



**THIS LENT
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Friday, March 19, 7-9 p.m.
in St. Mary's Church

With amazing Music and Meditations by
Mark Forrest, World Famous Irish Tenor!



Join us for a night of Adoration that you will not forget as we praise and glorify Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament through the gift of music, meditation, and prayer.

Suggested Donation: \$10-20 per family
Contact: Regina Piazza at rpiazza@stmarysum.org
301-627-6131 or Parish Office 301-627-3255
Light refreshments to follow

Confirmation and RCIA Candidates and Catechumen' attendance required.

**THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU!
Wednesdays in Lent - 6:30-8p.m.**



The Sacrament of Reconciliation - or Confession - "is the story of God's love that never turns away from us. Like the father in the parable of the prodigal son, God waits, watches and hopes for our return every time we walk away. Like the son in the parable, all we need do to return to our Father is to recognize our wrong and seek God's love. He offers us reconciliation if we ask for it." *Archbishop Donald Wuerl*

During Lent, from February 17 - March 30, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Wednesday at St. Mary's from 6:30p.m.-8p.m. (in addition to our other scheduled Confession times). (See page 5)
Come and experience God's mercy and forgiveness.

**This Lent ...
"40 Days for Life"
February 17 - March 28**

Calling all St. Mary's Parishioners, School Families,
and Friends!!

What role is St. Mary's playing in "40 Days for Life"?:

To join other local church and religious groups this Lent for 40 days of prayer and fasting to end abortion and for the closure of the: Metropolitan Family Planning Abortion Mill; 5915 Greenbelt Rd., Berwyn Heights, MD.



What are we asking from you?: Please sign up for at least one hour from **Feb. 17 through March 28** from 6a.m.-9p.m. to pray at the Berwyn Heights abortion mill. Sign up by going to <http://www.vigilcalendar.com/berwynheights/schedule/weekly/1266127200>. (It may only allow you to enter two names in a time slot, but bring as many as you would like!)

**LENT 2010
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 2010

Ash Wednesday, February 17 to Palm Sunday, March 28

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Cursillo Weekend for Women.

Contact Fr. Foley for additional information 301-627-3255

Annual Men's Retreat, March 5-7

At Loyola Retreat House, Contact Vernon Griffith
301-627- 2177

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 after the 11:30a.m. Mass on February 14.

LENT AND RCIA

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - FEBRUARY 21

This day marks the end of the RCIA period called the Catechumenate and the beginning of the Purification period. Two related rituals will take place on this day. At the 9:30a.m. 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.

At 3p.m., 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 a.m. and 11:30a.m. Masses on the Sundays of Lent (see schedule below), 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: In addition to being dismissed, on the 3rd, 4th & 5th 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.

Schedule for Dismissals and Scrutinies

February 21	9:30a.m Mass - Rite of Sending Forth
February 28	11:30a.m. Mass - Dismissal
March 7	11:30a.m. Mass - 1st Scrutiny and Dismissal
March 14	9:30a.m. Mass - 2nd Scrutiny and Dismissal
March 21	11:30a.m. Mass - 3rd Scrutiny and Dismissal
March 28	9:30a.m. Mass - Dismissal (Palm Sunday)

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH - Easter Vigil, April 4, 8p.m.

At the Easter Vigil, the catechumens will be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time. Some are adult Catholics receiving Confirmation only. The candidates will profess their faith and be joined in full communion with the Church. They are confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time. Please pray for our catechumens and candidates: (See pictures in back of the Church.)

Catechumens:

Mesha Harris (*youth*)
Felecia Howard
Demetrius McNeary (*youth*)
James Sandacz
Trinity Sandacz (*youth*)
Jennifer Santini

Candidates:

Rebecca Sarah Carter
Alliene Gale
Thomas Giguere
Renee Joyner-Pitts
Doug Pratt
Kelly Sandacz
Jerry Wittenauer
Shannon Zanco

Fridays in Lent

Regular Mass Schedule: 8a.m. and 12 Noon in church (Rosary 7:40a.m.)
8:45a.m. at school (no school Mass on Friday February 19 or Friday March 12)

First Friday Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus: March 5 after 8a.m. Mass & April 2 is Good Friday-no Mass

Stations of the Cross: (All Stations will be held at the church during Lent, except Good Friday at noon to be held outside)

February 19 @ 1:00p.m. and 7:30p.m. (Rosary at 7p.m.)

February 26 @ 1:00p.m. and 7:30p.m. " "

March 5 @ 1:00p.m. and 7:30p.m. " "

March 12 @ 1:00p.m. and 7:30pm " "

March 19 @ 1:00p.m. -none at 7:30pm- see special event below

March 26 @ 1:00p.m. and 7:30p.m. " "

Note: After the Stations of the Cross, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, short scripture meditation, ending with Benediction.

Soup and Salad: (except March 19)

Every Friday, 6:00p.m.-7:15p.m. - Soup & Salad will be served in the parish hall 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.

Special Event:

◆ Eucharistic Adoration with Music and Meditation by Mark Forrest, Int'l Tenor!!
Friday March 19, in the Church 7:00-9:00 p.m. All are welcome! Confirmation and RCIA candidates and catechumen's attendance required. (See page 8)

Saturdays in Lent

Regular Mass Schedule: Saturday Daily Mass 8a.m. (Rosary 7:40a.m.)
Saturday Vigil Masses 5:00p.m and 7:00p.m.

Regular Confession Schedule: 3:45-4:45 pm

First Saturdays, March 6 and April 3: Fatima Devotions at 7:30a.m.
Mass at 8a.m. followed by confessions

Fourth Saturdays February 27 and March 27: Prayer Pilgrimage to Abortion Mill In Berwyn Heights. Carpools form outside of church at 8:30p.m. For other days and times to pray at the mill during Lent, see "*40 Days for Life*" on page 8. Great idea for your Lenten fasting and prayer

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) and statues are covered only from the Fifth Sunday of Lent and removed before 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. Vigil candles are also removed.

Lent 2010

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.

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.

Shrove Tuesday - February 16

St. Mary's Knights of Columbus will follow the tradition of Shrove Tuesday by serving a pancake dinner on Tuesday, February 16 from 5:30-7:30p.m. at the school. Donations accepted. (for "*What is Shrove Tuesday*", see page 4)

Ash Wednesday - February 17

Mass Times: 8a.m.: 10a.m. at the school; 12 Noon; & 7:30p.m.
Rosary at 7:40a.m.

(Ashes are distributed after the Homily)

This Lent

History of the Mass

Tuesdays, February 16 through March 30

Lecture series every Tuesday in Lent

8:30a.m. in church hall & 6:45p.m. at the school.

Eucharistic Adoration with Music by Mark Forrest (see page 8)

Friday, March 19, 7:00- 9:00 p.m. in the Church.

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. 3

During Lent, let us pray more, fast and help the poor.

Sundays in Lent

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

First Sunday of Lent - February 21

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

3:00p.m. Rite of Election at the Shrine. See "RCIA" page 7

Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent - March 7, 14, and 21

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

Palm Sunday, March 28

9:30a.m. and 11:30a.m. Masses: Procession will begin outside the Church with the blessing of palms.

Special Events:

- ◆ Penance Service with Fr. Larry Swink, 5:30 pm, March 7 at the Church (Confirmation and RCIA Candidates & Catechumens' attendance required.)
- ◆ Seder Meal, at the school, details will be available in future bulletins

What is Shrove Tuesday? *Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, past tense of "shrive," to hear a confession, assign penance, and absolve from sin, a reminder 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 and 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 (or "Fat Tuesday"). And so, with the addition of a little flour, the solution quickly presented itself in... Pancakes! And lots of them! See page 3.

What is the Mass of CHRISM ?

The Chrism Mass is an annual Mass concelebrated by the Bishops and the priests of the diocese in communion with the people. It is meant to publicly express the unity of the diocese, priests, their Bishop and to celebrate the institution of the priesthood and priestly service. The priests renew their commitment of service and receive the prayers and support of the people. In addition the special oils used to administer the sacraments are consecrated during the Mass.

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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. and 12 Noon (Rosary 7:40a.m.)

Special Events:

- ◆ Monday, March 31, Chrism Mass at Cathedral of St. Matthew 7p.m. Arrive early

Tuesdays in Lent

Regular Mass Schedule: 8a.m. and 7:30p.m. (Rosary 7:40a.m. & 6:55p.m.)

CCD Class: 6:30p.m.-7:45p.m. (at the school) Held every Tuesday in Lent *except March 30 and April 6.*

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 8:30a.m., Rosary at 6:55pm, with Benediction at 7:20p.m.

Confessions: 6:30p.m.-7:15p.m

Special Events:

- ◆ "History of the Mass", February 16 through March 30
Lecture Series every Tuesday in Lent twice a day
8:30a.m. at the church hall AND 6:45p.m. at the school
- ◆ Healing Mass on February 16 and March 9: Preceded by Adoration until 7:20p.m., Rosary at 6:55p.m. and Benediction at 7:20p.m.

Wednesdays in Lent (except Ash Wednesday)

Regular Mass Schedule: 8a.m. and 12 Noon (Rosary 7:40a.m.)

Special Events:

- ◆ "Light Is On For You" Confessions: Every Wednesday in Lent 6:30-8:00p.m., with Exposition at 6:25p.m. and Benediction at 8:00p.m.
- ◆ Tenebrae Service, Wednesday, March 31, after Benediction

Thursdays in Lent

Regular Mass Schedule: 8a.m. and 12 Noon (Rosary 7:40a.m.)

RCIA Class- 7:15pm.-8:45p.m. church hall, Every Thursday *Except April 1*

What is Tenebrae Service?

Tenebrae - meaning darkness or shadow devotion dates back to 7th or 8th century - is characterized by Scripture readings and successive extinguishing of candles as the service progresses. Following the opening prayer, the service is divided into three Nocturns, each with three Psalms and each preceded and concluded by an appropriate antiphon. After the third Nocturn the service concludes with Psalm 51 and removal of the Christ Candle for a time, symbolizing Our Lords death and burial. The strepitus is heard, a harsh noise, indicating the closing of the tomb. The Christ Candle is then returned to its place in anticipation of Our Lords Resurrection. (March 31)