



Volume 46, Issue 3 March 2026

Reflections from the Rector:

St. Patrick, Lent, and the Joy of Return

As I was looking over the March calendar, I noticed again that St. Patrick's Day falls right in the middle of Lent. It reminded me about the question I am sometimes asked since this popular holiday always falls in our penitential season: "Are we allowed to celebrate St. Patrick's Day?" Well, I have good news for you if you like to wear green and march in the St. Patrick's Day parade or go to a party and have a green beverage. The answer is: Yes, It is fine to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Lent!

The question about observing St. Patrick's Day in Lent I think shows a misconception about what Lent is. Lent is a season of repentance, simplicity, prayer, and self-examination, and that can feel at odds with parades, shamrocks, and cultural festivity. But at its heart, Lent is not meant to be a downer for us but a joyful time of returning to the Lord.

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Lent is not only okay, it actually is good to do because his life is a Lenten story: suffering, conversion, courage, forgiveness, and deep trust in the Trinity.

As a teenager in Britain in the late 300's AD, Patrick was kidnapped by Irish raiders and enslaved. For six years he worked as a shepherd in isolation. It was a time of great hardship, loneliness, and fear. In desperation, Patrick began to pray. His faith grew, and it helped him survive. He later wrote that he would pray hundreds of times a day, and through that prayer, his heart was changed.

Eventually, Patrick escaped slavery in Ireland and returned home. He could have stayed in the safety of Britain. Instead, after years of his continued growth in his Christian faith, he chose to return to Ireland, the place where he had been so mistreated. He returned not as many would have, with a desire to bring vengeance on his enemies. He returned to share the Gospel with a heart of love and forgiveness.

This is a Lenten story if there ever was one: Suffering, Conversion, Forgiveness, and finally Mission. As you celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year, why not also reflect on his life and ask:

Where is Christ calling me to deeper courage?

What past wound might God transform into future ministry?

How might my repentance (reorientation, return) become someone else's hope?

I have been told that the last rector of St. Bart's, Mother Nan, would often say: "God wastes nothing." As we continue our Lenten journey at St. Bart's, Patrick's story reminds us that not even seasons of hardship are wasted in God's hands. The wounded places in our lives often become the places of calling. Prayer opens us to God's power as we are sent out to heal and live the Good News for others.

*Christ with you,
Christ before you,
Christ behind you,**

Joseph+

*From St. Patrick's famous prayer, *St. Patrick's Breastplate*

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Barb McCall

Joyce Feenstra

Lisa Russ

Charles Duchscher

Mary Beth Pierucci

Kyle Waddell

David Miller



This Lent, join us on Wednesday evenings for community, reflection, and conversation.

**5:00 p.m. – Putluck Supper
5:30 p.m. – Program with Deacon Pam Crossley**

Our Lenten program features short films from *The Work of The People*, a spiritual film project designed to open space for real questions about faith, humanity, grief, justice, and hope. These films are deeply reflective and accessible, inviting us to listen, wonder, and share honestly with one another.

Wednesdays, Feb. 25 – Mar. 25 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome—no preparation required. Come as you are.

Looking for a meaningful way to engage the season of Lent? Join Fr. Joseph for a Lenten Sunday School class using *Renewal & Hope*, a new video series from seminary of the Southwest.

Each week includes a short video reflection and guided discussion focuses on repentance, discipleship, and the promise of new life. No preparation is required - just come as you are.

Sundays, Feb 22 – March 29

9:00–10:00 a.m.

Adult Education Building

Questions?

Contact: admin@saintbart.org 803-279-4622

LENTEEN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Renewal & Hope

Video Series from Seminary of the Southwest

- ✓ Repentance & Discipleship
- ✓ Reflection & Discussion
- ✓ New Life & Hope

Sundays, Feb. 22–Mar. 29
9:00–10:00 AM

All Are Welcome



Entering the Labyrinth

A Lenten Quiet Day • March 21 | 8:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Walk the Way This Lent

Entering the Labyrinth – March 21

This Lent, St. Bartholomew's invites you into something new.

On Saturday, March 21, we will host a Lenten Quiet Day centered on the debut of our newly completed outdoor labyrinth. Built of stone and thoughtfully designed as a place of prayer and reflection, the labyrinth offers a physical way to pray — a single winding path that leads toward the center and back out again.

Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has no tricks and no wrong turns. There is only one path. The invitation is not to figure something out, but to slow down. To listen. To walk with intention.

We are honored to welcome Camille Woodruff, a certified labyrinth facilitator trained through Veriditas, the internationally recognized organization dedicated to the renewal of labyrinth spirituality. Camille will guide participants through the history and meaning of labyrinth walking, offer reflection time, lead a facilitated walk on our new labyrinth, and share in Holy Eucharist and lunch together.

This will be the first major guided event on our outdoor labyrinth. We hope you will consider being among the first to walk this sacred space.

There is no cost to attend. Lunch is provided.

Please RSVP to Robin Petry at petrymail@yahoo.com or 706-836-3027 so we may prepare accordingly.

Saturday, March 21st 8:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
471 W. Martintown Rd., North Augusta

**This Lenten Quiet Day is hosted by
The St. Bartholomew's Daughters of the King.**

What is a Labyrinth?

A labyrinth is an ancient Christian prayer practice dating back to the early church. Unlike a maze, it has one path leading to the center and back out again. Walking the labyrinth becomes a moving meditation — a way to quiet the mind and open the heart.

ST. BART'S LENTEN SCHEDULE - Watch for more details

Wednesday's in Lent - St. Bart's Lenten Program
with Dinner at 5:00 PM

Friday Lenten Fish Fry's - March 6th & 20th @ 6:00 PM

Mar 11 - Community Lenten Worship Service & Lunch
@ 12:00 PM

Mar 29 - Palm Sunday

Apr 1 - Holy Wednesday - Tenebrae Service @ 6:30 PM

Apr 2 - Maundy Thursday
Simple Supper @ 5:30 PM
Service w/foot washing @ 6:30 PM

Apr 3 - Good Friday
Service @ 6:30 PM

Apr 4 - Easter Vigil - Service @ 8:00 PM

Apr 5 - Easter Day
Service @ 9:00 AM
Breakfast & Egg Hunt @ 10:00 AM
Service @ 11:00 AM

HANDBELL CHOIR - NEEDS ONE MORE RINGER!

Our Handbell Choir is officially up and ringing! Since forming last fall, the group has met weekly for fellowship and rehearsal, culminating in their beautiful offering at the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass.

Now the choir needs at least one more member to help expand the range and repertoire for spring.

No prior handbell experience is required. If you have basic musical interest and enjoy collaborative music-making, this could be a wonderful fit. Handbells are a team effort - each ringer contributed a few notes, and together we create something beautiful.

Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Questions? Contact Scott MacMurray:

jscottmacmeng@gmail.com



Community Lenten Worship Service & Lunch Schedule

Lenten Worship Service

12:30pm

Lunch available at

12:00 or 1:00PM

- March 4** Second Providence Baptist
- March 11** St. Bartholomew's Episcopal
- March 18** Fairview Presbyterian
- March 25** Clearwater First Baptist

Tenebrae: A Service of Shadows & Light

Wednesday of Holy Week · April 1 · 6:30 p.m.
St. Bart's Episcopal Church

This Holy Week, St. Bart's will offer something new and deeply moving.

For the first time, we will gather on the Wednesday of Holy Week for Tenebrae — an ancient candlelight service whose name means “*shadows*.” It is a liturgy of scripture, reflection, silence, and gradually diminishing light, as candles are extinguished one by one and we walk prayerfully through the final hours of Jesus' life.

The heart of the service will include ten brief reflections and congregational responses. Between each reflection, **a professional string quartet** will offer excerpts from Hayden's Quartets — sacred and contemplative pieces that create space to breathe, pray, and absorb the story in a way words alone cannot.

As the church slowly grows darker, we are invited to sit with the depth of the Passion before the light of Easter dawn.

This service will be reverent, beautiful, and accessible — especially meaningful for those who long for a quieter, more reflective Holy Week experience. It is also an ideal service to invite a friend who may not regularly attend church but is drawn to sacred music and candlelit atmosphere.

If you only attend one additional Holy Week service this year, consider making it this one.

“A candlelit Holy Week service with a live string quartet - - an experience of beauty, silence, and sacred depth.”

Endowment Campaign Complete: \$108,900 Raised — And Our Endowment More Than Doubled

With gratitude and joy, we are delighted to share the final results of our Endowment Campaign.

Through the generosity of this parish, **\$54,450** was given to the Endowment Fund. With the anonymous matching challenge, those gifts were doubled—bringing the total raised to:

\$108,900

This remarkable response does more than reach a number. It more than doubles the size of our Endowment Fund, significantly strengthening the long-term financial foundation of St. Bartholomew's.

That is no small thing.

Contributing to the endowment is an act of faith. It is a way of saying:

We believe in this church.

We believe in its mission.

We believe God is not finished with us.

Because of your generosity, St. Bart's is better prepared to care for our buildings, support ministry initiatives, and respond faithfully to future opportunities for generations to come.

To everyone who gave—thank you. To those who prayed and encouraged others—thank you.

Together, we have planted something that will bless this church and our community long after we are gone.

With deep gratitude,
Joseph+

HEALTH SCREENINGS



The Health Ministry Screenings take place on **Sunday, March 8 from 9:30 to 11:30 am in the Parish Hall**. During this time, you can have your blood pressure, blood glucose and weight checked, as well as ask general health questions. For any questions, contact Robin Petry, 706-836-3027 or petrymail@yahoo.com.



The St. Bartholomew's Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is a group of women who commit themselves to a life-long practice of prayer, service and evangelism with the mission to spread Christ's Kingdom. Here at St. Bartholomew's we support the clergy's pastoral care. Any woman interesting in joining, can contact Robin Petry at petrymail@yahoo.com or call: 706-836-3027



EpiscoPals Lunch

The EpiscoPals is a monthly luncheon gathering for Adults 50+. It is a fun, relaxed time of fellowship and eating good food! For some good food and a whole lot of talking, make plans to join us: Our monthly luncheon will be held on **THURSDAY, March 19th**. We will meet at **11:30 a.m. at Ironhead BBQ, 340 Edgefield Rd, N. Augusta** Sign up Sheets are in the Parish Hall. For more information contact **Mike Osteen at 803-315-3549** We hope to see you there!

Crafters for Christ

Crafters for Christ are accepting requests for personal crafted items including: quilts/blankets of various sizes, pillowcases, walker caddy, key fobs, bibs, aprons, infant sensory taggies, and comfort stuffed animals like bear, cat, rabbit, dog, giraffe, or elephant. Items can be made from a loved one's clothing. Color or patterns can be specifically requested. Pricing is per the item ordered.

Any of the Crafters can take your order or you can complete order form. Forms are available on the table in the Parish Hall or the Parish Office. One of the group will be in touch with you for confirmation.

All proceeds go to local ministry outreaches of St. Bart's Episcopal Church. Please make checks out to St. Bart's Episcopal Church and mark "**For Crafts**" in the memo line.

If you would like to contribute your time and talents, our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday -March 24th at 10:00 a.m. in the Adult Education Building** (across the driveway from Parish Hall).

Kay Bryden Brown Bag - March Ministry of the Month

Empty Brown Bags are ready to pick up in the Parish Hall. Below is a list of items needed to fill the bags for March. Please Bring Donations no later than Sunday, Mar 15th.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 - Can of Soup | 2 - Can of Tuna (in water) |
| 1 - Box of Cereal | 1 - Applesauce Unsweetened |
| 2 - Cans of Vegetables | 2 - Crackers |
| 1 - Box Mac and Cheese | 2 - Toilet Paper |
| 1 - Peanut Butter | 1 - Jelly |
| 1 - Can of Chili | 1 - Box Cornbread Mix |

For more information contact Dino Pierucci via text (803-442-3723) or email (dino.pierucci@comcast.net)



STEWARDSHIP AT WORK


“There can be no stewardship without stewards.” John Jay Jackson Jr.

Year to Date receipts through January, 2026:

	OPERATING FUND		
	Actual	Need	Difference
Pledge	\$ 31,482.37	\$ 21,053.23	\$ 10,429.14
Other	\$ 623.77	\$ 883.96	\$ -260.19
TOTAL	\$ 32,106.14	\$ 21,937.19	\$ 10,168.95

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If you are a member who has not pledged, please consider doing so. Just contact the church office, get a pledge card, and drop it in the offering plate. Pledges are welcome at any time during the year.



A Wish and a Prayer

When you wish upon a birthday candle, God hears it as a prayer. These dreams of your heart ascend to His heart, where they ignite in hope. Hope for happy days ahead, for making more good memories. Hope for loved ones coming together, sharing smiles and stories and hugs. For reasons to celebrate – big and small – and for joy upon joy. Each candle, like each year of your life, represents God’s faithful care for you. He is always working things together for your good, bringing you more grace, making your hopes and dreams come true.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3 Jackie Raeth	22 Steve Vickers
5 Connie Boehmer	24 Ginger Wells
7 R.J. Strauss	26 Tom Thirkell
7 John Doughty	27 Neil Crossley
16 Ann Sisk	30 Lisa Hatch



An Anniversary Blessing

To celebrate the day of your marriage is to celebrate Love, itself; For rare is the joy of a perfect match.


To honour the day of your marriage, is to honour Life, itself;

For as one, **Together** you are a true inspiration.

May God continue to Bless your marriage with Love and Happiness.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

11 Dean & Carla Bouchard
11 Patrick & Lisa Hatch
14 Darren & Candace Waters



Donations for **EASTER FLOWERS** can be made “in Thanksgiving of” or “in Memory of” a loved one. Envelopes are available in the pews and in the narthex and should be returned to the offering plates **no later than Sunday, March 29th**

Pastoral Emergencies

All pastoral concerns including: hospitalizations, illnesses, deaths, child concerns, or relationship issues may go directly to Father Joseph via his secured email at priest@saintbart.org or by phone at 803-279-4622.

All concerns will be held in the strictest of confidence.



The Scroll

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
471 West Martintown Road
North Augusta, SC 29841

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 A.M. *Sunday School*
10:00 A.M. *Holy Eucharist Rite II*
10:00 AM *Children's Church*
10:00 A.M. *Live Streaming to Facebook & YouTube*
11:00 A.M. *Coffee Hour in Parish Hall*

Scroll Editor: Janice Furman
**Please submit articles by the 20th of
the month by e-mail to:**
admin@saintbart.org
Any suggestions? Submit to same.

About St. Bartholomew's

We are called to be an inclusive community where all may encounter God's love. God strengthens, nourishes, and speak to us through scripture, tradition, and reason.

Our worship services are fully accessible in person and online, supplemented by a variety of other opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship. We welcome the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as we seek to follow Christ.

With God's help, we seek to share the unconditional love of Jesus Christ through our outreach and social justice ministries.

All have a place here.

- *St. Bartholomew's Vision Statement*