

LENT BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY, February 14th. Mass on Ash Wednesday will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. only. Ashes will be distributed during Mass as a sign of our conscious commitment to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving throughout this 40 day penitential season.

LENTEN WEEKDAY MASSES will be celebrated Mondays through Thursdays, also each Saturday, at our usual 7:30 a.m. time.

On the six Fridays of Lent, do plan to join us for Stations of the Cross at 5:00 p.m., followed by Mass at 5:30. Make daily Mass the most important part of your day, every day, during Lent.

SACRAMENTAL CONFESSION will be available Fridays during Lent at 4:30 p.m., Saturdays at 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.; also, *anytime by request*. Especially if you haven't been for a while, NOW is the time to experience God's mercy through this awesome sacrament.

LENTEN REGULATIONS today are embarrassingly easy to observe.



Everyone 14 years old and older is to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. Although it is

not a sin to eat meat on days of church abstinence, the exhortation is, *"One must not excuse oneself lightly."*

Everyone ages 18 to 59 should plan to eat only one full meal, with two lesser meals and no between-meal snacking on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

If observing these regulations will seriously affect one's health, that person is, of course, exempt.

A LENTEN FOLDER should have arrived in your mail with a Lenten letter. If, by any chance, yours did not reach you, extras are available at the church entrances for your convenience.

RELIGIOUS ITEMS FROM BETHLEHEM—hand-carved from olive wood in the Holy Land—will once again be available after our Masses next weekend, February 17th and 18th. Maysoon Khair will be bringing a stunning collection of nativity sets, religious statues, crucifixes, rosaries, and more, for your shopping pleasure.

Your purchase will help support Christian education for special-needs children in Bethlehem, and support for more than a hundred Christian families in that now Moslem-dominated city whose livelihood depends on the sale of their hand-crafted religious articles.

A DAY WITH MARY, a Marian Day of Recollection and Renewal, will be hosted by our Parish for the sixth time on Saturday, March 3rd.



A Fatima **video** will start the day's activities at 7:30 a.m. in the parish hall. A **procession** into church with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima will follow at 9 o'clock, with crowning and **Rosary**. The only Parish **Mass** that morning will follow at 10 o'clock.

After a one-hour "bring your own brown bag lunch" break, there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** with preached reflection and silent **Adoration**. The Day with Mary will end around 3:15.

Sacramental confessions will be heard throughout the day.

THE PARISH COUNCIL will meet this Monday evening, February 12th, at 7 o'clock in the parish hall.

THE 2018 WOMEN'S AND MEN'S CONFERENCE, sponsored by the Diocese, will take place on Saturday, March 10th, at Stonehill College. This one-day Lenten program will feature dynamic speakers, prayer, music, Mass, and a special track for young adults 18 to 30 years old. For further details or to register, visit fallriverdiocese.org

**Sat. - Feb. 10 - 6th Sunday Ordinary Time**

4:00 PM +Helen Los
Req. Friends of Poland

Sun. - Feb. 11 - 6th Sunday Ordinary Time

10:00 AM Health of Marcin Kochmanski
Req. Mother

Mon. - Feb. 12 - Weekday

7:30 AM +Anna Potecka

Tues. - Feb. 13 - Weekday

7:30 AM Jack Chmielewicz: to awake from
coma

Wed. - Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday

5:30 PM OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

**Thurs. - Feb. 15 - Thursday after Ash
Wednesday**

7:30 AM Health & Blessings
Req. Thomas Staszal

Fri. - Feb. 16 - Friday after Ash Wednesday

4:30 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Stations of the Cross
5:30 PM +Andrew, +Simon, & +Stanis
Socha

**Sat. - Feb. 17 - Saturday after Ash
Wednesday**

7:30 AM +George & +Claire Martin
Req. Armindo & Cynthia Linhares

Sat. - Feb. 17 - First Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM +Theodore J. Pankiewicz
(1st anniv.)
Req. Wife & Family

SUN. - Feb. 18 - First Sunday of Lent

10 AM +Rita Gagne
Req. Evelyn Bourque

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER CONRAD

Brothers and Sisters of Our Parish Family,

Notwithstanding the disappointing result of Super Bowl LII, it would be disingenuous to deny that an inspiring event took place when the game ended. Not the roar of the crowd, not the presentation of the trophy or the announcement of the MVP, not even the exuberance of the 2018 champions.

The Philadelphia Eagles are more publicly religious than most football teams. For about 20 minutes, the team's coaches and players conducted a kind of late-night church service, thanking Jesus, professing their love for Jesus, and expressing how Christ had provided strength through adversity. They even produced a video highlighting faith as a binding force in the team locker room.

In response, some outsiders began asking, "Does God care about football?" This question goes to the heart of our notion of God's nature and of His relationship with us. We know that God, in fact, is intimately involved in the lives of His sons and daughters. God, the Creator of the universe, pays infinite attention to even the lowliest of His creatures and cares for each one. For these athletes, expressing thanks to God isn't a declaration that God is an Eagle or a Patriot, but that God loves them and has blessed them with every good thing in their lives.

So, yes, God cares about football, because He cares about football players. He gives them good gifts and talents; He teaches them amid the pain of loss and uncertainty. And God cares about football, because He cares about football fans, too.

When Nick Foles and Doug Pederson gave glory to God after the Super Bowl, they were doing what God's people should do: praise Him as the source of their strength and blessing. And for the Pats? Their adversity serves its own purpose. In the face of loss, faith encourages us that adversity will work for good. There is much worth seeing that plays out on the public stage—even if it's "only" a football game.

Peace and Blessings,

Father Conrad