Lenten Almsgiving Focuses on Mission & Outreach Efforts

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) reminds us that during Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on “almsgiving” which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving is a “witness to fraternal charity” and “a work of justice pleasing to God.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2462).

Our Lady of the Presentation Parish will focus its Lenten almsgiving in several ways. Our parish-wide Lenten service project, the Blessing Box, supports our sister community San Rafael Cedros, El Salvador by providing students with high school and college scholarships.

Each week during Lent, there is a special calendar page in the bulletin that talks about the need in El Salvador and invites parishioners to pray daily for those in need and to give “alms” by dropping a suggested monetary amount in their Blessing Box each day. The Blessing Box serves as a visual reminder in the home to help keep the focus on Lenten almsgiving.

Another way our parish focuses on Lenten almsgiving is through the Lenten Fish Fries hosted by our parish Youth Ministry. For six consecutive Fridays in Lent, adult and youth volunteers prepare, cook and serve a buffet-style dinner. Your support of our parish Lenten Fish Fries allows us to be in community with not only our parish faith community, but many guests.

The proceeds from our parish Fish Fries support our teens as they serve with Catholic Heart Workcamp whose mission is to share the love of Christ with the neglected, broken-hearted and marginalized in any way needed. It is also CHW’s mission to inspire participants to live as disciples of Christ through serving others as a way of life; and to foster the Catholic faith of each participant through sacraments, prayer and involvement in social service. Our Mission Team will travel to Muskegon, Michigan in July.

Your support makes a difference by transforming the lives of our teens and those we serve.

**Bring your family and friends to the Lenten Fish Fries on March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7!**
March 26 - April 2

Our parish will participate in a new almsgiving activity this Lent. We will partner with Catholic Charities in a week-long event “Hope In Motion - Bringing Hope To Those Who Hunger.”

All parishioners are invited to participate in this activity that promotes faith, family and fitness while reaching out in support to those who hunger. The event will kick-off at Masses the weekend of March 25-26 and will conclude the weekend of April 1-2. Specific details about this event and how you and your family can participate will be available in upcoming bulletins and the parish website.

March 1 Masses:
6:30am, 8:15am (with school community)
5:30pm, 7:00pm

JKV bus transportation is available for the 5:30 pm Mass. Residents must call ahead, 347-2178.

Church Laws on Fasting and Abstinence
The Church’s laws on fasting and abstinence are observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting applies to anyone between the ages of 18 and 59, who are allowed one full meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Two light meals sufficient to maintain strength may be consumed, but together should not equal a full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. Anyone over the age of 14 should abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent.

Members of the parish staff have fun with hula hoops to promote “Hope In Motion.”
Our Lent begins with a three-day Parish Mission, brought to us by Father Tom Allender, SJ, and Don Fisher. Fr. Allender and Don presented a mission at Our Lady of the Presentation more than a decade ago and are excited to visit here again. Their storytelling approach can inspire and motivate us to use the season of Lent profitably, with prayer, reflection and actions.

Fr. Allender plans to preach at all Masses March 4 and 5, with the Mission officially beginning Monday, March 6. One-hour talks will be offered at 9:00 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 6-7-8. Father Allender also will be available for confessions on Thursday, March 9.

Childcare is offered for the evening sessions; please contact Mary Pat Storms to reserve a place for your child: mstorms@olpls.org or 251-1113.

Thursday, March 16 we will offer a Movie Night, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Mulligan Room. We will view *Loving*, a 2016 film telling the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, the plaintiffs in the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Loving v. Virginia*, which invalidated state laws prohibiting interracial marriage.

Pope Francis, in his Lenten message, prays that the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need.

To assist us with our journey of conversion, on Thursday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Church, we will host a Lenten Reflection Evening. Through prayer, information and action, we will focus on the ways we can love our neighbors, here in Lee’s Summit, and throughout the world.
Holy Thursday, April 13
Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:00 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration until Midnight in the St. Ann Chapel.

Good Friday, April 14
Stations of the Cross 3:00 p.m.
Veneration Service with Communion 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 15
No Confessions or 4:30pm Mass
Mass: 7:30 pm
RCIA reception following Mass.

Easter Sunday, April 16
Masses: 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m. (Church & Gym)
12:00 p.m.
Mass in English: Church
Mass in Spanish: Gym
No 5pm Mass.

JVK bus transportation will be provided for the Holy Thursday and Good Friday Services. Residents must call ahead to schedule, 347-2178.