

St. Peter's Church



First Sunday of Lent - February 18, 2018

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901
Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322
Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 8:00–2:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – Dbechtel00@yahoo.com
Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net
Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net
Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann –
stpreled@ptd.net 570-724-9789
Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm ~ Sunday: 8:30am

Reconciliation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am -12:00noon;
Saturday 4:15 – 4:45pm; By appointment by calling the Rectory.

Mission Statement

We, the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, are called to holiness by God as present day disciples of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united in service to God to share our faith with one another and our community. May our participation in the Holy Sacraments, our ministries and our devotion to Mary bring glory to God and His Kingdom.

Emergency Contact

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If no answer, please call 570-329-5762. This is a pager. You will be instructed to enter your phone number and Fr. Bechtel will return your call.

Pregnancy Support

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310
Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS
Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center (570) 673-4476

Religious Education and Formation

Religious Education classes are held for Pre-K – 12th grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12th begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789 or the Rectory at 570-724-3371.

Welcome to St. Peter's Church!

If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, welcome and thank you for worshiping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us and invite you to become part of our church family. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

Request for Parishioner Registration Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. During this Lent, lead us by your Holy Spirit to live more faithfully in Christian freedom. Through prayer, increased charity, and the disciplines of this sacred season, draw us closer to you. Purify the intentions of our hearts so all our Lenten observances give you praise and glory. Grant that through our words and actions, we may be faithful messengers of the gospel message to a world in need of the hope of your mercy. Amen.

Parish Contact Listing

Women's Bible Study – Sue Singer 570-724-2360
St. John Neumann's Prayer Group – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085
Contemplative Spirituality Group – Kate Black 570-724-3047
Cards & Games – Patty Kramer 570-948-9023
Knights of Columbus – George Gamble 570-724-5216
Social Concerns – Karen Plumley 570-439-0175
Parish Rummage Sale – Mary Lasko 570-439-7706
Pat Gorda 570-724-3035
Church Linens & Decorations – Sue Singer 570-724-2360
Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591
Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529
Fundraising Dinners – Paul Urner 570-723-9970
Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085,
Marilyn deGuzman 570-376-5427
Samaritan House – Daria Guelig 570-724-3030
Youth Group – Maureen Poirier/ Melissa Mann 570-724-9789
Eucharistic Adoration – Rhonda Gooch 570-724-3092
Finance Council – Priscilla Walrath 570-724-2056
Parish Council – Rectory 570-724-3371
Worship Committee – Rectory 570- 724-3371
Sunday Nursing Home Communion – Eileen Evert 570-439-4470
Prayer Chain – Kate Black 570-724-3047
Order of Secular Carmelite – Lori Makos 570-724-3371
ChristLife – Norb Josten 570-724-9095
Prayer Shawl Ministry - Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677

First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2018

| Date | Time | Confession Time and Mass Intention |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| Monday 2/19 <i>Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46</i> | No Mass | |
| Tuesday 2/20 <i>Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15</i> | 7:30am | In Honor of Paul Beuter (Family) |
| Wednesday 2/21 <i>Jas 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32</i> | 11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm | Confession In Memory of Mary Cleveland (Paul & Marion Patt) |
| Thursday 2/22 <i>1 Pt 5:1-4; 16:13-19</i> | 11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm | Confession In Memory of Ned Schepp (Den & Adele Young) |
| Friday 2/23 <i>Ez 18:21-26; Mt 5:20-26</i> | 11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm | Confession In Memory of Cindy Dalton (Grab Family) |
| Saturday 2/24 <i>Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48</i> | 4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm | Confessions All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish |
| Sunday 2/25 <i>Gn 22:1-2,9,10-13,15-18; Rom 8:31-34; Mk 9:2-10</i> | 8:30am | In Honor of Eileen Evert (Jackson & Tokarz Family) |

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
Robert & Connie Brown (Gina Brown)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, February 18, 2018

Religious Ed –Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12th:9:30-10:40am
R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center

MONDAY, February 19, 2018

Rectory Closed

TUESDAY, February 20, 2018

Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm; Benediction 6:45pm
Women's Bible Study – 9:00am, Parish Center
AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center
Parish Council – 7:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, February 21, 2018

Staff Meeting – 8:30am, Rectory
St. John Neumann Group – 1:00pm, Parish Center
ChristLife – 7:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, February 22, 2018

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

SATURDAY, February 24, 2018

ChristLife Retreat – 8:00am-4:00pm, Parish Center

SUNDAY, February 25, 2018

Religious Ed –Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12th:9:30-10:40am
R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center

GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS - This month's Goodies for our Troops items are: *Hand and Feet Warmers, Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Homemade Cookies and Fudge & Personal Notes (cards, letters, drawings from children.)*
A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS - This month's food pantry items are: *Chicken Noodle and Tomato Soup.*
A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, St. Catherine, Westfield - 7:00pm
Sunday, St. Thomas, Elkland – 11:30am

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

February 24th/25th

5:00pm

Servers: A.Banik, J.Grab, X.Tellgren
Lectors: C.Evert, K.Tellgren
E. Min.: B.Butler, G.Brown

8:30am

Servers: E.Poirier, J.Poirier, B.Levindoski
Lectors: M.Ostapowicz, T.Reindl
E. Min.: G.Poirier, T.Gamble

Sacramental Information

Baptisms - Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are asked to attend instructions classes before the birth of their child. Note: Baptisms cannot be scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed. Contact the Rectory to schedule.

Confirmation - Confirmation is administered every year to all 8th grade students in our Parish Religious Education program. Children wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled and participating in the program for two years before they are eligible to receive the sacrament.

Marriages- In order to complete the necessary paperwork, couples are asked to contact the Rectory at least one full year in advance of the proposed marriage date.

Anointing of the Sick - Please contact the Rectory whenever a member of your family has become sick or hospitalized.

Monthly Visitations - Any parishioner who is homebound and wishes to receive the Eucharist on a monthly basis is asked to contact the Rectory to schedule a visit.

Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults (R.C.I.A.) - The R.C.I.A. prepares unbaptized adults for reception into the Catholic Church. The program is adapted to the needs of each person and prepares them for full initiation into the faith. Contact the Rectory for more information.



Liturgical Reflection

First Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-15

The First Sunday of Lent confronts us with the reason, the means, and the cost of salvation through the mystery of Christ's dying and rising. This is the story that shapes our Lenten work of conversion. Genesis recalls the dreadful return of the waters of chaos to flood and cleanse a world sodden with sin. Even when human history is at its lowest point though, hope rises in the darkness under the sign of the rainbow to reassure us that the destruction we have brought on ourselves is not the end of our story. Today's reading is the covenantal promise that God established with Noah after the flood waters receded from the earth. God's promise to Noah and his sons is clear: never again shall all the bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood. The covenant is generated by God, who takes full responsibility for its fulfillment. This is the Bible's first explicit covenant offered by God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 25

The psalmist calls out to God for help and direction, affirming that they will be provided. Psalm 25 extols God's goodness and ability to lead his people in the way of truth. In many ways these verses speak to the covenant, calling upon God to both remember his mercy and his promises.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

The suffering, death, and descent into hell which we proclaim in the creed, take Christ into the very heart of darkness where those swamped in the disaster of death await deliverance, promised to all by the rainbow. The Cross is the new ark which will carry them and all of us to life through the waters not of the flood, but of Baptism. We begin Lent with a reminder of God's offer of salvation to all people and a preview of the mystery we will celebrate at Easter.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:12-15

Armed with the hope of the covenant and the promise of Baptism, we find the courage to read the story of Jesus' own journey into the desolation of the desert, the place of death and life, where wickedness and grace contended in the story of Israel. Each year, the Gospel Reading for the First Sunday of Lent begins with Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark gives stark warning of the confrontation between evil and grace that awaits us as we follow Jesus' lead on our Lenten journey from sinfulness to salvation, through Baptism celebrated or renewed at Easter. Jesus emerged from the desert victorious, defeating Satan and proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God throughout Galilee. The season of Lent calls us as well to enter into a journey through the desert, to repent and seek reconciliation with God, ourselves, and each other.



Parish Activities and Information

RITE OF ELECTION

Today we celebrate the Rite of Election. During the Rite of Election, upon the testimony of sponsors and catechists and the catechumens' affirmation of their intention to join the Church, the Church makes its "election" of these catechumens to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. In the presence of the bishop (or his delegate), they inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect as a pledge of fidelity. They now begin a Period of Purification and Enlightenment — the final, intense preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. *Please keep Kristina Zimmerman, Scott Zimmerman, and Karon Swendrowski in your prayers, as they continue in their faith journey.*

"God is always faithful to those he calls."

RECTORY CLOSED MONDAY



The Rectory will be closed on Monday, February 19th, in observance of President's Day. In the event of an emergency, please see the contact information on the front of the bulletin.

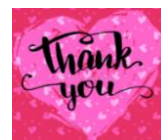
POLISH DINNER UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time or donations of goods to make the Polish Dinner a great success. A special thanks to Paul Urner for chairing the event. A profit of \$1,013.17 was raised to support the activities of the parish.

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Income | \$2,190.00 |
| Expenses | <u>1,423.83</u> |
| Profit | \$1,013.17 |

THANK YOU!

The Social Concerns Committee thanks all parishioners who helped provide the Valentine meals to fellow parishioners, by donating food, supplies, flowers, cards and making deliveries. A special thank you to St. Peter's Youth Group for the homemade Valentines included with each meal. Forty-two meals were provided this year.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:00pm in the church. Children's Stations of the Cross will also be held at 3:30pm. Students are invited to the parish center after school for a light snack before stations begin. The students will be chaperoned following the conclusion of stations, until parents are able to arrive. All parishioners are encouraged to attend Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season.



LENTEN MATERIAL AVAILABLE

Lenten materials, for your spiritual enrichment, have been placed on the handout table at the back of the church.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

The Wellsboro Ministerium will be offering Wednesday Lenten Services. All services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church from 12:00-12:30pm, with a light lunch to follow. The theme for this year is *Fruit of the Spirit*. The schedule for this year is as follows:

February 21st – United Methodist Church - *Faithfulness*

February 28th – St. Peter's Catholic Church - *Patience*

March 7th – Valley Alliance Church - *Goodness*

March 14th – First Baptist Church - *Peace*

March 21st – Living Word Fellowship – *Joy*

That's The Way It Is!



Dear Parishioners,

I have suspended my article for this week. This is due to the tragedy in Parkland Florida. A man named Nokolas Cruz went to his former school and opened fire on students and teachers. As of the writing of this article, 17 people were either killed or injured in this shooting. That number may rise. Cruz somehow got into the school and pulled the fire alarm. As the students and teachers were leaving their classrooms to evacuate, he opened fire. The authorities are still trying to piece together what happened and how. The school is closed and the students are off. Eventually the school will re-open and the students will have to return there. How anyone will be able to go back to that school after this tragedy, I do not know. I do know that the people of the Parkland community will be in grief long after classes resume. I know that this tragedy will stay with them for the rest of their lives. In some ways it will stay with us too.

When we see evil in the world like this, we naturally wonder where good is. We wonder why evil exists. We wonder why evil happens. We wonder how someone can be so evil as to do an act like this. These kinds of acts also challenge our faith in God. Where was God while this was happening? Why didn't God stop this? Why does God allow this? As people struggle to find answers to difficult questions they will find something or someone to blame.

I think it is natural to want someone or something to blame, because at least we have an answer. When we have an answer we can try and find solutions. When we look for solutions we feel better, because we are "doing something" and "taking action." Whenever there is a tragedy, whenever people are in grief, sometimes "doing something" or "taking action" can help them to deal with their grief.

But what about those times when there are no real answers and we are faced with the fact that an evil happened? Even if getting guns off the street would prevent this, how could someone even want to do something like this in the first place? Even if mental illness were to blame, how could mental illness lead someone to do something like this in the first place? Why does mental

illness even exist? The greater question is why does evil exist in the first place? That is the question we would all like an answer to.

But I can turn that question on its head. We could ask the same question about good. Why is there good? The fact that we recognize that evil exists, is an implicit claim that there is good. If there were no good, how could we recognize evil when we saw it? In order to recognize evil and ask questions about evil, we have to have some reference for comparison. Thus, our recognition and hatred of evil is an implicit argument for the existence of a greater power; the power of love. Our recognition of evil and hatred of evil is an implicit argument for the existence of God. If God does not exist, from where does love come? From where does good come?

So where is love in this tragedy? Where is good? Love is revealed in the emergency responders who put their lives on the line to save the innocent. While everyone was running away from the gun fire, while everyone was running out of the school, the emergency responders ran towards the school and towards the danger. Love is revealed as our nation comes together and unites against acts like this. Love is revealed in those who will comfort the grieving families and stand with them so they do not have to go through this alone. Love is revealed in our prayers and thoughts for the community of Parkland. Love is revealed by our revulsion at this great tragedy, and our desire to prevent this from happening in the future. The fact that we are affected at all by this tragedy, the fact that we ask these questions, shows that the power of good and the power of love exists.

As we all struggle with this tragedy, as we all struggle to find answers, we can take comfort in the fact that the power of love and the power of good really do exist. If they did not exist, we could not ask those questions and we could not feel disgust at this tragedy in the first place. We feel disgust precisely because we love. We feel disgust precisely because we implicitly know that God does not intend for things to be this way. In order to transform tragedy into triumph, we must allow God to work through us and our love. We must allow God to reveal Himself in the comfort we give to each other and our prayers for the Parkland community. Now is not the time to turn away from our faith, now is the time to turn to our faith. This is when we need our faith the most.

The Reverend David W. Bechtel
Pastor

Stewardship

Collection for February 11th & Ash Wednesday: \$6,491.25

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00


Difference: \$ 741.25

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$3,334.61

We are grateful to all those who financially sacrifice every week to support our parish and its ministries

Diocese of Scranton News

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

 Celebrating His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2018 to a Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 10, 2018. The event includes a 2:30pm Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral, followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation should be made through your pastor before March 12, 2018.

ANNULMENT QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Do you want to know more about the annulment process? In the Diocese of Scranton, the annulment process is now more "user friendly" than you might expect, and there is no longer a processing fee. Please contact your pastor or the Diocesan Tribunal Office (570-207-2246) to begin a conversation. It is possible to get clear answers to these questions and to renew your connection with the Church.

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE MAY 5th

Our 4th annual "Be A Man" Catholic Men's Conference for the Scranton Diocese will be held at King's College in Wilkes Barre on Saturday, May 5th, from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Based on our 2018 theme "Christ is Here, Come and See," our three nationally-known presenters will highlight various aspects of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist: Tom Peterson – founder of Catholics Come Home Inc.; Fr Michael Gaitley MIC – author of 33 Days to Morning Glory; Jesse Romero – a full-time bilingual Catholic Lay Evangelist.

- Join hundreds of like-minded Catholic men for a half-day conference celebrating the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist
- Hear excellent talks that will challenge you, re-awaken your spirit, and lift you up
- Examine your priorities
- Rejuvenate your commitment to Catholic Faith, Family & Fellowship
- Get new insights for growing in holiness in your daily life
- Support, challenge and affirm your call as a son of God and brother of Christ
- Participate in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- Help you come closer to Jesus!!

We will be honored to have Scranton Bishop Joseph Bambera celebrate our closing Mass. There will be opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Various exhibitors will be present with a full array of Catholic products, as well as information concerning ministry opportunities.

St. Peter's will provide transportation through Benedicts Bus Company and will pay half of the registration fee for those interested in attending. Registration forms can be found on the hand out table on the side of the church.

Refresh Your Faith

The First Annual Catholic Women's Conference
of the Diocese of Scranton

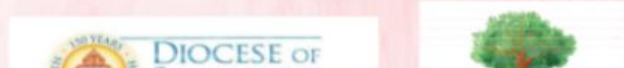
Saturday, June 23, 2018 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Byron Complex, The University of Scranton

Featuring:

Judy Landrieu Klein: Faith Through It All
Father Richard McAlear: Ministry of Hope and Healing
Music by "His Own"
Mass Celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph Bambera
Megan Murphy: Host

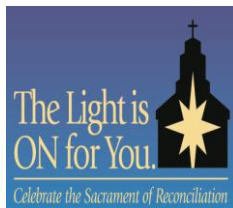
For information or to register:
dioceseofscranton.org/catholic-womens-conference

Co-Sponsored by:



St. Peter's will provide transportation through Benedicts Bus Company and will pay half of the registration fee for those interested in attending.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU



As we begin this season of Lenten preparation, each of us is invited to reflect on those choices which will bring about the new life we celebrate in Easter. For this reason, the Church invites us to experience Lent as a time for deepened prayer, personal sacrifice, and self-giving – all so that we can be raised to new life in Christ! The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera is helping to make this experience possible by arranging for a Lenten initiative called *The Light Is On for You*. **Every Monday evening during Lent**, each parish throughout the Diocese of Scranton will have their "lights on" from **5:30-7:00pm** for confession so that Catholics can come to or return to this incredible source of God's grace, mercy and healing. **Due to Fr. Bechtel responsibility for St. Thomas Parish, the schedule for St. Peter's will be March 5th & 19th.**

Please make plans to come on a Lenten Monday, and spread the word of this special outreach of mercy to those you know. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament, have been away for some time, or just find it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time, this is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Christ and his Church. **"The Light Is On for You!"**

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

The cleansing power of water - Today's first reading speaks to us of Noah's Ark. The flood that God sent upon the world in Noah's day was a cleansing of evil. Now, God cleanses us not by floods, but by the waters of baptism, which bring to us a whole new kind of life: the life of God within us. Our special efforts in Lent to come closer to God are a response to what has already happened to us! Because we have received the new life of God, we have to reform our lives and live as his sons and daughters. We have to become who we already are. The holy water we use when we come in and out of Church is a reminder of the cleansing waters of baptism, and a reminder of the new life we are called to live. God is a God of life, and therefore we are the People of Life. This Lent, let's look for ways to foster respect for life, especially the sick, the disabled, and the unborn.

News from the Vatican



WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR LENT? POPE FRANCIS' 10 TIPS

Every year Catholics try to answer the age old question: What should I do for Lent? Well, who better to pick for as your Lenten spiritual director than Pope

Francis? He has some great ideas for you!

1. **Get rid of the lazy addiction to evil**

"[Lent] is a 'powerful' season, a turning point that can foster change and conversion in each of us. We all need to improve, to change for the better. Lent helps us and thus we leave behind old habits and the lazy addiction to the evil that deceives and ensnares us." – General Audience, March 5, 2014

2. **Do something that hurts**

"Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt." – Lenten Message, 2014

3. **Don't remain indifferent**

"Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation." –Lenten Message, 2015

4. **Pray: Make our hearts like yours!**

"During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: 'Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum': Make our hearts like yours (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference." – Lenten Message, 2015

5. **Take part in the sacraments**

"Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ." – Lenten Message, 2015

6. **Prayer**

"In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could harden our hearts, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of God's boundless love, to taste his tenderness. Lent is a time of prayer, of more intense prayer, more prolonged, more assiduous, more able to take on the needs of the brethren; intercessory prayer, to intercede before God for the many situations of poverty and suffering." – Homily, March 5, 2014

7. **Fasting**

"We must be careful not to practice a formal fast, or one which in truth 'satisfies' us because it makes us feel good about ourselves. Fasting makes sense if it questions our security, and if it also leads to some benefit for others, if it helps us to cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him." – Homily, March 5, 2014

8. **Almsgiving**

"Today gratuitousness is often not part of daily life where everything is bought and sold. Everything is calculated and measured. Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have, from the sadness of one who does not wish to share his wealth with others." – Homily, March 5, 2014

9. **Help the Poor**

"In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing." – Lenten Message, 2014

10. **Evangelize**

"The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness."

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2018 - ENTRUSTED TO THE POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK

Universal: *Say "No" to Corruption* - That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

Lenten Information

LENT – Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and culminates in the celebration of Christ's resurrection. The world lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Lencten' which means spring or lengthening. The Latin word for Lent was 'quadragesima' which simply means 'forty' and referred to the fact that the prayer, fasting, and penance associated with Lent went on for forty days. In the Old Testament Jesus spent forty days fasting and resisting temptations in the wilderness in preparation for the beginning of his public ministry. For Christians today, Lent is the time personal reflection as we struggle with the bad habits we have acquired and practiced during the past year. It gives us the chance to break such habits and find new opportunities to turn back to the ways of God. We are encouraged to make peace, look for God's forgiveness, and to have compassion on all who suffer or are in need.

Days of Fast and Abstinence – Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. All Catholics, 18-59 years of age, are bound by Church law to fast, which means only one large meal and two smaller meals may be eaten. Catholics 14 years of age and older are required to abstain, which means no meat may be eaten.

Operation Rice Bowl - Operation Rice Bowl is the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services. You are asked to eat one sacrificial meal each week during Lent and to give the money you saved to the Rice Bowl program. An envelope can be found in your monthly offering packet.

Easter Duty – All parishioners are reminded of their obligation to fulfill their Easter Duty. A person's Easter Duty consists of receiving Holy Communion at least once between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday as well as going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to confess any mortal sins.

In Lent, why do we fast?

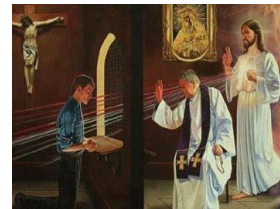
For the Christian, fasting is the only means by which man recovers his true spiritual nature. In order for fasting to be effective, the spirit must be a part of it. Christian fasting is not concerned with losing weight. It is a matter of prayer and the spirit. Christian tradition can name at least seven reasons for fasting:

1. From the beginning, God commanded some fasting, and sin entered into the world because Adam and Eve broke the fast.
2. For the Christian, fasting is ultimately about fasting from sin.
3. Fasting reveals our dependence on God and not the resources of this world.
4. Fasting is an ancient way of preparing for the Eucharist — the truest of foods.
5. Fasting is preparation for baptism, and all the sacraments — for the reception of grace.
6. Fasting is a means of saving resources to give to the poor.
7. Fasting is a means of self-discipline, chastity, and the restraining of the appetites.

Haven't been to confession in a while?

Here's how to make a good confession:

Preparation: Before going to confession, take some time to examine your conscience by reviewing your life in comparison to the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the example of Christ's life. Pray to God for forgiveness.



Going to Confession:

1. The priest will welcome you, and you both make the sign of the cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
2. You continue with these traditional words: *Bless me Father, for I have sinned. It has been (how long) since my last confession.*
3. The priest will encourage you to have trust in God, and invite you to confess your sins. Speak freely and honestly – nothing you say in confession will ever be repeated by the priest. The priest may talk with you about how to make up for the sins you confess. He will then assign an act of penance corresponding to the nature of the sin.
4. Act of Contrition – you offer a prayer expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving not to sin again. You may say this in your own words, or use this traditional prayer:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

5. Following this prayer, the priest extends his hands over your head and says the words of absolution:

God the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins. Through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

As the priest concludes this prayer, he will make the sign of the cross over your head – you bless yourself and respond, Amen.

6. The priest will invite you to go in peace.

After Confession: When you leave the confession room, take a few minutes of private prayer and thanksgiving. Plan how you will complete the assigned act of penance. Make a firm resolve to continue your conversion by a life renewed according to the Gospel and the love of God.

Traditional Pillars of the Church – We are provided with 3 personal challenges associated with our individual observance of Lent:

- Almsgiving – generously giving to those in need
- Fasting – practicing self-discipline and self-denial
- Prayer–reading, hearing, and reflecting on the Word of God

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Parish Prayer List



PRAYERS
Needed For...

Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Bob Erway, Mary Mekos, Nick Cavagnaro, Antoinette Davis, Jonathan Hardman, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighauf, Suzie Alexander, Larry Sasani, Wendy Doan-Newcomb, Syler Sullivan, Adrienne Gilbert, Rita Grinnan, Bob Murphy, Sylvia Smith, Susan Cleveland, Tom Mohr, Carol Weatherby, Carol Shine, Teresa Pavlock, Jerry Pierce, Joann Black, Gabriel, Melissa & Daniel Espinoza, Lori Lopaz, Patricia Quattrone, Larry Jackson, Katie Seip, Lisa Jones, Grace Bickham, Floyd Williammee, Renee Kennedy, Gay Furlong, Elsa DiBernardo, Fran Rose, Christine Palmer, June Sherman, Kathy Smith, Tim Bogaczyk, Beth Valdez, Virginia Shaefer, Charles Barrett, Joe Engel, Darleen Kohler, Victoria Salerno, Tony Pranses, Bob Snyder, Don Brooks, Kathy Macensky, Paul Beuter, Jerry Eckert, Cole Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Margaret Barnett, Richard Nowak, Frank Dziengowski, Jr., Stephen Horvatch, Callie Cavanaugh, Fr. Paul Mullen, Jane Johnson, Gus Vargas, Helene Carpenter, Michele Bush, Clark Hewitt, Larry Mommicco, Loretta Nonnenmacher, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Claire Vargas, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Delores Scuderi, Colleen Rose, Elizabeth Payne, Ann Osgood, Brenden Young, Jane Usavage Johnson, Jenny Clemens, Cindy Sereno, and Denny Young.



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and
Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Lord, this we know, no matter how difficult life may be at this time, we know you will not stop loving us and will always hold us in the palm of your hand. We are reaching to you, Lord, to hold us, comfort us, and heal us. Lord, this we know, you are faithful in your love for us today and forever. You are with us, and we are with you. Amen.