

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

Let this season of LENT remind us all that this life we have and the material possessions we hold are just being LENT to us. We are all passersby. We are not immigrants here. We are all pilgrims on the road. We bring nothing when we die. But we can leave behind the love we have shared, the hope we have given and the goodness we have done.



This Wednesday, February 17th, is Ash Wednesday. **There will be ONE Mass for the general congregation at 6:00 PM. The ‘distribution of ashes’ will be done in a form in accordance with the recent suggestions from the Bishop’s Committee on Divine Worship.** The St. Joseph School students will have a separate Service for their Ash Wednesday observance.

The need for today is to work toward greater **Fraternity and Social Friendship**. Pope Francis has written an Encyclical Letter and excerpted copies are at the back of church for everyone. Fr. Acker suggests as part of your penance service to work through the eight chapters excerpted on **Fraternity and Social Friendship**.

Recall that prior to Saturday evening and Sunday Mass Fr. Acker gives Communion 20 minutes before the service in the rear of the church. He uses the approved hospital rite and presents a sheet of prayers for your consideration. This is an especially good way to receive the Lord safely in this COVID environment.

Reminder:

Sad to report, due to the prevailing COVID conditions, there will be NO FISH FRYS this season, and no Stations of the Cross.

HOWEVER -- St. Joseph will have a Lenten Communal Penance Service from 7:00 to 8:00 PM on the Tuesday of Holy Week, March 30th.

Individual Reconciliation is always on Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:30 PM, or by appointment.



OPERATION RICE BOWL WILL AGAIN BE PART OF THE BISHOP’S APPEAL

The 2021 Bishop’s Appeal to support Catholic Charities begins soon. During the same time period, Catholic Charities also runs the Lenten Rice Bowl, a way of collecting coins and loose change to address hunger issues among poor people. The Rice Bowl collections are taken up in little boxes especially fitted for coins. As I states in the past, it seems to me that this effort is focused primarily on children as a way of sacrificing during Lent and helping others that are needier than themselves.

St. Joseph Parish will participate in Rice Bowl focused primarily on children. All the money collected will then be counted and added to the Bishop’s Appeal since both funds go to Catholic Charities. Rice Bowl then becomes primarily a children’s activity to help them participate in Lenten giving.

We therefore have two operations going simultaneously for Catholic Charities. We have the Bishop’s Appeal with its adult contribution envelopes and we have the Rice Bowl which is focused on our children and getting them into the spirit of Lent. All the money will go to Catholic Charities through the Bishop’s Appeal. Thank you for your involvement in our way of helping men and women throughout our area who are struggling. Rice Bowls are available at the back church.