

LENT

Lent is the penitential season of the Church year. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Lent has six Sundays. The sixth is called Passion or Palm Sunday and marks the beginning of Holy Week.

The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. It commemorates the Lord's passion and death on Good Friday, reaches its high point at the Easter Vigil and ends with the evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

The annual observance of Lent is the special season for the ascent to the holy mountain of Easter. Through its twofold theme of repentance and baptism, the season of Lent disposes both the catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery. Catechumens are led to the Sacraments of Initiation by means of the Rite of Election, the scrutinies, and Catechesis. The faithful, listening more intently to the word of God and devoting themselves to prayer, are prepared through a spirit of repentance to renew their baptismal promised.

Weekdays of Lent: There is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday: These are days of *Fast and Abstinence from meat*. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 14 and 59 inclusive.

Days of Abstinence: (All Fridays in Lent) All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

Easter Duty Obligation: After they have received their First Holy Communion, Catholics are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. If you have not been to Holy Communion for a year, you are required to make your Easter Duty. This precept should be fulfilled during the Easter Season. Catholics are also bound to confess serious (mortal) sins at least once a year, but it is not limited to the Lenten/Easter Season.

"Come Back to Me with All Your Heart"

LENTEN SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAYS OF LENT

"Sacrificial Meal" @ 5:30 PM
in the Parish Life Center
Soup & Bread Provided
Please Bring a salad to share!!!
Family Mass @ 7:00 PM

FRIDAYS OF LENT

Stations of the Cross
School Children K-4 at 2:00 PM
School Children 5-8 at 2:30 PM
Stations of the Cross & Benediction 7:00 PM

LENTEN SUGGESTIONS

Attend morning Mass
Attend Wednesday Evening Mass
Receive Sacrament of Penance
Pray more devoutly—fast—give alms to the poor.
"Return to Me with All Your Heart"



FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

MARCH


S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	5	6	7			
11	12	13	14	15		17
18	19	20	21	22		24
25	26	27	28	29		31

Holy Thursday Good Friday Holy Saturday

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
EASTER						

PENANCE SERVICES

St. Joseph's Church Monday, March 5 6:00 PM	
Annunciation of the Lord - Decatur Tuesday, March 6 6:30 PM	
Our Lady, Queen of the Universe Church Thursday, March 8 6:30 PM	
Good Shepherd Church (confessions) Tuesday, March 13 5:00-8:00 PM	
St. Paul - Athens Wednesday, March 21 7:30 PM	
Most Merciful Jesus Church - Madison Thursday, March 22 6:30 PM	
St. Mary of the Visitation Church Saturday, March 24 10:00 AM	
St. John's Church - Madison Monday, March 26 5:00-8:00 PM	
Holy Spirit Penance Service Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 PM	

Anointing Mass March 20 Tuesday 10:30 AM

*Luncheon to follow Mass
in the Parish Life Center.*

Are any among you sick?

The priest showing up to anoint you used to be a bad sign. Although the Council of Trent (1545-1563) taught that "extreme unction" was for all who were sick, we slowly came to see the anointing as the "last rite" to be celebrated when death was imminent. The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) reminded us that our truly last rite is viaticum, holy communion. The anointing is meant to strengthen and support and heal the seriously ill, those advanced in age, and the infirm.



All Eucharistic Ministers and Homebound Ministers of Communion are expected to attend Mass on Holy Thursday during which they will be re-commissioned for another year of service in the Lord.

MASS 7:00 PM, MARCH 29

Prayer

Blessed are you, God of the covenant, for you call us back to you whenever we wander away from your love. As we enter this holy season of Lent, we pray for the grace of repentance. Help us face our sinfulness honestly and admit our need for your healing. Renew within us the life you gave us in baptism. Make us faithful to the covenant love with which you embrace us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

*From Today's Parish -
Special Edition*

ENTER INTO
THE HOLY SEASON
OF LENT

