



Lent calls us to repent of all that obscures God's life within us and to believe in the Good News of the Gospel: the Good News of the forgiveness that is offered, the Good News of God's love that is greater than anything we have done or failed to do, the Good News of the eternal life that has already begun for us through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus and in which we share through Baptism. Lent calls us to life: to become more and more in touch with the reality of God's life within us, to awaken to the glorious destiny that is ours and to hasten toward it.

Know that Lent is not so much about what we do for God...as it is about what God wishes to do for us: re-creating us in his love and life. Our sacrifices, our Lenten practices are important, yes, for they help us to focus on God; our acts of self-denial create an opening for God's creative work in us. It is this new life—our life recreated in and by the Risen Christ—that we will celebrate at Easter. Enter, then, into these forty days with joy.

RULES OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

A reminder to parishioners that fasting is about more than denying ourselves food. A deeper understanding of fasting is about emptying oneself of the thing that distracts us from God. It's about self-sacrifice to allow God to fill us. Fasting should never be an unhealthy practice. A broader perspective of fasting would include providing simpler meals, giving of our excess to charity. We can fast from television, social media, gaming, or other things which get in the way of being with God and being with each other. Fasting should always be understood as a means to grow closer with God and for serving others.

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 60 must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays of Lent.

Fasting as explained by the U. S. bishops means partaking of only one full meal. Some food (not equaling another full meal) is permitted at breakfast and around midday or in the evening—depending on when a person chooses to eat the main or full meal.

Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments made of animal fat.

PARISH LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

We want to encourage every parishioner and every family to review these Lenten devotions, services and special offerings and decide which ones will help you observe Lent in a way that will be spiritually enriching.

Mass

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| Monday | 12 Noon |
| Wednesday | 12 Noon; followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until start of 6:00pm Spanish Mass (LENT ONLY) |
| Wednesday | 6:00pm Spanish Mass (LENT ONLY) |
| Thursday | 9:00am |
| Friday | 8:00am; followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until start of 12 Noon Mass (LENT ONLY) |
| Friday | 12 Noon |
| Saturday | 8:00am (only 1 st Saturday) and 5:00pm Vigil |
| Sunday | 8:00am and 10:45am |

Sacrament of Penance

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| Friday | 8:00 - 12 Noon (LENT ONLY) |
| Saturday | 4:00 - 4:30pm |
| Sunday | Between Masses by appointment |

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ending with the Mother of Perpetual Help Novena & Benediction

2nd Wednesday of the month from 7:30 - 8:30pm

Mardi Gras Gumbo Cook-Off Friday, March 1st at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall. If you are interested in cookin' up a spicy pot of your favorite Gumbo, see Fr. Patrick for details. Let's see whose Gumbo reigns supreme!!!

Ash Wednesday Mass w/ Distribution of Ashes March 6th — Masses at 8:00am, 12 noon, 6:00pm and a Spanish Mass at 7:30pm.

In the early Church, when Lent was a time for the reconciliation of public penitents, the penitents would come to the church at the beginning of Lent, that is, on Ash Wednesday. They would wear a penitential garment, suggesting sackcloth, and be sprinkled with ashes. Then they would be ritually expelled from the assembly to do their penance for forty days, returning to the church on Holy Thursday, when they would be readmitted to the sacraments. With time, the expulsion of penitents disappeared, but the ashes remained and became a call to penance of all the faithful. In the Scriptures, sackcloth, and ashes are the signs of penance. The practice of using ashes from the palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday is a relatively new element of the liturgy, first appearing in the 12th century. It adds another layer of meaning to this rich rite, reminding us of where we are headed – to the glory of Easter.

Fish Fry March 15th and April 12th from 5:00-7:00pm prior to Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross w/ Meatless Potluck Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in this popular devotion that accompanies the final events in the life of Jesus. Feel free to join us every Friday at 7:00pm for the Stations of the Cross.

- On March 8, 22, 29 and April 5th, prior to Stations (5:00-7:00pm), there will be a meatless potluck dinner in the Parish Hall.
- On March 15 and April 12 there will be a Fish Fry in the Parish Hall from 5:00-7:00pm, prior to Stations of the Cross.
- On April 12th, Stations of the Cross will be presented by the Youth Group.
- On April 19th, Good Friday, Stations of the Cross will take place at 12 Noon.

St. Joseph's Feast Day Tuesday, March 19th — Stock neighborhood food pantries

Parish Lenten Penance Service Thursday, March 21st from 6:00-8:00pm with Fr. Maurico Abeldano of Sacred Heart Parish (Humboldt) and Fr. David Orsak of St. Jude (Martin) assisting Fr. Patrick. Other Penance Services will be held on Tuesday, March 26th at St. Jude in Martin; Thursday, March 28th at Sacred Heart in Humboldt and Thursday, April 11th at St. Mary's in Jackson.

Divine Mercy Novena and the Great Hour of Mercy Good Friday, April 19th at 3:00pm with Fr. Patrick.

Divine Mercy Novena: the chaplet is repeated over a period of nine days. The novena begins on Good Friday. There is a prayer intention for a specific group of people on each of the nine days. According to Roman Catholic tradition, the chaplet may be said at any time, but it is said especially on Divine Mercy Sunday and Fridays at 3:00pm.

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| <u>1st Sunday of Lent</u> | <u>— March 10, 2019</u> |
| <u>2nd Sunday of Lent</u> | <u>— March 17, 2019</u> |
| <u>3rd Sunday of Lent</u> | <u>— March 24, 2019</u> |
| <u>4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare)</u> | <u>— March 31, 2019</u> |
| <u>5th Sunday of Lent</u> | <u>— April 5, 2019</u> |

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord — April 14, 2019

- Easter Egg Hunt with Youth Group between the Sunday morning Masses;
- Procession with Palms into Church

Monday of Holy Week — April 15, 2019

Tuesday of Holy Week — April 16, 2019

- Chrism Mass 7:00pm at the Cathedral in Memphis

Wednesday of Holy Week — April 17, 2019

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday — April 18, 2019

- The Lord's Supper & Washing of the Feet 7:00pm;
- Adoration at Altar of Repose until 10:00pm

Good Friday — April 19, 2018

- Stations of the Cross at 12 Noon;
- Divine Mercy Novena and the Great Hour of Mercy 3:00pm;
- Celebration of the Passion of the Lord 7:00pm

Holy Saturday — April 20, 2018

- Easter Vigil at 8:00pm

Easter Sunday – The Resurrection of the Lord

- Masses at 8:00am and 10:45am

