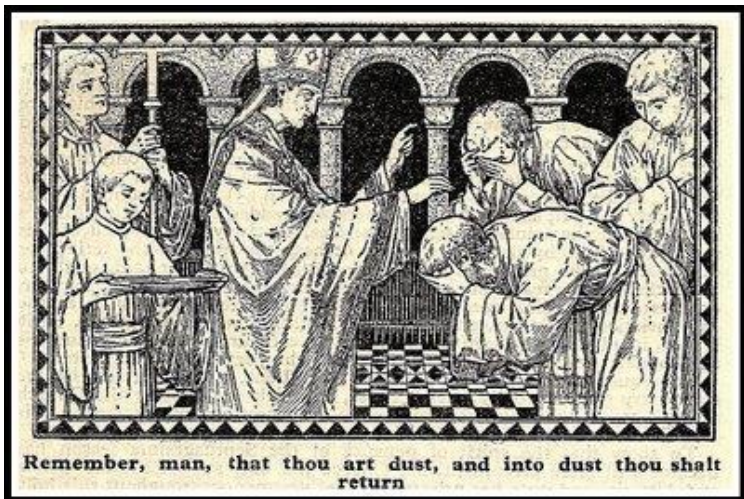


A BETHESDA LENT 2015

*Bethesda Episcopal Church
Washington Street near Broadway
Saratoga Springs, New York*



Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

My Dear People and Friends of Bethesda:

In the Eighteenth Chapter of Saint Luke's Gospel [verses 35-40], we encounter a beggar at the road's edge, noticing an exceptional crowd passing in front of him. He questions the cause. "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by," the people shout. With insistence the onlooker responds, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Attempts to silence him failed. He repeated his plea. Jesus halts and summons the beggar. "What do you want me to do for you," Our Lord asks. He needed no time to think of an answer. "Lord. Let me see again." The Christ then declares, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you."

Lent is fast approaching. Like the figure in the Evangelist's account, we ready ourselves to plea, "Lord, have mercy on me." We heighten our awareness to have our vision of God restored and our faith made whole. Proclaiming as we do that Jesus is the Savior of the world, we attest that he still stands in the way of life. And so we ponder certain things. Where prayers are said, what are my prayers like? Where Bread is broken and Wine outpoured, how often do I seek him there? Does the crown of friends, or even those who hold me in low esteem, deter my approach to him? Am I too timid to persevere, too easily put off by well-meaning people?

Jesus is still passing by. He will pause and take notice of each of us. Every face becomes precious to him. Moreover, he calls us each by name. During this Lent may we regain our sight and glorify the Son of God.

With every blessing,

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang, *Interim Rector*

THE FIRST DAY OF LENT: ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18

6:30 A.M.	HOLY EUCHARIST
12:10 P.M.	HOLY EUCHARIST
7:00 P.M.	SOLEMN EUCHARIST

SUNDAYS IN LENT

February 22, March 1–8–15–22

8:00 A.M.	HOLY EUCHARIST
10:00 A.M.	SUNG EUCHARIST
11:30 A.M.	ADULT FORUM

Lenten Sermon Series – *The Stations of the Cross*

*Confirmation Class for Young People immediately follows
the 10 o'clock liturgy, beginning March 1*

TUESDAYS IN LENT

February 24, March 3–10–17–24

6:30 P.M.	HOLY EUCHARIST
-----------	----------------

Adult Confirmation Class immediately follows the liturgy.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

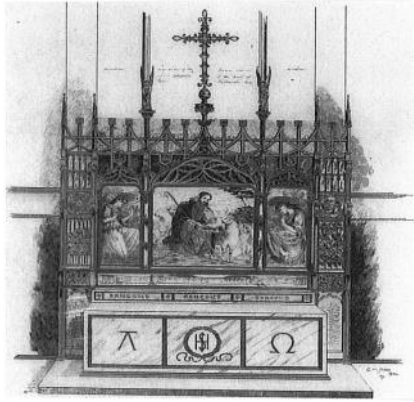
February 25, March 4–11–18–25

12:10 P.M.	HOLY EUCHARIST with Healing
------------	-----------------------------

THURSDAYS IN LENT

February 19–26, March 5–12–19

9:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST
The Home of the Good Shepherd
Church Street, Saratoga Springs



THE PARISH STAFF

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang	<i>Interim Rector</i>
The Reverend Paul F. Evans	<i>Assisting Priest</i>
The Reverend Peter H. Sweeney	<i>Deacon</i>
Farrell Goehring	<i>Organist & Director of Music</i>
Kathleen Slezak	<i>Choral Director</i>
Lynne Priestley	<i>Parish Administrative Assistant</i>
Matthew Griffin	<i>Verger</i>

Parish Telephone: 518-584-5980
bethesdachurch.org