted

TO LENT OR NOT OT LENT

Lent begins this year on February 18th with Ash Wednesday. The observance of Lent goes back to the very early church. It developed from the rigorous preparation expected of those wishing to be baptized into the new faith. Catechumens, as they were called, underwent a three-year period in which they were instructed in the faith. As the time of their baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter approached, they were expected to intensify their preparation through a period of fasting, prayer and self-denial. Over time the value of these practices for all Christians in preparing to celebrate resurrection of Jesus was recognized and a portion of the liturgical year was set aside for this purpose. A period of forty days preceding the great festival was chosen because it mirrored the forty days in which Jesus was tempted in the desert and the forty days in which Moses prayed on Mount Sinai.

Today even those who are only nominally Christian, or who adhere to no particular religion, will often mark the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter by some form of personal discipline. It may take the form of self-improvement such as beginning a diet, abstaining from alcohol or “giving up chocolate.” Just as Christmas and Easter have become co-opted for many by Santa Claus and the Easter bunny, Lent is for many a tradition without meaning. The Church, though, invites us to something deeper and more deliberate.

The Book of Common Prayer in the Ash Wednesday services states: “The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the Custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting.” (BCP p. 265) We are further encouraged to observe a “holy Lent, by self-examination, and repentance’ by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditation on God’s holy Word.” In these words, *The Book of Common Prayer* gives us a pattern for a truly “holy” Lent.

- **Self-examination and repentance** – the call to repentance is a call to a reorientation of life. To do so, one must know where they feel they are falling short of God’s and their own expectations. Lent is a perfect time for taking an inventory of your spiritual life and practices. Are you giving the same attention to your spiritual health that you do to your physical well-being. Is time set aside for prayer and meditation? There are ample resources online. Perhaps one of the most potent is the Ignatian Examen – a daily practice of:



- Centering. Come to a place of stillness and peace and recognize God's presence with you. Ask for assistance to see yourself and your experiences as God sees.
 - Gratitude. Recall the gifts you have been given and be thankful.
 - Review. Recall the events of the day (or the period to be reflected on), noticing especially experiences that bring up strong emotions, whether positive or negative.
 - Sorrow. Consider any moments of regret or when you fell short. Ask forgiveness for any wrongs that have been done.
 - Response. In light of your reflections, ask for grace for tomorrow and the future.
- **Fasting and Self-denial** – while we may sneer at what may seem trivial acts such as giving up chocolate or lattes, doing so serves as a constant reminder that we are in a time of recalling with gratitude Christ's sacrifice on the cross and the gift of resurrection. Each time we choose to forgo a usual practice, we are reminded why we do so. Also, donating the money saved to a charity is a good way to help others.
 - **Reading and Meditating on God's Holy Word** – Lent provides a perfect time to begin a discipline of regular reading of the Bible. Forty days is more than enough time to read through the passion narratives in each of the Gospels noting the differences and imagining the depth of love that brought Jesus to suffer, die and triumph over death for us.

It is my sincere hope for each of you that this coming season of Lent will be a time of growing stronger in your faith and closer to Jesus. Be assured that my prayers will be with you for those forty days and beyond.

Fr. Ted+

GUEST PREACHER ON FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Mtr. Mindy Hancock of Gethsemane Episcopal Church in Marion, Indiana, will be with us to worship and preach on the first Sunday in February. Vestry and Wardens are in discussions with Mtr. Mindy about becoming the next Priest-in-Charge at Christ the King. She will also be able to remain for Coffee Hour. Please come and welcome her visit with us.

WE ARE INVITED

Members of Christ the King are invited to join Mtr. Mindy Hancock and the people of Gethsemane Episcopal Church in Marion for a potluck and Mass to mark the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) on Monday, February 2, 2026. The meal is at 6:00 p.m. with Mass at 7:00 p.m. Gethsemane is located at 803 S. Washington St., Marion IN 46953

Ash Wednesday



The Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes will be offered at Christ the King at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. All members are encouraged to be present for the beginning of the Season of Lent.

THE MAD, MAD SEASON OF LENT



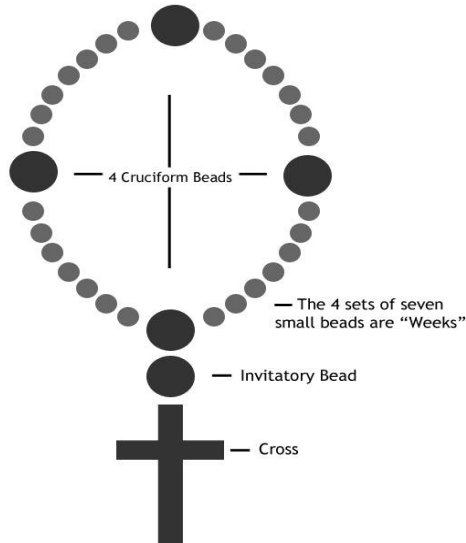
Lent Madness is a fun way to learn more about saints and other important persons in the history of the Church. Sponsored by *Forward in Faith*, it is a bracket competition where participants each weekday receive information on two persons revered in church history and are asked to vote for one of the two. In true March Madness fashion, a final champion will be announced during Holy Week. It really is fun. You may sign up to receive the daily email and join the fun at: <https://www.lentmadness.org/about/>. As a Lenten discipline, it sure beats giving up chocolate!

DEVOTIONAL AIDES

For more serious materials to help keep Lent visit <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/> to receive a daily meditation throughout Lent and suggestions for prayer.

PRAYING THE ANGLICAN ROSARY

For a number of years, a part of my Lenten discipline has been to pray the Anglican Rosary each day. Anglican Prayer beads are typically smaller than those used by Roman Catholics with fewer beads and taking less time to pray. If you would like to try it out without investing in a set of beads use this diagram and count your way around it as your pray:



1. Begin at the cross with the Lord's Prayer
2. At the Invitatory Bead say the Gloria -- "Glory to the Father and to the Son..."
3. At the first large bead in the circle pray the Hail Mary
4. At each small bead pray the Jesus Prayer -- "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me" repeating the Hail Mary at each larger bead.
5. Return to the Invitatory Bead and say the Gloria
6. Conclude at the Cross with the Trisagion-- "Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us."

Other prayer patterns and places to purchase beads can be found by merely Googling "Anglican Rosary."

Fr. Ted

**ALZHEIMER'S and DEMENTIA
CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP**
Will meet Thursday, February 5
at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Questions?

Call Nancy Heasley
260-450-7077

SPECIAL EVENTS at Christ the King

Our **Winter Family Game Night** will be on Wednesday, **FEBRUARY 11th** at 5:50 pm. We are adding something new by serving Chili, Hot Dogs and Lincoln School Cinnamon Rolls. Feel free to bring other things if you wish. We will play games immediately following.

And on Sunday, **FEBRUARY 15th** immediately after the service we will be having our traditional **Shrove Tuesday treats, Pancake and Sausage**. Carmen will cook the sausage and we will have a couple griddles set up for pancakes. Hope to see you there!

Notes from your new Senior Warden

As I sit here in my warm and toasty home, with everything a person could want or need, I am thinking of a promise I made to our Editor back in October. I told her I would write something every month for the Courier when Father Ted was retired. And here I am already worrying about what to write about and feeling his pain of the responsibility he has shouldered for the last 12 years. But, here goes nothing!

I cannot begin to thank Father Ted and Dianne enough for sharing themselves with us. It has been a good run and although we wish they would stay, that is a very selfish wish. When I retired 18 years ago, there was no one that could have changed my mind, so why should I try to change theirs? They have earned this retirement. The uncounted miles, time and effort they have given to us has been a blessing. And now it is time for them to find their "happy place." I hope they know they will be missed.

But I also hope that we at Christ the King realize we will go on. Talks have already begun to share a priest with Gethsemane, Marion. Mother Mindy (who lives in Kokomo!) has been at Marion for about 6 ½ years, but due to circumstances is ready for more hours and is willing to come to Huntington. The fine tuning is not complete, but everyone on the Vestry feels like this is a gift that we should explore. There will be more conversation and I promise to keep you informed.

New year, new circumstances – we're in this together!

Carmen



BOOK CLUB

Book Club did not meet in January, so we will meet on Monday, February 9 to discuss the book *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros. It's considered a "romantasy," a new genre in literature. Book IQ says, "*Fourth Wing* thrives on its central themes of survival, love, and personal growth. Violet's experiences explore what it means to adapt and thrive in the face of overwhelming odds."

Dixie Harrold will lead the discussion and Linda Beatty will host.

Feel free to join us – even if you haven't read the book!

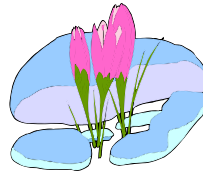
We meet at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 Dianne Neidlinger
 5 Marguerite Wire
 13 Fr. Ted Neidlinger
 21 Kimberlyn Boxell

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

8 George & Rose Holtrey



Remember to send
 updates to this page
 to Sue Jepsen at
sljepsen@yahoo.com
 Thank you!

CHRIST THE KING FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist Mtr. Mindy Hancock	02	03 4:30 Choir 7:00 p.m. AA	04	05 5:00 Caregivers' Support Group 5:30 Evening Prayer	06	07
08 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 Adult Study re: Marriage Policy	09 7:00 p.m. Book Club in the Parish Hall	10 4:30 Choir 7:00 p.m. AA	11 5:50 Family Game Night w/ supper	12 5:30 Evening Prayer	13	14
15 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist Pancake & Sausage @ Coffee Hour	16	17 4:30 Choir 7:00 p.m. AA	18	19 5:30 Evening Prayer 6:00 Vestry	20	21
22 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist Fr. Ted's Retirement	23	24 4:30 Choir 7:00 p.m. AA	25	26 5:30 Evening Prayer	27	28

SERVICE ROSTER FEBRUARY 2026

	1-Feb	8-Feb	15-Feb	18-Feb	22-Feb
		United with Love Ingathering		Ash Wednesday	
Reader	Gary Beatty	Meg Moss	Mark Parker	Marguerite Wire	Sue Jepsen
Intercessor		Bill Oswalt	Gary Beatty	Bill Oswalt	
Server 1	Carmen Oswalt	Dixie Harrold	Marguerite Wire		
Server 2/Crucifer	Meg Moss	Carmen Oswalt	Jeff Roberts		
Counter				n/a	
Altar Guild	Linda Beatty		Carmen Oswalt		Sue Jepsen
Coffee Hour	Beatty	Heasley	Oswalt Pancake & Sausage	n/a	



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1224 North Jefferson Street
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VESTRY

John Jepsen 2026
Paul Wilson 2026

Marguerite Wire 2027
Sue Nunemaker 2027

Dixie Harrold 2028
Beth Ebersole 2028

SERVICES at CHRIST the KING

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.: Holy Communion
Thursday, 9:00 a.m.: Morning Prayer
Thursday, 5:30 p.m.: Evening Prayer

PHONE NUMBERS

Church:
260-356- 3570

Sr. Warden:
260-224-0470

WEB PAGE:

www.episcopalchurch-huntington.org

FACEBOOK Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ctkhuntington>

EMAILS :

Treasurer:
markpark823@gmail.com

Newsletter:
sljepsen@yahoo.com

PERSONNEL

Priest-in-Charge: Fr.
Theodore Neidlinger

Bishop/Rector: The Rt. Rev.
Douglas Sparks

Sr. Warden:
Carmen Oswalt

Jr. Warden:
Sue Jepsen

Treasurer:
Mark Parker

Music Director: Sue
Nunemaker

