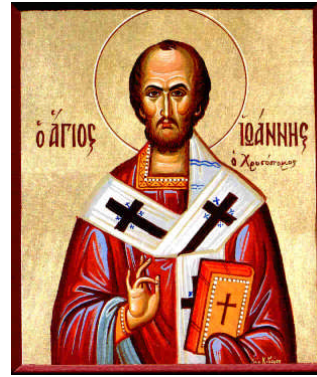


# The Golden Tongue



St. John's Episcopal Church Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

February, 2012



*Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts...*

From the Collect for Ash Wednesday

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

We have so much we need to remember: birthdays, anniversaries, graduations...on and on. And doesn't it seem that as we add years to our lives, the world seems bent on adding layers and layers of complexity to our existence, giving us even more to remember, and along with it even more to forget?

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Once a year – this year on March 22 - we are asked to remember these foundational facts of our existence: where we came from and where we will end up; lessons imparted long ago in a far off, forgotten Eden.

In Genesis God tells Adam that because of his disobedience he will have to work for his food until he returns to the ground, “for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Because of Adam's sin, the Church teaches, death came to human beings; but that's not the worst of the punishment, some say. Alone of all creatures, we are aware of our mortality. Depending on what we do with such knowledge, it's either a blessing or a curse.

We can make it a blessing, the basis of a new and contrite heart.

The Latin word for “remember” is “memento.” Ashes on our forehead serve as a memento that we are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made; made by God to live with him all our days and, when our days are through, made to return to God.

Rather than a cause for mourning, Lent is a season that calls for fearless, focused reflection, a courageous consideration of existence that will lead not to a helpless despair but to an invigorated joy.

No need to curse our fate, Lent is a season of blessing. All we have to do is remember where we came from; remember who ventures at our side; and remember where – and to whom - we are going.

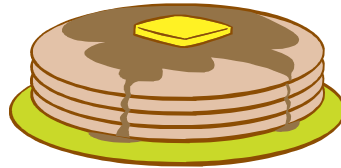
We are born of the holy ground; we are redeemed by the holy Word; we return to the holy house of God.

Remember that.

*Father Scott +*



What a great time everyone had at the Evensong Service. Over 25 attended and enjoyed beautiful music and Evening Prayer. We began with appetizers and desserts in Ganster Hall and then enjoyed Judith's beautiful organ concert in the Sanctuary. All of this in honor of St. John Chrysostom, our Patron Saint.



## SHROVE TUESDAY

It's time again to enjoy delicious pancakes and sausages on Tuesday, February 21. Please join us beginning at 6 PM. Our Vestry will be the cooks and clean up crew.



## Ash Wednesday

Following dinner, we will burn the palms from last year which will be used for the imposition of ashes on Wednesday, February 22. Service begins at 7 PM.



## Potluck LUNCHEON

Our monthly Pot Luck Luncheon will be held on February 12. The theme next month is favorite casseroles. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

These luncheons, immediately following Sunday's service, have become very popular!



During Lent we will have our soup and salad suppers before the Lenten Series begins. Supper will be at 6. Classes begin at 7 PM.

# Wednesday Evening Lenten Program

Join us Wednesday evenings in March for dinner - beginning at 6:00pm - and discussion, beginning at 7:00pm, centered on "A Time to Turn: Anglican Readings for Lent and Easter Week."

For centuries Lent has been a time when Christians stop and take stock of their lives. It is a time for revisiting the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. It is a time of focusing on the need to repent, as well as a season in which we focus on putting aside our luxuries and making sure that others have what they need. All of these themes, and more, are explored in this collection of Anglican readings.

"A Time to Turn" draws on the best sermons, books, poems and hymns of Anglican writers throughout the centuries, including Christina Rossetti, John Donne, Philips Brooks, John Keble, Harriet Beecher Stowe and many others.

Join us for what is sure to be a fascinating exploration of our rich spiritual tradition, sure to add to your Lenten experience.

## FROM THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO



### Happy Earth Tip of the Month

*(as part of the Bishop's  
Task Force on  
Sustainability)*

Despite the fact that fish is a great source of heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids, it is arguably more toxic than anything else we eat because of what we've done to our waterways (especially the high levels of mercury and PCBs). There are government advisories that detail which fish and shellfish are safe to eat, in what quantities, and at what phases of our lives ([EPA.gov/waterscience/fish/states.htm](http://EPA.gov/waterscience/fish/states.htm) and [MBAYAQ.org/seafoodwatch](http://MBAYAQ.org/seafoodwatch); [seafoodChoices.org](http://seafoodChoices.org), [NMFS.NOAA.gov/fishwatch](http://NMFS.NOAA.gov/fishwatch)). Beyond health hazards, there are a couple of other crucial things to consider regarding fish and shellfish such as sustainability and the hazards of aquaculture (fish farms). Some seafood experts estimate that 90% of the big ocean fish have been eaten and they predict a global collapse of fisheries by 2048. **What can you do?** Make sure that the wild fish you eat was caught in less environmentally destructive ways (hook and line, harpoon, scuba and trolls are best) and stay away from most factory-farmed fish (with the exception of tilapia and catfish). Shellfish such as lobsters, oysters, scallops, clams, mussels, and abalone are sustainable, but skip the shrimp. **You CAN make a difference if you remember to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!**



## FROM

## THE VESTRY

### Rector's Report: (Father Scott)

- Vestry Retreat on February 4 at Jackie's house, 9AM - 1PM, 1435 W. Bonita Ave. Gwynne Wright will lead the meeting. Lunch will be provided.
- Attendance at church has increased in last few months. Fr. Scott encouraged vestry to introduce ourselves and welcome newcomers.
- Feast of St. John Chrysostom on Friday, January 27, 2012.

### Senior Warden's Report: (Dave Zuehlke)

- Praise for choir/music excellence plus David on drums.
- New printer has been purchased - old one will be recycled.
- Columbarium repairs and renovation completed in time for recent funeral. Need to consider fee for placement in columbarium. Mavis to call local churches to inquire what they charge.

### Junior Warden's Report: (Alan Travis)

- Kitchen fan repaired, metal shelves ordered for new cabinet.
- Thermostat in church needs to be replaced.

### Old Business:

### New Business:

### Treasurer's Report: (Carrie Dawson)

- Budget discussed. If shortfall occurs it should be small. Stewardship still in progress.
- May need to replace boiler this year. Consider special drive - it may cost \$30,000.
- Judith making enquiries about servicing the bells.
- Budget meeting January 22 to check on stewardship pledges.
- Mavis will mail out the pledge cards that have not yet been picked up.
- Will increase program expense budget to \$800 to cover Lenten program and VBS.
- Reviewed cookie sale, Lorraine Cox memorial fund and fund balances.



- 6 Pauline Holec
- 15 Mike Stateczny
- 24 Dave Zuehlke
- 25 Hitoshi Tanigawa
- 27 Marie LaPaglia



No Anniversaries this month.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 <b>Vestry Retreat 9 AM-1PM</b>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <b>Pot Luck Luncheon</b>	13	14  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 <b>Pancake Supper 6 PM</b>	22  <b>Ash Wednesday 7 PM</b>	23	24	25
26 <b>Lent I</b>	27	28	29			