



What is Lent?

Lent is a time of preparation. This 40-day journey of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, beginning on Ash Wednesday, helps us deepen our relationship with Christ.

+ *Prayer: Deepens our relationship with God and helps us reflect on our lives.*

+ *Fasting: Removes obstacles between us and God*

+ *Giving: Helps us serve those in need and live Jesus' message of love.*

March 6 – ASH WEDNESDAY Mass and distribution of ashes at **8:00 am** and **7:00 pm**.

It is also a special time of prayer for all those persons in the **R.C.I.A.** program throughout the world who are in their final period of preparation for Baptism or Profession of Faith.

Weekday Masses are at usual times throughout Lent **except for the Wednesday Masses at 7:00 pm** on **March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10 & 17**. Changes will be noted in the bulletin. There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at **7:00 am** on Fridays with Scripture Rosary at **7:30 am** and Mass at **8:00 am**.

Soup 'n Bread Suppers will begin on **March 13**. A variety of soups and breads will be served for supper from **5:00 – 6:30 pm**. The families of our Catholic school students from our parish will also have homemade pies/desserts for sale. A free will offering for the supper, with all money going to the *Catholic School Tuition Fund*. Bring your families and friends to join together for food, fun, and fellowship. Mark your calendars: **March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10 & 17**.

Stations of the Cross at **7:00 pm** on **March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12, & 19**.

Please note: The Sacrament of Penance/Confession will be available after the stations each Friday evening.

Anointing of the Sick at all weekend Masses on **March 30 & 31**.

Lenten Reconciliation service at **5:00 pm** on **Sun., April 14**.

Passion / Palm Sunday, – blessing of palms at all weekend Masses **April 13 & 14**.

Chrism Mass (blessing of Holy Oils) on **Tues., April 16** will be at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne at **7:30 pm**. You are cordially invited to join Bishop Kevin Rhoades for the Mass and blessing. Some of these oils will be brought back to

St. Michaels to be used in the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, and Confirmation during the coming year.

Please note that it would be better to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance before Holy Thursday so that we can properly celebrate the three special days of the “Triduum” -- i.e., Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil.

April 18 – Holy Thursday, 7:00 pm -- Presentation of the newly blessed oils and Mass Celebrating THE LORD’S SUPPER. Confessions will be heard after this Mass.

April 19 – Good Friday, 1:00 pm -- Commemoration of the PASSION AND DEATH OF THE LORD. Confessions will be heard after the Good Friday Service.

April 20 – Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm -- Celebration of THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD.

April 21 – Easter Sunday -- Masses at **8:00** and **10:30 am**. After the first Mass coffee and rolls will be served in the parish hall. There will also be an **Easter Egg Hunt** for the little children.

Recognizing that penance is essential for our formation in Christian life and to express our repentance, we Catholics have some traditional practices we are expected to observe. These are in addition to those Lenten practices that we choose for ourselves.

The Lenten Fast – we are instructed to observe Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as days of FAST. This means that all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are asked to eat only one full meal and two lighter meals on those days. No other food should be eaten between meals those two days. **How about making every Friday of Lent a day of Fast?**

The Lenten Abstinence – Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and **ALL** the Fridays of Lent are to be observed as days of abstinence. No meat should be eaten on those days by anyone over 14 years of age.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are unable to keep a particular day of fast or abstinence for a serious and/or honest reason, you excuse yourself. There is no need to “get permission” to do this. It would be appropriate to substitute some other kind of penance or religious practice if you dispense yourself. It is important that we follow the **SPIRIT** of our Lenten practices.

Our EASTER DUTY -- All Catholics who are of age and able to receive the sacraments are expected to joyfully celebrate the presence of the risen Lord in His Sacramental gifts to His people by **1)** Receiving the sacrament of Penance if you are in the state of serious sin; **2)** Sharing in the Eucharist with the whole Christian community by receiving Holy Communion. We are asked to celebrate these sometime between **Ash Wednesday** and **Trinity Sunday**, which is on **Sunday, June 16**.

PLEASE NOTE: These Lenten practices reflect only the minimum suggested and required by the discipline of the church. The true spirit of Lent should make us strive to do more than just the minimum.