

The Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York

A Season of Sacrifice and Spiritual Growth

“Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce.” (Proverbs 3:9)

“...Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”

(I Chronicles 29:17)

A Season of Greater Commitment

We live in an age in which the church has to deal with theologies and beliefs that have been fashioned to facilitate the comfort, convenience, and casualness of those who claim to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Men and women come to church and attempt to worship the God that they have not really gotten to know. All around us there are those who misrepresent Biblical truths and seek to create an atmosphere in which Christianity is popular, approved and acceptable by societal norms. The Scriptures truly offer guidelines for our lives, but we must be willing to apply God's word to all that we say and do. We must desire to know God better, and be willing to obey the Lord God that we seek to know. In this season, it is imperative that every believer intensifies his or her commitment to living in accordance and total obedience to the Word of God so that the glory of the Lord is experienced like never before.

A Season of Consecration and Fasting

“...man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.”

(Deuteronomy 8:3)

The Pastors invite and encourage the **entire** Greater Allen A. M. E. Cathedral family to join us for a **14-day fast, beginning Monday, November 6 – Monday, November 20, 2017**. We are designating these two weeks as a time of **consecration through fasting, increased prayer, and study** of the Word of God. We believe that our church is being called to **greater kingdom dedication and sanctification. Therefore, we must reject those actions and thoughts that are not of God, and we must devote ourselves to getting rid of all those things, ideals, and persons that hinder our spiritual growth.** Because we know that God's grace has kept us, our hearts are filled with awe and appreciation as we delight in the blessings and manifest miracles that have been made evidence in our midst. This consecration is our reasonable act of worship!

Consecration demands that we become good stewards of the resources entrusted to us by God. During this time of sanctification, please join us as we fast and pray for divine cleansing and renewal of our bodies by participating in the following fast:

Eliminate the following from your diet:

- **Junk foods** (*Chips, cookies, donuts, candies, pastries, soda, caffeinated beverages, etc.*)
- **Fast foods** (*Tacos, burgers, fries, etc.*)
- **Fried foods, red meats, and fatty foods**

Eat fish, limited poultry, fresh vegetables and fruit. Try to eliminate dairy and carbohydrates.

Please observe a **daily, 12-hour TOTAL fast** (*liquids only*), depending on your schedule; for instance, between the hours of **6 p.m. and 6 a.m.**; **7 p.m. and 7 a.m.**; or between **8 p.m. and 8 a.m.** This essentially means that you will have your last meal of the day in the evening and will not eat again until the following morning. Pray for God's wisdom to make appropriate choices of food, drink and even attire during this time of consecration. Remember to **drink plenty of water and get sufficient rest.**

“How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me? I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord in the presence of all His people.” (Psalm 116: 12, 18)

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

On **Monday, November 20, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.**, we will give thanks and break the fast at a **Service of Worship, Thanksgiving, and Praise**. The Reverend Dr. William H. Curtis, Senior Pastor of The Mount Ararat Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will serve as the guest minister. Please plan to attend the service and invite a family member, friend, co-worker, and/or neighbor.

The Day of First Fruit Giving

The First Fruit Offering

On **Sunday, December 3, 2017, we will celebrate First Fruit Sunday**. This is the time during which we encourage all members of our Church family to glorify God with their giving. We believe that before we engage in the giving of gifts at Christmas, we should take the opportunity to give God the **First Fruit** of our harvest and expected increase. We do so to declare to God that our relationship with the Lord is the most important reality in our lives. We also give sacrificially because we appreciate the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made for us. Be very clear, we are not paying for salvation, miracles, and/or blessings; but we give out of appreciation to the Lord for His faithfulness to us!

The concept of the **First Fruit Offering** is rooted in Biblical truth and is found in **Deuteronomy 26:9-11**. We see that this offering is to be given to the Lord in thanksgiving for the generous and manifold blessings that God has so graciously bestowed on God's people. Therefore, on **Sunday, December 3, 2017**, The Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York will celebrate the goodness of God by bringing **First Fruit Offerings**. We ask everyone to bring **one week's salary**. A week's salary truly represents *First Fruit giving...* the first and the best portion of the believer's harvest. The call is for **every member to honor God by obeying God's mandate to give tithes and offerings**, so that there might be **meat in God's house**. (Malachi 3:10)

"The first of the first fruits of the ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God."
(Exodus 23:19)

If you are not led to give a First Fruit Offering, please give a **special sacrificial offering**, over and above your tithe. Your sacrifice **pleases and glorifies God**. The Greater Allen A. M. E. Cathedral family continues to experience increased spiritual growth and greater outpourings of God's presence in our worship services, **but we still have not become the church that God desires**. We truly look forward to the day when The Greater Allen A. M. E. Cathedral becomes a **100% tithing church**.

A Season of Service

All ministries and organizations are encouraged to provide food, monetary donations, and/or personnel for the **Feeding of the Multitude**. Meetings are now being held every Monday evening at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral Café. Distribution dates are Tuesday, November 21 – Thursday, November 23 and the sit down meal will be held on Thursday, November 23, 2017 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please contact the Reverend Rasheed A. Baird.

Or

Every ministry of Allen should **adopt a family, shelter, or charitable organization** and provide food, clothing, or service during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons. Please remember the imperative of our Lord and Savior to demonstrate the tangible love of God to those who are less fortunate. (Matthew 25:40-45)