

**St. Mary's
&
Holy Name of Jesus
Catholic Churches**



Diocese of Amarillo

Most Rev. Patrick J. Zurek, Bishop

Rev. Grant Spinhirne, Administrator

**St. Mary's
22830 Pondaseta Road
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(806) 499-3531**

**Holy Name of Jesus
317 W. Main
P.O. Box 128
Happy, TX 79042
(806) 558-2871**

WWW.STMARYSUMBARGER.COM

Mass Schedule			
		Umbarger	Happy
Mon, March 1		No Mass	No Mass
Tue, March 2		7 PM - Clara Grabber	No Mass
Wed, March 3	St. Katharine Drexel	8 AM - Ida Neusch	No Mass
Thu, March 4	St. Casimir	8 AM - Jim Grabber	7 PM
Fri, March 5	First Friday of the Month	8 AM - Knights of Columbus	No Mass
Sat, March 6		No Mass	5:30 PM - Parish Family
Sun, March 7	The 3rd Sunday of Lent	9:00 AM - Parish Family	No Mass

ST. MARY'S

Divine Mercy Chaplet: 1st Sunday at 10:30 AM
Anointing of the Sick: By Request
CYO 4th Sunday 6:00 pm. at the Hall
CCD: Sundays at 10:15-11:30

Lector Sign-up Sheet: is located in the back of Church. Please sign up!

Building Committee Meeting: will be this Tuesday, March 2, after mass at 7. All are welcome!

2nd Collection for Charles Russell: Will be March 28th. Please consider donating to help Charles and his family through the difficult times following his accident.

2020 Contribution Statements: if you would like one, please contact or email Christina Wegman at cwegman696@yahoo.com

Live Mass Streaming: We will continue to live-stream mass for the time being. To access, follow our Facebook Page: StMarys Umbarger.

St Mary's Prayer Blanket Ministry: If you or a loved one suffers from a serious illness and would like a blanket, please contact Suzy Hicks or Fr Grant.

Here's why Catholics don't eat meat on Fridays during Lent

By Philip Kosloski

You know you are in a Catholic town when, only during Lent, every single restaurant advertises one item on their menu: fish! I have even noticed how major fast-food chains point out on their fliers the date of Ash Wednesday! Suddenly everyone cares about the liturgical seasons of the Church!

So why is it that the Church instructs Catholics to abstain from meat on Fridays (as well as Ash Wednesday and Good Friday), but gives the "thumbs-up" for Catholics to eat fish? Sounds fishy to me!

First of all we must ask the question, "why Friday?" The USCCB gives a succinct explanation:

Catholic peoples from time immemorial have set apart Friday for special penitential observance by which they gladly suffer with Christ that they may one day be glorified with Him. This is the heart of the tradition of abstinence from meat on Friday where that tradition has been observed in the holy Catholic Church.

Since it is believed Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross on a Friday, Christians from the very beginning have set aside that day to unite their sufferings to Jesus. This led the Church to recognize every Friday as a "Good Friday" where Christians can remember Christ's passion by offering up a specific type of penance. For much of the Church's history meat was singled out as a worthy sacrifice on account of its association with feasts and celebrations. In most ancient cultures meat was considered a delicacy and the "fatted calf" was not slaughtered unless there was something to celebrate. Since Fridays were thought of as a day of penance and mortification, eating meat on a Friday to "celebrate" the death of Christ didn't seem right. (As an aside, some bishops have chosen to lift the ban when Saint Patrick's Day falls on a Friday during Lent, as it is considered a "solemnity" for many Irish Catholics.)

But why is fish not considered "meat"?

According to the USCCB, the laws of the Church classify the abstinence from "land animals."

Abstinence laws consider that meat comes only from animals such as chickens, cows, sheep or pigs — all of which live on land. Birds are also considered meat.

Fish, on the other hand, are not in that same classification.

Fish are a different category of animal. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles (cold-blooded animals) and shellfish are permitted.

In Latin the word used to describe what kind of "meat" is not permitted on Fridays is *carnis*, and specifically relates to "animal flesh" and never included fish as part of the definition. Additionally, fish in these cultures was not considered a "celebratory" meal and was more of a penance to eat.

Our current culture is much different as meat is generally considered the cheaper option on the menu and no longer has the cultural connection to celebrations. This is why many people are confused about the regulations, especially those who love to eat fish and do not consider it a penance.

In the end, the Church's intention is to encourage the faithful to offer up a sacrifice to God that comes from the heart and unites one's suffering to that of Christ on the cross. Meat is given as the very basic penance, while the purpose of the regulation should always be kept in mind. For example, it does not necessarily give a person the license to eat a lobster dinner every Friday in Lent. The whole point is to make a sacrifice that draws a person closer to Christ, who out of love for us made the ultimate sacrifice a person can make.

HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Why does Lent last 40 days?

By Philip Kosloski

Each year the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church celebrates Lent with 40 days of prayer and fasting before the great celebration of Easter. This number is very symbolic and has deep ties to multiple biblical events.

Number 40 in the Bible

The first mention of 40 occurs in the book of Genesis. God proclaims to Noah, “For in seven days I will send rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground” (Genesis 7:4). This event connects the number 40 to purification and renewal, a time when the earth was washed clean and made anew.

Recognizing our sinfulness

In Numbers we see the number 40 again, this time as a type of penance and punishment imposed on the people of Israel for disobeying God. They had to wander in the desert for 40 years so that a new generation could inherit the Promised Land, instead of the people who did not trust in God’s plan for them.

Repentance and conversion of heart

In the book of Jonah, the prophet proclaims to Nineveh, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown! And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them” (Jonah 3:4). This again ties the number to spiritual renewal and conversion of heart.

A time of prayer and preparation

The prophet Elijah, before he encountered God on Mount Horeb, traveled for forty days, “And he arose, and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God (1 Kings 19:8). This connects 40 to a time of spiritual preparation, a time when the soul is led to a place where it can hear the voice of God.

Engaging in a spiritual battle

Before embarking on his own public ministry, Jesus “was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days and forty nights” (Matthew 4:1-2). In continuity with the past, Jesus sets out to pray and fast for 40 days, combating temptation and preparing himself for proclaiming the Gospel to others.

In the end, all of these episodes in the Gospel reveal different reasons why the number 40 was selected for the season of Lent. Together they provide for us a

Lent is the perfect time to fast from sin

By Philip Kosloski

Fasting from food during Lent should also include fasting from sinful behaviors.

Lent is a beautiful season in the Church to recommit our lives to God. While the Church has certain days dedicated to fasting and abstinence from food during Lent, this discipline should not neglect the spiritual aspect of our lives.

Fasting in a bodily way is supposed to remind and strengthen us to “fast” from our own sinful behaviors.

The author of the 19th-century book *The Lenten Manual and Companion for Holy Week* explains how fasting is a means to an end, and that end is the elimination of sin in our lives.

Fasting, however, is but a means to an end; and that great end is the destruction of sin. We should fast as an atonement for sin, and we should fast to prevent the danger of falling into sin. For unless we fast from sin, all our fasting will be in vain. Do not, therefore, dearly beloved brethren, fast like hypocrites, with the body only, but preserve your souls from the contamination of sin. Otherwise you may be forced to say to the Lord, with the Prophet, “Why have we fasted, and you have not regarded; have we humbled our souls and you have not taken notice?” And he will answer, “Behold, in the day of your fast your own will is found.” (Isai. lviii. 3.)

One practical way to focus our attention on the sins in our lives that need to be eliminated is to choose one stubborn sin we want to work on. It could be a sin that has become a habit in your life and that you want to stop.

Don’t try eliminate all sin from your life, as that will set you up for failure. However, focusing on one particular sin is most beneficial and can lead to a very fruitful Lent.

spiritual guide for Lent, inviting us to open our hearts to God.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

FOR BULLETIN NOTICES – Bulletin Deadline: Thursday @ noon. Please Contact Fr. Grant by email: frgrantspinhirne@gmail.com or Christina Wegman by email: cwegman696@yahoo.com or by phone: (806)499-3531.

Baptism or Wedding Please contact Fr. Grant at least 1 month in advance for baptisms and 6 months advance for weddings.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Umbarger: Sundays at 8:30 am or by appointment. **Happy:** Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. or by appointment.

To use or rent the church or parish hall, please contact Fr. Grant or Debbie Batenhorst at least 3 months before the event.

FOR MASS INTENTIONS please talk to Fr. Grant or leave the intention in the collection basket. There are envelopes available in the back of Church.

Please pray for all the sick in our parishes

ST. MARY’S: Servero Gomez, Jeremy Koch, MaryBeth Sayers

Holy Name of Jesus: Lucy Armendariz, Ricardo Brionez Sr., Ricardo Brionez Jr., Joe Frausto, Susana Garza, Betty Gonzales, Martina Mendez, Martin Montoya, Santos Perez, Mario Quzada, Felix Silva, Pedra Soto, Betty Sosa, Leonel Sosa, Mary Ann Sosa, Paula Sosa

The Office of the Victim’s Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Amarillo

Sharyn Delgado
Victim Assistance Coordinator
719 South Austin
Amarillo, Tx 79106
Phone: 806-671-4830
Fax: 806-373-4662
Email: skdelgado@aol.com

Natural Family Planning (NFP). Learn NFP at home and at your own pace with the **Home Study Course** from NFP International, www.nfpandmore.org. Includes Ecological Breastfeeding (it really *can* space babies), a double-check system of fertility awareness, and Catholic teaching that’s easy to understand. Work with a live instructor by email. Completion certificate. Only \$70.

Would you Like to attend an ACTS Retreat Weekend?

There is more information about the ACTS Retreat online. If you or someone you know would like to attend you can register online at: ACTSamarillo.org