

Church of Our Lady of the Pillar Saint Louis, Missouri Lent 2021

Our forty day Lenten journey toward Easter is fundamentally an imitation of Jesus' time in the desert. It's a time of simplicity, purification, and self-denial, of setting aside our distractions and diversions and getting back to basics: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.



But this is also a season for confronting the desert of our own sin. Because God is the source of life, abandoning God forms a desert land around us. We tend to cover up our sins, make excuses for them, or dull our sensitivity to them. But during Lent, we intentionally venture into the desert, realizing the depths of our sin, and repenting, in order that we might find Christ's path back to life.

What we as Catholics do to celebrate in Lent is simply a reminder of what we should be doing the whole year - preparing ourselves to receive the Lord for the Kingdom here and now and for the Kingdom that is to come. The Lord is still speaking to us today and is again giving us the opportunity to change.

With our eyes fixed on the coming glory of Easter, let us together enter into this desert time of self-denial, ready to break out of the cramped,

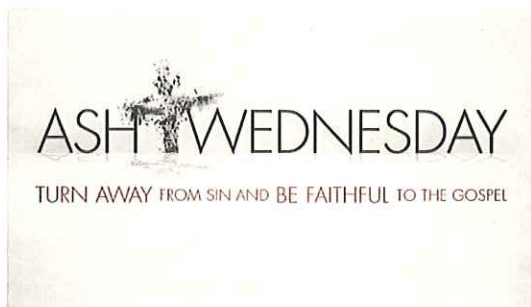
Upon Entering Church.....

You will notice the absence of candles and flowers that are usually placed by the Shrine of Our Lady of the Pillar and the side altars. Let it be a "fast" of the eyes – until Holy Week and Easter when they will be brought back.

The absence of the Gloria and the Alleluia are both characteristics of Lent – We will save them up for our Easter celebrations of resurrection and joy.

We will sing the Rite of Penance and ask God for mercy and reconciliation.

The Holy Water fonts are normally full during Lent but for safety they are empty to prevent the spread of Covid 19.

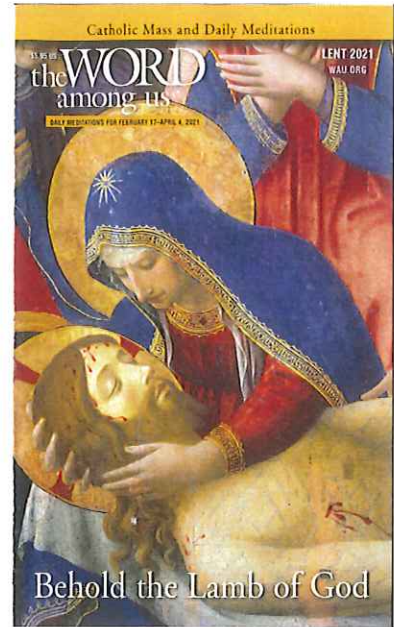


Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent and the changes through prayer, fasting and giving that are going to take place in our lives as we look forward to the resurrection of Christ. Ashes are distributed during the following celebrations. this year the ashes will be sprinkled on head.

February 17, 7:30 A.M. Mass Parish
9:35 A.M. Parish School Only
12:05 P.M. Parish Communion Service
5:00 P.M. Parish Mass

The Word Among Us booklets are available in the church vestibules. Please take a copy of the booklet for your personal use. They contain all the daily readings and the order of Mass as well as reflections for each day. Parishioners have found them useful and look forward to using them regularly as a part of their Lenten preparations. This year, the theme is:

“Behold the Lamb of God.”



Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 P.M. with the traditional Stations of the Cross and Benediction. We will pray the Stations on all Wednesdays of Lent except Ash Wednesday.

Wednesday, February 24th

Wednesday, March 3rd

Wednesday, March 10th

Wednesday, March 17th

Wednesday, March 24th

Wednesday, March 31st

Lenten FASTING and ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 upwards.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday, March 25th at 6:30 P.M.

Participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a good way to prepare for Easter. It does not matter how long you have been away from the Sacrament. What is important is that you have come back. This is another opportunity to pray and prepare with the parish community. Individual confessions will follow a short period of preparation. Materials will be available to aid you in both your preparation and at the time of your confession.



HOLY WEEK



PASSION SUNDAY

Saturday, March 27 Mass at 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 28 Masses at 7:00. 10:30 and 5:00 P.M.

Blessing of Palm and reading of Passion at all Masses.

March 29, **Monday of Holy Week**

Mass 7:30 A.M.

March 30, **Tuesday of Holy Week**

Mass 7:30 A.M.

March 31, **Wednesday of Holy Week**

Mass 7:30 A.M.

Stations and Benediction 5:00 P.M.

Parish Office Hours for Holy Week

Closed on Holy Thursday at Noon

Closed Good Friday and

Easter Monday

April 1, **Thursday of Holy Week**

Morning Prayer 7:30 A.M.

TRIDUUM BEGINS

❖ Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 P.M. adoration until 10:00 P.M.

Presentation of Holy Oils

Liturgy of the Word

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Procession to Repository

(BRING BELLS TO RING DURING THE GLORY TO GOD)

April 2, **Good Friday of Holy Week**

Triduum Morning Prayer 7:30 A.M.

❖ Good Friday of the Lord's Passion 12:00 Noon

Liturgy of the Word

Adoration of Cross.

Collection for Shrines in the Holy Land

Distribution of Holy Communion

Stations of the Cross 3:00 P.M.

Holy Week/ Triduum continued...

April 3, Holy Saturday of Holy Week

Triduum *Morning Prayer 9:00 A.M.*

❖ **Solemn Easter Vigil 8:00 P.M.**

Blessing of Easter Fire and New Paschal Candle

Vigil of Readings

Celebration of Baptism and Renewal of Baptismal Promises

The Paschal Eucharist

(BRING BELLS TO RING DURING THE GLORY TO GOD)

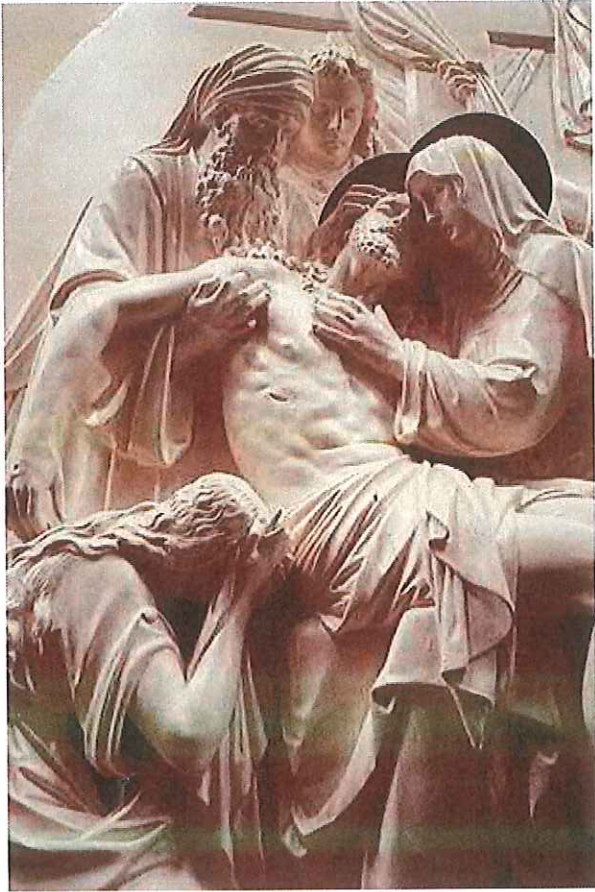
❖ **April 4, Easter Sunday Masses**

7:00 A.M., 8:30 A.M., and 10:30 A.M.

(BRING BELLS TO RING DURING THE GLORY TO GOD)

(Note that there will be no 5:00 P.M. Mass on Easter Sunday but will resume the following weekend of April 11)

Stations of the Cross and Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction



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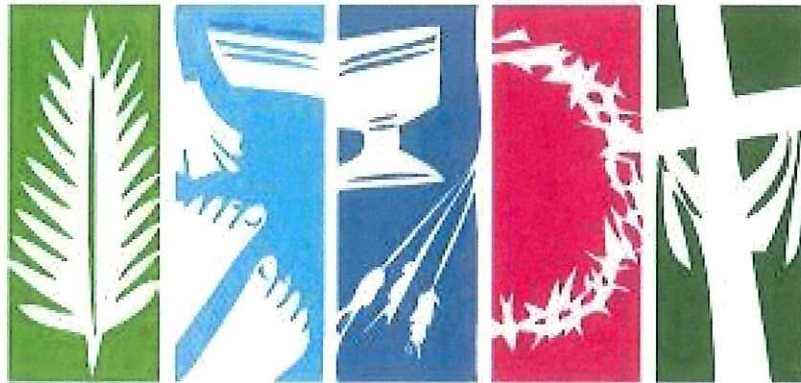
Wednesday, March 31st

Please join us live or if you are unable to come, join us livestream.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmLOUZkHnVwjVynUDBLhRDQ/videos?view=57>

A Faith Formation Opportunity for you

Thursday, March 11
in Our Lady of the Pillar Church
at 7:00 P.M.



**Lenten Reflections; God Speaks in
the Silence of our Hearts**

By Brother Jesse O'Neill, S.M.

If you are not able to attend, please view the livestream.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmLOUZkHnVwjVynU
DBLhRDQ/videos?view=57](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmLOUZkHnVwjVynUDBLhRDQ/videos?view=57)

Facilitated by the Worship and Faith Formation Commission

The Friends of Birthright will be sponsoring a clothing drive to benefit women at Birthright Counseling-St. Louis.



We are asking that you donate:

New or Laundered, gently used, Maternity and/or Baby Clothes.

This will be a Lenten collection beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17 and ending on Good Friday, April 2. Please place clothing in the labeled box at the entrances of the church.

Thank You & God Bless You!