

Since most of us don't have a strong

history with the practices of Lent, I thought I'd throw out some thoughts and practices from those who have done it in the past. These are just thoughts and suggestions for the next few weeks that maybe could help us get into the practice of returning to God during this season a little better. From the website: loyolapress.com

Around the breakfast table

One of my best Lenten practices was begun when my children were in elementary school and I was a working parent. It seemed as though we were struggling to find time to eat dinner as a family and this was greatly disturbing me. I decided that if we were unable to hold the dinner hour sacred due to work schedules and after school activities, I would instead hold the breakfast hour sacred. I made sure to get up each morning during Lent just a little earlier so that I could not only provide breakfast for my family but actually sit together, pray our meal prayer and begin each day on a happy note. It began in Lent and didn't end until my children went off to college many years later. I learned that Lenten habits could carry far off into the future with my family. The impact was dramatic in that each day was started with a prayer and positive attitudes. Breakfast became and remains one of our favorite rituals of the day.
Roberta, IL

Drawing a prayer

I took time every day to draw in a sketchbook. I called the time my "God Time." I wanted to make each day of Lent special by taking time to reflect on God and my relationship to God.
Barbara, OH

My Lenten jar

I always have nice things that I'd like to do, but never seem to make time to get to: write a letter to a friend, visit a lonely person, call a distant friend. At the beginning of Lent, I write down 40 plus tasks, one per little slip of paper, and toss them in a jar. Then, each morning of Lent, I pull one out and do the task written there. It teaches me that I like surprise and variety in my Lenten practices. For me, this is a simple way to concentrate on the disciplines of giving alms and doing good for others.
Mark G., KS

A note a day

Each day of Lent, through prayer, a name surfaces of a person who has had an impact on my life in some way. I then take the time to write a handwritten note to that person. I have been amazed at the people that have surfaced: from my 3rd grade teacher; to a cousin; to a priest; to a high school student who had written me a note after a presentation I gave at her school. I send the notes without the expectation of a response. Yet, I have received several emails and notes stating how much it meant to the person. Life is too short—we see that with Jesus—but, we have the opportunity to share our thoughts with those who have made an impact (some don't even know it, until they receive the note). This embodies the idea of Lent: prayer—praying for a specific person each day; fasting—fasting from negative thoughts; and almsgiving—sending a note with affirmations is a great gift to give.
Suzanne, NY

Dialing into God

Instead of listening to music or talk radio in my car, I decided to take that time for prayer and to listen to God. At first, it was a difficult transition; the silence was deafening. But soon, I began to enjoy the quiet time. I prayed for people who I knew needed my prayers. I prayed for my family and myself. I also thanked God for my many blessings. I found that I became much more calm and peaceful during this time. This reflective time grounded and centered me to do my best.
Donna, NC

No matter what you choose to do over the next few weeks, I pray that something different happens in your life so that you know and understand who God is on a deeper level. Maybe these few weeks are even just a 'yearly second chance' that is built into the church calendar. I pray we find something different and meaningful in our pursuit of God.
Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Easter Services

There will be a Good Friday service on **Friday, April 7th at 6:00pm** at the high school. We will also have our Sunrise Service here at 7am on Easter as well as breakfast at about 8am and a Resurrection service at our usual 9am. Please plan now to attend these services as we prepare for a time of revival and renewal this Easter season.

Camp Fellowship

Camp fellowship returns this month on **Monday, March 20th at Central Christian Church** in Browning. The time is still TBA but probably around 5:30pm and they traditionally do a fish fry.

Prayer List

Bill Danner – continued healing, dialysis
Jody Dean – treatments
Donnie Easley - hospital
Mike Grater – cancer
Tabby Huffman – pregnancy, health issues
Gary Hulett – heart failure, other health issues
Danny Jones – new treatment, not doing well
Danny Kendrick – heart attack, doing better
Sue Lindsey – deteriorating health
Clyde Prater-cancer, experimental treatments
Carol Riley - cancer
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
Gale Roosa – healing, continued treatments
Diane Walter - COVID
Becky Watson – cancer treatments, stem cell
Shelby Wallace – broken neck, doing better
Praises:
Chris Shaw – recovery from surgery
Salina Gilson – good report
Marion Trone – knee replacement recovery
Condolences:
Blakely family
Larry Stambaugh Sr. family

February Financials

	Weekly Actual	Weekly Budget	Annual Budget
Feb 5th	\$1,060.00	\$4,656.80	\$6,559.62
Feb 12th	\$1,173.00	\$5,829.80	\$7,652.89
Feb 19th	\$632.00	\$6,461.80	\$8,746.16
Feb 26th	\$660.00	\$7,121.80	\$9,839.43

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You Are Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

Events:

Wed, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th-Family night 6-7:30 pm

Sat. March 4th-Harvest Kids Festival
8-4pm

Sun, March 12th- Board Meeting @
6 pm

Tues, March 14th-Man Up @ 6:30
pm

Thurs. March 16th-Ladies
Fellowship 6 pm

Mon. March 20th-Camp Fellowship
in Browning @ 6 pm

Sun, March 26th-Worship & Praise
@ 6 pm

All events are subject to change. Please
keep up to date by checking the bulletin,
Facebook page or website.



Astoria Christian Church

