

SO, HOW IS YOUR LENT GOING SO FAR? Your parish Lenten spiritual opportunities include daily Mass, Sacrament of Penance, Stations of the Cross every Friday afternoon, and our special Day with Mary on Saturday, March 3rd.

Personal opportunities at home are almost limitless. You might find a daily rosary beneficial, or a few minutes set aside for quiet prayer and meditation. **And there's no time like the present to crack open the Bible and let the gospels, the various letters, and even the beautiful psalms speak to you.**

Start off slowly, perhaps choosing one "parish" and one "personal" spiritual activity that you believe will be beneficial for you. If you think you're too busy, you're too busy and owe yourself this daily time with God.

A PLENARY INDULGENCE may be gained by praying the Stations of the Cross. Will you choose to gain this plenary indulgence by praying the Stations **with us at 5 o'clock every Friday during Lent**—and then stay with us for Mass at 5:30.



A DAY WITH MARY is a very special occasion for our Parish—a kind of Parish Lenten Day of Recollection and Renewal—Saturday, March 3rd, beginning at 7:50 in the morning.

The Day will begin in our church hall with a Fatima **video**. A **procession** into church accompanying the statue of Our Lady of Fatima will follow at 9 o'clock, with crowning and the Joyful Mysteries of the **Rosary**. **Mass** will follow at 10 o'clock (the only parish Mass that morning), with the Consecration of our Parish to the Immaculate.

After a one-hour lunch break in the parish hall (bring your own brown-bag lunch), there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** with procession a preached reflection, and silent **Adoration**. A **coffee break** in the church hall will be followed by the **closing** activities, ending around 3:15.

WE WELCOME MAYSOON KAHIR! Maysoon is with us again this weekend with a beautiful array of religious items, most of which have been hand-carved by Christian artisans from the wood of olive trees, native to Bethlehem and the surrounding area.

Your purchase will help support Christian education for special-needs children in Bethlehem, the now Moslem-dominated city of **our Savior's birth**—also more than a hundred Christian families there whose livelihood depends on the sale of these hand-crafted religious articles.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY, a Corporal Work of Mercy, is one of the ways we can incorporate the "almsgiving" pillar of Lent into our annual 40-day spiritual journey. Diocesan food pantries serve the **hungry poor all year 'round and are grateful for every non-perishable food item donated.**

Since OLPH does not have a food pantry of our own, we try to do our part by collecting non-perishables that Catholic Social Services picks up and distributes to the food pantries that other area parishes run.

An extra can of soup or jar of peanut butter on our weekly supermarket list is really a small thing. **But "small things" carried out by many can produce significant results. Let's all together try to fill the basket in the main vestibule to overflowing each weekend.**

BINGO is also good for the soul. Our games begin at 6:45 p.m. every Thursday evening for players; doors open at 4:30 for the bingo crew. You will be happy if you join us, whether as a player or as a volunteer!

A SECOND WOMEN'S AND MEN'S CONFERENCE is being offered by our Diocese on Saturday, March 10th, at Stonehill College in Easton. This one-day Lenten program will include dynamic speakers, prayer, music, and Mass, and a special track for young adults, ages 18 to 30.

The March 1st deadline for registering is quickly approaching. For more information or to register, visit fallriverdiocese.org



Mass Intentions

**Sat. - Feb. 17 - 1st Sunday of Lent**

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

Sun. - Feb. 18 - 1st Sunday of Lent

10:00 AM +Rita Gagne
Req. Evelyn Bourque

Mon. - Feb. 19 - Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM Special Intention

Tues. - Feb. 20 - Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM OLPH Parishioners
Living & Deceased

Wed. - Feb. 21 - Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM +Father Donald Kos, O.F.M. Conv.

Thurs. - Feb. 22 - Chair of St. Peter

7:30 AM +Sophie & +John Pokorski

Fri. - Feb. 23 - Lenten Weekday

4:30 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Stations of the Cross
5:30 PM +Leokadia Mierzejewska
Req. Eugene

Sat. - Feb. 24 - Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM Benefactors of the Franciscan Order
Living & Deceased

Sat. - Feb. 24 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM +George Renaud
Req. Ann Bodzioch Bojack

Sun. - Feb. 25 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

10 AM +Robert Cyr
Req. Frances Pimental

Brothers and Sisters of Our Parish Family,

From the time we were children, our first question for Lent was often, "What are you giving up?" But Lent isn't simply about "giving up" something. The real grace is when we recognize that Lent is a season in which God wants to *give us* something. God wants to help us transform our lives—in the way we live our lives and love our families.

It is much easier to choose something to give up. But this year we might reflect on the deeper question: What is God inviting me to change this Lent? What pattern of my life needs changing? What do I need *more of* in my life? Patience? Unselfishness? More loving behavior toward my spouse or children? Each of us can think of something that gets in the way of our being loving and self-sacrificing.

Too often, the ordinary conflicts, divisions, and difficulties in our family life result from simple selfishness on my part. I choose to fight. I choose to defend my position. I choose to use things I know about my spouse, my children, my parents against them. I choose to hurt them. The results of that behavior are never good and always divisive.

We can ask: What would it cost me to change this behavior? What would it mean if I didn't walk around the house acting crabby toward my family all the time? What if I decided to be more loving and patient with my spouse this Lent? What if I decide to give up something truly destructive in my life, like alcohol or pornography? I might realize that changing a certain way I live is coming to me as a call from God, and God will help me to stay open to the grace He offers me to change. I am not doing this alone; I am doing it with God.

What is the barrier that keeps us from asking God's help and healing? If we don't know what the barrier is, these weeks of Lent are a great time to identify it and allow Jesus to heal us of it. This is a good Lenten penance. It allows God's grace into our soul.

Peace and Blessings,
Father Conrad