

**BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

January 25, 2021

Dear Parishioners:

Lent 2021 ... will be upon us starting February 17, ASH WEDNESDAY.

Let us always be mindful of the great love of Jesus for each one of us. His forty days in the desert is a model of how our practice of Lent could be. We fall back on the ancient disciplines of Lent as developed by the Church over the centuries of time -- prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This tradition has been the hallmark of the Catholic tradition.

PRAYER: Conversation with God --an opening of one's mind and heart to the promptings of the Holy Spirit: moments of praise, adoration and thanksgiving; moments of petition and seeking forgiveness; moments of the presence of the divine in our human condition. Jesus Christ, Son of God, shows us the way to effective communication with the Father. We must pray.

This prayer can be both private and communal. Private prayer is a matter of each one's personal choice of time and place. Community prayer imposes a discipline which brings us together to talk with God as a community of faith.

Remember in your prayers all those who are in sacramental preparation programs: First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation. Pray that the Lord Jesus Christ enliven in their hearts the gifts of the Holy Spirit that they may advance spiritually in wisdom and grace.

Our traditional community prayer times during Lent are: the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 8.00 a.m., Monday thru Friday; the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6.00 p.m. Try to fit these practices into your family calendar.

FASTING & ABSTINENCE: The discipline of the Church is not an invention of the twenty-first century. The practice of fasting is ancient -- in fact, pre-Christian. Sages of various ancient faiths always regarded fasting as a means of focusing attention on the divine. Bringing the body into submission forces one to take a long, hard look at the frailty of human nature and make every effort to bridge the chasm between God and us humans.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the only two days of fasting. Other days may be chosen at one's discretion. **All those who are over 18 years of age and under 59 are expected to observe the discipline of fasting.** This means eating one meal enough to maintain and sustain one's health and two smaller portions. Liquids such as non-alcoholic beverages and fruit juices do not break the fast.

Closely related to the discipline of fasting is that of abstinence. This means refraining from eating meat on **Ash Wednesday** and **all the Fridays of Lent**. **This discipline is to be followed by all who are 14 years of age and older.**

ALMSGIVING: The practice of almsgiving is certainly an inheritance from our Jewish faith-roots. Special care and assistance was always given to the poor, the widowed and the orphaned. Such acts of kindness were done in gratitude for the gifts that one personally enjoyed. This reasoning has not changed. Once again, our private acts of kindness are to be encouraged. When collated with others, these acts of kindness give us a collective spirituality and witness to the world.

(continued overleaf)

Here in the United States the Church joins hearts and hands in the **Operation Rice Bowl Lenten Project**. We reach out to the hungry and the needy by personal and family sacrifices at the table. A weekly meal, simple in its content, enables a family to make a contribution to Operation Rice Bowl from the money saved in otherwise normal food expenses. In this manner, from the oldest to the youngest member of the family, all can see their efforts bearing fruit in alleviating hunger in the world.

Keep the **Rice Bowl** in view on the family table as a reminder to all that the poor and the hungry need our care and concern. Ponder. Pray.

You can bring in your **OPERATION RICE BOWL** offerings when participating at any of the Holy Week Services.

On February 7, all the parishes in our diocese will contribute to a collection for the Church in Eastern Europe. With the close of the Communist era, a vibrancy of faith practice has emerged in the former Communist countries. Many of these people are of the Catholic tradition and stand in need of our assistance to enable their churches and institutions to keep up with the Church in the rest of the world. Our contributions will certainly help immensely.

On April 2, the Church in the United States will join the worldwide Church in a sacrificial giving of treasure for the benefit of the **Churches and Shrines in the Holy Land**. These historical places of worship and devotion must be preserved so that generations to come can know the story of faith as it has reached us. It is indeed a laudable and worthy cause.

Lent is also a good time for us to focus on **RECONCILIATION** -- both sacramental and in our interpersonal relationships. Sacramental Reconciliation is the prayerful admission of human faults and shortcomings that hinder one's relationship with God and neighbor. Part of this process is the confession of sin with the assistance of a priest (*yes, the priest is the mediator between God and humankind; he functions in the Name of Jesus; it is Jesus who forgives sin*). Interpersonal reconciliation may or may not need sacramental signs of forgiveness. Our relationships with other people often bring us into conflict with opinions and attitudes that, sometimes, could be deliberately sinful; at other times, it may be an omission of a good deed or thought or word. To focus on our need for forgiving as well as the need to be forgiven is very much part of our tradition.

May our loving God bless our efforts in the observance of Lent. And may our combined prayer, fasting and almsgiving bring the message of peace, reconciliation and forgiveness to the world around us.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,



Reverend Arnulfo Jara Galvez
PASTOR



Reverend Derrick Sneyd
SENIOR PAROCHIAL VICAR

**BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
LENTEN DEVOTIONS AND CELEBRATIONS, 2021**

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

NO ADORATION HERE

Masses: **8.00 a.m., Noon, 6.00 p.m., (English), 8.00 p.m. (Spanish)**
(Ashes will be blessed and distributed at each Mass)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday in Lent: March 17: **8.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.**

Exceptions: February 24, March 3, 10, 24 & 31: **8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

All Fridays in Lent: **6.00 p.m. (English), 7.30 p.m. (Spanish)**

INDIVIDUAL CELEBRATIONS OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

*(All are encouraged to celebrate a wholesome reconciliation
during the Lenten season)*

Saturdays: **3.30 - 4.30 p.m. (English)**

Sundays: **12.45 - 1.15 p.m. (Spanish)**

ADDITIONAL DATES:

Monday, March 8: **6.30 - 7.30 p.m. (English/Spanish)**

Tuesday, March 9 & 23: **5.00 - 6.00 p.m. (English)**

Wednesday, March 24: **7.30 - 8.30 p.m. (English/Spanish)**

(On the above dates Guest-priests will be here to assist with individual confessions)

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS) FOR FAITH FORMATION STUDENTS

Wednesdays, February 24, March 3, 10 & 24, **6.00 - 7.15 p.m.**

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS) FOR LIFE TEEN STUDENTS

Sunday, March 7, **6.00 - 7.15 p.m.**

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS) FOR PAROCHIAL SCHOOL STUDENTS

Tuesdays, March 9 & 16, **10.00 - 11.00 a.m.**

PANDEMIC RESTRICTION:
NO COMMUNAL LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

(PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGIES & CELEBRATIONS)

**BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGIES AND CELEBRATIONS, 2021**

Palm Sunday, March 28

MASSES: 5.00 p.m. (Vigil), 9.00 & 11.00 a.m., 5.00 p.m. (English),
1.30 p.m. (Spanish)

(Palms will be blessed and distributed at each Liturgy)

Monday of Holy Week, March 29

MASS: 8.00 a.m.

Tuesday of Holy Week, March 30

MASS: 8.00 a.m.

MASS OF SACRED CHRISM: 11.00 a.m.

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Downtown Charleston

*(At this Liturgy, the Bishop blesses and consecrates the Holy Oils
used in the administration of the Sacraments of*

Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick.

All are encouraged to participate in this Liturgy. Arrive early to get a seat in Church.)

Wednesday of Holy Week, March 31

MASS: 8.00 a.m.

TENEBRAE SERVICE: 6.00 p.m.

(A Service of Light & Darkness with the praying of the Psalms)

Holy Thursday, April 1

NO MORNING MASS HERE

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: 7.00 p.m. (Bilingual)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: After Mass to 10.00 p.m. (Parish Hall)

PARISH HALL DOORS CLOSE: 10.15 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2

NO MORNING MASS HERE

LITURGY OF THE PASSION: 3.00 p.m. (English)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 6.00 p.m. (English)

LITURGY OF THE PASSION: 7.30 p.m. (Spanish)

Holy Saturday, April 3

NO MORNING MASS HERE

BLESSING OF EASTER FOODS: 12.15 p.m. (Parish Hall)

R.C.I.A. REHEARSAL: 10.00 a.m.

NO 5.00 p.m. MASS HERE

EASTER VIGIL LITURGY: 8.00 p.m. (Bilingual)

Easter Sunday, April 4

MASSES: 7.00, 9.00, 11.00 am. (English),

1.30 p.m. (Spanish)

NO 5.00 p.m. MASS HERE

Sundays after Easter, April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9

Ascension of the Lord, May 16

Solemnity of Pentecost: May 23

MASSES: 5.00 p.m. (Vigil), 9.00, 11.00 a.m., 5.00 p.m. (English),

1.30 p.m. (Spanish)

THE EASTER SEASON CLOSSES WITH THE CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST

(PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF FOR LENTEN DEVOTIONS & CELEBRATIONS)

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, CHARLESTON

"OUR CROSS OF SACRIFICIAL DEEDS" – LENT, 2021

**THIS IS A
'SHOW & TELL'
OF OUR COMMON LENTEN EFFORTS
AT MAKING THIS SEASON A SPECIAL TIME
OF PRAYER, SACRIFICE AND ALMSGIVING.**

**UPFRONT BY THE SANCTUARY STEPS,
OFF TO THE RIGHT,
IS A SIMPLE WOODEN CROSS WITH SEVERAL NAILS ON IT.**

**ON A TABLE, AT THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH,
ARE BASKETS WITH PAPER CROSSES.**

**WRITE YOUR INDIVIDUAL LENTEN GOOD DEEDS
ON THESE PAPER CROSSES
AND HANG THE SAME
ON A NAIL ON THE WOODEN CROSS UPFRONT.**

**SUCH COMMON PARTICIPATION
IS A CONSTANT REMINDER
OF THE PENITENTIAL NATURE
OF THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT.**

BE A PARTICIPANT!

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SEASON OF LENT ...

- * Participate at weekday Mass ... Monday thru Friday at 8.00 a.m.
- * Visit the Church on Wednesdays, 8.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m., Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and attend the planned Lenten Reflection
- * Pray the Rosary seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother for personal spiritual renewal
- * Call a friend who is going through some difficult times
- * Pray for persons who have been tested positive for the Coronavirus and for the repose of souls of those who succumbed to COVID-19
- * Be more considerate of family members
- * Eat less while remembering the starving and the hungry... do not waste food
- * Avoid gossip which always causes non-productive ill feelings
- * See the brighter side of life instead of being critical of the efforts of others
- * Read the Sacred Scriptures in a consistent manner
(for instance, the Gospel of John,
a chapter a day)
- * Exercise patience with children ... they need your love and attention
- * Pray for a spirit of tolerance that will respect the dignity of every human person
- * Make a thorough examination of conscience followed by a wholesome celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (that is, make a good confession)
- * Pray for generous responses from our parish community to the call of Jesus in serving the Church through Priesthood and Religious Life of Men and Women
- * Pray for those in positions of leadership in the Church and in the world
- * Show greater respect for the person and property of others

Just some suggestions ... others may come to mind from your experience of trying to live a good life. Mind you -- the devil is always very active when one tries to do God's will and live by God's standards. The devil is not a respecter of persons or positions in life. If the evil one tried to tempt Jesus Himself then who are we?? Yes, the devil will try and, indeed, try very hard. Do not allow the satisfaction of accomplishment!