

Christ Child Catholic Church
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service***

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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME
February 16, 2020

Very soon Lent 2020!!!

“Blow the trumpet... sanctify a fast” (Joel 2:15). Lent opens with a piercing sound, that of a trumpet that does not please the ears, but instead proclaims a fast. It is a loud sound that seeks to slow down our life, which is so fast-paced, yet often directionless. It is a summons to stop – a “halt!” - To focus on what is essential, to fast from the unnecessary things that distract us. It is a wake-up call for the soul.

This wake-up call is accompanied by the message that the Lord proclaims through the lips of the prophet, a short and heartfelt message: “Return to me”. To return, if we have to return, it means that we have wandered off. Lent is the time to rediscover the *direction of life*. Because in life’s journey, as in every journey, what really matters is not to lose sight of the goal. If what interests us as we travel, however, is looking at the scenery or stopping to eat, we will not get far. We should ask ourselves: On the journey of life, do I seek the way forward? Or am I satisfied with living in the moment and thinking only of feeling good, solving some

problems and having fun? What is the path? Is it the search for health, which many today say comes first but which eventually passes? Could it be possessions and wellbeing? But we are not in the world for this. *Return to me*, says the Lord. To me! The Lord is the goal of our journey in this world. The direction must lead to him.

Soon we have been offered a sign that will help us find our direction: the head marked by ash. It is a sign that causes us to consider what occupies our mind. Our thoughts often focus on transient things, which come and go. The small mark of ash, which we will receive, is a subtle yet real reminder that of the many things occupying our thoughts that we chase after and worry about every day, nothing will remain. No matter how hard we work, we will take no wealth with us from this life. Earthly realities fade away like dust in the wind. Possessions are temporary, power passes, success wanes. The culture of appearance prevalent today, which persuades us to live for passing things, is a great deception. It is like a blaze: once ended; only ash remains. Lent is the time to free ourselves from the illusion of chasing after dust. Lent is for rediscovering that we are created for the inextinguishable flame. Not for ashes that immediately disappear; for God, not for the world; for the eternity of heaven, not for earthly deceit; for the freedom of the children of God, not for slavery to things. We should ask ourselves today: Where do I stand? Do I live for fire or for ash?

On this Lenten journey, back to what is essential; the Gospel proposes three steps which the Lord invites us to undertake without hypocrisy and pretense: almsgiving, prayer, fasting. What are they for? Almsgiving, prayer and fasting bring us back to the three realities that do not fade away.

Prayer reunites us to God; charity, to our neighbor; fasting, to ourselves. God, my neighbor, my life: these are the realities that do not fade away and in which we must invest. Lent, therefore, invites us to focus, first of all on the Almighty, in prayer, which frees us from that horizontal and mundane life where we find time for self but forget God. It then invites us to focus on others, with the charity that frees us from the vanity of acquiring and of thinking that things are only good if they are good for me. Finally, Lent invites us to look inside our heart, with fasting, which frees us from attachment to things and from the worldliness that numbs the heart. **Prayer, charity, fasts: three investments for a treasure that endures.** Jesus said: **“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”** (Mt 6:21)...
Pope Francis

MASS INTENTIONS February 15 – 21

Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Sylvia Cordle
Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Cecily Olsen
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Calvin A. Stafford Jr.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Judith Ann Hammond
Friday 8:00 a.m. + Don Hanley

**SUNDAY March 1, 2020 Care Packages for
our Troops**

Once again we will join with **The Mountain Bible Church** to put Jesus’ love and mercy into practice with small practical gifts of encouragement to our men and women serving in the military overseas.
This is also proven to be a great event to invite your non-church neighbors who have a heart to do well.
Purchase any portion of any of these items and bring them with you on that day. Black or white 100% cotton calf high socks. Medicated foot powder,
Hand warmers (squeeze to activate)
Food: Cereal: Oatmeal that can be microwaved, other cereals that can be quickly prepared. Cup of noodles.
Snacks. Crackers and cheese. Tuna and crackers.
Granola bars. Jerky. Chewing Gum.
No candy / No chocolate

“MARDI GRAS PARISH PARTY!”
Fat Tuesday! “Martes de Carnaval”
IT’S HAPPENING....

This Fat **Tuesday, February 25, 2020**
The Men’s Club invites you to enjoy a great time, good dinner and drinks, before the beginning of LENT! The social will be from 6:00 to 6:45 followed by Dinner.
We will have a great time for every one!
Welcome everyone in the parish and friends!!!

Stewardship of Treasury
Report Sunday February 1 & 2, 2020
Total Plate \$ 1,660.00
Report Sunday February 8 & 9, 2020
Total Plate \$1,489.00

We Need Your Support. Thank you and God bless you!

Women’s Club/Prayer Group
We meet the 3rd Wednesday of this month.
February 19, 2020 from 1 – 2:30 PM.
Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.

February 26th ASH WEDNESDAY
The Masses at 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

St. Patrick’s Day Party 2020
Come celebrate **St. Patrick’s Day** with us!
Sunday, March 22nd from 11am – 2pm.
We will have appetizers, corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, fruit, and something for vegetarians as well. Also included are fabulous desserts, beer and wine. There will be music, whiskey tasting and 50/50 raffle.
As this is a fundraiser for the young families group we are asking for a donation of \$15 per person or \$30 per family. Sometimes money is tight so even if you cannot donate that amount, any amount or nothing is also fine, just come and enjoy! More that money we want to raise our children in a community, the more the merrier! If you wish to donate you can pay at the door or see us after mass.