

ST. EDITH STEIN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Beyond the Ashes

LENTEN NEWSLETTER 2018



DATES & EVENTS

February 14 — April 1

Fridays During Lent

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Lenten Fish Fry Before & After Stations of the Cross

March 8, 2018

Communal Penance Service
7:00 pm

March 29, 2018: Holy Thursday

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration after Mass until Midnight

March 30, 2018: Good Friday

12:00 pm Living Stations of the Cross
3:00 pm Divine Mercy Prayer
7:00 pm Veneration of the Cross
with Communion

March 31, 2018: Holy Saturday

10:30 am Blessing of Easter
Food Baskets
8:30 pm Easter Vigil Mass

April 1, 2018: Easter Sunday

6:30 am Easter Mass at Sunrise
9:00 am Easter Sunday Mass
11:30 am Easter Sunday Mass
Easter Egg Hunt after 11:30 am Mass
(No 6:00 pm Mass)

April 2, 2018: Easter Monday

8:30 am Mass

Welcome From Our Pastor

Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten Journey towards the glorious celebration of Jesus' resurrection! Welcome to all of you who may be new to our parish, or are returning to the Church! My hope is that we will gather to start anew with Ash Wednesday. There is no better time than Lent to make this decision to renew your faith and religious observance. The ashes received on Ash Wednesday remind us of our mortality and the hope we look forward to in the resurrection. We are each reminded of the urgency to use our earthly time wisely in praying and worshipping our God! Jesus' time in the desert is a blueprint for the Church and faithful to follow during Lent. We are called to separate and set aside time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

These three are the external deeds of mercy. When we pray we may have our personal encounter with Jesus. When we fast we are able to take our control over the weaknesses of our body, and be more sensitive to the needs of others. When we give alms we are able to defeat our greed, and the sin of pride. On Ash Wednesday we received the sign of the cross traced with ashes on our foreheads. We heard the words: "*Repent and believe in the gospel*" or "*Remember, man, you are dust and to dust you will return*". This is a call for change, both internal, as in our hearts, and external through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Let us join together as a community on this Lenten Journey at Sunday Masses, the Parish Reconciliation Service, and the Stations of the Cross on Fridays to mention a few. Finally, join us as we celebrate Holy Week to recall the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Rygaard Kulma



Who is the Group that leaves Mass after the Homily?

This year St. Edith Stein is blessed to have the largest group of Candidates and Catechumens

in our parish history for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). We have 85 children and adults who are seeking to become fully initiated into the Catholic Faith. Each Sunday they gather at 9 am to celebrate Mass, and then are dismissed as a group after the Homily to begin their instruction. They start their class each week with a session called "Breaking Open of the Word". During this time, the classes are divided up into two groups (children and adults) and they are led through an hour long reflection and discussion of the day's scripture readings. Next, they begin their formal lessons, which cover the teachings and precepts of our Catholic Faith. All of this is in preparation for the Easter Vigil Mass where they will receive the Sacraments of Initiation and become full members of the Catholic Faith. These classes and discussions are led by wonderful parishioners who give so selflessly of their time and talents and we couldn't do it without them.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

March 8th, 2018 @ 7pm in the Church

10 TIPS FOR LENT

1. **Remember the formula.** For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.
2. **It's a time of prayer.** As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with Him.
3. **It's a time to fast.** Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.
4. **It's a time to work on discipline.** The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers."
5. **It's about dying to yourself.** The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control – it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.
6. **Don't do too much.** It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent.
7. **Lent reminds us of our weakness.** When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.
8. **Be patient with yourself.** When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as He does, with unconditional love.
9. **Reach out in charity.** The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question, as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.
10. **Learn to love like Christ.** Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured Himself out unconditionally on the cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek Him out, ask His help, join in His suffering, and learn to love like Him.

Source: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/len/journey-to-the-foot-of-the-cross-10-things-to-remember-for-lent.cfm>

CATHOLIC WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The word "Catholic" is derived from a Greek word, *Katholikos*, originally meaning universal. In the early days of the Church, many Roman citizens referred to this new upstart religion that followed the "Ways" of Jesus Christ as being Catholic--it was universal throughout the empire--meaning that members of this new religion could be found almost anywhere throughout the empire. As time went on, this particular word began to be recognized and used in describing this new religion. Among members, of course, the word had a much more significant and broader meaning than just geographical consideration. It was understood also to describe the very nature of the Church, in that it was universally for everyone. There was no exclusion according to nationality, race, economic or social status. It is for all the people of God.

The word "Catholic" was and is also applied to the teaching and the faith of the Church and in this sense, it means what is believed by the whole Church. It is universally united in its worship, in what it teaches. There are no divisions or branches within its membership.

And finally, the word "Catholic" has also come to be used to describe individual Christians who profess belief in the Church's universal teachings and practices.

Source: <http://live.lcdiocese.org/why-catholic/90-what-does-the-word-catholic-mean.html>



Are you or someone you know interested in Becoming Catholic?

Do you or your children need Sacraments?

We can help!

Please contact the Parish Office for more information:

281-492-7500

LENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. Why do we say that there are forty days of Lent? When you count all the days from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, there are 46.

It might be more accurate to say that there is the "forty day fast within Lent." Historically, Lent has varied from a week to three weeks to the present configuration of 46 days. The forty day fast, however, has been more stable. The Sundays of Lent are certainly part of the Time of Lent, but they are not prescribed days of fast and abstinence.

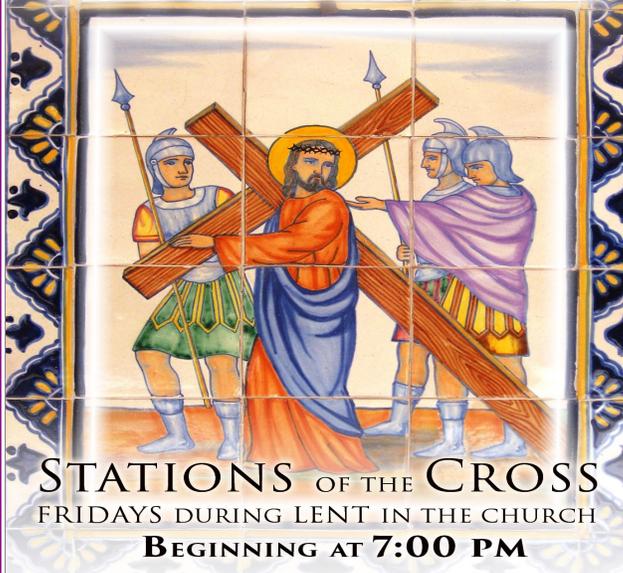
Q. I understand that Catholics ages 18 to 59 should fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, but what exactly are the rules for these fasts?

Fasting on these days means we can have only one full meatless meal. Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times if necessary, but combined they should be less than a full meal. Liquids are allowed at any time, but no solid food should be eaten between meals.

Q. Are there exemptions other than for age form the requirement to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illness such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting. Abstinence is abstaining from meat.

YOU ARE INVITED



Gospel Readings for Lent

Lent Week 1: Mark 1:12-15

We are called to repent and renew our relationship with God. We take hope from the Gospel reading to begin the journey of Lent.

Lent Week 2: Mark 9:2-10

We need God's help in listening and hearing His call to wholeness. We are called to open our hearts to be changed by his light.

Lent Week 3: John 2:13-25

We ask God to free us from our sin. Let us turn away from selfishness and be renewed through prayer, fasting and generosity toward others.

Lent Week 4: John 3:14-21

Be joyful! We are filled with joy as we contemplate the mercy and life given to us in Jesus during this second part of Lent. Let us reflect on the light of Christ which shines in the darkness of the world.

Lent Week 5: John 12:20-33

We are being renewed and ask God for his reconciling love and gift of healing as we prepare for the celebration of his resurrection and salvation of humankind.

For more on Praying Lent this year go to:

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/>
Or <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/len/>

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS



GOOD FRIDAY
AT 12:00 PM

Brought to you by: St. Edith Stein Senior High Youth

God's Gift of Forgiveness

A Pastoral Exhortation on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

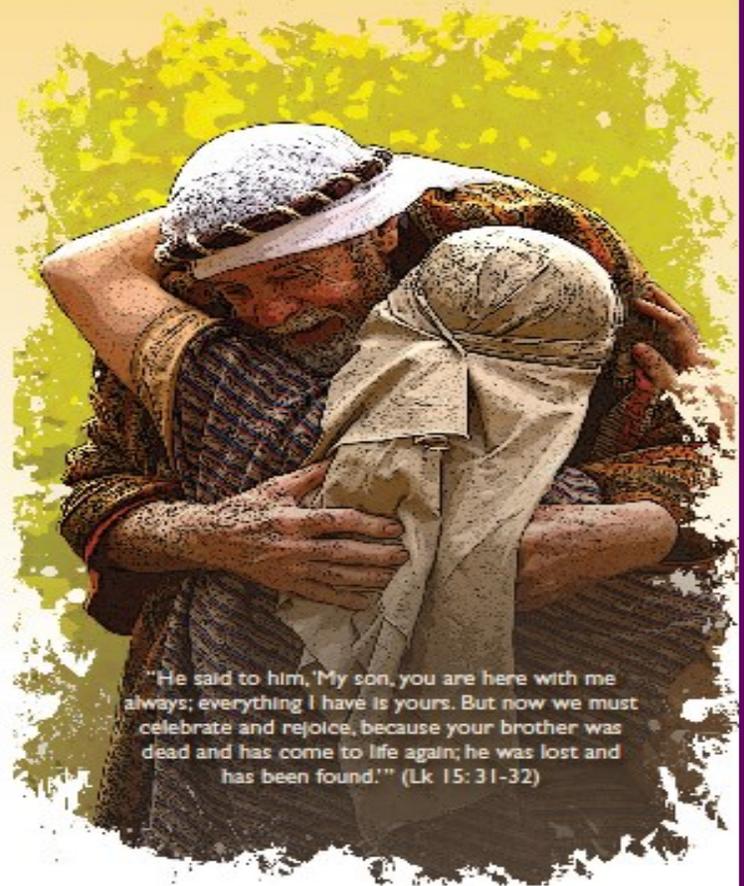
"Peace be with you!" With these words, the Risen Lord greeted his frightened Apostles in the Upper Room on the day of his Resurrection. They were troubled, anxious, and fearful—much like each one of us at some point in our lives. Christ repeated the words, "Peace be with you." But then he added, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (Jn 20:19-23).

What an extraordinary gift! The Risen Lord was proclaiming that all the suffering he had just endured was in order to make available the gifts of salvation and forgiveness. He wanted the Apostles to receive these gifts. He wanted them to become apostles of this forgiveness to others.

In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, also called confession, we meet the Lord, who wants to grant forgiveness and the grace to live a renewed life in him. In this sacrament, he prepares us to receive him free from serious sin, with a lively faith, earnest hope, and sacrificial love in the Eucharist. The Church sees confession as so important that she requires that every Catholic go at least once a year.¹ The Church also encourages frequent confession in order to grow closer to Christ Jesus and his Body, the Church. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, we seek forgiveness and repentance, let go of patterns

of sin, grow in the life of virtue, and witness to a joyful conversion. Since the graces of the sacrament are so similar to the purpose of the New Evangelization, Pope Benedict XVI has said, "The New Evangelization . . . begins in the confessional!"²

We bishops and priests are eager to help you if you experience difficulty, hesitation, or uncertainty about approaching the Lord in this sacrament. If you have not received this healing sacrament in a long time, we are ready to



"He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'" (Lk 15: 31-32)

welcome you. We, whom Christ has ordained to minister this forgiveness in his name, are also approaching this sacrament, as both penitents and ministers, throughout our lives and at this special moment of grace during Lent. We want to offer ourselves to you as forgiven sinners seeking to serve in the Lord's name.

During Lent—in addition to the various penitential services during which individual confession takes place—we bishops and priests will be making ourselves available often for the individual celebration of this sacrament. We pray that through the work of the Holy Spirit, all Catholics—clergy and laity—will respond to the call of the New Evangelization to encounter Christ in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Come to the Lord and experience the extraordinary grace of his forgiveness!

1 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 1457-1458.

2 Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Annual Course on the Internal Forum Organized by the Apostolic Penitentiary, www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2012/march/documents/bf_ben-xvi_spe_20120309_penitenzieria-apostolica_en.html.

FAITH
WORSHIP
WITNESS



JOJNEY
WITH CHRIST

COME and JOIN US!

Brought to you by our



Lenten Fish Fry

Before and after Stations of the Cross



Knights of Columbus
Council #12955