

Pastor's Column

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The Forty Days of Lent

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. We begin the Season of Lent. In these days, as we embrace the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we focus upon the Passion of Jesus the Christ.

Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we clear our minds and hearts a bit in order to make more room in our lives for the Paschal Mystery of Christ, His suffering, death, and resurrection.

We dare to ask ourselves "What meaning does the Passion of the Christ have for me?" and "How am I uniting my life to the Paschal Mystery of Christ?"

I encourage you to take seriously what our Parish offers you during this Season of Lent. Let your Lenten journey be not only private, but also communal.

Begin your walk with your Parish Family on the road of renewal and refreshment by attending Mass on Ash Wednesday and being signed with ashes. This external sign is a commitment of your desire and readiness for interior renewal.

If your schedule allows, attend Morning Mass. Morning Mass is celebrated every Tuesday through Friday at 8:15am.

Morning Prayer, the Official Prayer of the Church, will be prayed on Monday mornings at 8:15am.

Take advantage of the Knights of Columbus Friday Lenten Dinners at 5:30pm followed by the Stations of the Cross that will be prayed on Friday evenings at 7:00pm.

Make plans to attend our Parish Lenten Mission with Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy, OFM, from Monday, April 4 to Wednesday, April 6. The Mission is for the whole family and is entitled, "Navigating Life's Whitewater Moments."

A Lenten Communal Penance Service will be celebrated as part of the Mission on Tuesday, April 5, at 7:00pm. When was the last time you went to confession?

In these Lenten days, walk with our catechumens, Bryan and Laura Hawkins, and our Candidate, Cheryl Rowland, as they begin their immediate preparation to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, on Saturday, April 23.

Attend Mass each Sunday as a family, ALL household members present together. Plan ahead for the Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. Mark your calendars for the days and times. Will it be necessary to rearrange some family schedules and work schedules in order to participate in Holy Week activities? Are you willing to make this a family priority?

Unite your crosses to the Cross of Christ. In that union you will find, not suffering and death, but new life, new hope, and new beginnings.

In these days, let us once again die to sin, to selfishness, to our own needs and concerns, and, on Easter Sunday, rise to new life on high with Jesus the Christ!

Fr. Mike