

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVIII, No.3

February 11, 2026

christchurchtyler.org

FROM THE RECTOR:

Lent has been a time of spiritual housekeeping for 1800 years. The Church formally embraced the observance of the season of Lent in 325 at the Council of Nicaea.

Exodus 24 records that Moses spent 40 days with God on Mt. Sinai before receiving the Ten Commandments. And Matthew 4 teaches us that Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for His ministry.

Lent is a powerfully useful season in our formation as women and men of God.

Medieval theologian Thomas a Kempis reminds us of the value of Lent. He wrote, "There will always be many who love Christ's heavenly kingdom, but few who will bear His cross. Many are eager to be happy with Him; few wish to suffer anything for Him. Many love Christ as long as they encounter no hardship; many praise and bless Him as long as they receive some comfort from Him." Lent exists to deepen our faith in the Lord.

Lent is an important season which leads us to the Cross of Christ on Good Friday and prepares us to celebrate anew the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. The practical pillars of the Lenten season include Fasting, Prayer, and Almsgiving. Millions of believers will commit to a Lenten discipline as a sign of their commitment to Jesus and a tool to strengthen their faith.

I invite you to join many millions of believers throughout the world in the observance of a Holy Lent. Embrace the season as an opportunity to draw nearer to Christ. Fast, Pray, and Give Alms. On Tuesdays throughout Lent, we will host Lenten luncheons in the downtown nave and parish hall at noon, reflecting on Practices of Prayer. Each Thursday, we will gather for Holy Eucharist at noon in the chancel. This coming Sunday, February 22, Christ Church will welcome the Patriot Singers from UT Tyler, who will help lead us in a powerful Evensong in the nave, filling that holy space with magnificent music fitting for the season.

Throughout the coming weeks, I bid you to faithfully observe a Holy Lent.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

David T.



I've recently been enjoying a book of paintings by William Kurelek that covers the last week or so of Jesus's life.

Kurelek, a Canadian with Ukrainian roots, is one of my favorite artists. He was a prolific painter and is known for his work that showcases the rugged landscape of Canada, rural life on the Prairies, and some creative visualizations of his own struggles with mental health. After a conversion to Christianity, he produced some of the most striking (to me, anyways) Christian art in the past century. I've written about Kurelek before and occasionally use his images in my sermon slides at Christ Church South.

Tony and Jamie Rhorer very generously tracked down and gave to us a copy of his book, *The Passion of Christ According to St. Matthew*. I'd seen several of the images in this book but never have I viewed the whole collection, and I was almost overwhelmed by the force of his portrayal of Jesus's suffering and resurrection.

What is more, Kurelek wrote a very personal introduction to this collection in which he shared his own struggles including his weathering a lonely childhood in Manitoba, his hospitalization for depression, and ultimately his conversion to Christianity.

I was particularly moved by his description of the way that God was able to use the suffering that Kurelek experienced earlier in his life to make him more sensitive and compassionate to the suffering of others in his later years. His reading of God's providence in some desolate seasons was a hopeful reminder to me that God never fails us. Even when life is difficult, God is working weaving together a hopeful future for us.

Further on in the introduction, Kurelek recounted how he struggled to get his start as an artist and, because of a recession (I believe the Recession of 1958), he was not only unable to make a living as an artist, but he was unable to find any employment at all. Because of this, he had lots of time and nothing to do and started to work on the inspired paintings that make up his book, *The Passion of Christ According to St. Matthew*.

When Kurelek finally did find part-time work framing pictures, it was for an art dealer, Av Isaacson, who recognized Kurelek's talent and offered to give him an exhibition. This was so successful that Kurelek's career leaped forward, and he went from success to success.

In his retelling of his story, however, Kurelek could see that this success would not have happened if he had not been unemployed, and if he had not had to take a sub-par job. In hindsight, he saw the gracious hand of God at work in his life.

Everyone's story is different, but I believe with Kurelek that God wastes no experience we have to endure. He is with us in the worst of times and he brings good even from these. We must not lose hope.

music at Christ Church
Jeffrey Ford
 Choirmaster & Organist

A poster for a Choral Evensong event. The background is a dark, abstract painting of a landscape. The title "Choral Evensong" is written in a large, white, serif font. Below it, the date "February 22, 2026 | 6:00 p.m." and the location "Downtown in the Nave" are listed. A small circular logo with a cross is positioned above the date. At the bottom, it says "Featuring the combined choirs of the Christ Church Chancel Choir & the Patriot Singers of UTTyle" and "Under the direction of Dr. Cameron Rose, conductor". A note at the bottom left says "RECEPTION TO FOLLOW" and "Offering will support our Ukrainian Family".

A S H W E D N E S D A Y
 Imposition of Ashes
Christ Church Downtown

February 18, 2026
 7:00Am, Noon & 6:00pm*

*childcare available

MARDI GRAS

George Faber & Friends

Tues, Feb 17 / 5:30- 7:30pm

Christ Church
DOWNTOWN
118 S. Bois d'Arc

Tickets available online or at the door.

\$10 [age 11 & up]
\$5 [children 4-10 yr]
[free age 3 & under]
\$25 family

Includes:
The fantastic sounds of George Faber & Friends

Robin Hood's
Lafayette Style
Cajun Turkey Gumbo
& Seafood Gumbo

Gumbo served over rice,
with garlic bread,
salad & King's Cake.

Hot Dogs & chips for children.
Activities for children & youth.

Cash wine bar.

FUN
for the entire
FAMILY!

KIDS & YOUTH

- eat with parents
- youth head to 4th floor
- kids head to 1st floor

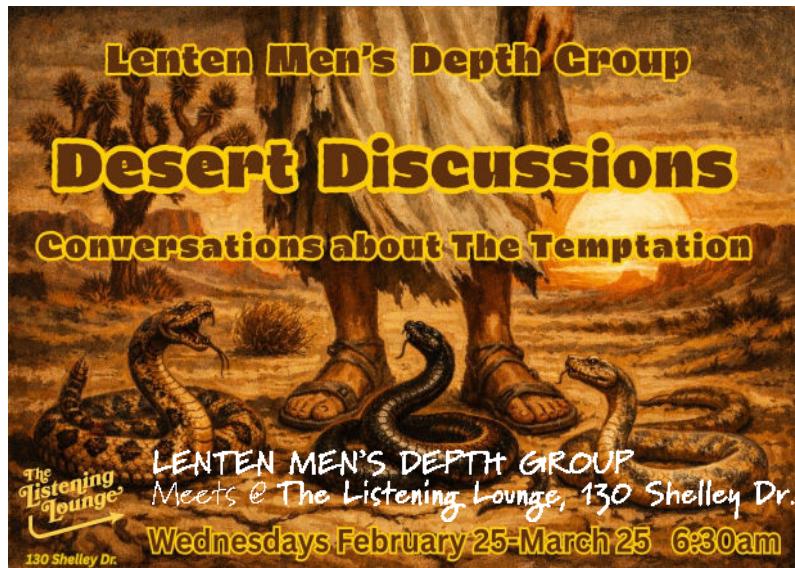
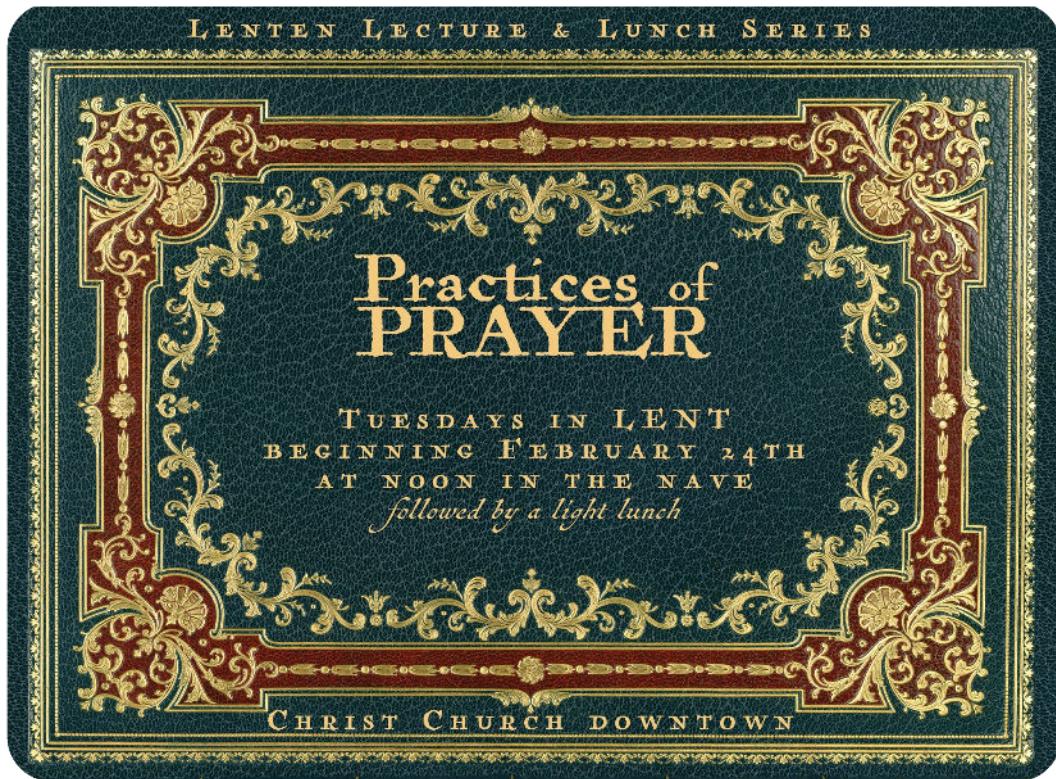
christchurchtyler.org/mardi-gras

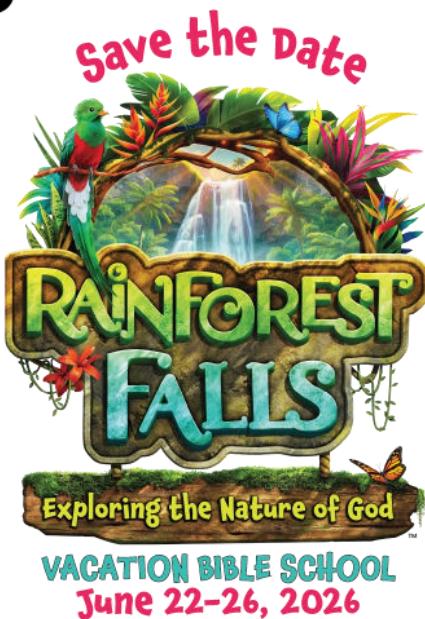
The Season of Lent 1928

*Book of
Common Prayer*

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service

Noon Thursdays in Lent-Eastertide
begins Feb. 19 Downtown in the Nave





www.christchurchtyler.org/vbs

Volunteer registration is open & a VBS NEEDS REGISTRY is available. Participant Registration opens the end of March.

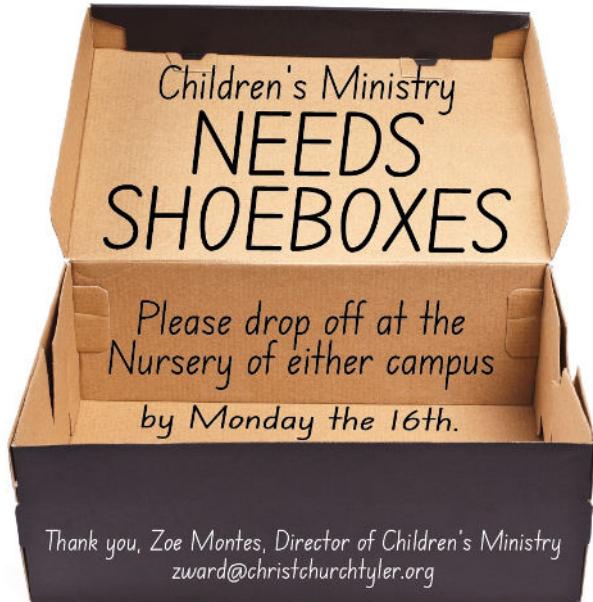


Sunday, February 15
12:30pm @ CCS

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

2/11 Quinn Squyres

2/14 Jason Chideziri, 2/18 Levi Albea,
2/18 Caroline Fletcher, 2/20 Zoe Young,
2/24 Bennett Richards, 2/24 Nika Pippin



student ministry

Stan Ward,

Director of Spiritual Formation

sward@christchurchtyler.org

February is a busy month for EYC! Here are just a few highlights.

1. Our youth confirmation program started on February 8. This year parents and/or godparents are playing an even bigger role in the process. We are grateful for their presence and support.
2. Mardi Gras plans are underway. EYC activities will stay on the fourth floor and include a pancake/crepe bar, a movie on the "big screen" in the gymnasium, and a room set aside just for board games and card games along with our ping-pong table! There will be plenty to do!
3. Youth leaders are sharing their personal faith stories. In addition to our current study on the Fruits of the Spirit, our leaders are sharing their personal examples of what Christian Faith looks like in modern life.

In Our Prayers

Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:

Luba, Maria, Yeva, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Lisa, Anna Marie, Fred, Owen, Gil, Mark, Jennifer, Cindy, Earl, Linda, Mike, Mark, Dalton, Marian, Jerry, Stella, Dale, Kirby, Patty, Sarah, Ben, Helen, Carlin, Brinley, Martha, Cooper, Hans

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Tarime (Tanzania);*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Western Massachusetts & Western Michigan*

Diocese of Texas: *St. Michael & All Angels—Longview & St. Luke's—Livingston*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

upcoming

TUESDAY | February 17

MARDI GRAS see graphic on page 3

5:30 | CCD Parish Hall

SUNDAY | February 15

5th Gear [5th Grade Program]

12:30pm | CCS

WEDESDAY | February 18

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes | CCD

7:00am, noon, 6:00pm

THURSDAYS IN LENT | beginning Feb 19

1928 Eucharist

Noon | CCD

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Picnic Under the Pavilion

12:30pm | CCS

Choral Evensong

6pm | CCD

TUESDAYS IN LENT | February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

Lenten Lecture & Lunch (see graphic on page 3)

Noon | Downtown in the Nave

followed by light lunch in the Parish Hall

THURSDAY | February 26

Keys to the Kingdom | Theology Book Study

3:00pm Downtown in the Guild Hall

*RSVP office@christchurchtyler.org

SUNDAY | March 1

Coffee Time | Meet & Greet our Ukrainians

10:00am Downtown in the Guild Hall

SUNDAY | March 8

Meet & Greet our Ukrainians

12:30PM South Campus



**Come & meet them (w/ Ukrainian Family)
& hear from Nora!**

Downtown: March 1st at Coffee Time 10:00am in the Guild Hall

South: March 8th after the service



Next one: March 1
Meet & Greet
Nora & Iryna

Keys of the Kingdom

A Theology Study Group & Book Club

"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
Matthew 16:19

2nd & 4th THURSDAYS

3:00 – 4:30pm

Downtown Campus | Guild Hall
Discussion & Tea

All are welcome to participate, there is a place for you!

For further information
& to RSVP contact Valerie Huggler, Parish Secretary
903.597.9854 / office@christchurchtyler.org

Book: Thomas Aquinas: *The Dumb Ox* by GK Chesterton

THE VESTRY

Mr. Tim Alexander, Treasurer
Mr. Bill Clawater, Asst. Treasurer

CLASS OF 2026

Mr. Ashley Bracken, Mr. John Bufe
Ms. Joyce McGee, Mrs. Sara McElroy,
Mrs. Ann Weissmann-Clerk
 CLASS OF 2027

Dr. Roger Fowler, Mr. Jim Johnson-Jr. Warden CCS, Mr. George Lollis, Dr. Bob McKinney—Sr. Warden, Mrs. Shannon Teagarden
 CLASS OF 2028

Mrs. Katie Birdwell, Mr. Hunter Carr—Sr. Warden CCD, Mrs. Ann Jarrel, Mrs. Judy King, Mrs. Beth Short

Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year C BCP 1979 Lectionary

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

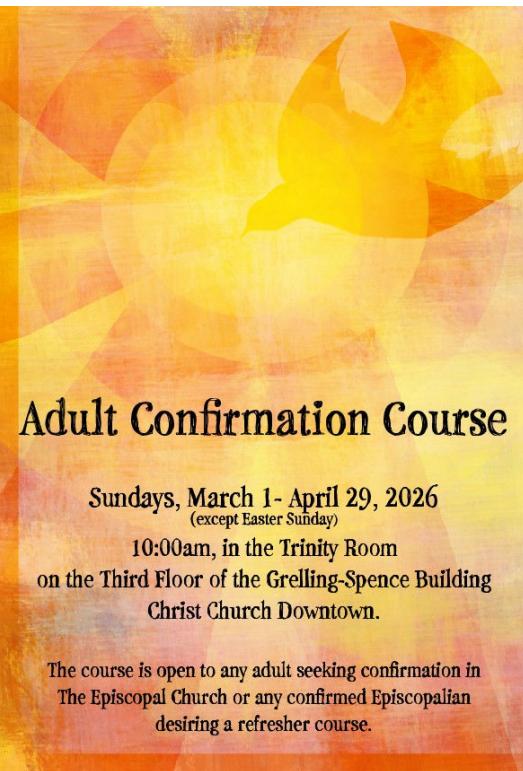
Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Exodus 24:12 [13-14] 15-18, Psalm 99
 Philippians 3:7-14, Matthew 17:1-9

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Lent 1

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17, 25—3:7, Psalm 51
 Romans 5:12-19 [20-21], Matthew 4:1-11



Sundays, March 1- April 29, 2026
 (except Easter Sunday)

10:00am, in the Trinity Room

on the Third Floor of the Grelling-Spence Building
 Christ Church Downtown.

The course is open to any adult seeking confirmation in
 The Episcopal Church or any confirmed Episcopalian
 desiring a refresher course.

OPEN HOURS:

Sunday 9am-11am

Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am-1:00pm

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Doyle
Bishop of the Diocese of Texas

The Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher
Bishop Suffragan

The Rt. Rev. Kai Ryan
Bishop Suffragan

The Rt. Rev. Héctor Monterroso
Bishop Assistant

The Rev. David Luckenbach
Rector dluckenbach@christchurchtyler.org

The Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin
Associate Rector chartin@christchurchtyler.org

The Rev. Ted Welty
Associate Rector twelty@christchurchtyler.org

The Rev. Stephen Stine
Deacon ssti@tjc.edu

The Rev. Tim Kennedy
All Saints Episcopal School Senior Chaplain, Assisting Priest

The Rev. Leesa Lewis
All Saints Episcopal School Assistant Chaplain, Assisting Priest

Mrs. Michaele Osburn mardoin@christchurchtyler.org
Parish Administrator

Mr. Jeffrey Ford jford@christchurchtyler.org
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Mr. A.J. Meals meals@gladewaterisd.com
Assistant Organist

Dr. Stan Ward sward@christchurchtyler.org
Director of Spiritual Formation for Students & Families

Mr. McKinley Terry mterry@christchurchtyler.org
Assistant Director of Student Ministries

Mrs. Zoe Montes zward@christchurchtyler.org
Director of Children's Ministries

Ms. Jessica Creel jcreel@christchurchtyler.org
Assistant Director of Children's Ministries

Mrs. Valerie Huggler office@christchurchtyler.org
Parish Secretary

Mrs. Samantha Hague shague@christchurchtyler.org
Director of Communications

Mr. Robert Finney epiphanyttx@gmail.com
Music Leader, Christ Church South

Ms. Jennifer Ducote Sexton
Mr. Anthony Moore Sexton
Mr. Kendric Milton Assistant Sexton

Jessi Mayes *Nursery Coordinator, Reagan Darling, Priscilla Yeboah, Kimberly Wanjiru, Jada Akrong Nursery*

Pastoral Emergency Contacts

In the event of a pastoral emergency,
 Call the church office during office hours 903.597.9854;
 after hours call The Rev. David Luckenbach 903.279.8777,
 The Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin 903.952.3850,
 or The Rev. Stephen Stine, Deacon, 903.530.8168.



Christ Church | Episcopal
118 S. Bois d'Arc
Tyler, TX 75702

903.597.9854
office@christchurchtyler.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.christchurchtyler.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship Services

7:30am **CCD**: The Holy Eucharist *Rite I*

9:00am **CCD**: The Holy Eucharist *Rite II*

11:00am **CCD**: The Holy Eucharist *Rite I*

11:05am~ **CCS**: The Holy Eucharist *Rite II*

~live-streamed christchurchtyler.org

CHRIST CHURCH: ONE CHURCH—TWO CAMPUSES

CCD: Christ Church *Downtown*, 118 S. Bois d' Arc, Tyler, TX 75702 (*office address*)

CCS: Christ Church *South*, 15747 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler, TX 75703

www.christchurchtyler.org | office@christchurchtyler.org

Please Note: *The Crucifer* is published twice monthly (once in July & December).
If you have something you would like to see published in *The Crucifer*, please contact
Samantha Hague at 903-597-9854, shague@christchurchtyler.org.



The vision of Christ Church is to be recognized as a joyful, spirit-filled community of apostles reaching out and transforming lives for Christ.