

Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Dinner **February 16th** Talent Show

In the Episcopal church, the day before the beginning of Lent is Shrove Tuesday. 'Shrove' is from the verb, 'to shrive,' or to hear someone's sins and to assure him of God's forgiveness. It was common in the Middle Ages for "shrovers" (priests) to listen to people's confessions around this time, to prepare them for Lent.

According to another old tradition, however, Shrove Tuesday is also known as Mardi Gras (Fr. "fat Tuesday".) For some people Mardi Gras is a last chance to indulge before the somber season ahead. On that day one customarily uses up all the fats and sweets that won't be eaten during Lent (a form of self-denial), and a good way to do that is to make pancakes.



The way we observe these two related traditions at St. Barnabas is by having a night of Pancakes, Mask Making and Entertainment. OK, but how does "shriving" fit in here, you ask? (We confess: We're not sure.) Our best guess is that if Sue Stanley would admit she has a desire to sit atop a piano and sing torch songs; if Cathy Hansen would confess to a secret desire to wear clown makeup and juggle; or if Barbara Wright would put tutus on her dogs and dance Swan Lake with them.....then Nora would put on her stole and assure them all of God's mercy. In fact, "shriving" is available to all who will entertain. Those who do

not require forgiveness for what they do are even more eagerly encouraged to volunteer.

DON'T BE LEFT OUT. SIGN UP SHEETS FOR BOTH THE FEBRUARY 16TH SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER AND THE TALENT SHOW ARE NOW IN THE MCCORMACK LOUNGE.