



## **Little Brown Church of Sunol**

United Church of Christ – Congregational

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### **March 2019**

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#### **March-April Calendar**

Wednesday, March 6 ... 7:30 p.m., Ash Wednesday service at Niles Discovery Church

Sunday, March 10 ... Daylight Saving Time begins

Saturday, March 16 ... LBC provides refreshments at Sunol Repertory Theater

Sunday, April 14 ... Palm Sunday (and Sunol 4-H pancake breakfast at the school)

Friday, April 19 ... Good Friday

Sunday, April 21 ... Easter Sunday

Tuesday, April 23 ... LBC serves dinner at homeless shelter in Fremont

#### **Sunol Repertory Theater**

Little Brown Church will provide refreshments at the SRT performance on Saturday, March 16, at Sunol Glen School. Please sign up at church to bring baked goods, berries, or other finger food. Or you can just reply to this newsletter. We also need people to set up the refreshments between 7 and 8 p.m. and serve the refreshments at about 9 p.m.

This is a good opportunity to meet the community and make a little money from donations. As always, some LBC members are involved in the play, both onstage and backstage, so be sure to see the performances every Friday and Saturday, March 8-30.

#### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

Members of LBC donated a very generous \$48 on Super Bowl Sunday for the Souper Bowl of Caring. The money will all go to Sunrise Village homeless shelter in Fremont to help pay for the breakfasts and lunches provided to the residents.

#### **Shelter dinners**

A big thank you to the volunteers who cooked and served dinner at the Sunrise Village homeless shelter in Fremont on Feb. 26. Our menu of chicken pot pie, bread and salad was a great hit! Residents were coming back for seconds and even thirds.

Our next dinner dates at Sunrise Village are as follows:

- Tuesday, April 23
- Wednesday, May 29
- Monday, September 30
- Tuesday, October 22

Please let Robin Spindler know whether you can help on any of those dates. Menu ideas are always welcome.

### Lent Madness 2019 The Sainly Smackdown is back!



Just when you thought Lent couldn't possibly become even more penitential, have we got an online hair shirt for you! For the tenth year running, people of faith are filling out saintly brackets and gearing up for the 2019 "sainly smackdown."

With its unique blend of competition, learning, and humor, Lent Madness allows participants to be inspired by the ways in which God has worked through the lives of saintly souls across generations and cultures. Throughout Lent, thirty-two saints will do battle to win the coveted Golden Halo. Based loosely on the NCAA basketball tournament of a similar name, this online devotion pits saints against one another in a bracket as voters choose their favorites throughout this penitential season.

Here's how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at <http://www.lentmadness.org> about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo.

The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch.

This year, Lent Madness features an intriguing slate of saints ancient and modern, Biblical and ecclesiastical. 2019 heavyweights include Ignatius of Loyola, Nicodemus, Margaret of Cortona, John Chrysostom, and Nicholas of Myra (aka St. Nick). The competition kicks off on "Ash Thursday," March 7, with an epic battle between Biblical saints Mary and Martha.

The full bracket is online at the Lent Madness website <http://www.lentmadness.org> and, while not necessary to participate, you can order The Saintly Scorecard: The Definitive Guide to Lent Madness 2019 at <http://www.forwardmovement.org>. This companion guide includes biographies of all 32 saints, a full-color bracket, and information about how to fully participate.

Lent Madness began in 2010 as the brainchild of the Rev. Tim Schenck, an Episcopal priest and rector of St. John's Church in Hingham, Massachusetts. In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women who make up the church's calendar of saints, Schenck devised this devotion. Combining his love of sports with his passion for the lives of the saints, Lent Madness was born.

Starting in 2012, Schenck partnered with Forward Movement (the same folks that publish Forward Day by Day) executive director Scott Gunn, to bring Lent Madness to the masses. Schenck and Gunn form the self-appointed Supreme Executive Committee, a more-or-less benevolent dictatorship that runs the entire operation.

Borrowing inspiration from yet another national sporting event, Schenck and Gunn are referring to the 2019 competition as Lent Madness X.

Over the years, the formula has worked as this online devotional has been featured in media outlets all over the country including national television, the Washington Post, NPR, USA Today, and even Sports Illustrated (seriously). More importantly thousands of people have been inspired by the saintly stories of those who have come before us in the faith.

Ten "celebrity bloggers" from across the country have been tapped to write for the project: the Rev. Amber Belldene of San Francisco, CA; the Rev. Laurie Brock of Lexington, KY; the Rev. Megan Castellan of Ithaca, NY; Anna Fitch Courie of Honolulu, HI; Dr. David Creech of Morehead, MN; the Rev. David Hansen of Woodlands, TX; Emily Miller of Chicago, IL; Carol Howard Merritt of Chattanooga, TN; The Rev. Marcus Halley of Minneapolis, MN; and the Rev. David Sibley of Walla Walla, WA. Information about each of the celebrity bloggers and the rest of the team is available on the Lent Madness website.

If you're looking for a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational, occasionally goofy, and always joyful, join the Lent Madness journey. Lent needn't be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to get closer to Jesus Christ?

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**LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SUNOL**

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