

PASTOR'S CORNER

It's Lent!

When Muslims enter their holy season of Ramadan, everyone around them knows it. They fast each day until evening, pray publically and frequently attend community worship, wear distinctive penitential garb, and perform several other traditional acts throughout their holy season. When a certain Muslim family in Chicago was informed that Catholics have a similar penitential season known as Lent, they were surprised. They knew several families in their area that called themselves Catholic, but during Lent could discern no noticeable change in their behavior at all. This fact reflects a growing casualness and even disregard for its purpose in our spiritual lives. Lent is a holy season of self-denial. It is also a season of Christian witness; if someone you know living near you doesn't realize when it's Lent, then you're not doing your job with the gusto it deserves.

Lent is to be austere, but not sterile. Only twice are we required to fast (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday). On both fast days and on each Friday of Lent, we are required to abstain from all meat and meat by-products. Meals should be simple on these days of abstinence as well; we should not be engaging in a 'fish feast.' Prayer should be frequent and service to the Church community should be at its peak. Donations should increase and be all the more noticeable as a strain on our own personal budgets. Again, this is a time of sacrifice wherein we remember our baptismal call and prepare our soul for the great solemnities of Easter.

To that end, the liturgies of Lent will continue this year to be somewhat altered in order to help us improve our own Lenten discipline:

1. We should arrive at Lenten Masses quiet, contemplative and having prepared the readings beforehand. Our prayer should be heart-felt and our demeanor quiet and respectful. Noisome chatter should be kept at a minimum. The choirs have been asked to cease their practice at least 20 minutes before the beginning of Mass.
2. There will be no greeting of welcome; we will begin immediately with our opening hymn.
3. Music will be simple with a minimum of instrumental backup.
4. The Confiteor will be said at each Mass, followed by the Kyrie.
5. The Gloria will not be sung.
6. The Presidential prayers will be said, not sung.
7. The Alleluia will not be sung or said. It is replaced by the Lenten Gospel acclamation.
8. Homilies will be shorter and more direct to the immediate topic.
9. The Great Amen following the Eucharistic doxology will be chanted once; "Amen."
10. The Offertory hymn will not be sung and the recessional hymn will be replaced by a simple instrumental.
11. There will be a blessing of palms at the Vigil Mass of Passion Sunday. There will be one Mass at 10:00 am on the Sunday itself, with all able gathering in the MPC beforehand and processing to the Church. Palms will be blessed in the MPC and the introductory Gospel will be proclaimed there.
12. Holy Week Masses: Holy Thursday 7:00 pm; Good Friday 7:00 pm; Easter Vigil 8:30 pm; Easter Sunday, Masses at their normal Sunday times (please see bulletin insert for details).

Have a blessed and prayerful Lent!

Fr. Stephen Geer

Ordinary Time into Lent

| Day | Date | Time | Observance | Mass Intention |
|-----------|--------|----------|---|--------------------|
| VIGIL | Feb 10 | 5:00 pm | Vigil of the Sunday Eucharist | Millie Susnjara + |
| SUNDAY | Feb 11 | 9:00 am | The Eucharist of Our Lord Jesus Christ (The Holy Rosary will be prayed in the chapel at 8:30 am) | The newly baptized |
| | | 11:30 am | The Eucharist of Our Lord Jesus Christ | Missa pro populo |
| Monday | Feb 12 | 8:30 am | No service | |
| Tuesday | Feb 13 | 8:30 am | Ferial weekday | Joanna Kong + |
| Wednesday | Feb 14 | 9:00 am | Ash Wednesday | Nancy Shelton |
| Thursday | Feb 15 | 8:30 am | Thursday after Ash Wednesday | Linda Dalymple + |
| Friday | Feb 16 | 8:30 am | Friday after Ash Wednesday | Millie Susnjara + |
| Saturday | Feb 17 | 8:30 am | Saturday after Ash Wednesday (The Holy Rosary will be prayed in the chapel at 8:00 am) | Betty Susnjara + |
| | | | <u>Readings for the Sunday Mass:</u> Genesis 9.8-15; Psalm 25; 1 Peter 3.18-22; Mark 1.12-15 | |
| VIGIL | | 5:00 pm | Vigil of the First Sunday of Lent | Joseph Danna + |
| SUNDAY | Feb 18 | 9:00 am | First Sunday of Lent (The Holy Rosary will be prayed in the chapel at 8:30 am) | Moira & David Bell |
| | | 11:30 am | First Sunday of Lent | Missa pro populo |