



ASH WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 26, 2020

The Parish of  
**ST. JOSEPH**  
HOMewood, IL

17951 Dixie Highway • Homewood, IL 60430

[www.stjohomewood.org](http://www.stjohomewood.org)



There is an inescapable allure to a slightly open door. What is it that piques our curiosity? What captures our imagination? Is the opening shrouded in darkness or illuminated in light? What really lies beyond? Have we been seduced by the game show host who promises “that your world lies waiting behind door number 3?”

Christ has opened a door to give us access to the spiritual world. Heaven and earth, this moment and eternity, the spiritual realm and our world of ordinary experience are all present to us now. Christ is the Door through which we may pass. Where Christ Himself has entered we are invited to follow. We are invited to His feast. It is not permissible for us to excuse ourselves because of competing obligations. “I have a spouse, a responsibility to my family, a business to run, a demanding job, homework to finish, a game to play.”

So now this invitation comes. We are to cross the threshold through the Door to enter into the joy of our Lord. To be drawn in this way beyond our everyday life is to cross—if ever so briefly—the threshold of eternity. You will see that heaven and earth are not so far apart. For what are you waiting?

### ST. JOSEPH LENTEN MISSION 2020: *FALLING IN LOVE WITH GOD*

Sunday & Monday, March 15 & 16 at 7:00p.m.

The story of our salvation in Christ reveals who God is and defines who we are in relationship to God and to one another. This year's mission will explore various aspects of the Christian story of salvation as set forth in the Bible. We will move from our longing for God to God's longing for us in creation, deliverance, and covenant. We will also address how God's longing for us is most fully and completely realized in the gift of his Son. We will wrap up the mission with a consideration of how we are to live our acceptance of God's gift of salvation. The inspiration for this mission comes from the following quote: "Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekend, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything" (Pedro Arrupe, S.J.)

**Professor Pauline Viviano** will speak at all the weekend Masses on March 14 & 15, then on Sunday and Monday evenings at 7:00p.m. Pauline has taught at DePaul University and Catholic Theological Union in Hyde Park, and has written and spoken extensively on the scriptures. We are fortunate that she has agreed to be with us for these Lenten days.



# AROUND THE PARISH

## LENT 2020

**Back to basics** is perhaps the best, or at least the simplest, way to describe how the forty days of Lent should affect the lives of believers. And what are those basics? Jesus himself identifies them in the gospel we hear on Ash Wednesday: “When you **fast**... when you **pray**... when you **give alms**...” Those have long been considered the three “disciplines” of Lent. And discipline is certainly what’s needed if we are to make prayer, fasting and almsgiving as central to our lives as they should be.

**Prayer** grounds us, not only in the discipline of lent, but in every other dimension of Christian life. Lent offers us the opportunity to examine how prayer is woven throughout each moment of life, from the time we wake to the moment we close our eyes in sleep. Does your day begin with prayer, with words of praise for the gift of another dawn? Are prayers of blessing and thanks integral to every meal of the day? Does a prayer of trust acknowledge the Lord’s presence beside you at home or work or school? Does your day end with petition for the needs of the world and prayers of gratitude for the blessings of the day? Do you pray each Sunday with the community and will you take advantage of other opportunities offered by the parish?

**Fasting** is the discipline of Lent that helps us make room in our filled and busy lives for the life that really matters: our life with and in the Lord. Fasting in the Christian tradition has most often been associated with food. But if that is the only fasting we embrace during Lent, what are we saying about the importance of our life in and with Jesus? There is probably much more that most of us need to do when it comes to fasting. What about fasting from TV or the internet? Abstaining from cigarettes or alcohol? Fasting from laziness or busyness? Abstaining from anger, impatience or gossip? The list could go on and on.

**Almsgiving**—generosity—is the third discipline of Lent. Like prayer and fasting, it is a basic element of the Christian life year-in and year-out. Almsgiving is **not** what we do with our leftovers, but what we give from the substance of our lives. Almsgiving is what Christians do **before**, not after, their own needs are satisfied; it is the powerful proclamation of trust in the providence of an extravagantly generous and loving God. We’re called to give generously and selflessly, not only to our parish community, but to those beyond our parish boundaries who are in need of our care and concern.

## CELEBRATING IN THE MIDST OF LENT

**The Feast of St. Joseph** – Thursday, March 19 – We will celebrate the feast day of our patron with a 7:00p.m. mass on that evening. Following the mass, all are invited to a reception of finger-food and drink in the Tolton Room of the school.

**Gavin Coyle in Concert** – Tuesday, March 24 - Irish tenor, Gavin Coyle, will return for his annual concert of Celtic ballads and Irish tunes at 7:00p.m. in the church. There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering will be requested.





# Lent 2020

A Calendar of Parish Liturgical & Spiritual Life

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</b> 6:30 am Communion Service   4:00 pm Prayer Service 8:30 am Mass   7:00 pm Mass  <b>ASHES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THESE LITURGIES.</b>			<b>26 ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  <b>SEE SCHEDULE IN LEFT COLUMN</b>  <b>(DAY OF FASTING)</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass	<b>28</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  7:00 pm Stations of the Cross	<b>29</b> 6:45 am Communion Service 7:00 am Men Fostering Faith (MFF) 8:30 am Mass
<b>1 LENT I</b> Regular Sunday Schedule 7:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.  <b>March</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  <b>Baby Bottle Project Begins</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mission Mass	<b>4</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mission Mass  7:00 pm RCIA	<b>5</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  9:00 am Exposition (Blessed Sacrament) 12:00 pm Benediction	<b>6</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  7:00 pm Stations of the Cross	<b>7</b> 6:45 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass
<b>8 LENT II</b> Regular Sunday Schedule	<b>9</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  <b>Elizabeth Ministry Women's Afternoon of Reflection</b> 12:30 pm Sayers Hall	<b>10</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass	<b>11</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  7:00 pm RCIA	<b>12</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass	<b>13</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  7:00 pm Stations of the Cross	<b>14</b> 6:45 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  <b>The CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD DRIVE</b>
<b>15 LENT III</b> Regular Sunday Schedule 10:00 am Family Mass  <b>7:00 pm MISSION FOOD DRIVE</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  <b>7:00 pm MISSION</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass	<b>18</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  7:00 pm RCIA	<b>19 SAINT JOSEPH</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  <b>7:00 pm MASS * PARISH * FEAST DAY</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  7:00 pm Stations of the Cross	<b>21</b> 6:45 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass
<b>22 LENT IV</b> Regular Sunday Schedule	<b>23</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass	<b>24</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  7:00 pm Gavin Coyle Concert	<b>25</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  7:00 pm RCIA	<b>26</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass	<b>27</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  7:00 pm Stations of the Cross	<b>28</b> 6:45 am Communion Service 7:00 am Men Fostering Faith (MFF) 8:30 am Mass
<b>29 LENT V</b> Regular Sunday Schedule	<b>30</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass	<b>31</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass	<b>1</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  7:00 pm RCIA  <b>April</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  9:00 am Exposition (Blessed Sacrament) 12:00 pm Benediction	<b>3</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  7:00 pm Stations of the Cross	<b>4</b> 6:45 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  3:30 pm - 5:00 pm EXTENDED CONFESSIONS
<b>5 PALM SUNDAY</b> OF OUR LORD'S PASSION Regular Sunday Schedule  	<b>6</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  <b>Baby Bottle Project RETURN TO CHURCH</b>	<b>7</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  <b>Holy Week</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 am Communion Service 8:30 am Mass  7:00 pm RCIA	<b>9 HOLY THURSDAY</b>  7:00 pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	<b>10 GOOD FRIDAY</b> <b>(DAY OF FASTING)</b> 3:00 pm Stations of the Cross  7:00 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	<b>11 HOLY SATURDAY</b> 11:00 am Blessing of Easter Baskets  8:00 pm Great Vigil of Easter

The Paschal Triduum