

# *Seasons of Joy and Gladness*

Join the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) in feeding our hungry brothers and sisters as you feed your spirit during the Lenten season, *Seasons of Joy and Gladness*. This devotional booklet contains daily scripture readings, reflections, and prayers written for SoSA for 2019 by more than 40 people of faith, laypersons, missionaries, and pastors, across the United States and beyond. Set aside a few minutes each day from Ash Wednesday (March 6) to Easter (April 21) as a spiritual discipline, to focus throughout Lent on your own season of life, and move toward Joy and Gladness with us.

This year is the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of Society of St. Andrew. This would be a perfect time, as part of your Lenten spiritual discipline, to commit to making a financial contribution to SoSA. Perhaps you will consider \$1 a day, or your pocket change every day at day's end. You might give an amount equivalent to what you spend for fresh fruits and vegetables each week, or a few cents per meal. Some families even choose to tithe their food budget throughout the season. Your gift, in any amount, will provide a healthy meal to hungry people, at a cost of just over 15¢ per meal.

## **Promote Society of St. Andrew's Lenten Devotions and Giving Program Within Your Congregation**

**Order one booklet for each participating household.** Paper-saving alternatives include daily e-devotions (emailed devotions) and e-books, available at *EndHunger.org/Lent*.

**Request free coin banks** for each household, if you wish to use them. (By ordering only the quantity of materials you need, you will help keep SoSA's overhead low and ensure that your congregation's gifts go directly to putting nutritious food on the tables of those who need it most!)

**Use the bulletin insert sheet and weekly announcements** (enclosed) to keep the Devotions and Giving Program in front of your congregation throughout the weeks of Lent.

**Use the pew envelopes, inserted with each bulletin** (enclosed) to allow your congregation to put their donation to the Society of St. Andrew in the envelope and put it in the offering plate. Your church could then send those checks and envelopes to SoSA.

**Put a "stamp of approval" on the program** by seeking the support of your pastor, missions committee, and church board. Encourage your pastor to participate personally and to be "front and center" recommending the program to the congregation.

**Receive gifts generated** through SoSA's Lenten Devotions and Giving Program on Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, or the Sunday following Easter. Send a single check for the total amount contributed, made out to Society of St. Andrew, to the address below, noting "Lenten offerings" on the memo line.

## **Good Friday Fast**

Many congregations, house churches, and small groups wish to add an additional spiritual discipline during Holy Week by participating in a **Good Friday Fast**. SoSA makes available a booklet of reflections and prayers to accompany a 24-48 hour period of purposeful abstention from food between Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. The physical hunger participants experience during their fast is a powerful reminder of the 42 million Americans and nearly 1 billion people throughout the world who live with hunger daily.

Order one copy of the Good Friday Fast booklet, *Behold the Beauty of the Lord*, for each participating household.

## **Society of St. Andrew**

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

# Newsletter / Social Media / Bulletin Announcements

## Society of St. Andrew Lenten Devotions & Giving Program

**Ash Wednesday, March 6** —The ashes placed on our foreheads this day remind us that our lives are brief, and that all we are and all we have come from God, our Creator. Begin your Lenten time of daily reading, reflection, prayer, and giving today by using *Seasons of Joy and Gladness*, the devotional booklet prepared for you by the Society of St. Andrew, a nationwide ministry focused on feeding spiritual and physical hunger.

**Sunday, March 10.** Today's culture is continuously in flux! Transitions are difficult. In today's devotional *A Time to Weep*, you will see how the goal is not to get stuck, but to move ahead toward the goal of the transition. Continue your Lenten time of daily reading, reflection, prayer, and giving, using *Seasons of Joy and Gladness*, the devotional booklet prepared for your use by the Society of St. Andrew.

**Sunday, March 17.** Job loss and the consequences! In *Seasons of Joy and Gladness*, our Lenten devotional booklet from Society of St. Andrew, today's writer of *Crushed* asks us to pray through brokenness into a new season – and discover what God has in store for you. Our hungry brothers and sisters are truly broken! Your care for them, through a donation of any amount to the Society of St. Andrew, helps fill those broken hearts with hope, and a nutritious meal.

**Sunday, March 24.** *Seasons of Joy and Gladness*, today's devotion shows the consequences of health scares. *Discipline Through Love and a Stroke* shows us how God helps us through a traumatic health event, and all the consequences, to a life of a new normal. The Society of St. Andrew, challenges us to remember our desperate 42 million children and adults here in the United States who suffer the trauma of hunger, and struggle to put enough food on the table each day. Does your daily spiritual focus this season include giving? Every \$3.00 you set aside for Society of St. Andrew will put 20 meals of healthy food on the plates of those who need it most, giving both you and them, a blessing!

**Sunday, March 31.** Today's devotional writer in *Seasons of Joy and Gladness*, our Lenten devotional booklet from Society of St. Andrew, writes *Joy*, and asks us to consider the final season of life, and our approach to that season. What has been theoretical for so long, will soon be actual! Consider giving today to the Society of St. Andrew, a nationwide ministry focused on caring for actual physical hunger. Every \$3 provides 20 meals of nutritious, fresh food for the hungry!

**Sunday, April 7.** As our families age, the inevitable time of loss occurs. *Asking Why*, today's devotional in *Seasons of Joy and Gladness*, tells of the transition to joy following the loss of a truly loved one! You can be the hero, helping move a hungry neighbor's empty plate to become a full plate, by your donations of any amount to the Society of St. Andrew. During your devotional time this week, ask God to remind us to not grow weary in doing what is right – helping brothers and sisters in the United States and around the world have enough to eat.

**Palm Sunday, April 14.** As you read and pray through this week's devotions in *Seasons of Joy and Gladness*, think about loss upon loss, in *Joy in the Midst of Sorrow*. Repeated loss, one after another, could be a breaking point – unless a support group forms around you! You, yourself, are a part of a support group, with your gifts to the Society of St. Andrew. You are supporting our hungry neighbors, children and adults, who suffer hunger day after day! Remember those for whom hunger is not yet conquered, but still a daily reality. Your gifts to the Society of St. Andrew will help fight the battle with hunger.

**Easter Sunday, April 21.** *A Happy Ending*, when the plans all come to fruition! Through the seasons from loss, keeping the memories, sharing the past with others, we walk the path toward “a happy ending.” Jesus is alive! Among the first events following our Lord's resurrection, was a time of eating fish with his disciples! Regular meals, for many, are normal. But for our hungry neighbors, “regular meals” is not something they can count on. You can step into the gap and help them by your generous donations that put real food on real plates, and fill real stomachs! Please help make this a true *Happy Ending* for others.