



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

February 3, 2008

Last Epiphany Children's Sermon

Show last years palm cross and ask them what it is and when it was given.

Explain that it has lived with you for a year and has seen everything you have done and heard everything you have said.

Most of what you have said and done has been good but some of it has been not so good.

I have been asking people to bring back their palm crosses that have lived with them because on Tuesday night I will burn them. When they are burned there is nothing left except ash. This coming Wednesday is called Ash Wednesday and during our worship I will put the sign of the cross on your forehead with the Ash I made from your palm cross.

2 things.

1. It is a sign that your sins are forgiven; burned up, put away
2. it is a sign of a new beginning as we prepare for eastern because it is the beginning of lent.

Now at the beginning of lent people often begin to do things that they know will help them in their spiritual lives.

Some give up stuff and some take on stuff. Let me show you an example with rice and golf balls...

[Editor's note: There was a jar with rice and a container with golf balls. Fr. Alan put the golf balls, one by one, into the jar with the rice. The golf balls represented the things we might "add" to our lives during Lent; more church attendance, more Bible reading, etc. The jar overflowed. He took the golf balls out of the jar and emptied out the rice. He put the golf balls in the jar first and then added the rice. They all fit.]

We can try to add all the new things in life to help our spiritual life but if we do them already then life all fits into place.

Amen

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Established in 1847

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