

Turn from sin and be faithful to the Gospel

LENT 2012 AT SAINT JEAN BAPTISTE

An Overview of the Season

Lent, like many other practices and observances in the life of the church, had a gradual development. Its beginnings grew out of the desire to prepare appropriately for the central Christian feast of Easter. Christians reflected on the 40 days of fasting by Moses (Ex 34:28), Elijah (1 Kgs 19:8), and Jesus (Mk 4:2; Lk 4:1-2) as times of preparation for momentous events. It was only natural that they wanted to imitate the example of these great Scriptural figures as they prepared to celebrate the saving passion, death, and resurrection of the Lord.

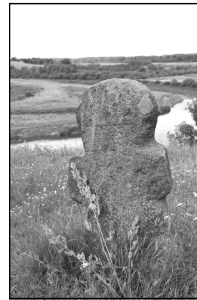
The First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, in the year

325, already speaks of a 40-day period of preparation for Easter as something obvious and familiar to all. Other influences entered into the development of the season. Among these were the reconciliation of penitents and the readying of candidates for the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. Both of these represented a basic response to the summons of Jesus: "Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1:15).

What the church required of penitents and of candidates has, over the centuries, been assumed by all the baptized out of a sense of solidarity with those embracing life in Christ and out of a need for

the renewal of personal spiritual life.

Lent is a season of grace and renewal, a time of favor from the Lord.



ASH WEDNESDAY



Blessed ashes are received in the context of hearing God's word and the call to conversion and new life in Jesus Christ

February 22

Masses
7:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 5:30 p.m.

Scripture Services
8:30 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m.
1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m. Vespers

THE LENTEN FAST

The Lenten fast has a long history in the church, dating back to the first centuries of Christianity. Its purpose is to simplify our lives so that we can recognize our reliance on God and be renewed in spirit.

Fasting

Fasting is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by Catholics age 18 until 59. On fast days, one full meal may be taken, and two smaller meals, sufficient for strength.

Abstinence

Catholics 14 years of age and older are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent.

If health or other considerations prevent you from fulfilling these, find other ways of self-denial.

Catholicism — Exploring the Riches of Our Faith

Father Robert Barron is a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and a powerful preacher of the Gospel.

Some years ago, Father Barron became convinced of the need to tell the story of Catholicism, because "if we don't, someone else will." Word on Fire Catholic Ministries grew out of that conviction as well as a ten-part video series, *Catholicism*, which has been critically acclaimed and compared to Kenneth Clark's groundbreaking documentary *Civilisation*.

In late January, Saint Jean's began showing *Catholicism* in its entirety over ten Monday nights at 7:00 in the Community Center. The response has been great.

Six of the ten parts remain, and you are invited to enrich your Lent by viewing them with us.

February 20: "The Indispensable Men: Peter, Paul, and the Missionary Adventure."

February 27: "A Body Both Suffering and Glori-

ous: The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church."

March 5: "Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven: The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist."

March 12: "A Vast Company of Witnesses: The Communion of Saints."

March 19: "The Fire of His Love: Prayer and the Life of the Spirit."

March 26: "World Without End: The Last Things."



Excerpts from Pope Benedict XVI's Message for Lent 2012

"The Lenten season . . . is a favorable time to renew our journey of faith, both as individuals and as a community, with the help of the word of God and the sacraments. This journey is one marked by prayer and sharing, silence and fasting, in anticipation of the joy of Easter."

"This year, I would to propose a few thoughts in light of a brief biblical passage drawn from the Letter to the Hebrews: 'Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works.' These words are part of a passage in which the sacred author exhorts us to trust in

Jesus Christ as the high priest who has won us forgiveness and opened a pathway to God. Embracing Christ bears fruit in a life structured by the three theological virtues. It means approaching the Lord 'sincere in heart and filled with *faith*' (v. 22), keeping firm 'in the *hope* we profess' (v. 23) and ever mindful of living a life of 'love and good works' (v. 24) together with our brothers and sisters."

"Verse 24 . . . offers a succinct, valuable, and ever-timely teaching on three aspects of Christian life: concern for others, reciprocity, and personal holiness."

"Concern for others entails doing what is good for them from every point of view: physical, moral, and spiritual. . . ."

"The Lord's disciples, united with him through the Eucharist, live in a fellowship that binds them to one another as members of a single body. This means that the other is part of me, that his or her life and salvation concern my own life and salvation."

"Concern for one another should spur us on to an increasingly effective love which makes us live each day as an anticipation of the eternal day. . . ."

Lent Day by Day

Sunday

RCIA: Pray for our catechumens and candidates as they prepare for the Easter sacraments.

Monday

Catholicism

Father Robert Barron's epic video series on the Catholic faith. Community Center 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Weekly Bible Study
Parish House
7:00-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Religious Education: Remember our children and youth, particularly those who will be receiving First Communion and confirmation this spring.

Friday

Stations of the Cross
after the 12:15 p.m. Mass

Reconciliation

Monday-Saturday
11:45 a.m.-12:10 p.m.
Saturday Afternoon
4:30-5:25 p.m.
Sunday Evening
7:00-7:25 p.m.

Homes for Haiti

We again recommend to your almsgiving this Lent the needs of the people of Haiti, rebuilding their lives after the devastating earthquake of January 2010.

Through your generosity in Lent 2010 and 2011, almost \$15,000 was raised and sent to Food for the Poor for the construction of safe, clean housing for those who lost everything in the earthquake . . . except faith and hope! Five families have received new homes because you cared!

Pray!
Fast!
Give alms!

Weekday Masses

7:30 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Saturday)
12:15 p.m.
5:30 p.m.

Sunday Masses

5:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil
9:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
12:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament daily outside of Mass times.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

April 1

5:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil
9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY

April 5

Evening Mass
of the Lord's Supper
7:30 p.m.

Adoration
at the Altar of Reposition
until 12:00 a.m.

GOOD FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

April 6

Stations of the Cross
12:00 p.m.

Seven Last Words of Christ
1:00 p.m.

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
and Death
3:00 p.m.

Tenebrae
7:30 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY

April 7

Tenebrae
9:00 a.m.

Solemn Easter Vigil
and Mass of the Resurrection
7:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

April 8

9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.