

ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH

LENT TRIDUUM EASTER

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Ashes will be distributed at all liturgies on this day.

8:30 a.m. Mass (Catholic School attends)

Noon Mass

6 p.m. Mass (Bi-lingual)

Stations of the Cross, Fridays of Lent

6 p.m. English

School Reconciliation, Thursday, March 11, 1-3 p.m.

(Only those who find NIGHT-DRIVING DIFFICULT should attend this service.

The school children grades 3-8 will be going to confession.)

Parish Reconciliation, Thursday, March 11, 7 p.m.

Holy Thursday, April 1

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2

Good Friday Service, 3 p.m.

Good Friday Spanish Stations of the Cross--Time to be announced.

Easter Vigil, April 3

Evening liturgy, 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 4

PLEASE NOTE THE MASS TIMES ON EASTER!!!

6:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

5 p.m. (Spanish)

LENTEN REGULATIONS

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday--Days of FAST and ABSTINENCE. One full meal and two lighter meals with no eating between meals for those 18-59. NO MEAT for anyone 14 and older.

All Fridays in Lent--Days of abstinence. NO MEAT for anyone 14 and older.

Weekdays of Lent--There is no obligation to fast. However, one may fast from certain food, drink, or activity during Lent. Other ways to observe Lent may include participation in daily Mass, spiritual reading, Stations of the Cross, praying the rosary, performing deeds of mercy and kindness.

Psalms: Great Reading Matter for Lent!

Psalms are considered the prayers or songs of the Bible. Jesus grew up praying psalms in his family home. Psalms are a large part of the Church's prayer—we sing them regularly (recite if no musical accompaniment) after the First Reading at Mass; they are part of the Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Office) that is prayed daily by the ordained. The psalms cover a range of human emotions. *Listed below are various well-known psalms and their major themes. We invite you to read through them and to make 7 (one a day each week) a part of your prayer life during Lent and after!*

- ❖ 3 A prayer for help
- ❖ 8 God's greatness; human dignity
- ❖ 10 A prayer for justice
- ❖ 15 How should we behave?
- ❖ 23 The Lord is my shepherd
- ❖ 25 To God I give my soul
- ❖ 27 Trust in God
- ❖ 42 As the deer longs for water, my soul longs for you
- ❖ 51 Have mercy on me!
- ❖ 59 A prayer for safety
- ❖ 63 I thirst for God
- ❖ 84 How lovely is God's dwelling place
- ❖ 85 Prayer for nation
- ❖ 90 Brevity of life
- ❖ 91 With God there is protection; a good night prayer
- ❖ 95 Prayer of praise
- ❖ 100 Praise and thanksgiving
- ❖ 102 Prayer of troubled youth
- ❖ 103 God is good and gracious
- ❖ 116 With God there is freedom
- ❖ 122 Rejoice as we enter God's house
- ❖ 130 Asking God's pardon
- ❖ 139 Lord, you know everything about me
- ❖ 141 Prayer for evening
- ❖ 143 Please answer my prayer
- ❖ 148 Creation
- ❖ 150 Praise to God!



LENTEN PLEDGES

Each Sunday of Lent we will offer *pledge cards* whose goal is to turn our hearts to Christ—pledge cards that urge us to have the attitude of Jesus. Imagine what could happen to our parish if all of us tried to follow these pledge cards!

The Lent 2009 pledge cards tackled the many facets of gossip and how we treat others.

This year the pledge cards will offer suggestions based on the Sunday Gospels.

The cards will be placed in baskets near the baptistery and small font near the choir. Each weekend will present a different pledge card to incorporate into daily living.

The English version will be on orange paper; the Spanish version will be on green paper. May we allow Jesus' message to influence our daily choices and to change our hearts.

EASTER FLOWERS

The Easter Season begins Easter Sunday and continues through Pentecost, 50 days after Easter. Our church decor reflects the gift of Resurrection. As a way to support the expense of living flowers, an invitation is made to you to donate any amount of money you wish in honor of your family or someone who is living, or in memory of someone who has died. A list will be posted in the Easter bulletin and be made available in the pamphlet rack during the Easter season.

If you wish to donate, please use the envelope that arrived with your MONTHLY stewardship envelopes. You can drop your donation in the collection basket, mail, or drop off in the parish office.

FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This brief para-liturgy (no-Mass) begins every Lenten Friday at 6 p.m. and concludes at 6:30. This is a Lenten favorite and usually draws 100 people—a nice number on a Friday evening.

We visit each Station and meditate on the action and the meaning of what is presented. It is an excellent way to do something special in Lent.

Stations of the Cross is the story of Jesus' last day on earth—the day he died for us. They were created long ago when it was no longer safe to travel to the Holy Land to "walk the way of Christ" and no longer practical—as Christianity spread throughout the world, few people could ever make that journey! Hence, storyboards depicting Christ's death were developed. At times there were nearly 40; eventually Pope Clement XII established 14; during the Second Vatican Council, Station 15, the Resurrection of Jesus, was added as an option for churches. St. Bartholomew has the 15th Station. We are a resurrection people.

Booklets are provided for use during the service. There is the choice of following the ministry leader of stations around the church or remaining in the pews. Genuflecting and kneeling occur during certain portions of the prayers, but if this is difficult, the invitation to remain standing or to be seated throughout is offered. Stations begin February 19, and continue through March 26.

RECONCILIATION, THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 7 p.m.

Please join us in this healing sacrament. We go about our daily lives and face many challenges. Looking at one's habits of *not-so-good-behavior* and trying to understand why we repeat mistakes is part of the reconciliation experience. The sacrament gives us the grace to reform, to seek more of God's ways. It changes us for the better. It gives us hope. It gives us peace. If you have not been to confession in a long time, we invite you to join us.

We begin with Scripture and a brief Examination of Conscience; Father Clem will introduce several priests and assign locations for them in the church, sacristy, Reconciliation Room, and lower level conference rooms. You can choose to go to any priest and you will find them to be considerate. You begin by telling the priest how long it has been since your last confession and then begin to tell or list those things which are sinful—things you are not proud of having done. Father may offer some brief advice and then he assigns a penance—usually a prayer. You leave with a smile and a feeling that what you have done is good and wonderful. Join us!

Examination of Conscience

WHERE IS GOD IN MY LIFE?

Do I pray each day?
Do I attend Sunday Mass?
Am I routinely late to Mass?
Do I pay attention during Mass?
Do I easily take God's name in vain?
Am I grateful to God?
Who or what really is the center of my life?

HOW DO I TREAT MYSELF?

Do I eat or drink too much?
Am I addicted to drugs?
Do I try to take care of my physical health?
Do I often allow myself into situations that will lead me to sin against chastity?
Do I accept responsibility for all my actions or do I shift the blame to others?
Am I angry with myself? Why? How does this affect others?
What rules my life?

HOW DO I TREAT OTHERS?

Do I hate others? Different ethnic groups?
Do I separate myself from those who are not in "my circle" of friends?
Do I disobey my parents or those who are in authority over me? Teachers? Employers?
Do I give full effort at work or school?
Am I honest?
Do I gossip about others?
Do I steal things?
Do I judge others without considering all issues?
Have I led others into sin by my behavior?
Do I envy other people?
Do I care about all God's creatures and the environment?
How much do I resemble Jesus in my words and deeds?

What I Have Come to Appreciate about Reconciliation

By Mike Keogh

My “growing up” experiences of church came out of a fundamentalist Protestant denomination. One warning given me was to stay as far away from Catholics as I could. In spite of that advice, in 1980 I married one. After many years of soul searching and two journeys through RCIA, I joined the Catholic Church in 1995 and have since faithfully tried to follow its teachings and rituals.

Until recently I had remained ambivalent to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I wasn't confident as to how to correctly “make” a confession. I didn't completely buy into the need for it. I failed to see the need to confess my sins to a priest when I could seek forgiveness directly from God. When I participated in the sacrament, I didn't feel changed or cleansed. Often the penance prescribed was too commonplace and seemed to have no real connection with the sins confessed. I felt as if I simply was going through the motions.

Last year, I decided to learn more about the sacrament of reconciliation. I read, *Lord Have Mercy – The Healing Power of Confession* by Scott Hahn. I now definitely realize that Reconciliation is a great gift. Further, I would say that those who, for whatever reason, choose not to participate are missing out on an essential benefit of their faith.

Here are some “ah ha” ideas gleaned from my reading and meditation.

1. Sin is real. While the world tries to deny or downplay the idea of sin, it is present in each of our lives and it must be dealt with. Sin offends God and causes our relationship with Him to be broken. If we sin, we must repent. If we don't repent, we face God's punishment, which can be to leave us spiraling downward into a more and more unreasonable and destructive lifestyle.
2. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the means to repent. In order to have a “good” confession, we must be genuinely sorry (contrite) for our sins and sincere in our resolve to change.
3. Why do we confess to a priest? It is because this is what God intended. We know that Jesus forgave sins. Nearing the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus breathed on his apostles and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain their sins, they are retained.” (John 20:23) Jesus passed on the authority to forgive sins to the apostles and to their successors, the priests of the Church.
4. Why is confession to a priest important? Besides the fact that this is the process Jesus instituted, confessing our sins to a human being and then receiving penance and absolution from that same authorized person, gives us personal, verbal assurance that we indeed have been forgiven by God.

Bottom line for me: Reconciliation is the only way to restore a relationship with God which has been broken by sin. Coming to the sacrament humbly and honestly, knowing that God, present in the priest who will listen to me and forgive my sins, is powerful and liberating indeed. Further, having been shown infinite mercy by God, I know I must leave from Confession, showing mercy to others.

Two final notes: There should be no fear of “making” confession in an incorrect way. If you are unsure of what to do, just tell the priest. He will be glad to help and guide you. Also, if you do not like the idea of confessing to a priest face-to-face, go to the priest in the Reconciliation Room, where you can make your confession separated by a screen.