



Lenten Observances

PRAYER, while always necessary for our relationship with God, is a valuable part of the Lenten journey. We are invited to consider increased participation at Mass, the prayer of the Stations of the Cross, Vespers, or other forms of prayer – all leading us to a deeper understanding of God’s presence in our lives.

FASTING refers to limitations on food and drink. The regulations of fast prescribe taking only one full meal a day, with two smaller ones; nothing in between meals. There are two days of fast: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Additionally, individuals are asked to reflect on their lives, as seek to fast from something that has kept them from focusing more on their relationship with the Lord (i.e. – excessive TV or social media, certain foods or vices, etc.).

ABSTAINING means refraining from certain kinds of food or drink, typically meat. Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent including Good Friday are day of abstaining from meat.

ALMSGIVING, like prayer, should always be part of our Christian journey, but like prayer, becomes a heightened awareness and understanding during the Lenten season. Consider your gift to the 2022 Annual Diocesan Appeal – One in Hope, One in Mission, contributions to the Holy Week collections for Catholic Relief Services (Rice Bowl on Holy Thursday and the Holy Land on Good Friday), as well as an increased contributions to the parish and other charities of choice. New this year is our “Green Eggs (or any color) and Ham” collection. Like the very successful Turkey Connection, we will be collecting Hams (need not be baked) and colored Easter eggs for Easter Dinners at area soup kitchens. This will be on Wednesday, **April 13th from 10am – 3pm in the parish hall.**



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

8:00am, 12:15pm & 6:00pm Masses

On this day, ashes, prepared from the previous year’s celebration of Palm Sunday, are blessed and imposed on all gathered to begin the Lenten journey. This year, we resume with the mark of the Cross placed on our foreheads, with the invitation to “Repent and believe in the Gospel”, with all responding, “Amen”.

Friday Devotions

Fridays, March 4 – April 8, 2022

8:00am Mass followed by 8:30am Stations

Recognizing the pre-eminent role of Fridays during the Lenten journey, the celebration of morning Mass will be extended to Fridays this Lent. Immediately following Mass, those present will be invited to participate in the praying of the Stations of the Cross. For those unable to join us, the Stations will also be posted to our website for private & family prayer and reflection throughout the season.



Communal Reconciliation Services

Monday, March 21 – Saint Michael, Canfield

Tuesday, March 22 – Saint Joseph, Austintown

Thursday, March 24 – Saint James, North Jackson



Our region of parishes will gather to experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. Each service will begin at 7:00pm. Please plan to participate in the communal celebration of God’s forgiveness.

Soup Supper and Vespers

Wednesdays, March 16, 23, 30, 2022

6:00pm Supper & 7:00pm Vespers

On these three Wednesdays of Lent, we will gather in the parish hall for a simple supper of soup, crackers and water/coffee, recognizing the meager meal that so many experience every day. We will then move to the Church to pray Vespers, each week reflecting on the Scrutinies, which prepare not only those coming into the Church at Easter, but all of us, as we make ready for the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. All donations will support our Soup Kitchen.



Holy Week Celebrations



Palm Sunday of our Lord's Passion

April 9, 2022 – 4:00pm Mass

April 10, 2022 – 9:00am & 11:00am Masses



On Palm Sunday, we begin the holiest of weeks by first calling to mind Jesus' triumphant entrance into the holy city of Jerusalem with the blessing of palms, and then recounting His passion and death to occur later in the week.

Holy Thursday – The Mass of the Lord's Supper

Thursday, April 14, 2022 – 7:00pm

This evening Mass brings to a close the Lenten season and begins the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. Through Word, Sacrament and the Washing of Feet, we are invited to reflect on the gift of the Eucharist and of ministry in the Church. In the stripping of the Altar, we prepare to enter into the emptiness of the day to come. Adoration will follow until 11:00pm, concluding the day with Night Prayer.



Good Friday – The Passion of the Lord

Friday, April 15, 2022 – 7:00pm

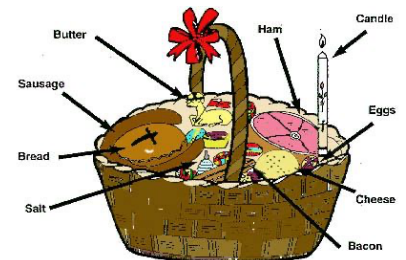


During this celebration, we experience the passion and death of our Lord, we invoke a series of special prayers for the world, we venerate the Holy Cross, and we continue to be nourished with the Body of Christ.

Blessing of Easter Food

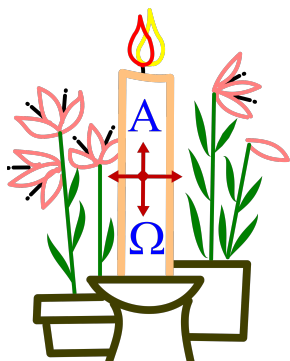
Saturday – April 16, 2022 – 10:00am

We will gather in the parish hall for the blessing of Easter Foods. Please consider bringing various foods that will grace your Easter table, seeking God's blessings on this abundance of physical and spiritual nourishment.



The Great Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 16, 2022 – 8:00pm



In the Great Easter Vigil, we move both physically and spiritually from darkness into a new light. We recall moments in salvation history, we proclaim the Resurrection of our Lord, and welcome those who have prepared to be one with us in the Sacramental life of the Church.

Easter Sunday – The Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday, April 17, 2022 – 9:00am & 11:00am Masses

At these Masses marking the first day of Easter joy, we arrive at the tomb with Mary of Magdala, Peter and John, to bear witness to the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Together, we begin a season of new life, guiding us in a fifty day journey to the birth of the Church at Pentecost.

