

Pope Francis' Lenten Message 2018

*"Because of the increase of iniquity,
the love of many will grow cold." (Matthew 24:12)*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Once again, the Pasch of the Lord draws near! In our preparation for Easter, God in his providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a "sacramental sign of our conversion". Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.

With this message, I would like again this year to help the entire Church experience this time of grace anew, with joy and in truth. I will take my cue from the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: "Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold" (24:12).

These words appear in Christ's preaching about the end of time. They were spoken in Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives, where the Lord's passion would begin. In reply to a question of the disciples, Jesus foretells a great tribulation and describes a situation in which the community of believers might well find itself: amid great trials, false prophets would lead people astray and the love that is the core of the Gospel would grow cold in the hearts of many.

False prophets

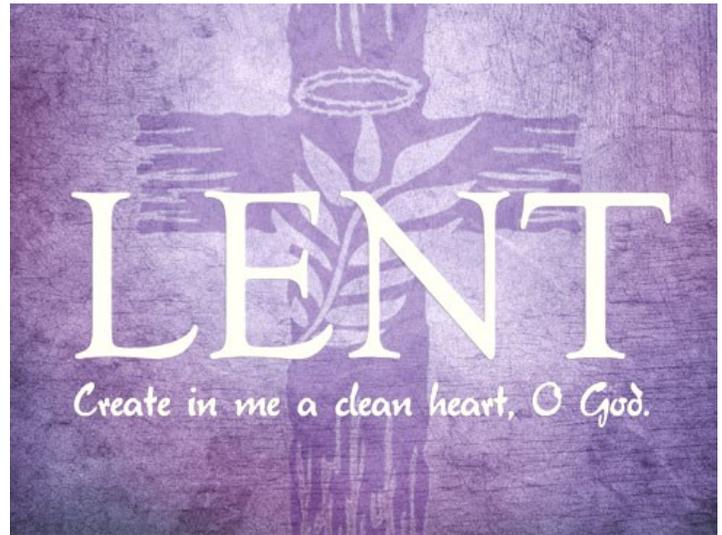
Let us listen to the Gospel passage and try to understand the guise such false prophets can assume.

They can appear as "snake charmers", who manipulate human emotions in order to enslave others and lead them where they would have them go. How many of God's children are mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness! How many men and women live entranced by the dream of wealth, which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests! How many go through life believing that they are sufficient unto themselves, and end up entrapped by loneliness!

False prophets can also be "charlatans", who offer easy and immediate solutions to suffering that soon prove utterly useless. How many young people are taken in by the panacea of drugs, of disposable relationships, of easy but dishonest gains! How many more are ensnared in a thoroughly "virtual" existence, in which relationships appear quick and straightforward, only to prove meaningless! These swindlers, in peddling things that have no real value, rob people of all that is most precious: dignity, freedom and the ability to love. They appeal to our vanity, our trust in appearances, but in the end they only make fools of us. Nor should we be surprised. In order to confound the human heart, the devil, who is "a liar and the father of lies" (Jn 8:44), has always presented evil as good, falsehood as truth. That is why each of us is called to peer into our heart to see if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets. We must learn to look closely, beneath the surface, and to recognize what leaves a good and lasting mark on our hearts, because it comes from God and is truly for our benefit...

- Pope Francis

*Note: To access the Pope's full message, please Google search:
Pope Francis Lenten Message 2018*



LENT 2018: We are called to return to the Lord...

For this reason (the grounding of the mystery of Jesus Christ in the Old and New Testaments) the Church, especially during Advent and Lent and above all at the Easter Vigil, re-reads and re-lives the great events of salvation history in the "today" of her liturgy. But this also demands that catechesis help the faithful to open themselves to this spiritual understanding of the economy of salvation as the Church's liturgy reveals it and enables us to live it.

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1095

Once Again, Keep It Simple, Sinner

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

As in last year's Lent, my invitation to all of us is to keep our observance of this holy season simple. By this, I mean, we look at the three disciplines of Lent: prayer, fasting and alms-giving, and do at least one activity that pertains to each. It is good to see that the three disciplines are related to each other, and all three truly enrich our Lenten experience.

In this Lenten bulletin insert is a comprehensive list of what will be offered in our parish during Lent, Easter and beyond. Take the time to go over this insert. You are invited to participate as indicated, and with regards to the sacred liturgies, to immerse yourself and your families in them. For a few events, please be attentive to additional information about them in the upcoming weekly bulletins.

I pray that we will encounter Jesus anew in word and in one another through acts of charity and self-denial. During this time of letting go, may we find ourselves holding on more and more to Jesus.

Let us keep praying for one another.

- Father Edison



First, Ask for God’s Help

Dear God, thank you for the holy season of Lent. Do speak clearly to me and I will listen to you obediently. Grant me the time to pray, to fast and to give alms. Whatever I choose to do, give me the courage and patience to persevere. And may everything I do give glory only to you, through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

A. Opportunities for Prayer (& Reflection)

In addition to our weekly obligation to worship God at Sunday Mass, choose another prayerful activity. In prayer (& reflection), we direct our lives first to God.

□ Daily personal prayer. *Take a copy of the Lenten reflection booklet, ‘The Path to Peace’. Some websites or apps to consider using are USCCB Daily Readings, iBreviary, or Sacred Space by the Irish Jesuits.*

□ Daily family prayer. *e.g. before meals, before bedtime, blessing your children before they go to school. Consider using the Lenten reflection booklet for families, ‘Sharing the Bread of God’s Love,’ and activity for children, ‘Our Lenten Journey’.*

□ Read and reflect on the Gospel of Mark. *You may do this as your personal or family prayer. Let us strive to read his gospel by Pentecost, May 20, 2018.*

□ Daily Mass. *As your weekday schedule allows for this.*

□ Stations of the Cross. *Guides for adults, teens and children are provided in church, by the baptismal font. During the weekend, parishioners are invited to pray the stations 30 minutes before Mass. If you want to lead, use the sign up sheet in the Sacristy.*

Consider attending: Our youth will be staging a Living Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 23, 7:30 PM in Church. Let us pray with our youth.

□ First Friday Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction: March 2, April 6 and May 4. *This devotion allows us to spend quiet time, even for just a few minutes, with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration from 3 PM and benediction, at 5 minutes before 6 PM.*

□ Forty Hour Devotion. *Beginning Thursday, March 15 at 6 PM until Saturday, March 17 at 10 AM. We had received great response from parishioners in the past two events we held in the parish. We hope for the same response this time. Please wait for further details.*

□ Use resources provided to you through Formed.org: *Open your personal account using the Parish Code: 3KRJJK. Explore programs like ‘A Lent to Remember,’ ‘Forgiven,’ ‘Lectio,’ ‘Symbolon,’ ‘Follow Me,’ and much more. Remember these resources - books, audios, movies and documentaries - are available to you for free.*

□ Parish Retreat. *Save the dates: April 8-9, Sunday-Monday, 7 PM. In this parish retreat, Dr. Robert Wicks, will explore three themes: presence to others, ourselves and God—addressed through story, practices and insights through the following topics: reaching out without being pulled down, understanding spiritual and psychological self-care, and enriching one’s own sense of prayerfulness.*

This Lent, how have I grown in faith through prayer?

B. Opportunities for Fasting

Through fasting, we detach ourselves even from our basic needs, *e.i.* food, in order to attach ourselves more and more to God. Do the following as applicable to you.

Abstinence: *Abstinence from meat are binding to Catholics from age 14 onwards. Days of abstinence are: Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Fridays of Lent.*

Fasting: *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. Days of fasting are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation: *We ‘fast’ from our sinful inclinations and actual sins by encountering and allowing the love and mercy of God to heal us.*

- Before the Daily Masses, from 7:15 to 8:15 AM
- Saturday, from 3:15 to 4:15 PM. *First Penance will be celebrated on these Saturday afternoons. Parents, consider celebrating this wonderful sacrament with your children.*
- Sunday, from 7:15 to 8:15 AM, from 4 to 4:45 PM
- To be determined, *Diocesan Day of Penance*, usually from 12:30 PM until..., in all parishes of our diocese.
- Or call Fr. Edison @ (585) 924-7111, for a more convenient date & time for you.

If able to add a personal sacrifice: I am giving up:

(Do not just give up something, create a new good habit!)

This Lent, how have I grown in faith through fasting?

C. Opportunities for Alms-Giving

Through alms-giving, our love and attachment to God leads to love and concern for our neighbor. The fruit of our giving up something becomes a blessing as we share the fruits of our fast with others, in particular, with the poor. Listed below are examples (Obviously, not exhaustive; you may substitute these with other creative ideas). Choose at least one.

- Gift of Time

- Spend time with your family, walk, hike, etc.
- Help at the Community Dinners. *We offer them on the third Saturday of the month at the Presbyterian Church in Victor. Confirm dates through the Office.*
- Help host one of our Parish Coffee Hours.
- Parents and Teens? Why not sign-up for Service Sunday. *Contact Anthony Klosterman @ 924-2800.*

- Gift of Talent

- Volunteer to bring up the gifts at Mass.
- Connect and serve through a parish ministry.

- Gift of Treasure

- CRS Rice Bowls. *Due March 24-25.*
- Forty Cans for Lent: *Council 6652 of the Knights of Columbus will sponsor a 40 Cans for Lent Drive. We are asking each parishioner to donate one can of non-perishable food for each day of Lent to the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard.*

Food will be collected in designated spaces at each entrance to the Church. The Knights will collect the food weekly and deliver it to the food cupboard.

This Lent, how have I grown in faith through alms-giving?

Sacred Liturgy during Lent and Easter

Respect and Observe Holy Days of Obligation

- February 14 Ash Wednesday
 - 7:00 AM: Prayer Service (Not a Mass)
 - Noon and 7 PM: Mass
- March 2 Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
 - 3:00-6:00 PM, in Church
 - Healing Mass
 - 7:00 PM at Saint Anne’s Church
 - 1600 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester NY
- March 24-25 Palm Sunday
 - On Palm Sunday, we commemorate Jesus’ triumphal entry into the Holy City of Jerusalem. The faithful wave blessed palms to welcome him and usher in the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection.*
- March 27 Chrism Mass
 - Tuesday 7:00 PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral on 296 Flower City Park, Rochester, NY
 - For practical reasons, this event properly celebrated on Holy Thursday is moved earlier in the week. During the liturgy, ordained priests renew their vows, and oils for the celebration of the sacraments are blessed.*
- March 29 Holy Thursday
 - 12:15 PM: Liturgy of the Hours

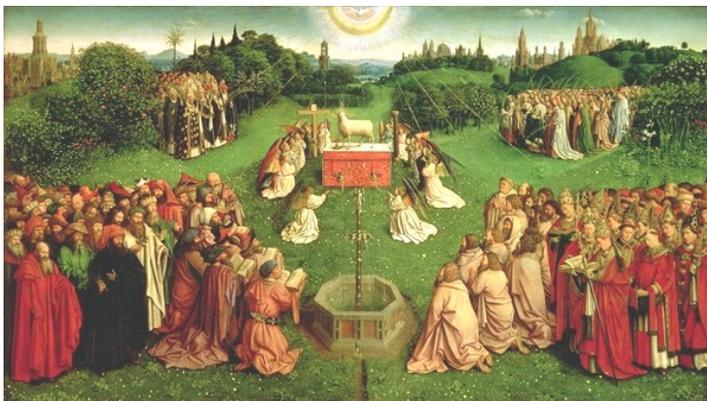
The Liturgy of the Hours is the other common public prayer of the Church (the other being the Mass). During the Liturgy of the Hours, psalms are read. As part of their vows, priests and religious pray the Liturgy of the Hours several times a day. Today, many lay faithful pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Because of our public prayers, the Church is always at prayer because somewhere at a particular time of the day or evening, these prayers are offered to God.

7:00 PM: Mass of the Lord’s Supper

At the end of the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed in the Parish Center until midnight. As your schedule allows you, do visit local churches (Visita Iglesia) this evening for adoration.

On Holy Thursday, we commemorate Jesus’ Last Supper where he instituted and left us the gift of the Eucharist and of his Priesthood. Last January 6, 2016, Pope Francis through the decree, ‘In Missa In Cena Domini,’ invited bishops and priests to conform to Christ who came ‘not to be served but to serve’ (Matt 20:28) and compelled by charity ‘to the end’ (John 13:1), to give his life for the salvation of the whole human race. In the same decree, Pope Francis offered instruction on what pastors may do in selecting small group for foot washing.

Since the Holy Triduum forms a unified liturgical celebration, the faithful are encourage to celebrate Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday as one continuous liturgical action.



March 30 Good Friday
 12:15 PM: Liturgy of the Hours
 3:00 PM: Passion of the Lord
On Good Friday, we commemorate the death of Jesus on the Cross at Calvary.

March 31 Black Saturday
 11:45 AM: Blessing of Easter Food
 12:15 PM: Liturgy of the Hours
On Black Saturday, we commemorate Jesus' descent into hell and we await for his resurrection.

8:00 PM: Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is called the greatest and most noble of all solemnities. In one sweeping liturgical celebration, the Old Testament and the New Testament come alive in the liturgical celebration of Jesus' Paschal Mystery, which finds its completion in his resurrection. Our human souls can only soak in subtle grandeur of these rites, marveling at the immense goodness and greatness of God.

April 1 Easter Sunday
 Masses: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM
During the weekends of Easter, our Parish Stewardship Committee will help us reflect and discern what stewardship is as a way proper to Christian living. As a parish, we will look into our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure, and how to put these to use in service of God and neighbor.
Our First Eucharist candidates will be receiving first Communion at certain Easter weekend Masses.

May 10 Ascension Thursday
 Vigil Mass: 7:00 PM, May 9
 Mass During the Day: Noon May 10
 May 20 Pentecost Sunday (Don't forget wear red.)
 4:30 PM, 8:30 & 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM
During the weekend of Pentecost, we will be holding our annual Parish Ministry Fair. Our discernment on stewardship culminates in concrete action by serving God and one another through our parish ministries.

What are existing needs in our parish and local community?

What are my God-given talents?

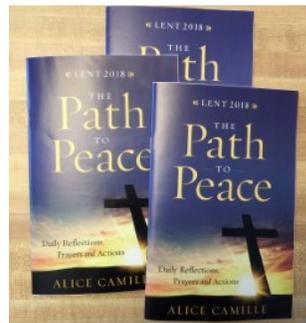
What are parish ministries that I could explore to help me use my talents to respond to existing needs?



Lenten Packet for Families with Young Children

Young families, kindly take a Lenten packet with you. In it are -

- a Lenten calendar (to provide you simple ideas and activities that you can do each day with your children, like creating a cross (you are provided with two popsicle sticks for this),
- a Way of the Cross (a simple guide for your family)
- Lenten reflection booklet, 'Sharing the Bread of God's Love' and activity booklet for children, 'Our Lenten Journey'
- a Rice Bowl (the fruit of our fasting leads to alms-giving; return the bowl to church on Palm Sunday)



For Adult Parishioners

These are available to you -

- A copy of the Lenten Booklet, 'The Path of Peace'
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowls.

Easter Season Egg Hunt

April 29, Sunday
 After the 10:30 AM Mass
 Parish Grounds
 (Scheduled at a later date, hopefully we get favorable weather.



Children, please bring your own baskets.)

*God bless you always!
 Saint Patrick, pray for us!*