

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6

Ash Wednesday Masses/Services are:

St. Margaret Church

6:30 am (Mass)

8:30 am (Mass)

12:15 pm (Service)

5:00 pm (Service)

7:00 pm (Mass)

St. Mary Magdalen Mission

8:30 am (Mass)

7:30 pm (Service)

Did you know that Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 6?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It is a season of prayer, almsgiving and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the faithful to remind them of death, of the sorrow they should feel for their sins and of the necessity of changing their lives. Our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts

and remind us that life passes away on Earth. The priest or minister, dipping a thumb into ashes previously blessed, marks the forehead of each with the sign of the cross, saying the words,

"Repent and believe in the Gospel."



The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are blessed with Holy Water. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

LENT

Lent is a time of intense Christian living, a journey guided by the sacred scriptures, an adventure marked by special observances that lead us to discover sin and grace, self and Christ, death and

life. Week by week, we travel together the charted course of the Church.

Even day by day, the prayer of the Church can form us. It is a time of purification and illumination. One does not happen without the other:

Lent/Easter, cross/resurrection, death/life.

We are called to know Christ, understand the gospel and live its truth.



Lent has a movement, a velocity and a dynamic that is found at no other time.

This is to reshape us as a church, opening us to accept a new spirit and new people into our common life in faith.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Stations of the Cross Fridays during Lent

March 8	12:15 and 5:30 pm
March 15	12:15 and 5:30 pm
March 22	12:15 and 5:30 pm
March 29	12:15 and 5:30 pm
April 5	12:15 and 5:30 pm
April 12	12:15 and 5:30 pm
Good Friday	12:00 and 7:00 pm

Lenten Soupers Fridays during Lent except Good Friday

March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29, April 5, April 12

All are welcome to pray the Stations of the Cross and stay for the parish's Lenten Soupers at 6:00 pm in the parish hall.

Eat, Listen and Share

- 5:30 pm Stations of the Cross in the church
- 6:00 pm Grace and simple Lenten meal of soup and salad
- 6:30 pm Adults: Presentation and shared reflection on discipleship
- 6:30 pm School-aged Children: Catechist led Lenten activity
- 7:00 pm Closing prayer

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday 2:30 – 3:30 pm (Except Holy Saturday)

Parish Lenten Mission

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday ~ March 25, 26, 27 – 7:00 pm – St. Margaret Church

Theme: Praying with the Master: Encountering Jesus in the Gospel of Luke

Leader: Rev. Martin J. Burnham, PSS

Parish Lenten Penance Service with Private Confessions

Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 pm St. Margaret Church

Holy Thursday, April 18

Morning Prayer 8:30 am

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 pm

Adoration in the Parish Hall until 9:00 pm, ending with Night Prayer

Good Friday, April 19

Morning Prayer 8:30 am

Church will be open for private prayer from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm (No confessions on Good Friday)

Traditional Stations at 12:00 pm

Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3:00 pm

Living Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday, April 20

Morning Prayer 8:30 am Blessing of Food 12:00 pm, Church

Easter Vigil, April 20

7:30 pm – St. Margaret Church

Easter Sunday, April 21

St. Margaret Church and Parish Hall

8:00 am, 10:00 am and noon

St. Mary Magdalen Mission

9:00 am and 11:00 am

Birthright Baby Bottle Boomerang

During Lent, we will be having our Baby bottle project to support Birthright. This is a wonderful almsgiving effort during Lent. We can fill our bottles daily with loose change or bills, and as we do, we can pray for the unborn. Last year, we collected over \$22,000 for Birthright. This money is used to support mothers and fathers with an unexpected pregnancy and to help them bring this life into the world. Birthright does this with kindness, care, education and support.

The bottles will be passed out on the first Sunday of Lent, **March 9** at all the Masses and **collected on Palm Sunday, April 14**. Thank you for your efforts and your support of the unborn. We can make a difference.

“Feed My Lambs”

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” Yes, Lord” he said, “you know that I love you. “Jesus said, **“Feed my lambs.”** John 21:15

Through this Lenten season, we will be collecting items to benefit a different local organization each week. Know that your donation, no matter how small, will make a huge difference and change lives.



Lenten Almsgiving

March 9/10 ~ Anna’s House

Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, small & large trash bags, Clorox wipes, dish soap, all-purpose cleaner, Lysol

March 16/17 ~ Harford Family House

Paper towels, garbage bags, body wash, all-purpose cleaners

March 23/24 ~ Harford Community Action Agency

Toiletries for adults & children: Body wash, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, lotion

March 30/31 ~ Daughters House ~ Halfway house for women

New twin sheets, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies

April 6/7 ~ Welcome One Shelter

8oz foam cups, 10” paper or foam dinner plates, 12oz foam bowls, lemonade mix, coffee

April 13/14 Covered Bridge ~ Halfway house for women & men

Paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, feminine hygiene products

WHEN & WHY FAST?

WHEN

Days of Fast & Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

(Only one full meal in the day and no meat)

All Fridays in Lent are Days of Abstinence (No meat)

Lenten regulations begin with Ash Wednesday, March 6

The current regulations concerning Lenten fasting and abstinence for Roman Catholics in the United States generally are as follows.

Abstinence from all meat is to be observed by all Roman Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent and Good Friday.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Roman Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 60.

For Roman Catholics whose health or ability to work would be negatively affected by fasting and/or abstinence, the regulations above do not apply.

WHY

Christ fasted for 40 days and nights to prepare Himself for the time that He would come face-to-face with Satan, because He knew He would need His Father's strength. To fast is to do without food. Its purpose is to experience the effects of not eating. It also serves to be a penance or a sacrifice - for the purpose of strengthening us. When we don't eat, for even a little while, we get hungry. When we get hungry, we have a heightened sense of awareness. When we fast, we have a feeling of alertness. It is purifying and prepares us to pray more deeply.

You may think you don't need to fast, but after you have fasted and felt the closeness of God and His strength in you, then you will see how weak and how far away from God you really are. Fasting is a tool that God has given us to use to become spiritually stronger so that we can go on our spiritual journey with strength and power from God. When you fast, you will find yourself being humbled. As He leads you to recognize and repent, you will experience special blessings from God. When you fast you will empty yourself, opening yourself up to accept God more honestly. A renewed closeness with God and a greater sensitivity to spiritual things are usually the results of a fast.

Current Canon Law requires that on the days of fasting, Catholics may eat only one full meal during the day. Additionally, they may eat up to two small meals or snacks. Church requirements on fasting only relate to solid food, not to drink, so any amount of water or other beverages may be consumed.