

# The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church      Burien, Washington

February 2016

Issue 2016-2

## From Fr. John:

**Why we do what we do in Lent:** Since the earliest days of Christianity, the season of Lent has been closely associated with baptism. Throughout the season, we engage in a number of practices intended to bring us deeply into the rhythm of the forty days as preparation for baptism or the renewal of baptismal vows. On the first day of Lent, we are marked with a cross of ashes in the same pattern as the cross traced on our foreheads with oil at our baptism. Then on the first Sunday of Lent, we chant the Great Litany, which the first specifically Anglican form of public worship, written by Archbishop Cranmer in 1544. The penitential nature of the litany makes it especially appropriate for Lent as we contemplate the exquisite fragility of our mortal lives that are so utterly reliant on God's unrelenting mercy and love for us.

At the beginning of every Sunday Mass after the first, we hear the Ten Commandments proclaimed and then we ask for God's mercy. We hear Jesus' call to "love the LORD our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength" and to "love one's neighbor as oneself." The intent is to remind us, not in shame but in humility, that we so often forget or refuse to recognize our dependency on God as well as our responsibilities to love our neighbors and ourselves. We keep silence so that we can practice not fixing each other or rationalizing our failings away or slipping into blaming others. In the silence, God is present as we expose all of who we are with sometimes painful honesty to ourselves. And then, once again, we hear the assurance of God's mercy and forgiveness. The practice merges our desire and consent for transformation with God's loving and empowering energy. We signal our willingness to stay in the wilderness of this live-giving interaction with the One who joins us there by chanting the Trisagion: "Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us."

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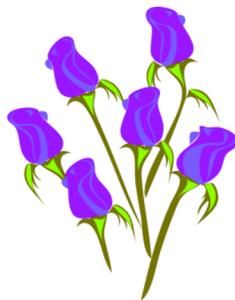
## ***Our Food Cupboard***

The winter months are upon us and traditionally this is when our food cupboard is used the most by our neighbors in need.

Typical items needed are spam, tuna, Vienna sausage, canned meat spreads, top ramen noodle packets, mac & cheese, canned soup, canned fruit, applesauce, canned chili or other ready to eat canned products (spaghetti-o's, etc), cereal, canned vegetables, toilet paper, toothpaste, you get the idea.

You don't need to make a special trip to the store or spend a lot of money – the next time you are at the grocery store, throw a can of spam in your cart and bring it to the church on Sunday when you come to the service.

Every little bit helps. The families are very appreciative of anything they get.



***The Holocaust Center for Humanity*** will present **Anne Frank: A History for Today** March 6th to May 18th, the first major Anne Frank exhibit on view in Seattle for over a decade. This powerful exhibit explores the Holocaust and its lessons for all humanity through Anne's remarkable life story. Open to the public Wednesdays and Sundays. Located at 2045 Second Ave, Seattle, 206-582-3000.

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In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the River Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. Many Christians take time during Lent to follow Jesus' example by self-reflecting on what it means to be themselves. Here are some questions for contemplation:

If you had time to compose one final, brief message for the people most important to you, what would it be?

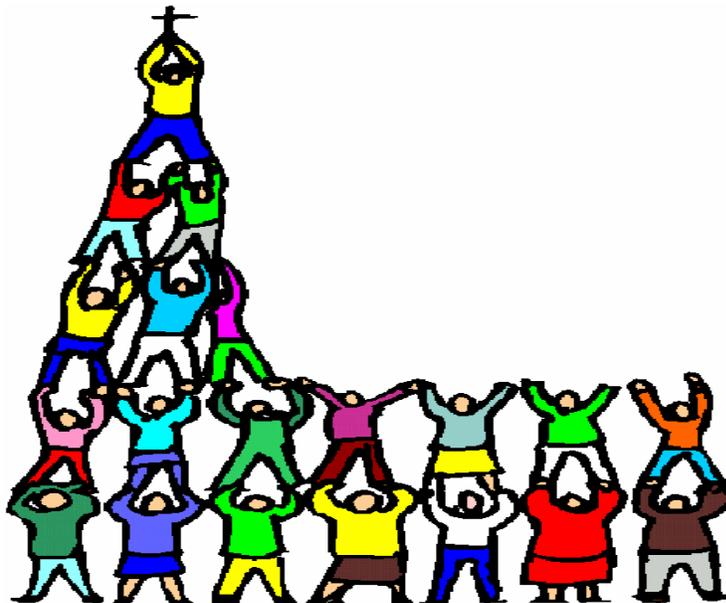
Is there anything that you have done in your life that you would like to undo? What are the moments and actions that are happiest for you to remember?

Who still needs to hear from you that they are forgiven or loved? Who still needs to hear you speak your gratitude to them? Who still needs to hear you ask for forgiveness?

If you have doubted that there is a God, have you followed your doubt far enough to doubt that there is *not* a God?

If you had absolutely no fear, what would you do next? If you had all the love that you could possibly take in, what would you do next?

To begin these kinds of self-examinations is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are still only aspiring to become. Ashes may be at the start of it, but Easter is at the end.



## Sunday School

As we Christians are all getting ready for Lent, the Sunday school kids were beginning to learn about 'sinful' behavior with their lesson on the last Sunday in January. The kids were digging into dirt (planting soil) to hear how John the Baptist and Jesus were helping all to see that we are sinful. They understood that meanness, lying and selfishness is in all of us. We all heard that Jesus came to help us "wash the dirt" of our behaviors away with His love for us. Ask them about that. And our learning continues.

Sandy Stonhouse



**Your Editor would very much appreciate** if more parishioners would contribute articles or information for the Elizabethan. There are several ways to do so—you can drop it off in the office, email it, mail it or call during office hours. We can give the Elizabethan a little variety if more people contribute to its content.

The Elizabethan

*The Elizabethan* is published monthly by St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church. The deadline for articles is the fourth Friday of each month.

Articles, calendar items and ideas may be mailed or emailed to the addresses below or left in *The Elizabethan* box in the Parish Office.

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**Sr. Warden:** Gabriel Grant

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**Office Administrator:** Christine Ramirez

Elizabethan Editor: Christine Ramirez

## **2016 Calendar for Hospitality House**

**March 5** – Spring Fling Dinner and Fundraiser. Will be held at St. Francis of Assisi, Burien and will be catered by Puget Sound Skill Center Highline Students.

**March 15-20** – St. Elizabeth's week for preparing meals for the women.

**June 7-12** – St. Elizabeth's week for preparing meals for the women.

**September 10** – **Walk** for the Women Fundraiser, Burien Town Square

**October 11-16** - St. Elizabeth's week for preparing meals for the women.

**October** - Collect new pajamas and slippers for the women.

### **Hospitality House Report**

- The annual Spring Fling Dinner and Auction Fundraiser is on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at St Francis of Assisi Unity Hall in Burien. Please check those drawers and closets to see if you have a like new item that you might donate for inclusion in the auction. Have a skill, ability or lodging item to donate? No item is too big or small as they can be combined with other things to make them fabulous. Contact Danielle Butz.
- Tickets for the Spring Fling Dinner and auction include a delicious dinner prepared by the culinary students of the Highline Puget Sound Skill Center, free drinks and entertainment. Tickets are \$50/each and can be purchased three ways:
  - Online at [www.hospitalityhousesouthking.org](http://www.hospitalityhousesouthking.org)
  - Online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) and type in Hospitality House
  - 1. From Danielle Butz at church or by calling her at 206 243-3502 Let's fill at least one table with St. Elizabeth's members and support Hospitality House right!
- Our church will next be preparing meals for the women of Hospitality House on Tuesday March 15 through Sunday March 20th.

Please note: Clothes are no longer being accepted by Hospitality House because of a recent scare of bed bugs at the facility. This exception to collecting clothes will be the pajama and slipper drive in October 2016.

# *The Elizabethan*

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **MIDEAST FOCUS MINISTRY AT SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL**

### **Series Introduction:**

#### **The Wanted 18**

Wednesday, February 17, 7pm

#### **Roadmap to Apartheid**

Wednesday, February 24, 7pm

#### **Corner Store**

Wednesday, March 2, 7pm