



ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL

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February 20, 2020

“St. Paul Cathedral Parish is a diverse body of Catholic people whom God calls by name, given a mission by Jesus Christ to be a faithful sign, a realistic foretaste and an instrument of the Kingdom of God. As Cathedral Parishioners, we recognize our responsibility to show leadership by example and to provide service to God’s people.”

My Dear Parishioners:

It’s been quite a while since we last sent you one of these letters. To give our office staff, mailers and all those involved in this process a break, we skipped January mailing.

1. So here we are, anticipating the great **Season of Lent** which begins next Wednesday. To assist our office manager and staff, I’m just going to copy from Sunday’s bulletin the salient points referring to this season of Grace, a God-given opportunity to draw closer to the Lord.
2. **Ash Wednesday** is this week, when we begin the Holy Season of Lent, an annual 40 day period in preparation for Easter—a tremendous opportunity for personal renewal & new beginnings. Masses & Distribution of Blessed Ashes will be celebrated in our Cathedral at 7:00AM, 12:07PM, 5:30PM & 7:30PM (Spanish). **AND DON’T FORGET**: Ash Wednesday is a day of FAST for the Universal Church. No meat & no eating between meals. Fridays of Lent: No Meat.
3. **During Lent**: Each weekday of the Lenten Season beginning on Monday, March 2nd we offer the following seasonal Masses & Liturgies in our Chapel:
 - A. Mondays 5:30PM-Sung Lenten Evening Prayer, a meditative inspirational liturgy, as we pray with the “Universal Church”.
 - B. Tuesdays 5:30PM-Lenten Evening Mass (Misa en Español 7:00PM).
 - C. Wednesdays 5:30PM-Stations of the Cross (English)
 - D. Thursdays 5:30PM-Lenten Evening Mass. Followed by Soup, Sandwich & Video in the school cafeteria at 6:15PM. (No charge-donations accepted).
 - E. Fridays-Adoration all day 7:30AM-6:45PM (9PM First Fridays) ending with Benediction. Via Crucis-7:00PM, followed by Grupo de Oración.

These opportunities to gather in Lent to praise and worship God are in addition to our annual morning Masses: Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7:00AM; Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday at 8:00AM. Besides these weekday events, our city **Penance Celebrations of Reconciliation** will be held accordingly to the following schedule:

Tuesday, March 24th 4:00PM-Holy Redeemer

Wednesday, March 25th 7:00PM-Holy Family

Wednesday, April 1st 4:00PM-St. Joseph

Thursday, April 2nd 7:00PM-CATHEDRAL

4. **White Mass:** Our Annual “White Mass” for Medical Professionals: Doctors, Dentists, Nurses and Para pros on Tuesday, March 3rd at 5:30PM in our Chapel.
Blue Mass: for First Responders: Fire Fighters, Military and Emergency Personnel on Tuesday, March 10th at 5:30PM in our Chapel.
Red Mass: Our Annual “Red Mass” for Lawyers, Judges and Legal Personnel on Tuesday, March 17th at 5:30PM in our Chapel. Receptions after these Masses. Please join us.
5. **Prudence & Common Sense:** During this Flu Season please have special consideration for our fellow parishioners. If you have a cold or flu symptoms, please refrain from receiving the Eucharist from the cup. Thank you!
6. Your Parish Council under the direction of Sandi Hays, meets a week from Monday on March 2nd. Any questions? Contact Sandi or one of the members.
7. We welcome the venerable members of the YLI (Young Ladies Institute) for their annual Mass at 9:00AM on Sunday, March 15th and their breakfast following.
8. Enclosed is a booklet of reflections for Lent, which, I hope will assist you to go more deeply into the Lenten Season.
9. By the way, Olive Wood gifts made in Bethlehem and supporting the very few Christian Catholics still there will be available the weekend of March 28-29. Plan to stop at the display at our Assembly Place after Mass that weekend!
10. So with all of this “A HAPPY SPIRIT-FILLED LENT TO ALL!

Please keep us in your prayers as we do you.

Devotedly In Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Ecker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Rev. Msgr. John A. Ecker-VG
Pastor