

LENT 2008
ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION
PARISH

14908 MAIN STREET
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772
301-627-3255



Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart,
with fasting, and weeping, and mourning.
Rend your hearts, not your garments,
and return to the Lord, your God.

(Joel 2:12-13)

Lent at St. Mary of the Assumption

2008

Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday

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What is Shrove Tuesday?

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. "Shrove" is the past tense of the word "shrive," which means to hear a confession, assign penance, and absolve from sin. Shrove Tuesday is a reminder that we are entering a season of penance- Lent.

Pancakes and Shrove Tuesday. Historically, as the faithful prepared for the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period when they were forbidden by the church to consume meat, fat, eggs or dairy products, families had to use up these foods so they would not go bad by the time the fast ended on Easter Sunday. What to do? Solution: use up the milk, butter and eggs no later than Shrove Tuesday (also known as "Fat Tuesday"). And so, with the addition of a little flour, the solution quickly presented itself in... Pancakes! And lots of them! St. Mary's Knights of Columbus follow that tradition by serving a pancake dinner every Shrove Tuesday. This year, pancakes will be served on Tuesday, February 5 from 6-8p.m. at the school.

Lent 2008

The key to understanding the meaning of Lent is simple: Baptism. Preparation for baptism and for renewing baptismal commitment lies at the heart of the season. Since the Second Vatican Council, the Church has reemphasized the baptismal character of Lent, especially through the restoration of the Catechumenate (weekly gatherings for those who have made the decision to join the Catholic faith) and its Lenten rituals. Our challenge today is to renew our understanding of this important season of the Church year and to see how we can integrate our personal practices into this renewed perspective.

Lent is about conversion, turning our lives more completely over to Christ and his way of life. That always involves giving up sin in some form. The goal is not just to abstain from sin for the duration of Lent but to root sin out of our lives forever. Conversion means leaving behind an old way of living and acting in order to embrace new life in Christ.

Lenten Regulations

- Fasting: Those 18 years old and not yet 60 years old are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. One main meal, two partial meals, and no snacks in between.
- Abstinence: Those 14 and over are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.
- Please note Lent is a time for penance and recognition of past sins.

Ash Wednesday

February 6, 2008

Mass Times: 8a.m.; 8:45a.m. at the school; 12 Noon; & 7:30p.m.
(Rosary 7:45a.m.)

(Ashes are distributed after the Homily)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Ash Wednesday:
Between Masses with Benediction at 7p.m.

Why do we receive ashes?

Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance (sackcloth and ashes). They also remind us of our mortality ("remember that you are dust") and thus of the day when we will stand before God and be judged. To prepare well for the day we die, we must die now to sin and rise to new life in Christ. Being marked with ashes at the beginning of Lent indicates our recognition of the need for deeper conversion of our lives during this season of renewal.

Here at St. Mary's, the ashes are made by burning the blessed palms that were distributed last year on Palm Sunday; many of you returned your palms from your homes. The burning of the palms will be done by our Cub Scouts after the 9:30a.m. & 11:30a.m. Masses on February 3.

Sundays in Lent

Regular Mass Schedule: 7:30a.m.; 9:30a.m.; 11:30a.m.

First Sunday of Lent - February 10:

9:30a.m. Mass: Rite of Sending Forth to Rite of Election of our catechumens and candidates. See "RCIA" page 7.

5p.m.-6p.m.: Sunday Vespers and Scripture Study with Fr. White. Come to the church to pray Sunday Evening Prayer and then study St. Paul's letter to the Colossians. All are welcome! Bring your bible. Evening Prayer materials will be provided. See below for three additional Sunday sessions with Fr. White.

6p.m.-7p.m.: Reception in the Parish Hall. Good food and fellowship!

7p.m.-9p.m.: Eucharistic Adoration in the church with music, prayers, and meditations by Mark Forrest, International Irish Tenor. No better way to spend your evening on this First Sunday of Lent! Good will offering.

Second Sunday of Lent - February 17:

Introduction of Confirmation Candidates at 9:30a.m. Mass.

Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent (February 24, March 2, & March 9):

Celebration of the Scrutinies at the 9:30a.m. Mass. See "RCIA" page 7.

Sunday Vespers and Scripture Study with Fr. White:

February 10, March 2, March 9, & March 16 (5p.m.-6p.m. in the church)

Palm Sunday, March 16:

- Palm Sunday Procession at the 9:30a.m. and 11:30a.m. Masses. Procession will begin outside the church with the blessing of palms.
- Seder Meal at the school (information on time and more details coming soon)

What is Vespers?

Vespers is the evening prayer service in the canonical hours. The word comes from Latin vesper, meaning "evening." Vespers is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. The chanting of Vespers in Latin continued down through the ages in some parish churches, usually on Sunday afternoon.

What's different at Mass during Lent?

The priest wears purple vestments*, in Lent to signify repentance. We omit the Gloria (or Glory to God) in the first part of the Mass. We also do not sing the Alleluia before the reading of the Gospel because our focus is on the Kingdom coming, not on the Kingdom having come.

*Rose colored vestments are worn on the 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) to suggest a pause or lift in the penitential focus of Lent.

Mondays in Lent

Regular Mass Schedule: 8a.m.; 12 Noon (Rosary 7:45a.m.)

CCD Class: 7:15p.m.-8:15p.m. (at the school)
Held every Monday in Lent except February 18

Tuesdays in Lent

Regular Mass Schedule: 8a.m. 12 Noon (Rosary 7:45a.m.)
7:30p.m. (Rosary at 7:10p.m.)

Healing Masses: Tuesday , February 12 and Tuesday, March 11
at 7:30p.m. (Rosary at 7:10p.m.)

Regular Confession Schedule: 6:45p.m.-7:15p.m.

Wednesdays in Lent

(except Ash Wednesday)

Regular Mass Schedule: 8a.m.; 12 Noon (Rosary 7:45a.m.)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 8:30a.m.-8:15p.m. (Benediction)

Vespers (Evening Prayer): 6p.m. in the church



Confessions available every Wednesday from 6:30p.m. to 8p.m.

February 13: Rev. Bill Foley and Rev. Kevin Trestan
February 20: Rev. Bill Foley and Rev. Francis Tiso
February 27: Rev. Bill Foley and Rev. Francis Tiso
March 5: Rev. Bill Foley and Rev. Francis Tiso
March 12: Rev. Bill Foley and Rev. Francis Tiso
March 19: Rev. Bill Foley and Rev. Robert Pittman

Thursdays in Lent

Regular Mass Schedule: 8a.m.; 12 Noon (Rosary 7:45a.m.)

*Prayer, fasting and almsgiving ...*Since the early centuries the Church has suggested we undertake these during Lent. It is for this reason that the Gospel text for Ash Wednesday every year is Jesus' advice on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During Lent let us pray more, fast and help the poor.

Fridays in Lent

Regular Mass Schedule: 8a.m.; 12 Noon in church (Rosary 7:45a.m.)
8:45a.m. at school (except for Friday, February 8)

Stations of the Cross: (All Stations will be held at the church during Lent)

February 8 @ 1:00p.m. and 7:30p.m.
February 15 @ 1:00p.m. and 7:30p.m.
February 22 @ 1:00p.m. and 7:30p.m.
February 29 @ 1:00p.m. and 7:30p.m.
March 7 @ 1:00p.m. and 7:30p.m.
March 14 @ 1:00p.m. and 7:30p.m.

Note: After the 7:30p.m. Stations of the Cross, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Gospel reading with brief homily, ending with Benediction.

Soup and Salad:

Soup & Salad will be served in the Parish Hall from **6p.m.-7:15p.m.** before the evening Stations of the Cross. If you haven't come in the past, please consider coming - enjoy a good meal and fellowship!! No Charge.

Saturdays in Lent

Regular Mass Schedule: Saturday daily Mass 8a.m. (Rosary 7:45a.m.)
Saturday Vigil Masses 5p.m.; 7p.m.

Regular Confession Schedule: 4p.m.-5p.m.

First Saturday, March 1: Fatima Devotions at 7:30a.m.
Mass at 8a.m. followed by confessions
First Penance Service at 10a.m.

Why do we cover the statues on the Fifth Sunday of Lent?

This practice is dependent upon the decision of the bishops' conference of a given country. However, the covering is not done throughout all of Lent. The crosses (crucifixes) are to be covered only from the Fifth Sunday of Lent until Good Friday and other images are to be covered only from the Fifth Sunday of Lent until the Easter Vigil.

The purpose of covering the crosses is to emphasize it being revealed on Good Friday. The purpose of covering other images is to take the focus off the images and focus the attention of the people on the central mysteries of our faith -- the death and resurrection of Jesus.

At this same time, vigil candles are removed.

Lent and the RCIA

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - FEBRUARY 10

This day marks the end of the RCIA period called the Catechumenate and the beginning of the period known as Purification. Two related rituals will take place on this same day. At a parish Mass the catechumens and candidates will be addressed, prayed over and asked to enroll their names in the Book of the Elect. Sponsors and Team members will be involved in the rite. This is a formal statement of their intent to enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

In the afternoon, the candidates and catechumens will gather at the National Shrine along with persons from all over the archdiocese. They will once again publicly declare their intentions to enter the Church. They will be received and prayed over by the Archbishop.

RITE OF DISMISSAL

At the 9:30 Mass on the Sundays of Lent the catechumens and candidates will be dismissed after the Liturgy of the Word. They will spend the remainder of the Mass time reflecting on the readings with the help of the RCIA Team members.

SCRUTINIES

On the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, we will celebrate what are called the Scrutinies. These rituals focus on life, freedom and salvation. They include prayers and the imposition of hands. The readings for these weeks focus on water, light and new life. We will all be praying that whatever makes us weak and sinful will be rooted out of our lives as we move toward the great celebration of Easter.

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH

At the Easter Vigil the catechumens will be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time. The candidates will profess their faith and be joined in full communion with the Church and then be confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Please pray for our catechumens and candidates:

Catechumens:

Anthony Bagley (child)
Bria Bagley (child)
Anthony Walker II (child)
Patricia Brechtel (adult)

Candidates:

Sandra Bagley (adult)
Cynthia Edler (adult)
Karmen Walker (adult)

Lent should be more than a time of fasting. It should also be a time of feasting. Lent is a time to fast from certain things and feast on others.

It is a season when we should:

Fast from judging others.
Feast on the Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from emphasis on differences.
Feast on the unity of all life.

Fast from the thoughts of illness.
Feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute.
Feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent.
Feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger.
Feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism.
Feast on optimism.

Fast from worry.
Feast on the Divine Order of things.

Fast from complaining.
Feast on appreciation.

Fast from the negative.
Feast on the affirmatives.

Fast from the bitterness.
Feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-absorption.
Feast on compassion for others.

Fast from discouragement.
Feast on hope.

Miriam Therese Winter