

First Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 11th

5 P.M. – Living & Deceased Members
of the O. E. Hermes Family

Sunday, March 12th

7 A.M. – Louis & Emma Wick &
Deceased Children

9 A.M. – Johnny Jurena

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

Your Gift to God: February 26th

Sweet Home	\$1,882
Building Fund	\$75
DSA	\$10
Koerth	\$590
Building Fund	\$140
DSA	\$12

May God reward your generosity!

Celebrate the Lord's Abundant Mercy

Each Saturday the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is available from 4:00 P.M. to 4:40 P.M. in the Sweet Home confessional.

Operation Rice Bowl

During the season of Lent through Easter Sunday we will have the traditional almsgiving program, "Operation Rice Bowl" taken up as a second collection each weekend.

The Way of the Cross

Each Friday at 6:00 P.M. we will observe Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Easter Flowers

Those who would like to donate towards the Easter floral decorations are invited to use the envelopes in the church entrances. All memorial/donations will be listed in the bulletin after Easter.

Baptismal Preparation Class

The next class of Baptismal Preparation will be next Saturday, March 11th at 9:00 A.M. in the St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room.

Please Pray...

Please join our parish in praying for our confirmation students who will be attending their confirmation retreat on Sunday, March 5th. Please ask the Holy Spirit to continue to open their hearts to the grace of the Sacrament of Confirmation which they will receive on April

Enrich Your Spiritual Life During Lent...ALPHA

Would you like to grow in your faith? Are you still looking for something to do during Lent? Try Alpha! This video series will give you the opportunity to reflect on the most important aspects of Christianity and to ask questions about life. Don't worry if you've missed any classes. You are still welcome to come. Join us Monday evenings at 6:30 P.M. in the Family Center.

Hope to see you Monday evening!

TMIY

That Man Is You continues to enrich the lives of the men who risk a bit more involvement and challenge in their journey of faith. You don't have to start from the beginning--if thinking about it considering a way to more actively engage your faith and strengthen your roots--don't procrastinate! **Come and join us this Wednesday at 6:00 A.M. in the St. Joseph Parish Family Center!**

Progress Update: Koerth

There are a few new pictures of the work at Koerth posted on the parish website homepage (www.qpcatholicchurch.com). One can see the floor being sanded, pews all lined up in the hall awaiting being returned, the St. John the Baptist statue back on its perch, and the original Holy Oils Ambry (Olea Sancta) refurbished and awaiting installation.

Lenten Day of Reflection & Adoration

"My dwelling shall be with them; I will be their God, they shall be my people." Ezekiel 37:27

Saturday, April 8, 2017

10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

St. Mary's Church, Hallettsville

**Confession, Mass, Adoration, Stations,
Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction**

Please join us, for a day of reflection during Lent, as we pray for our families and our nation. This will be a silent retreat and a day of fasting. Bread and water will be provided. Families are encouraged to attend. Let's make time for our Lord!

For more information call: Lorrie Adamek at 293-1300.

Cemetery Inquiries

Anyone with questions regarding the Catholic Cemeteries should contact the local representatives for the Cemeteries.

Queen of Peace:

Harvey Matussek & J. O. Hermes

St. John the Baptist:

Gene Velek & Jerry/Joyce Kurtz

They can provide the needed information and help with locating available plots. They will also provide the needed details to complete a purchase/reservation and receive a deed for record purposes.

Dispensation from the Law of Abstinence

On Friday, March 17, 2017

RESCRIPT FROM BISHOP BRENDAN J. CAHILL, S.T.D.

Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas

In response to several requests, I hereby issue this rescript and I grant a dispensation from the obligation of abstinence **on Friday, March 17, 2017**, which is the commemoration of Saint Patrick, for all those so desiring it. I encourage the faithful to exercise due moderation and temperance in festivities and celebrations honoring this great saint, in keeping with the penitential nature of our Lenten observance, and to perform some other salutary work of penance or charity on that day or another chosen day. This dispensation is for all the Catholic faithful who reside in the Diocese of Victoria in Texas and all present in this diocese on March 17, 2017.

+Bishop Brendan J. Cahill

Catholic Faith Advocacy Day

The Diocese of Victoria will be participating in the Catholic Faith in Action Advocacy Day, on April 4, 2017, at the Texas Capitol in Austin. Participants from the Diocese of Victoria will join thousands of Catholics, from the 15 dioceses in Texas, to advocate for policies promoting life, justice, charity, and religious freedom and to educate our legislators and other state leaders in a better understanding about what we believe as Catholics. A select group of volunteers will also be prepared to visit with the elected state legislators who represent the ten counties of the Diocese of Victoria. If you are interested in participating, call Father Gary Janak, Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, at [\(361\) 573-0828](tel:3615730828), email: chancellor@victoriadiocese.org or visit <https://victoriadiocese.org/advocacy-day> for more information.

"Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned."

*"One does not live on bread alone,
but from every word that
comes from the mouth of God."*

Ash Wednesday: Buy the Ticket, Take the Ride

by Rev. Tucker Cordani on Mar 01, 2017 in
Catechesis, Columnists, Featured



On February 25, 2004, I was teaching English at the University of Central Florida in the Diocese of Disney, lecturing on “Ash Wednesday,” T.S. Eliot’s famous poem. There before me in the lecture hall sat several students with ashes smudged across their foreheads in the shape of a cross.

Ash Wednesday. How apropos.

T.S. Eliot wrote “Ash Wednesday” after his 1927 conversion. Published in 1930, the work addresses the struggle that ensues when one who has lacked faith in the past strives to move closer to God. To a degree that sums up the meaning of Lent.

So it was with me. That night after my class ended I entered a Catholic church for the first time in twenty years. Thus began my spiritual journey through the desert of sin to the mountain of grace that is the miracle of the Resurrection. And it led to, in my case, ordination to the priesthood seven years later.

Buy the ticket. Take the ride.

The origins of Lent — forty days and forty nights — are so mysterious that the Church doesn’t even really know when it was established. The word “Lent” itself is an Anglo-Saxon word — the same ancient language from which we derive the word “gospel — that means “spring.” Spring brings renewal. The outgrowth can be beautiful.

In the Bible good things happen threes. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Faith, hope, and love. In the season of Lent it’s almsgiving, fasting, and prayer.

The prophet Joel admonishes all: “Rend your heart, not your garments.” Again, the Trinitarian solution to a fruitful and spiritual season of Lent: fasting, weeping, and mourning. “Why should nonbelievers jeer and say, ‘Where is your God?’ ”

Ashes are a clear sign of our faith, and show nonbelievers that we are Christians. They certainly worked for me. I knew what they were and what they meant and I wanted Christianity again, wanted the ride to take me as far as I could go.

‘Tis the season to stay hungry for God. Prayer, scripture, and sacraments ensure our spiritual needs are met even as we mortify the flesh through fasting, almsgiving, and a whole lotta penitential prayer. A time-honored tradition, Lent can be a spiritual training camp; how devoutly we participate in Lent, the stations of the Cross, the sacrifices, we make, the fish fries, can determine how spiritually we live throughout the entire Catholic calendar.

The interior penance of the Christian can be expressed in ways various and sundry but the Church and her saints insist on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

Peter Chrysologus was a fifth-century preacher who was known as “Golden-Worded,” which is what Chrysologus means in Ancient Greek. “Prayer knocks; fasting obtains; mercy receives. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated.”

Still another poet, Robert Herrick, a 17th-century cleric and priest, wrote of Lent quite concretely. “Is it to quit the dish of flesh yet pile high the platter of fish? Lent is a fast from strife, debate, and above all, hate. To pray from a heart rent with sorrow, to starve away the sin: that’s how we keep the faith in Lent.”

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, these three, let them be undertaken in the view of our Heavenly Father who sees and repays in secret but also the world will know that we are Christians.

Buy the ticket. Take the ride. Our Lenten journey has begun.

