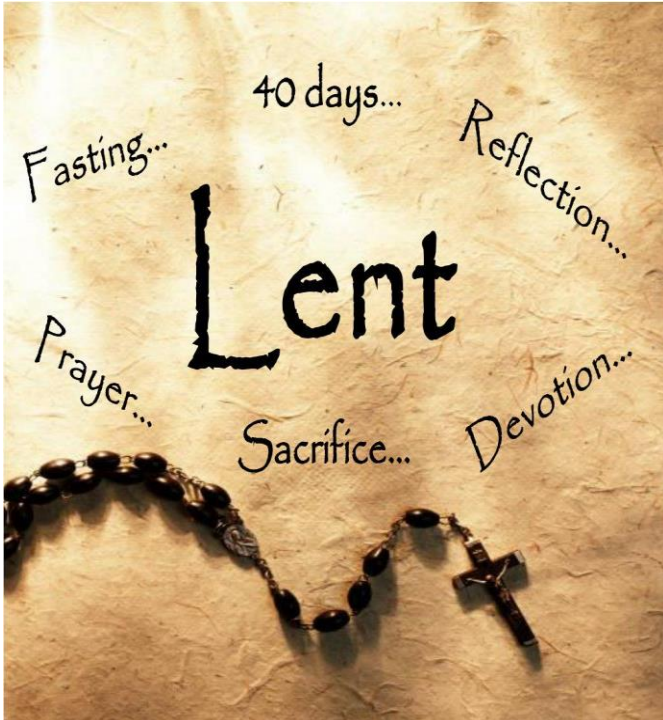


The Beacon



*When you go without food to seek Spiritual things, do not be like the ones who put on a false face. They hang their heads down and darken their faces to look as if they are going without food. They only want people to notice them and think they are spiritual. I speak from my heart, they already have all the honor they deserve- they will get no more. But when you do without eating put on your headdress, and wash your face, so others will not notice. But know that your Father from above, who sees in secret will honor you. **Mathew 6:16-18 First Nations Version of the New Testament.***

My Dear Siblings in Christ,

In just a few weeks, we will begin our annual Lenten Journey. This is one of the Holies of Seasons. The celebration of Jesus's Resurrection has been something that we, as Christians, have done since his death. It is the star of the Church Calendar. The star of the Church Calendar is set before us on what we know as Lent—a fantastic time of preparation.

There are a variety of significant moments in our lives that are preceded by a time of preparation. When moving, it is the time of looking for a new place and packing. For a wedding, it is the months of preparing who is coming, where will we have it and what will we serve. With pregnancy, we have nine months to physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually prepare for the new person entering into our lives.

The more important the event is, the more serious we tend to be with our preparations. Lent has been equated to a pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is a journey where a person goes in search of new or an expanded meaning of themselves and their life. A pilgrimage is meant to steer a person to new personal insight and sometimes transformation.

Our pilgrimage during Lent consists of three major pillars: *Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving.*

Prayer

In this lovely country, we have four beautiful seasons. We have winter, where the world sleeps under a blanket of snow, then spring and summer, where we see new life and rebirth, ending with the fall and glorious changes in colours, and the world prepares to sleep again. In the Anglican church, we have 7 Seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. Just as the seasons of the earth change and are draped with beautiful colours, so do our liturgical seasons. For Lent, we have the penitential colour of purple. Purple is used during Lent because it was a purple cloak that Pontius Pilate asked to be put on Jesus during his trial to mock his regal status (Jn 19-2; Mk 15:17). Ironically, dressing Jesus in a purple robe was indicative of his royal divine dignity, along with the plaque over his head that read “The King of the Jews.” Consequently, the Church now identifies purple as the colour connected to the suffering of Jesus and also the colour connected to our repentance and penance.

I invite you during this Lent season to enter into even more prayer. Come join us Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for morning prayer or Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for our Healing Eucharist Service or every Friday during Lent between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon; the church will be open for Stations of the Cross or during Holy week this year the prayer stations will be in the body of the church Sunday, March 24 until Wednesday, March 27th, finally of course there is our

regular Sunday Services along with Taize and Praise and Worship. Come and pray. Allow Lent to be a time that feeds your soul, heart, and mind. Prayer is a wonderful way to find nourishment.

Fasting

Historically, during Lent, one was supposed to fast every day from all great rich food: red meat, eggs, dairy, and sweets. Married couples were also encouraged to abstain from marital relations until after Easter. The purpose of fasting is to give us strength in our spiritual life. Fasting is like the wings of our prayers, and it provides strength and momentum to our almsgiving. It is not meant to be punitive or punishment; it is meant to be a means to an end.

Over the years, we have come to realize that fasting to such extremes is not necessarily healthy. We are now encouraged to “fully” fast only on Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent. During the rest of Lent, we are encouraged to focus on one thing that we wish to give up. Something that is a sacrifice, that is a challenge but, in the end, will strengthen us spiritually.

Fasting, remember is biblical. Moses fasted 40 days while in the presence of God (Exodus 32:4); Elijah fasted (1 Kings 19:81); Daniel fasted (Daniel 10:3); and Jesus and the Apostles fasted. Fasting is not something new. I encourage you to try.

Love (Almsgiving)

Yes, giving alms is about money, but it is not just about money. Remember the greatest commandment *thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.* Loving God and loving our neighbour is one of the greatest things that we can accomplish. We need to try and look for more opportunities where we are serving others, giving of ourselves, and forget about putting ourselves first for just a few weeks. Be a servant, as our Lord came to serve and not be served.

Lent ends when we enter into Holy Week. A week filled with deeply solemn and beautiful services, starting with Palm Sunday, then Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and ending with the joyous Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday!

All the Services during Lent and Holy Week are deeply moving, and profoundly mystical. I encourage you to deeply drink in the living water of Christ and be a part of as many services as you can.

May the Blessed Holy Trinity, Bless+ you and your families on this Lenten journey and may you once again find great joy and love in our Saviours Resurrection!

With Love in Christ, Rev. Jody Szoke

A Burden & A Blessing
By
Bill Rivers

Having endured suffering, the pain of the blade, and before being consumed by the fire that all fear, I ask - was this sacrifice, somehow, to be immortalized, seen as something other than just another Roman crucifixion (like those to my left and right)?

Here, stripped bare, scarred, and dirtied, disfigured and barely recognizable even to those that once surrounded me, and after being dragged through the streets of Jerusalem, a man largely unfit to do so, Simon of Cyrene, was ordered to bear the burden as we made our way to Golgotha. Once there, we were splayed and displayed atop Calvary - one of three among a planting of those despised.

In the days that followed, the sky darkened, yet many still came to the hill - some to mourn, others to mock. What was to follow - not just of myself, but the ones to the left and right? The flames? Does a resurrection or renewal await - perhaps in the seed that was sewn back then?

Even after being pulled down, the nail holes and blade marks still ooze. The sign identifying the “King of the Jews” still mocks. However, my work here is done. I have suffered with Him and will forever be a part of His life, death, and resurrection. The nails that held Jesus fast now hold me fast to Him. There, His purpose and my own have been fulfilled.

I am the Cross - raised in God's garden, grown in His light, tested in darkness, having seeded the earth, given comfort, shade and shelter, now fallen under the axe, having carried the Lord and forever a part of His tragedy and triumph.

I am immortalized with the crucified Saviour and am everywhere reverently displayed in the most holy and hallowed places. I adorn Bibles, necklaces, and cathedral spires, and am held worldwide in the hearts of a billion saints as a symbol of God's promise, His gift and love.

I am the Cross.

Carry your Cross.

"It is not the finest wood that feeds the fire of Divine love, but the wood of the Cross." St. Ignatius of Loyola

"Whoever does not bear his [sic] own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:27

A Gentle Reminder

Especially when you come to any service.

We ask that you be fragrance-free.



A variety of people have allergies, and we wish for everyone to be able to enjoy the Service. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKE BRUNCH

**TUESDAY,
FEB. 13
11AM.
TO
1 PM.**

**DINE-IN
OR
TAKE OUT**



PANCAKES & SAUSAGE \$8.00 (2 FOR \$15)

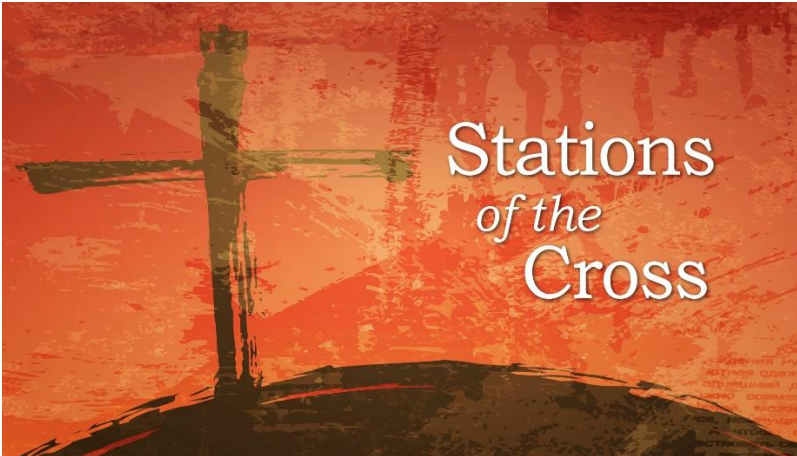
For your convenience, order your advance tickets now
by calling the church office on
Tuesday or Thursdays at 905-834-3184
Tickets will be available at the door but in limited
number.

**ST. JAMES & ST. BRENDAN ANGLICAN CHURCH
GUILD HALL, 72 CHARLOTTE ST., PORT COLBORNE**

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Wednesday, February 14th, 2024
10:00 a.m. Said Service
7:30 p.m. Choral Service



Every Friday in the Church
From
9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

Lenten

COMMUNITY SERVICES

21

FEB

LENTEN COMMUNITY SERVICE & LUNCH

ST. JAMES & ST. BRENDAN | 12:00 PM

28

FEB

LENTEN COMMUNITY SERVICE & LUNCH

ST. JAMES & ST. BRENDAN | 12:00 PM

06

MAR

LENTEN COMMUNITY SERVICE & LUNCH

ST. JAMES & ST. BRENDAN | 12:00 PM

13

MAR

LENTEN COMMUNITY SERVICE & LUNCH

ST. JAMES & ST. BRENDAN | 12:00 PM

20

MAR

LENTEN COMMUNITY SERVICE & LUNCH

ST. JAMES & ST. BRENDAN | 12:00 PM

27

MAR

LENTEN COMMUNITY SERVICE & LUNCH

ST. JAMES & ST. BRENDAN | 12:00 PM

Join us each Wednesday of Lent at St. James & St. Brendan Anglican Church for our ecumenical Lenten Services. Various Guest Speakers / Musicians / & Soloists take part each week followed by Homemade Soup & Bread Lunch in The Guild Hall. Lunch is \$10. (soup, roll & dessert, coffee or tea). Desserts alone are \$3.

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Tickets for this event will not be on Sale on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024



On Sunday, February 25th, 2024, Annual Vestry. We will be having only one service that Sunday at 9:30 a.m. It will be said service. We will meet in the Guild Hall after service for some coffee and treats and then have our meeting.

Voting Rules for Vestry

In every congregation within the Diocese of Niagara there shall be a Vestry composed of all the baptized members of such congregation of the full age of 16 years, who for at least six months preceding the holding of a *Vestry meeting have been identifiably involved with that congregation, through worship, fellowship, and financial support to that congregation*, subject to the certification and appeal procedures outlined in 1. (b), (i) and (ii). (amended,1986)

Learning Cafe @ The Guild Hall

Thursday, March 7, 2024

10:30 am to 11:30 am



Guest Speakers:
Port Colborne



Senior Advisory Committee

- > Who we are
- > Our Purpose
- > How we might make Senior's lives better in Port Colborne



- Bring a friend
- Door Prizes
- Healthy Refreshments

RSVP to Sandi Marr

Call or Text:

519-616-0930

email: rsmarr@bell.net

Funded by the Government of Canada in partnership with
Canada¹⁵⁰ St. James & St. Brendan Anglican Church

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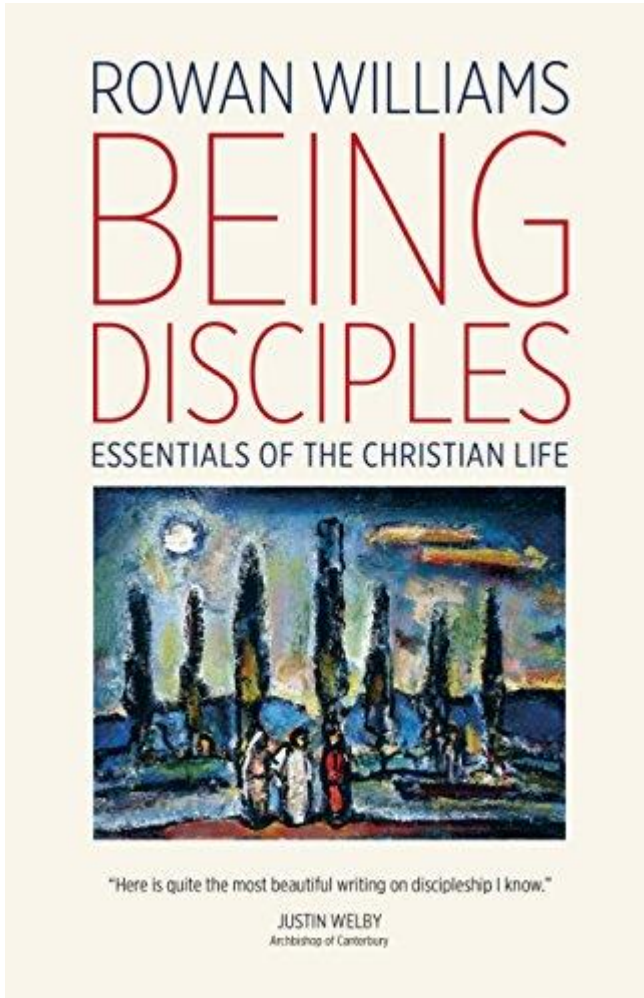
Lenten Book Study

Monday, February 19th to Monday, March 25th

Afternoon Session is from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

The evening Session is from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Please let me know ASAP if you are interested and what session you are signing up for.



Stewardship



Stewardship is recognizing that all we have is a gift from God, all we have belongs to God, and all we have is used to serve God and enjoy God.



Planning Ahead

In June of 2026, we will be having a 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Community of St. James and St. Brendan. In preparation for this wonderful celebration, we are asking you to dig through all your photo boxes and find any photos you may have of all 3 communities.

St. James
St. Brendan
St. James and St. Brendan.

We will keep you posted when you have more information. Thank you for your help and cooperation for this great celebration!

Human Trafficking

As Christians, and Human Beings is it our responsibility to do everything we can to educate ourselves to prevent Human Trafficking and to Support Survivors of Human Trafficking.

I will be attending this day. I do hope that you will join me!

SAVE THE DATE!

22 DAY 02 MONTH 2024 YEAR

**ANNUAL
ANTI-HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
CONFERENCE**

Thursday, February 22, 2024
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

IN PERSON!

@ Michelangelo Events & Conference Centre

Church Chuckle



**“God WILL answer all our prayers.
But you never know if it’s gonna
be a ‘yes’ or a ‘no.’”**

If you are unable to attend Service, nor do you have internet, please listen to the Gospel and the Sermon on your Phone.



Everyone is Welcome to All Our Services

Tuesday Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m.

Thursday Morning Healing Eucharist

10:00 a.m.

Bible Study

Every Thursday Morning

10:30 a.m.

Sunday Eucharist

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. September to June

9:30 a.m. July and August

Taize

Third Sunday of the Month

The next Service is February 18th, 2024.

Followed by a Pizza and Wine in the Guild Hall

Praise and Worship Service

Fourth Sunday of every month.

The next Service is February 25th, 2024.

At the Pub with God

Fourth Sunday of every month after the Praise and Worship
Service at the Belmont @ 5:15 p.m.

February 25th, 2024

Service for Peace

The next Service is on Wednesday, February 28th, 2024.

12:15 p.m.

God Answers Prayers (G.A.P.)

Wednesday, February 20th, 2024

In the St. Brendan's Chapel

10:00 a.m.

Places to Find Us:

<https://www.portcolborneanglican.org/>

Facebook:

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

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StJamesandStBrendanAnglicanChurch>

Instagram

[stjamesandstbrendan](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesandstbrendan)



St. James and St. Brendan Anglican Church

55 Charlotte St.

Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C9

Phone: 905-834-3184

Email: anglicanoffice@gmail.com

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact anyone on the Corporation.

Rector: Rev. Jody Szoke

905-414-4860

rectorstjamesandstbrendan@gmail.com

Warden: John Hogan

Warden: Kathy Kairies

Deputy Warden: Brian Abbott

Deputy Warden: Jennifer Main

Vision Statement:

To Live as Christ Lived, Loving Everyone!

Mission Statement:

*To invite, welcome, educate, and support people into the
Community of St. James and St. Brendan and into the
Life of Christ.*

