



February 21, 2021

First Sunday of Lent

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

262 N. Main Street

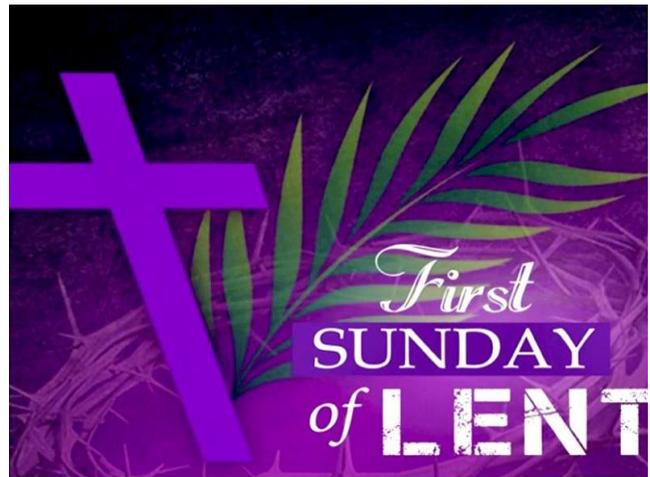
Liberty, NY 12754

845-292-4525

Email: srectory1@hvc.rr.com

Parish Website: www.stpetersliberty.com

Facebook: St. Peter's Church, Liberty



LIVING OUR FAITH

(Some members of the parish are doing an on-line retreat this Lent. This is a reprint of part of that spiritual exercise.)

St. Mark's story of Jesus' temptation in the desert is the shortest one of any of the gospels. It gives no details about how he was tempted by Satan or how he overcame the temptations. It does however tell us the interesting detail that after Jesus came through the ordeal, angels cared for him. When he returns, he begins his public ministry, bringing Good News to those who are suffering and encouraging people to turn away from destructive behavior.

This season of Lent provides a great opportunity for us to practice turning away from unhealthy or sinful habits and begin living more and more into Jesus' Good News. We have 40 days to experiment with what changes might be fruitful.

Traditionally, Catholics are encouraged to commit to action in three areas: prayer, fasting and almsgiving (giving to the poor). All of these have the potential to lead us back to Jesus and his teachings.

We are encouraged to strengthen our prayer lives. If we have a prayer practice, maybe we can add a little time to it. If we don't have a regular time for prayer, Lent can be the push we need to get started. It can be as simple as following a Lenten prayer booklet or on-line daily retreat program.

Commonly, we Catholics are known for fasting from coffee, sweets or alcohol for 40 days but then going right back to our regular habits after Easter. This past year we have been unwillingly forced to fast from many things: hugging others outside our own household, traveling to see extended family members, attending social events in groups and many more things. Perhaps this Lent, besides things our society asks us to fast from for the protection of others, you might consider fasting from something that is unloving, unproductive or just not good for you and the world community. That might mean fasting from gossip, from social media, or from buying things you don't need.

Finally, with almsgiving, we are called to share our resources with the poor. Save the money you would have spent going out to eat once a week and donate it to a food program instead. Use the money you would normally use for a personal luxury and give it to a street person – without judging how he/she might use it (because he/she could easily judge how you might have used it.)

Questions for the week: *What are you considering doing this Lent, particularly in the areas of prayer, fasting and almsgiving? What temptation is currently vexing you? What helps you in your efforts to resist it? What hurts your efforts? How might you call upon the support of others in order to resist the temptation?*



YOU CAN STILL JOIN US FOR OUR LENTEN RETREAT!

AROUND THE LENTEN CIRCLE: AN ONLINE RETREAT EXPERIENCE

In preparation for the Sundays of Lent, we will gather on the Thursday evenings of Lent at 7PM for an interactive weekly online retreat via Zoom.

In order to participate, you must register so that we can email you the Zoom link and the online materials.

You can register by sending us an email at srectory1@hvc.rr.com or by sending us a message on our Facebook page. ***Please include your name and email address.***

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO
LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE
PRESENTED BY JONATHAN TEIXEIRA FOR THE FOCUS BLOG

WHEN
FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

ABSTINENCE

WHO

CATHOLICS
14+
ARE OBLIGED TO PRACTICE ABSTINENCE

CATHOLICS
18-59
ARE OBLIGED TO FAST

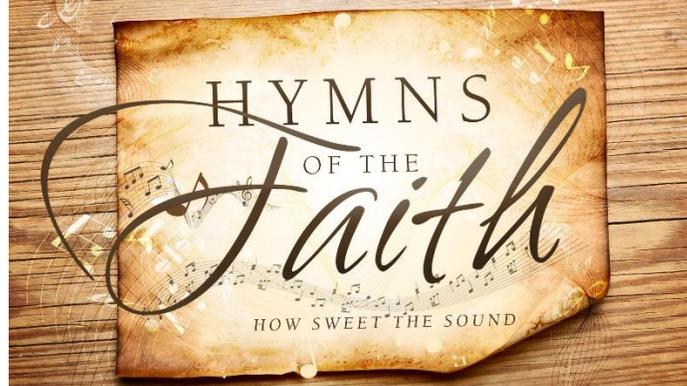
THOSE OUTSIDE THE AGE LIMITS
and those whose state in life (e.g. pregnant women, manual laborers, those who are ill) may be excused from the requirements of fasting and abstinence, but are encouraged to take up some other form of penitence or acts of charity or piety.

DAILY LENTEN REFLECTIONS ON FORMED

Visit www.formed.org for daily Lenten reflections and other resources to enhance your Lenten practices. Simply sign in under our Parish name.
 Questions? Contact Christy at the Parish office.

**2021 CARDINAL’S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL:
 HELP FOR FINANCIALLY VULNERABLE PARISHES**

Our parishes are places of deep encounter with our Eucharistic Lord and with one another. Did you know that the Cardinal’s Appeal helps financially vulnerable parishes? St. Peter’s Parish is considered one of those financially vulnerable parishes and we receive financial support each year from the Archdiocese. To make a contribution, or to learn more at <https://cardinalsappeal.org/assistance-for-needy-parishes>.



THIS SUNDAY'S HYMNS

- # 211 Again We Keep this Solemn Feast
- # 215 The Glory of These Forty Days
- # 267 On Eagle's Wings
- # 209 These Forty Days of Lent

READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND (February 21st)

Genesis 9:8-15

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:12-15

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND (February 28th)

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Romans 8:31b-34

Mark 9:2-10

DAILY PRAYER

Father will continue to gather with us for daily prayer Monday-Friday on Facebook Live. We will pray morning prayers at 9AM and evening vespers at 6 PM. Please send your prayer petitions to Father and he will include them in prayer.

SUNDAY EVENING MASS REMINDER

We have added a 5:30PM Sunday evening Mass to our weekend schedule.

PARISH CLOTHES CLOSET AND FOOD PANTRY

Our Parish Clothes Closet and Food Pantry ministries are open each Saturday morning from 9:00am until 12:00pm.

We are located downstairs in the St. Peter's School building.

Mass Schedule

Saturday evenings at 7 PM:

Mass in Spanish

Sunday mornings at 10 AM:

Mass in English

Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM:

Mass in English

We will continue to livestream our Sunday morning Mass on Facebook Live. You can join us for Mass in person, or by logging on to www.facebook.com and visiting our page - St. Peter's Church, Liberty, NY. A recorded video of the Mass will also be published to our page at the conclusion of Mass.

If you plan to join us for Mass in person, please see the end of this bulletin for details on the protocols we have put in place to keep us all safe.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please note that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. While the church is open for Mass, all individuals who are 65 years of age or older, those with underlying health considerations and those who are not yet comfortable attending Mass in person, are strongly encouraged to stay home and participate in the Mass on Facebook Live.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

For those who continue to join us for Mass on Facebook Live who would like to receive the Eucharist, you may come to the church following the conclusion of Mass to receive. Father Ed or Deacon Don will be waiting on the front steps of the church, weather permitting, each Sunday until 11:30 AM to distribute Holy Communion. They will only be able to offer the Eucharist in the hand. Please be sure to wear a face covering, maintain a distance of 6 feet from others, and most importantly, we ask that you follow the directions of the ushers.

PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES FOR IN PERSON MASS ATTENDANCE

BEFORE MASS

- ✓ We ask you to arrive at the church no later than 9:45 AM for 10 AM Mass. (Please arrive by 6:45PM for 7 PM Spanish Mass.)
- ✓ When approaching the church, please keep in mind that all individuals and groups must keep a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals and groups.
- ✓ Everyone must wear a face covering at all times.
- ✓ There will be hand sanitizer available for those who would like to use some before entering the church.
- ✓ Before entering the church, everyone will have their temperature taken using a contact free thermometer. Anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be asked not to enter the church.
- ✓ Everyone will be escorted to a seat by an usher who has been designated and trained by Father Ed. Seating will be assigned from the front of the church to the back, and will be based on the next available seat, keeping social distancing in mind. Single individuals will be seated on one side of the church and families of 2 or more will be seated on the other side.
- ✓ There will be no holy water in the church.
- ✓ We will continue to send bulletins to parishioners electronically. There will be no paper bulletins in the church.

DURING MASS

- ✓ Please keep your mask on during the entire Mass, except for the brief moment when receiving Holy Communion.
- ✓ The collection will not be taken up in the traditional way. Instead, you may place your offering in the basket at the back of the church.

- ✓ Missalettes and hymnals have been removed from the pews. You are invited to take a missalette from the table at the back of the church at the beginning Mass. That will be your missalette. Please take it home with you and should you wish, bring it back for use at future Masses. Hymnals will not be available for the time being.
- ✓ There will be no offertory procession.
- ✓ Please refrain from physical contact at the Sign of Peace. Please offer a gesture such as a wave, bow or nod. Of course, this does not apply to families who have come together.
- ✓ When it is time for Communion, Father Ed and Deacon Don will make their way through the church to offer the Eucharist. There will NOT be a Communion line. When either Father or Deacon approaches your pew, please stand if you would like to receive. You may remove your mask for the brief moment of receiving Communion. Please note the Eucharist can only be offered in the hand at this time.

DISMISSAL

- ✓ At the conclusion of Mass, please remain in your seat until an usher approaches your row and dismisses you. Rows will be dismissed from the back of the church to the front. Upon leaving the church, please make your way to your car as quickly as possible, so as to avoid groups of people gathering.

BATHROOMS

- ✓ We ask that the use of the bathroom be reserved for emergencies only. If you do need to use the bathroom, please use the handicapped bathroom located in the old Convent building. Ushers will direct you should you need assistance.