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A Prayer as We Approach Lent

Almighty and ever living God,
As we approach Lent, you invite us deeper into
your world, your people
May this time be one of outward focus;
seeking you in those we often ignore.
Help us live a Lent focused on freedom,
generosity, and encounter.



Black History Month: What It Means to Me

What began as “Negro History Week” in 1926—created by historian Carter G. Woodson out of his concern that young African Americans lacked an education about their own heritage and ancestors—has since expanded to what we now know and observe as “Black History Month.”

Woodson, a lifelong educator, understood the power of knowing one’s history and one’s ancestral heritage. Knowing that you are part of a long legacy of people who have the capacity to create whole societies can ground you in the belief that you too can do anything. Not knowing this history can become a seeding ground for internalized oppression.

Read the Thoughts of Seminarian Clair Minson

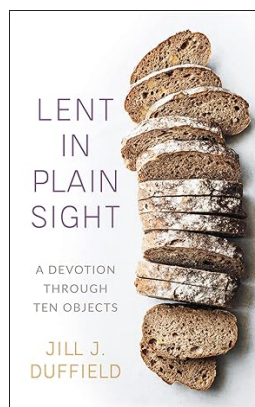


Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day

This year is not the first year that Valentine's Day lands on Ash Wednesday.

When church moments coincide with cultural events it is an opportunity for reflection on our relationship with contemporary culture. How we think of that relationship matters quite a lot, as H. Richard Niebuhr challenged us almost seventy years ago. Is our mission to be ecclesial blessors of society, faithful resisters, transformative agents, a cloistered remnant, along for the ride? Do "secular" events belong in our worship space – to blend, to bend, to bless, to transform, to mock, to ignore?

[Read the Blog Post](#)



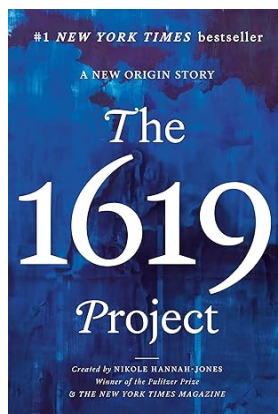
Good Reads

Title: *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects*

Author: Jill J. Duffield

In this devotion for the season of Lent, Jill J. Duffield draws readers attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, readers will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus final days. Each week, readers encounter a new object to consider through Scripture, prayer, and reflection. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, *Lent in Plain Sight* reminds Christians to open ourselves to the kingdom of God.

[Available Here](#)



More Good Reads

Title: *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*

Authors: Nikole Hannah-Jones (Author), The New York Times Magazine (Author), Caitlin Roper (Editor), Ilena Silverman (Editor), Jake Silverstein (Editor)

In late August 1619, a ship arrived in the British colony of Virginia bearing a cargo of twenty to thirty enslaved people from Africa. Their arrival led to the barbaric and unprecedented system of American chattel slavery that would last for the next 250 years. This is sometimes referred to as the country's original sin, but it is more than that: It is the source of so much that still defines the United States.

The New York Times Magazine's award-winning 1619 Project issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This book substantially expands on that work, weaving together eighteen essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with thirty-six poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society, from politics, music, diet, traffic, and citizenship to capitalism, religion, and our democracy itself.

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We can all learn from each other's journeys before, during and after the program.

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topics of interest, please [send](#) them our way and we'll upload them. [Subscribe!](#)



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