

## ***Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church*** **OUR 2021 PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM**

*(Please keep this sheet as a handy reference throughout the Season of Lent.)*

“Ash Wednesday begins the Catholic season of Lent, a time of examining our consciences, confessing and repenting our sins, and working to change the direction of our lives back toward God through prayer, self-sacrifice, and charitable acts to others.

This is why Lent is so important. It’s the season in Church life that calls us to discipline our appetites, put aside our excuses, and take an honest look at the state of our souls.”

(Archbishop Emeritus Charles Chaput)

### **FAST AND ABSTINENCE AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE**

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

### **LITURGICAL SERVICES**

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>:**

Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 am, 9:00 am, 12:10 pm and 7:00 pm.

Ashes (symbol of our repentance) will be blessed and distributed within all Masses.

#### **WEEKDAY MASSES:**

Monday through Friday at 7:30 am and 9:00 am; Saturday at 8:00 am

#### **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND BENEDICTION:**

As it does throughout the year, Eucharistic Adoration will take place each Friday immediately following the 9:00 am Mass. Adoration will conclude at 5:00 pm.

#### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:**

Place yourself (in spirit) beside our Savior as He journeys to Calvary. Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday in Lent (except March 26<sup>th</sup> due to scheduled practice sessions for Confirmation) at 7:00 pm.

#### **OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS:**

On **Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm all are welcome** to pray the Stations outdoors. We will be gathering at the marble statue of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The statue is located next to the old pump house. (This devotion will be coordinated by the Boy Scouts of local Troop #547 and members of our St. Francis Ecology Council.)

(See the reverse side.)

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Confessions are heard on the **Wednesdays** of Lent (except Ash Wednesday) from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, on **Saturdays** from 4:00 to 4:45 pm, and on **Sundays** immediately following the 9:00 am Mass. As always, our parish priests are available for confession by appointment.

## **FRIDAY FISH FRY**

On the Fridays of Lent, as you know, we are required to abstain from eating meat. On **Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**, from 5:00 to 7:30 pm, a TAKE-OUT ONLY dinner will be held. This is a much-needed fundraiser to support the charitable works of the Knights of Columbus/ Council #13126. Please keep an eye on the parish bulletin and other forms of parish communication for details regarding the menu, prices, and the purchasing of tickets.

## **OPERATION RICE BOWL**

Operation Rice Bowl focuses on the major Lenten themes: prayer, almsgiving, fasting and a renewed solidarity with the poor of the world. The format is simple. On one evening of each week of Lent, families eat a light, low-cost meal. Before and after the supper, they give thanks for their blessings and pray for the hungry of the world. Money saved by eating a simple meal instead of a regular dinner is placed in a “rice bowl” on the dinner table.

**Cardboard “rice bowls” are available on tables in the narthex. If you are unable to pick-up a “rice bowl” from the narthex or the parish office, you may wish to create your own by visiting our parish website (<https://mmredeemer.org/>) where you can download and print a label to affix to a container of your choice. A large basket will be in place at the Holy Family shrine throughout the Lenten season to receive your donations.** A percentage of your contributions will feed the hungry here in the Archdiocese; the rest will be distributed to the poor around the world.

## **THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK**

“The Little Black Book” for 2021 is a collection of daily six-minute meditations on the Passion according to Mark. Copies of this extremely popular and inexpensive booklet are **available in the Parish Office**. The cost is \$2.00.

## **CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME**

This program is offered by a team of parishioners to people thinking about returning to a practice of their Catholic faith. Sessions are offered at a parishioner’s home. Please contact Mike at 215-872-7009 or [MikeCRH@gmail.com](mailto:MikeCRH@gmail.com).

***Please note: Specific details regarding all of our Lenten activities can be found on a weekly basis in the parish bulletin and website throughout the Lenten season.***