



Our Lady of Mercy Church, 94 Broad St. ~ Plainville, CT 06062 ~ (860) 747. 6825 ~ www.olmct.org

## Ash Wednesday

March 6 8:00am Mass and distribution of ashes  
6:00pm Mass and distribution of ashes

## Holy Week

### Palm Sunday

April 13 4:00pm Mass  
April 14 8:30am, 10:30am Mass

### Holy Thursday

April 18 7:00pm **Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
Washing of Feet\*  
\*If you wish to have your foot washed during Mass, please call the parish office at 860.747.6825.

8:00pm Eucharistic Adoration in the gathering space until midnight

### Good Friday

April 19 3:00pm **Celebration of the Lord's Passion**  
Veneration of the Cross and Communion

### Holy Saturday

April 20 10:00am Blessing of the Easter Food in the gathering space

8:00pm **Easter Vigil**

### Easter Sunday

April 21 8:30am, 10:30am Mass  
12:00 Noon Easter Egg Hunt

**Prayer** is the first of the three pillars of Lenten practice. Through prayer, we raise our hearts and minds to God in thanksgiving and praise.

*There are many opportunities for prayer during the season of Lent listed on the reverse side. This year, let us resolve to focus on Christ's suffering, and to unite our own suffering with His through fasting, prayer, almsgiving.*

**Fasting** is the second pillar and is observed on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** by Catholics 18-59 years of age. On a fast day, one full meal/or equivalent, is allowed.

In addition, **Abstinence** is observed on Ash Wednesday and ALL Fridays of Lent by Catholics 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, NO meat is allowed.

During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on **Almsgiving**, the third pillar, which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving is "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2462)

*What you give up for Lent changes lives! Pick up your **Rice Bowl** in the gathering space.*



*The **Archbishop's Annual Appeal** begins during Lent. Giving to the **AAA** helps many ministries and charities throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford.*

~ See reverse side for Parish Lenten Opportunities ~



*We enter this holy season of Lent as a parish community.*

*The schedule for the Lenten season is listed below ~ All are welcome during this time of preparation.*

*Please refer to the weekly bulletins for more detailed information.*

### Weekday Mass Schedule

**M, T, Th, F, S** Mass at 8:00am

No Mass on Wednesday

Pray the **Rosary** after the 8:00am Mass

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Friday 8:30am**

Adoration begins immediately following the Friday, 8:00am Mass with Benediction at 9:30am.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Saturday at Noon & Monday, 6—7pm During Lent: Monday, March 11—April 15**

Every parish in the Archdiocese of Hartford will open their doors for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For times:

***ConfessionMondays.com***

### Celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation with a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament, Monday, March 25, 7pm

Reflective music by the Rock Group - The Holy Hour will end with Benediction

### Birthright

Help support the needs of children whose mothers chose life for them through Birthright of East Hartford. Come to the gathering space on Ash Wednesday or March 9 & 10 to pick up a cross or heart with an item to donate.

### Stations of the Cross Fridays at 7:00pm March 8 - April 12

March 8 led by Confirmation Class  
March 15 led by St. Anthony Society  
March 22 led by Knights of Columbus  
March 29 led by Pastoral Council  
April 5  
April 12

## Lenten Gospel Reflections — Daily Meditations by Bishop Robert Barron, Word on Fire

Friends, Thank you for joining me as we journey together toward the great feast of Easter! Lent is a season for refocusing on the suffering and death of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we will be ready to embrace the good news of the Resurrection. Why this emphasis on suffering? Because Christ saved us through an act of suffering. He bore in his own person the weight of our sin and died for us on the cross, where suffering and love coincided.



And the Church is the Body of Christ, which participates in Christ. Therefore, we shouldn't be surprised that we will be called upon to suffer out of love. In the economy of grace, God may use our suffering to bear the burden of another member of the Body of Christ, just as one system can take up the work of another, or one organ can support another. So as we begin with Ash Wednesday, let us resolve to focus on Christ's suffering, and to unite our own suffering—through fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and reflection on the Lenten Gospels and the Stations of the Cross—with the suffering members of the Church. It is not the destination but the journey that will ultimately transform us.

Peace, Bishop Robert Barron

*Attend one class or all seven ~ \$3 donation for book  
Select either of the class times listed below:*

**Tuesday 9:00-10:00am (March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16)**

**Wednesday 7:00-8:00pm (March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17)**

### ON THE CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME

A three part series based on Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si" (Praise be to You) ON THE CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME, will be presented by Sr. Ruth Rosenbaum, TC on March 17, 24 and 31 at Our Lady of Mercy parish center, 19 S. Canal St. at 7pm. Sr. Ruth is a co-founder of Center for Reflection, Education, & Action. The first session will discuss how we got into the mess we're in in our world, the second session with understanding as to where we are now, and the final session on what we can do to help create a positive future for all.

All 3 sessions will be held in room 106, which is in the back of the building. Refreshments will be available. A free will offering is suggested.