



LENT

St. Joseph's

2017

Lent is the church's traditional season of conversion and the six-week period of immediate spiritual preparation for those preparing to enter the church at the Easter Vigil.

For those who are already members of the church, this season is a time of rededication and growth in the faith. As Christians hear and reflect on the scripture readings of this season, we are called to reconciliation with God and our neighbor and to exemplify this reconciliation with concrete action.

As pastor, I would like to encourage every member of the St. Joseph's parish family to take an active part in the Lenten activities offered this year, here at St. Joseph's and in the area, as well as the usual traditional Lenten practices listed below:

Fasting and Abstinence – During Lent we should try to observe some form of fasting. It imposes self-discipline and encourages us to meditate and reflect on our hunger for the Lord.

Almsgiving and Works of Charity – These consist of self-sacrifice to serve and benefit others. For example: helping a homebound neighbor, giving money for use among the poor.

Prayer and Reflection – Examine your life seriously and thoughtfully. Think about attitudes and behavior you would like to change.

Church Activities – Actively participate in regular and special worship services during Lent with the entire family.

Lent gives us the opportunity to accept the challenge and dare to change. To help us in our faith journey as individuals and as a parish family, a variety of programs and worship services have been planned here at St. Joseph's. Please take a few minutes to read over this newsletter and mark your calendars NOW! Watch for additional information in the bulletin. Consider volunteering to participate in some of the programs where noted.



Ashes will be distributed on Ash Wednesday, March 1st, at 7:30 AM Mass at St. Joseph's

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedules in our community:

Immaculate Conception/Glenville: 9:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, 6:30 PM

Our Lady of Grace: 12:00 Noon, 7:00 PM Mass/distribution of ashes

St. Anthony's: 8:00AM, 12:15, 5:00 & 6:30PM (Spanish mass), Prayer Service w/ashes 10:00& 11:00AM

St Joseph's/Schenectady: 12:15PM & 7:00 Ecumenical Service

St. John the Evangelist: 8:00AM, 12:15, 5:00 & 7:30PM; Prayer Service w/ashes 2:00, 3:00, 4:00PM

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. As a sign of our penance, we preserve for the Diocese of Albany the custom of abstinence from meat on the Fridays of Lent. Abstinence binds all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Fast binds all Catholics who are 18 years of age, but not yet 59. Fasting refers to the quantity of food eaten. Traditionally, fasting calls for only one full meal per day. By retaining these traditions for our Diocese we do not intend that they be interpreted as laws binding under pain of sin, but as customs from which we will not hold ourselves lightly excused. They are expressions of our desire to be converted in our hearts, to be reconciled with each other, and to love our neighbor.

Stations of the Cross

Praying and meditating briefly on the fourteen Stations of the Cross is a centuries-old devotion and continues to be practiced by Catholics of all ages, especially during Lent. The traditional Stations of the Cross will be conducted on Fridays at 7:00 PM in the church.

Mary's Way of the Cross

"I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you say." Those words, some of the very few Mary speaks in Scripture, set in motion the process of our redemption. Those words also opened for Mary a life, which she could never have imagined, one that certainly was blessed with happiness as well as great sorrow. Mary, Mother of Jesus, made the first way of the cross. In this special presentation by women from our own parish community, we see through Mary's eyes what Jesus was going through on the way to Calvary. **This presentation will be conducted in church on Friday evening, March 31st at 7:00PM.** Fifteen volunteers are needed to read the Stations. Call Terry Smith (370-5476) if you are interested in participating.

2017 Lenten Presentations

Monday, March 6th, 6:30 PM at OLG (Open to families)

Join the children of the Faith Formation Program as they lead you through the Stations of the Cross. Presented by Roberta Quinn and the Faith Formation Program

Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 – 8:30 PM at OLG

Encouraging Family Spirituality: Family is a gift; explore how to see the sacredness of every family. Come gather with others to build your plan to celebrate the gift you are to your family and the world. Presented by Mary Fay, Associate Diocesan Director of Family Life

Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 – 8:30 PM at OLG

Mercy of the Cross Workshop: Join in an exploration of the mercy that Jesus shows us from the Cross. Presented by Roberta Quinn, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, OLG

Thursday, March 23, 7:00 – 8:30 PM at St. Joseph's

Forgiveness and Mercy: Come and explore God's forgiveness and mercy through video, discussion, and personal reflection, Presented by Grace Fay, Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministry, St. Joseph's & OLG

Wednesday, April 5, 6:30 – 8:00 PM at OLG

Praise and Worship Adoration: Take time to open your heart and mind to the mystery of Christ in the Eucharist by joining in this evening of Praise and Worship Adoration. This is a collaboration between Our Lady of Grace, Immaculate Conception, and St. Joseph's Churches



Reconciliation Service

There will be a Communal Penance Service at Immaculate Conception on Tuesday *April 4th* at 7:00 PM. This is an opportunity for us to come together as a community and acknowledge our need for God's mercy and forgiveness. It is an opportunity to be strengthened by the great gift of God's forgiveness. As Lent is a season of conversion and change, this opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance gives us a wonderful occasion to celebrate our desire for conversion and change in our own lives. Father Peter will be available for anyone wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Saturday from 3:00 to 3:30 PM at the church.

Feast of St. Joseph

On the weekend of March 18 and 19 we will celebrate our Patron Saint Joseph with our regular 4 PM and 9 PM masses. Please stop by and pick up a treat on your way out of 4:00 PM mass. Coffee and hot cross buns will be available after the 9:00 AM mass.

Jesus said: "Can you not spend one hour with me?"

It has been a long-standing tradition in the Roman Catholic Church to have a Repository for the Blessed Sacrament after mass on Holy Thursday evening. This special altar, usually decorated with flowers and green plants, is located in a place apart from the usual Tabernacle. This repository is a symbolic garden of Gethsemane in which Jesus asks us, as he asked His Apostles, "Can you not stay and pray with Me one hour?" The Holy Thursday Repository is located in the Children's Chapel. The Blessed Sacrament is reposed after the Holy Thursday Mass until 10:00 PM. **The parish needs at least 12 people willing to spend one half hour at prayer in the chapel on Holy Thursday night. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in Holy Family Hall.**



Palm Sunday

St. Joseph's – Sat. 4:00 PM, Sun. 9:00 AM

Our Lady of Grace – Sat. 5:30 PM, Sun. 10:30 AM

Immaculate Conception – Sat. 5:00 PM, Sun. 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Holy Thursday

St. Joseph's – Liturgy 7:00 PM with Adoration in the church until 10:00 PM

Our Lady of Grace – 6:00 PM mass followed by parish potluck supper

Immaculate Conception – Morning Prayer 9:00 AM, Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 PM, Adoration in the Flicker Room concluded with Night Prayer 10:00 PM

Good Friday

St. Joseph's – Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Jesus 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Grace – 12:00 Noon Stations of the Cross, 7:00 PM Passion & Communion

Immaculate Conception – 9:00 Morning Prayer, 3:00 PM Stations of the Cross, 7:00 PM Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday

St. Joseph's – Easter Vigil Liturgy – 8:00 PM

Our Lady of Grace – Easter Vigil Liturgy – 8:00 PM

Immaculate Conception – Morning Prayer & Lighting of New Fire – 9:00 AM,
Blessing of the Easter Baskets - 3:00 PM, Easter Vigil Mass - 8:00 PM

Easter Sunday

St. Joseph's – Easter Sunday Liturgy 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Our Lady of Grace – Easter Sunday Liturgy – 10:30 AM

Immaculate Conception – Easter Sunday Liturgy – 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM



Lenten Dates at a Glance

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| March 1 | Ash Wednesday – 7:30 AM |
| March 3 | Stations of the Cross – 7:00 PM |
| March 6 | Stations of the Cross – 6:30 PM at OLG |
| March 10 | Stations of the Cross – 7:00 PM |
| March 15 | Encouraging Family Spirituality – 7:00 – 8:30 PM at OLG – Presented by Mary Fay, Associate Diocesan Director of Family Life |
| March 17 | Stations of the Cross – 7:00 PM |
| March 21 | Mercy of the Cross Workshop – 7:00 – 8:30 PM at OLG - Presented by Roberta Quinn |
| March 23 | Forgiveness and Mercy – 7:00 – 8:30 PM at St. Joseph's - Presented by Grace Fay |
| March 24 | Stations of the Cross – 7:00 PM |
| March 31 | Mary's Way of the Cross – 7:00 PM |
| April 4 | Communal Penance Service – Immaculate Conception - 7:00 PM |
| April 5 | Praise and Worship Adoration – 6:30 – 8:00 PM at OLG |
| April 7 | Stations of the Cross – 7:00 PM |
| April 8/9 | Palm Sunday Liturgies – 4:00 PM, 9:00 AM Palm Sunday Bake Sale – All Masses |
| April 13 | Holy Thursday Liturgy at 7:00 PM. Adoration at church until 10:00 PM |
| April 14 | Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Jesus at 7:00 PM |
| April 15 | Easter Vigil Liturgy at 8:00 PM |
| April 16 | Easter Sunday Liturgy at 8:30 and 10:30 AM |

