

# *Saints Alive!* + March 2007 + LENT

All Saints Episcopal Parish, San Leandro, California, 510-569-7020

## Mark Your Calendars

### Full Calendar on the Parish Website

We can't include all events in the Saints Alive—please check out the event calendar on the All Saints website. Go to [www.saintsalive.net](http://www.saintsalive.net) and click on “Event Calendar.”

### Let's Do Lunch: Speaker from PG&E March 28

A speaker from PG&E will discuss the rebates and programs that are available to seniors and low-income people. Lunch begins immediately following the midweek Eucharist.

- + *When:* Wednesday, March 28, 2007
- Midweek Eucharist: Noon
- Lunch with speaker: 12:30 p.m. (approx.)
- + *Contact:* Ellie Nonn, 278-5727

### Pre-Holy Week Parish Cleanup March 31

Twice a year (in Advent and in Lent) the parish traditionally comes together to spiff up our facilities. Please be sure to save the morning of March 31 to come and help get our facility ready for Palm Sunday (the next day). We'll start at 9 a.m. with prayer, pastries and coffee. We'll work together until noon, then complete our morning prayer and have a light lunch together. Signups and more details to follow.

### Holy Week Schedule April 1–8

Holy Week will be here soon! The following is the schedule of services.

- April 1:** Palm Sunday (Services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.)
- Wednesday, April 4:** Midweek Eucharist (Noon)
- Thursday, April 5:** Maundy Thursday (7:30 p.m.)
- Friday, April 6:** Good Friday (Noon and 7:30 p.m.)
- Saturday, April 7:** The Great Vigil of Easter (7:30 p.m.)
- Sunday, April 8:** Easter Day (8:00 and 10:00 a.m.)

### Renewal Team

#### Next Meeting April 10

At this year's Annual Meeting, Father Rob announced the creation of the Renewal Team—a group of parishioners that meet in homes every six to eight weeks to have Holy Communion, share what Jesus is doing in our lives and the life of the parish, and pray for a spirit of vibrant renewal at All Saints. Almost 20 people are now involved. Let Father Rob know if you'd like to be part of this effort.

- + *Contact:* Father Rob, [robdroste@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robdroste@sbcglobal.net)

### Women's Devotional Group April 11

#### Contemplative Practices from Islam

Many of you will remember Uzma Husaini's recent presentation “Discover Islam.” Uzma will return to All Saints in April, this time to the Women's Devotional Group. She will share contemplative spiritual practices in the Islamic tradition.

- + *When:* Wednesday, April 11, 2007, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- + *Where:* Fireside Room
- + *Contact:* Karla Droste, [karlad123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karlad123@sbcglobal.net)

### Save the Date! Bishop Marc's Visitation May 6

Our new bishop will be here for his first visitation. 10:00 service. More details to follow.

### **Third Annual Plant Sale May 12**

We welcome friends and neighbors to come by and shop for plants and garden items. We encourage parish members to contribute plants that you have divided or propagated, pots, garden decorations, or tools. We will also need help setting up and working on the sale. *Please call if you can help!*

- + *When:* Saturday, May 12, 2007, mid-morning to afternoon
- + *Contact:* Dorothy Pendleton, 357-4083, or Nancy Churchill, 581-7121

### **CPR/Preparedness Training from Red Cross**

Periodically the Bay Area Chapter of the American Red Cross holds a “CPR/ Preparedness Saturday,” with **free** 4.5-hour training sessions, in Alameda County. They also have **ongoing classes (not free)**.

- + *Contact:* American Red Cross—Oakland Office  
3901 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94606  
510-595-4400, <http://www.bayarea-redcross.org/>

### **Communicating in This Century**

#### **If You Received This Newsletter on Paper . . .**

##### **Do you have an e-mail address?**

Sending our February newsletter electronically to parishioners with e-mail addresses on file was very successful. If you have an e-mail address that you have not yet given to the church office, please send it to [jtrubina@comcast.net](mailto:jtrubina@comcast.net). This method of communication is convenient and saves the cost of paper, time spent duplicating material, and postage.

#### **Corrections to the 2007 Parish Directory**

Please mark your printed directories with the following e-mail address corrections:

- Bruce and Harriet Anderson: [bhanderson@earthlink.net](mailto:bhanderson@earthlink.net)
- Dana Coggin: [dtcoggin@earthlink.net](mailto:dtcoggin@earthlink.net)
- Mary Nelson: [marypat56@comcast.net](mailto:marypat56@comcast.net)
- Robin Niderost: [mnrniderost@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mnrniderost@sbcglobal.net)

#### **Messages for the Whole Parish**

If you would like a prayer request or any other important message sent out by e-mail to all parish members, please ask the rector. Thank you!

- + *Contact:* Father Rob, [robdroste@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robdroste@sbcglobal.net), 569-7020

### **Rector's Letter**

#### **Claiming the Book as Our Own**

When I was working on my sermon for the First Sunday in Lent (you'll recall I was preaching on Jesus' three temptations in the desert), I was struck by how he used scripture to resist temptation. As you might expect, I talk to a lot of people about their spiritual lives. It's pretty rare for me to hear someone say, “well, I was sure tempted in that situation—and I just remembered that passage from Deuteronomy and it got me through.” Hard to imagine an Episcopalian saying anything like that—even the priests I know!

Yet in that Gospel story, we see Jesus do just that. It's really kind of odd, when you think about it. Why would Jesus have to quote scripture? If we believe that he is God (or, if you like, that the fullness of God dwelt within him), wouldn't he just know what to do? Wasn't he part of the creation of that divine word—one of the “co-writers”? Sure he would. The answer is in realizing that the story is provided for us—to teach us how to work with scripture fruitfully. The lesson for us is to know it, to study it deeply, and—this seems the point—even to memorize parts of it that will help us lead better lives.

Many of us can feel anxious about the idea of memorizing scripture, even if it is just to help us and no one else (and not to beat anyone over the head with). Yet we memorize things all the time. We memorize song lyrics, the pledge of allegiance (or, if you're lucky, the Preamble to the US Constitution), commercial jingles, TV theme songs (I somehow know all the words to the Gilligan's Island theme, I'm sad to say). Some of us learned—and continue to learn—great poetry. So why not scripture?

Many of you know that I'm a big fan of Norman Vincent Peale. In *The Power of Positive Thinking*, one of the most important techniques he suggests is to memorize some verses of scripture. "God is my light and my salvation, of whom shall I be afraid?" is just one. The Bible is just full of great sayings, sayings of great beauty, timeless value and real help in relationships. When we memorize these words, we actually make them part of ourselves—as Wordsworth once wrote, we feel them "along the heart." They literally become part of the physical structure of our brain. It's one reason why the repeated words of the 8:00 Rite I service have so much meaning, power and comfort for us. They are familiar to the point of great intimacy, and they change us from the inside out.

So I encourage you this Lent to memorize some scripture. Memorize more than just a few lines—put some effort into it. I have copies of the three passages Jesus quoted, with a little of the surrounding text from Deuteronomy. If you can commit it to memory, it will clearly serve you—and do so in ways you might not expect. It will change you just from being inside you, even when you're not aware of it, and you'll begin to see why we call scripture the Living Word of God. And as you do this, you'll begin to make this sometimes strange, mysterious, powerful and beautiful book your own.

Father Rob Droste, [robdroste@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robdroste@sbcglobal.net), 569-7020

## **A Note from the Rector's Warden**

Have you noticed all the changes taking place? It would be hard not to! Change can be good but it can also arouse our feelings that nothing will ever remain the same and will sometimes create difficulties as we work out the kinks. We're learning that it's OK to have disagreements, be open about them, and work through them together.

Our new secretary is on board and enjoying herself. If you haven't met Janet, stop by and do so! The monthly newsletter is going electronic and will be sent via e-mail. Those not on line will receive their copy by mail as normal.

The vestry is hard at work looking at the changes taking place and being involved in all of the decision making process. The Worship Committee recommended some changes in the format of the pews in the sanctuary and is evaluating responses to the change. A volunteer group is putting together the Lenten bulletin; music is being brought to us by Dylan Snodgrass and supported by quartets arranged by Richard Burke. We track the Social Ministries team and support their decisions. The Family Ministry and Youth Group are both active, the former with Godly Play and the latter going back and forth between All Saints and Holy Cross and having great fun, and tremendous discussions about God in their lives.

The vestry has formed a new subcommittee, the Facility Care Subcommittee, which is taking a look at how we can involve as many parishioners as possible in maintaining and improving our property. Procedures for repairs, both emergency and scheduled, as well as long term improvements and larger maintenance are being created. For many years, the older members have taken primary responsibility for this work—it's getting increasingly important to get younger people—especially families and young people—involved. We invite your input and suggestions!

Save March 31 to come to the church in the morning for prayer and a cleaning party! We are talking about having lunch afterwards which will be a fun time to enjoy each other's company and to get some jobs done around our property.

All of this is happening as we work hard to determine how God wants us to bring more people to Christ, and to live a more Christ-centered life. We have members who are participating in the uplifting experience

of training for “Formation for Spiritual Companions”, members meeting for prayer and communion in private homes and sharing their faith, and members learning about the Bible and its history. We are giving to each other and with others in the ways that Christ has taught us. What a wonderful place this is!

Liz Berg, Rector’s Warden, [lizberg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lizberg@sbcglobal.net)

## Crab Feed Thanks

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Crab Feed drawing! If we left anyone off the list, please let us know and we’ll make sure they’re recognized next month.

### Area Businesses

California Conservatory Theater  
Dick’s Restaurant  
Elio’s Restaurant  
Orchard Supply Hardware  
Pete’s Ace Hardware  
Starbuck’s  
Vo Restaurant

### Individuals

Graham Brotherson  
Frank and Charlotte Carcot  
Myra Ching  
Melissa Counsell  
Cal and Nancy Churchill  
Alison and Clyde Fralick  
Bronwen Howes  
Joe “The Bird Man”  
Ney and Mary Landry  
Nicola and Brian Peck  
Conway and Dorothy Pendleton

Jack and Mary Kincaid  
Gus and Clare Kriletich  
Jim and Margaret Martin  
Jim and Dora Muir  
Ellie Nonn  
Melissa Ridlon  
Stephanie Smith  
Diana Souza  
Karen Taylor  
John Trubina  
Ken and Dorothy Wright

## Social Ministry Team

### Soup Stop a 10

—the rating given by all who have attended this new feeding program, and the most guests so far. On the first Saturday of each month, our homeless brothers and sisters are invited into our parish hall for hot soup, a sandwich, and fellowship. The happy energy is contagious. If you’d like to catch some, send me an e-mail.

### Take What You’ve Got and Give It All Away

—a gospel music song title, and the philosophy of the Social Ministries Team. Parishioner contributions have enabled us to send \$333 to FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition), \$100 to the Central Asia Institute (the organization started by Three Cups of Tea author Greg Mortensen), and \$100 of grocery certificates for Father Rob to give at his discretion.

### Peace

—a good idea, and a Social Ministries mission. The Social Ministries Team will be organizing an event on the anniversary of the Iraq War to commemorate the sacrifices made and to pray for peace. Details of this event will be announced shortly. If you’d like to be informed of peace-making news and events in the Bay Area, please send your e-mail address to Tom.

Tom Breckenridge, Social Ministries Chair, [tom.breckenridge@gmail.com](mailto:tom.breckenridge@gmail.com)

*Saints Alive!* is published monthly via email by All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Boulevard, San Leandro, California 94577.

Submit news items for the April 2007 issue to [marypat56@comcast.net](mailto:marypat56@comcast.net); deadline is **March 28**.

For changes to the parish database (names, phone numbers, addresses, or e-mail addresses), please e-mail John Trubina at [jtrubina@comcast.net](mailto:jtrubina@comcast.net). To get information on All Saints’ people and programs, please visit us on the Internet at <http://www.saintsalive.net>.