



First Sunday of Lent

“This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”



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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 21, 2021

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Mass of Anticipation for the 1st Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Joanne Friday—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

The First Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM Dalia Pundys—9th Anniversary
 9:00AM Dorothy Ianacone—2nd Anniversary
 10:30AM Ray Pendergast—Memorial

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
 7:30AM Maeve Conlon—Memorial
 12:05PM Donald Calstaldi—Memorial

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Lenten Weekday/St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
 7:30AM Porzia Vitiello—Memorial
 12:05PM Fr. David A. Piacentini—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Special Intention
 12:05PM Fr. Robert Perron—Memorial

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Mary M. Barrow—Memorial
 12:05PM Gay McCreery—Memorial

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Martha & Gottlob Loeffler—Memorial
 12:05PM Dr. Jennifer Zannini-Cipriani —Memorial

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Lenten Weekday
 8:30AM Clarence Larocque—Memorial

Mass of Anticipation for Second Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Jack Orsburn—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

The Second Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM Special Intention
 9:00AM Dr. George Cooper—Memorial
 10:30AM Mary M. Barrow—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

It isn't often that an image of Satan appears on the cover of the weekly bulletin. However, this Sunday, we hear the Gospel of the Temptation of our Lord in the Desert. *"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan."*

Lent is like an extended "retreat" in which to re-enter our selves and listen to God's voice to overcome the temptations of the Evil One. It is a time of spiritual "training" to live alongside Jesus not with pride and presumption but rather by using the weapons of faith: prayer, fasting, penance, and service to the poor. In this way, we shall succeed in celebrating Easter with joy, ready to renew our baptismal promises.

Lent is meant to be a time for truth. The Truth Himself spent 40 days in the wilderness combatting the Prince of Lies. Since humility is honesty, and the Sacrament of Confession is an act of humility, the truthful confession of our sins, preferably frequently in Lent, is at the heart of this season.

On Wednesday, the ashes sprinkled upon our heads were the very sign of our intention, *"to repent and believe the Gospel."* Otherwise, the ashes are merely an empty gesture of piety or, worse, an act of total hypocrisy.

Humility is an essential virtue of the interior life, the favored of Jesus, held up by all the saints and theologians as the best way for progress on the road to perfection. St Therese of Lisieux, said: *"the beginning of all holiness, is humbly admitting that without God we can do*

nothing, but that, with, in and through him, everything is possible!"

The practice of humility begins with prayer. Lent calls us to more prayer. In our prayer, we do not lift ourselves above others, but rather, we must humbly reveal our true selves to God, the Father of Mercy. Remember that we are just one of a great army of weak and imperfect, sinful and suffering people, all kneeling before the throne of God's mercy.

St. Frances de Sales said in his Introduction to the Devout Life: *"True humility is to see yourself as you are seen in the eyes of God, no more than you are, but no less than you are."*

In our prayer, much depends upon what we compare ourselves to in our life. And when we set our lives beside the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ and beside the goodness, mercy and holiness of God our Father, we are left only to humbly pray like the tax collector of the Gospel: *"God be merciful to me—a sinner."*

Our prayer makes us humble before God, our almighty Father, and opens us to the path of love. We especially strive in Lent for humility in our prayer. The late Archbishop Sheen said: *"Only the humble can pray, for prayer presumes we need someone and something."*

It is faithfully coming to Sunday Mass, praying daily, living the Church's precepts, following the Commandments, along with the frequent sacramental confession of our sins that can begin to conform us to the way of love. In prayer and with a solid interior life, we can

honestly know ourselves, who we are, and what we are called to be.

These forty days of Lent we retreat with the Lord in the Desert to find our true selves. We remove the distractions of a busy life, limit our pleasures of a comfortable life, and convert our hearts more fully to Christ. With our prayer, fasting, penance, sacrifice, discipline and almsgiving, we begin to know ourselves even more. We become aware of our weaknesses so we might humbly admit them to our Merciful Father in Confession.

In whatever temptations we may encounter this Lent, don't give in to the Father of Lies, and don't give up on the Lord! Fight on in faith! The Saints teach us that faith, prayer, fasting, almsgiving and the cross is enough to defeat the snares of the Evil One. Satan may appear powerful, but the saints prove that he is not and is no match for those who put their trust and faith in God.

St. Anthony the Abbot battled the temptations of the Devil while in the desert. He once said: *"I saw the devil's traps laid upon the earth, and I groaned and said: 'Who do you think can pass through them?' And I heard a voice saying, 'Humility.'"*

Keep the Solemn Fast of Lent with humble prayer. Stay safe. Be well. Do good. God Bless. Pray, fast, and give alms!

Father Healey

Ask Father

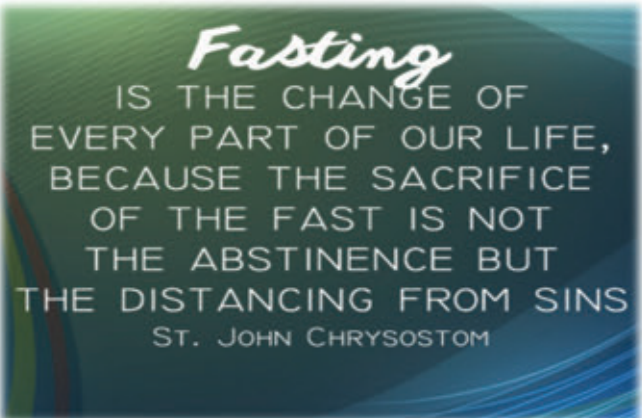
What is fasting?

Fasting is a form of penance that imposes limits on the kind or quantity of food or drink. Truth to tell we fast throughout the entire year. Notice that Friday has never ceased to be a day of penance and self-denial throughout the year, because it was on a Friday that our Lord died for our sins. Likewise, we fast an hour before every Mass. Lent is a period when we *increase* our fasting or add additional practices. This comes from Jesus himself who went into the desert to fast and prepare for his public ministry, death and crucifixion. He is our model and he expects his disciples to do the same.

Until 1966 during Lent the Church prescribed taking only one full meal a day, along with some food for breakfast and a collation. Days of fast and abstinence for the universal Church were Ash Wednesday, the Fridays and Saturdays of Lent, Ember days, and the vigils of certain feasts. Special indulgences (or exemptions) affected different nations and were provided for by canon law (for instance, eating meat on St. Patrick's Day).

With the constitution *Paenitemini* of Paul VI in 1966, the meaning of the law of fasting remained, but the extent of the obligation was changed. Thus "the law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening, while observing approved local custom as far as quantity and quality of food are concerned." To the law of fast are bound those of the faithful who have completed their twenty-first year and up until the beginning of their sixtieth year. Prescribed days of fast and abstinence for the whole Church are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The document also recommends, however, that "we, as people of God, make of the entire Lenten season a period of special penitential observance... [and] for all other weekdays of Lent, we strongly recommend participation in daily Mass and a self-imposed observance of fasting."

Interestingly fasting is becoming popular in non-religious circles as a way of purifying the body and limiting attachments to things in this world. Yet, we not only fast to become detached from this world, but also to become attached to Christ. The question for Lent is usually: What am I going to give up this Lent? But we should also ask: is what I am giving up going to bring me closer to God? When I was younger I would give up sweets, but that really did not bring me any closer to God. Giving up sweets is not a bad thing because it can increase the virtue of temperance. This is always a good thing and self-control helps in our relationship to God. Ultimately Lent is about saying "yes" to God with our whole selves. Ask for the grace to know oneself and find out what to do this Lent to be closer to Him.



Weekly Collection

February 14, 2021

Weekly.....	\$6,951.00
EFT.....	\$6,171.00
	Total=\$13,122.00
Outreach.....	\$841.00

February 16, 2020

Weekly.....	\$12,388.00
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Thank You for Your Generous Support!



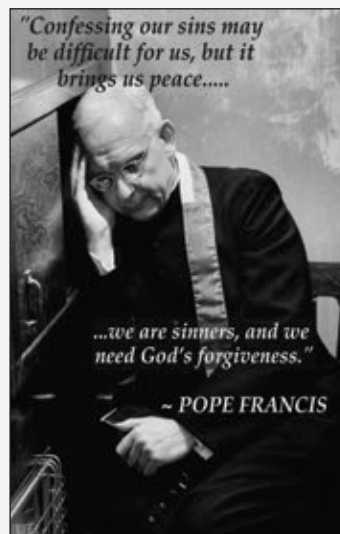
Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.



In your charity please pray for the happy repose of the souls of the faithful departed most especially **Donald Castaldi, Dr. Jennifer Zannini-Cipriani, Rolando Perea and Thomas McLaughlin** who have died.

May they rest in peace.

Confessions at OLM



Monday-Friday
 11:45am-Noon
Mondays
 6:00pm-6:45pm
 Guest Confessor available
Saturday
 3:00pm-3:45pm



1st Sunday of Lent



As we celebrate this first Sunday of our penitential season, it is interesting to note that the word “Lent” comes from the Old English *lencten* or *lengten*, which means springtime and derives from the concept of lengthening daylight.

By the fourth century, Lent had come to be a period of intense final preparation for catechumens who would be baptized at Easter and a period of re-conversion for penitents, serious sinners who were seeking reconciliation.

As conversion and re-conversion took place within the community of the faithful, Lent was soon seen as an excellent opportunity for all to fast, pray, and engage in charitable works in preparation for baptismal renewal at Easter.



This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.



Lent 2021

at

Our Lady of Mercy Church

65 Third Street,
East Greenwich, RI

Daily Masses during Lent

Monday - Friday, 7:30AM & 12:05PM

Confessions during Lent

Monday - Friday 11:45AM - 12:00PM
Mondays 6:00PM - 6:45PM with 2 priests
Saturdays 3:00PM - 3:45PM

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 7:00PM

Lenten Mission

Sunday, March 7 - Wednesday, March 10 (*live streamed*)
“Living for the Other Side”

Father James Mary Sullivan, O.P. & Father Justin Mary Bolger, O.P.
Dominican Friars of St. Pius V Church, Providence
Mission Preachers

Lenten Special Events at Our Lady of Mercy

SOLEMN SAINT PATRICK DAY MASS

Wednesday, March 17 • 12:05PM (*live streamed*)

The Most Reverend Robert J. McManus,
Bishop of Worcester, Celebrant & Homilist

Irish Music, Readings in the Irish Language,
Mass and Homily in English

SOLEMN SAINT JOSEPH DAY MASS

Friday, March 19 • 12:05PM (*live streamed*)

The Most Reverend Robert C. Evans,
Auxiliary Bishop of Providence, Celebrant

The Reverend Monsignor Anthony Mancini,
Rector of the Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul, Homilist

Mass celebrated in Italian with Italian Hymns • Homily in English.

ALL DAY CONFESSIONS

Saturday, March, 27 • 9:00AM – 3:00PM
Four or More Priests Available for Confessions

www.olmparish.org • 401-884-4968

Stations of the Cross



Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm



Religious Education NEWS

First Communion & Confirmation Program Family Mass & Class

• **Sunday, February 21st:** Confirmation Class Mass at 5:00PM followed by Class: *“Vice, Virtue & Conscience.”* Mass & Class is open only to the members of the OLM Confirmation Class & their families.

• **Sunday, February 28th:** First Communion Class Mass at 5:00PM followed by Class: *“How To Go To Confession.”* Mass & Class is only open to the members of the OLM First Communion Class & their families.

First Confession for First Communion Class

Saturday, March 6th at 1:00PM: Students A—L

Saturday, March 20th at 1:00PM: Students M—Z

Guest Confessors will be available at First Confessions for parents and family members.



Outreach Update

• **OLM Food Pantry** is continually in need of food and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated **non-perishable foods only and paper goods** in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House.

Thank you for your support!

• For information, please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

- **Monday, February 22:** Confessions for Grades 3-5 at 1pm
- **Tuesday, February 23:** 9AM School Lenten Mass (*no livestream*)

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#WHATSMYNAME

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