

SAINT FERDINAND & GOOD SHEPHERD
Catholic Churches
Saint Mary's Help of Christians Cemetery



PARISH BULLETIN | February 18, 2024, First Sunday of Lent

WEEKEND MASSES:

St. Ferdinand

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. (Español)
Sunday: 11:00 a.m.

Last weekend of each month:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. (Bilingual Mass)

Good Shepherd

Sunday: 9 a.m.

For a Complete weekday
Mass Schedule and Mass Intentions,
please see the next page

**SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):**

St. Ferdinand

Saturday: 4 p.m.

Good Shepherd

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.
(or by appointment)

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

WEBSITES:

WWW.STFERDINANDBLANCO.ORG
WWW.GOODSHEPHERDICTX.ORG

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

25 MAIN STREET
BLANCO, TEXAS 78606

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 757
BLANCO, TEXAS 78606

PHONE NUMBERS:

OFFICE PHONE: (830) 833-5227
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: (830) 833-0444

GENERAL INFORMATION:

ADMIN@STFERDINANDBLANCO.ORG

BULLETIN INQUIRIES:

ADMIN@STFERDINANDBLANCO.ORG



PARISH INFORMATION

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Brion Zarsky

frbrion@stferdinandblanco.org

Deacon Jessie Esquivel

dcn.jessie.esquivel@gmail.com

Cathy Cudd, Parish Secretary

cathy@stferdinandblanco.org

Dora Alegria, Receptionist

dora@stferdinandblanco.org

St. Ferdinand--DRE – Susan Moore 830-833-0444

susan@stferdinandblanco.org

Office hours/Horarios de Oficina:

Wednesdays/Miercoles 12:00-6:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd--Margie Vasquez 830-833-5227

Coordinator of RE & Youth Minister

margie@stferdinandblanco.org

St. Ferdinand Pastoral Council:

Marilyn Bowman

Mary Jane Hill

Christopher Rothlis

Maria Villegas

Darrel Wagner

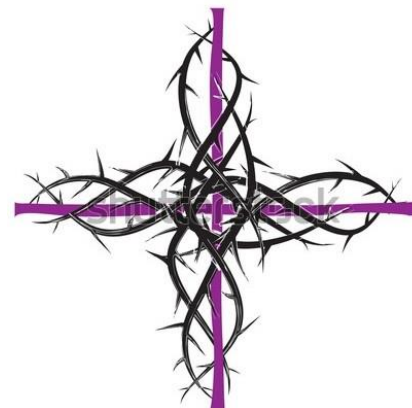
St. Ferdinand Finance Council:

Nancy Biggs

Lisa Nance

Pete Powell

Dana Wagner



Welcome Visitors & Guests

Thank you for Celebrating the Mass with us. We are glad that you are here. If you have any questions about our parish or joining the Catholic faith, please contact the Church office. For information concerning reception of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony and Anointing of the Sick, contact the Church office. Parent interviews for Baptism need to be scheduled with the priest six weeks in advance. Marriage Arrangements need to be made with the priest at least six months in advance. Holy Communion can be brought to the sick on request. If you know of anyone in need, please call the office. *Church Office: 830-833-5227.*



Due to unforeseen circumstances, when a mass is subject to cancelation, the mass intentions will be reset accordingly.

Masses for February 17, 2024 – February 25, 2024

Saturday, February 17th (SF) Repose of the Soul of Rev. Wade Russell	5:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 17th (SF) Repose of the Soul of Jose Torres by Torres Family	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 18th (GS) Repose of the Soul of Justin Roshto by Vern and Sherry Metzger	9:00 a.m.
Sunday, February 18th (SF) Repose of the Soul of Jose Serrano by Vicky Gonzalez and the Soul of Marissa Vargas by Juan and Rosa Vargas	11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, February 20th (SF) No 9am Mass	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, February 21st (SF) Spiritual Well Being of Jurgin Joseph and Regino Alexander Hutzler by Melvin Hutzler	9:00 a.m.
Thursday, February 22nd (SF) Repose of the Soul of Enrique Moreno by Juan and Rosa Vargas	9:00 a.m.
Thursday, February 22nd (GS) Parishioners of Good Shepherd and St. Ferdinand	6:00 p.m.
Friday, February 23rd (SF) Health of Dr. Ricardo Garza	9:00 a.m.
Saturday, February 24th (SF) Repose of the Soul of Betty Maskey by Helen Heffner	5:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 24th (SF) No 7pm Mass	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 25th (GS) Repose of the Soul of Della Lafleur by Lee and Cindy Wiggins	9:00 a.m.
Sunday, February 25th (SF) Repose of the Soul of Gavino Salinas by Dcn. Jessie and Philis Esquivel	11:00 a.m.

Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for comfort and healing for the sick in our parish community. In addition, please ask the Lord for wisdom for their doctors and nurses, rest for their caregivers, and peace and strength for their family and friends.

Maggie Atkinson	Segunda Martinez
Chris Berryhill	Keith McClellan
Gene Beyer	Elsie Meurer
Ben Boyer	Tim Nance
Gaelynn Brown	Coleman Nelson
Lucia Carbary	Devin Newsome
Jack Cudd	Ruth Nieto
Julia Dechert	Tim Polster
Gunner Deeds	Charles Reinert
Roselle Fischler	Sid Reinert
John Frazier	Brenda Robinette
Guadalupe Rios Galvan	Buddy Roessler
Pete Garcia	Lupe Ruvalcaba
Jim Gronke	Sandra Rodriguez
Derek Halton	Josie Salazar
Joe Hancock	Josh Strodthbeck
Vernon Hancock	Antonio Tapia
Myles Harris	Olivia Tapia
Kristina Yochum Hurst	Barbara Turley
Tim Ivy	Jacob Umanzor
Charles Jennings	Kippi Versluis
Randall Jones	Pedro Villegas
Jeanette Lavelle	Daniel Zamora
Homer Lowden	Polo Zamora
Jane Martin	Susie Zamora



We are proud of all those in our parish who are serving and protecting our country. Thank you and God bless all of you.

If you or someone you know needs prayer in a special way, please email: admin@stferdinandblanco.org. Unless you are an immediate family member, please obtain permission from the person whose name is being placed on the list prior to submission.

Important

Attention: Good Shepherd Parishioners

Everyone is being asked to attend a Parish-wide meeting February 21st at 6pm in the Parish Hall. The subject for discussion will be fundraising during the Eclipse event April 9th. It could be a great opportunity to increase our Parish funds but we need our parishioners' opinions to determine the feasibility of the idea. Hope to see you all there!

WELCOME
new members

We would like to welcome our new parishioners to
Good Shepherd Church:
Jason and Lisbeth Kloc



Weekend of February 11
Thank you for your generosity!

St. Ferdinand:	
Regular Collection	\$4,301.79
Catholic Higher Education	\$885.00
Building Fund	\$50.00

Good Shepherd:	
Regular Collection	\$652.00
Catholic Higher Education	\$105.00

The Second Collection today is for the Black Bag.

Calendar of Events
St. Ferdinand

February 20 – **No 9am Mass**
 February 21-24 – Photos for 2024 Parish Directory
 February 23 – Men’s Club Fish Fry, 5:00-7:00 pm
 February 23 – Stations of the Cross, St. Anne’s Altar Society, 7:00 pm
 February 24 – **No 7pm Mass**
 February 25 – Bilingual Mass
 February 27-March 1 – **No 9am Masses**

Calendar of Events
Good Shepherd

February 21-24 – Photos for 2024 Parish Directory
 February 23 – Stations of the Cross, 6:00 pm
 February 29 – **No 6pm Mass**


Mark your calendars!
Join us for Fish Fry Fridays During Lent

Lent is here and that means the Men’s Club will be firing up the fryers! The whole community is invited to the following Fish Fry Fridays during Lent.

February 23rd
March 8th
March 22nd

Bring the family and friends to St. Ferdinand’s for a wonderful celebration of community as we prepare for Easter. Dine in or take your dinner to go. Plates are \$15 and all proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund.

Parish Organizations & Meeting Times

Altar Server Training, St. Ferdinand
Meets the last Sunday of the month at St. Ferdinand at 8:30 a.m. (following school schedule)

Good Shepherd Contemplative Prayer
Every 2nd Tuesday of the month for April through October at 6:00 p.m. in the Church, Contact: Katie Shafford at 512 925-4472 .

Good Shepherd Men’s Club
Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. Contact: Gary Reeves, 281-387-9547.

Good Shepherd Women’s Circle
Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Education Center. Contact: Cindy Wiggins, 830-290-3033.

Good Shepherd Women’s Bible Study
Meets every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. If you’re interested in joining, please contact Jan Harry at 936-293-0064 or edharry1946@gmail.com.

St. Ferdinand Men’s Club
Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Ferdinand Parish Hall.

St. Anne’s Altar Society
Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month following the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the St. Ferdinand Parish Hall. **Next meeting will be on February 7th.**

St. Ferdinand’s Parish Choir
Meets Wednesday nights at 4:00 p.m. Call 713-562-0228 for more information.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
If you are interested in RCIA, please contact the parish office at 830-833-5227.

Estudio Biblico
Todos los martes de 6-8:30pm en el RICH house (trailer Juvenil) de la iglesia de San Fernando. llama al 512-563-3146 para mas informacion.

Mass Preparation
February 25, Second Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18
Abraham obeyed God and prepared to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice.

Psalm: 116:10,15-19
A prayer of faithfulness to God.

Second Reading: Romans 8:31b-34
God’s faithfulness is shown in his offering of his own Son for our salvation.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-10
Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

The kingdom of God is at hand. (Mark 1:15)

Can you imagine the excitement that Jesus must have generated as he began healing people, performing works of wonder, and preaching the good news of the kingdom? Can you picture the hope and expectation evident in the faces of the people who flocked to him? Maybe the time really had been “fulfilled.” Maybe the kingdom really was “at hand” (Mark 1:15).

It certainly was a dramatic way for Jesus to begin his ministry. But today, on the First Sunday of Lent, the Lord reminds us that this exciting new beginning came at the end of something not quite so exciting. Just before he burst on the scene, Jesus had endured a grueling forty-day fast and a host of demonic temptations.

This sequence of events wasn’t just a coincidence. It was that very fast that helped launch the new kingdom Jesus was

announcing. By staying faithful to his Father throughout this ordeal, Jesus began his work of disarming the devil. As the first man who didn’t bend to temptation, he reversed the sin of Adam and opened a path for us to follow. Beginning with his time in the wilderness, Jesus demonstrated that his kingdom was indeed at hand—and that the devil’s reign was coming to a decisive end.

As your own Lenten journey unfolds this year, keep the story of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness close to your heart. Especially when life gets hard or temptations arise, remind yourself that every desert experience can result in new life as you try your best to stay faithful to the Lord. Even if you fall, remember that you can stand up again and keep moving forward because of Jesus’ triumph over the devil. Sin no longer has the final word in your life; Jesus, your Redeemer, does!

“Jesus, I’m ready to enter the desert this Lent. I trust in your promise to walk with me and bring me into your kingdom!”



El reino de Dios está cerca. (Marcos 1:15.)

¿Te imaginas la emoción que Jesús debe haber generado cuando comenzó a sanar a la gente, a realizar obras maravillosas y a predicar las buenas nuevas del reino? ¿Pueden imaginarse la esperanza y la expectativa evidentes en los rostros de las personas que acudían a él? Tal vez el tiempo realmente se había “cumplido”. Tal vez el reino realmente estaba “cerca” (Marcos 1:15).

Ciertamente fue una manera dramática para que Jesús comenzara su ministerio. Pero hoy, en el primer domingo de Cuaresma, el Señor nos recuerda que este nuevo y emocionante comienzo llegó al final de algo no tan emocionante. Justo antes de irrumpir en escena, Jesús había soportado un agotador ayuno de cuarenta días y una serie de tentaciones demoníacas.

Esta secuencia de eventos no fue solo una coincidencia. Fue ese ayuno el que ayudó a lanzar el nuevo reino que Jesús estaba anunciando. Al permanecer fiel a su Padre a lo largo de esta prueba,

Jesús comenzó su obra de desarmar al diablo. Como el primer hombre que no cedió a la tentación, restituyó el pecado de Adán y abrió un camino para que nosotros lo siguiéramos. Comenzando con su tiempo en el desierto, Jesús demostró que su reino estaba realmente cerca, y que el reino del diablo estaba llegando a un final decisivo.

A medida que tu propio viaje de Cuaresma se desarrolla este año, procura mantener la historia de la tentación de Jesús en el desierto cerca de tu corazón. Especialmente cuando la vida se pone difícil o surgen tentaciones, recuérdete a ti mismo que cada experiencia en el desierto puede resultar en una nueva vivencia mientras haces todo lo posible por mantenerte fiel al Señor. Incluso si te caes, recuerda que puedes levantarte de nuevo y seguir adelante gracias al triunfo de Jesús sobre el diablo. El pecado ya no tiene la última palabra en tu vida; ¡Jesús, tu Redentor, lo hace!

“Jesús, estoy listo para entrar en el desierto esta Cuaresma. ¡Confío en tu promesa de caminar conmigo y llevarme a tu reino!”

WHOLE 40
Making a Spiritual Plan for Lent
WITH DR. BEN AKERS & DR. ELIZABETH KLEIN
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Whole 40: Making a Spiritual Plan for Lent

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



Giving seed to the one who sows . . . (Isaiah 55:10)

John didn't grow up in a religious household. But he was drawn to the Catholic faith during his college years and began attending Mass. He went through RCIA and married a committed Catholic woman, and together they raised four children. The whole family was faithful to attending Mass; not even snowstorms kept them away!

A successful businessman, John was able to retire young. He then started his own business as a handyman. Even today, he still charges his clients far less than the going rate because he views his work as a mission to help people, many of whom haven't been as fortunate. "God has blessed me," he likes to say, "and I think it's right that I share those blessings."

Where did that generosity come from? Quite possibly from something that happened every Sunday as John sat in church: God was sending out his word, and watering his faith. The words he heard in the readings each week settled deep in his heart and made him more and more "fertile and fruitful" in imitating Christ's love (Isaiah 55:10).

Every Sunday, God is sowing the seed of his word into the hearts of countless men and women like John. We may not always see it, but God's words are bearing fruit. One may look like a single wildflower, but imagine the beauty God sees as he looks at all the people whose faithfulness only he knows! So it is with the good works that spring from each of us as we hear God's word. Those actions might not seem like much to us, but God takes a different view.

If you are reading this, know that God is planting the seed of his word in you. He promises that this seed "shall not return to me void" (Isaiah 55:11). It will bear fruit. Even if you can't see it right now, you can trust that it will happen. It may need some time. It may need a little extra watering as well. But the seed is there, waiting for just the right time and just the right conditions. Just keep listening to the Lord and trying to respond to what you hear!

"Father, help me to trust in the power of your word to change the world, one believer at a time."



You are invited!

Invitation from the Vargas Family

The Vargas family would like to cordially invite you to lunch after Mass February 18th at the church hall to celebrate the month of love and commemorate the life of their daughter, Marisa Grace Vargas. Food and beverages will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

St. Ferdinand Church has always had a special place in our hearts and the parish community has always been there for one another. This is our way of saying thank you and gives us the opportunity to enjoy how far along our parish has come.

"As we remember times of tears and laughter, we thank you for the love we shared because of her, reflecting that love which you poured upon us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

Juan

Dear Church family,
It's time for a New Directory!



St. Ferdinand and Good Shepherd New Church Directory

It's time for a new church directory. Our church directory would not be complete without you! Pictures will be taken February 21-24 at St. Ferdinand Parish Hall. Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory. Go to www.ucdir.com, username: tx432. password: photos and set your appointment today! If you have any questions, please call the parish office at 830-833-5227.

***Have you signed up yet?
Don't delay, sign up now!***

Message from Bishop Joe Vasquez

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we begin this Lenten season, we are reminded of our vocation to holiness. Lent is an invitation to renew our relationship with God and remain faithful to the Gospel. Throughout these next 40 days, we are called to fast, pray and give alms as an expression of love for God and our neighbor. May we be renewed and grow in holiness. We are called to be faithful witnesses to Christ. May we walk together in this season knowing that together we are his Mystical Body.

~ Bishop Joe Vásquez

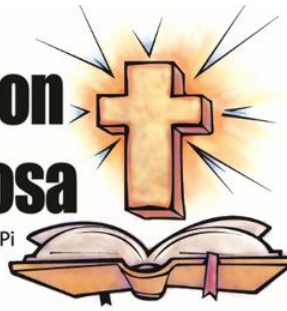
Hermanos y Hermanas,

Al comenzar este tiempo de Cuaresma, recordamos nuestra vocación a la santidad. La Cuaresma es una invitación a renovar nuestra relación con Dios y permanecer fieles al Evangelio. A lo largo de estos próximos 40 días, estamos llamados a ayunar, orar y dar limosna como expresión de amor a Dios y al prójimo. Seamos renovados y crezcamos en santidad. Estamos llamados a ser testigos fieles de Cristo. Caminemos juntos en este tiempo sabiendo que juntos somos su Cuerpo Místico.

~ El Obispo José Vásquez

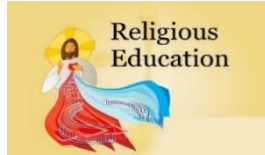
Religious Education Educación Religiosa

©LPi



St. Ferdinand Blanco

Director of Religious Education
Susan Moore
susan@stferdinandblanco.org
or 830-833-0444 (T-W)



Calendar:

Sundays, March 10th & 17th, Wednesday March 13th
Spring Break – no class
Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday – no class.

*Help your children meet their best friend.
Sign up for Religious Education.*

When the Word says This is My Body, be convinced of it and believe it. St John Chrysostom



Good Shepherd Johnson City

Religious Education Classes:

PreK – 5th Grade: Wednesdays from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the RE Building.

6th – 8th Grade: Middle School EDGE Youth Ministry: Middle School classes are held in the summer for middle school. Curriculum includes Call to Protect for the Youth, RE Curriculum, Catholic Social Teachings, Morality, Sacrament teachings, Praise and Worship, Bible Study, Fun and Games. Classes have ended for this school year; we will resume classes in June 2024.

8th Grade (or Pre-Confirmation): Classes are held once a month on the second Sunday of each month from 10:00am to 11:30am. Please Call the parish office to register or get more information.

High School RICH Youth Ministry: Classes are held every other Sunday from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the St. Ferdinand/Good Shepherd Youth Building (Trailer). Curriculum includes Call to Protect for Youth, Morality, Sacramental Prep, Liturgical Celebrations, Theology of the Body, Bible Study, and Praise and Worship as well as lots of Fun and Games. **Classes Feb 18 and Feb 25**

RCIA Classes: The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and Adapted for Children is offered at Good Shepherd. If someone is needing to discuss Sacrament preparation for adult or child, please schedule an appointment with Margie Vasquez to discuss the process and class times. Classes are offered in Spanish or English.

2023 Confirmation Classes: Students interested in registering for next years Confirmation class must be enrolled in RICH Youth Ministry Classes. Students must have completed 1 year of pre-confirmation or 8th grade classes prior to enrolling. Students must be at least 14 years of age at time class starts.

If you would like to register your child for Religious Education, please contact Margie Vasquez at Margie@stferdinandblanco.org or the parish office at (830) 833-5227.

Volunteers/Catechist/Helpers: If anyone is interested in helping in our RE program or would like to make donations of supplies for the classroom – Please contact Margie Vasquez or call the parish office during regular business hours. Remember to volunteer you must be EIM compliant. Please refer to the bulletin or the Diocese Website for upcoming EIM workshops in our area.



YOUTH MINISTRY

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in What you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity". 1 Timothy 4:12



Classes Feb 18 and Feb 25



High School RICH Youth Ministry: Classes are held on every other Sunday from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. All classes will include a meal from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm. **RICH (Resting in Christ Hands) Youth Ministry** utilizes the *Life Teen Program* – as well as Diocesan approved curriculum. Curriculum includes Call to Protect the Youth, Morality, Sacramental Prep, Liturgical Celebrations, Theology of the Body, Bible Study, Praise and Worship as well as lots of Fun/Games. High School Classes are combined with Blanco and Johnson City students. We meet at the St. Ferdinand Youth Building (Trailer). *Life Teen is an environment in which high school youth can come into a deeper relationship with God through spiritual, educational, emotional, and social experiences. Our Youth Ministry follows the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) guidelines for comprehensive youth ministry programs.*

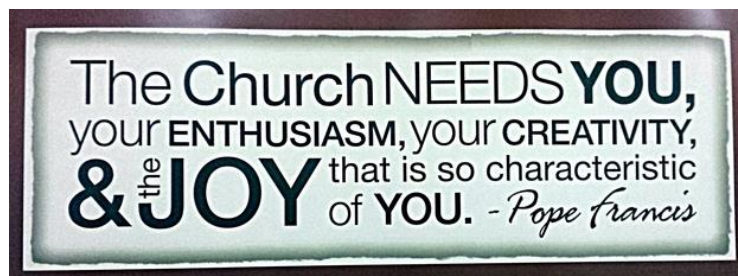
Middle School EDGE Youth Ministry: Middle School classes are held in the summer for middle school. Curriculum includes Call to Protect for Youth, Catholic Social Teachings, Morality, Sacrament teachings, Praise and Worship, Bible Study, Fun & Games. *Blanco and Johnson City middle school students participate in EDGE Youth Ministry, EDGE is part of the LIFE TEEN Middle School youth ministry. We focus on Leadership, Prayer, Service and Unity.*



2023 Confirmation Classes: Students interested in registering for next year's Confirmation class must be enrolled in RICH Youth Ministry Classes. Students must have completed 1 year of pre-confirmation or 8th grade classes prior to enrolling. Students must be at least 14 years of age at time class starts.

If you need any information for any of the Youth Ministry events, classes or Confirmation - Please contact Margie Vasquez at Margie@stferdinandblanco.org, Mary Jane Hill at MaryJane@stferdinandblanco.org or the parish office at (830) 833-5227.

Youth Ministry Volunteers/Catechist/Helpers: If anyone is interested in helping in our program donating supplies or to provide Meals for the RICH YM nights – Please contact the parish office during regular business hours or email Margie@stferdinandblanco.org. Remember to volunteer you must be EIM compliant. Please refer to the bulletin or the Diocese Website for upcoming EIM workshops in our area.



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TOP 5 SIGNS YOU NEED

281 TECHNOLOGIES

5. You turn on your computer and the fan sounds like the Concord on takeoff.
4. It takes 10 mins to load a Facebook page.
3. Your Wi-Fi works where you don't need it and doesn't work where you do need it.
2. You have more emails from Princes in countries you've never heard of than from people you actually know.
1. Printers!?! Enough said.

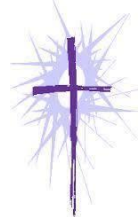
Last Minute LENT Ideas:

Give Up:

- Sports (you'll survive)
- Shoes (pick 1 pair & stick to them, some people don't have shoes)
- Music (be silent, listen for God)
- Headphones (don't tune out the world, you'll miss a lesson)
- Make-up (ladies, you are made in the image of God.)
- Jewelry (practice not being so attached to the world.)

Add:

- 1 hour weekly Adoration
- Daily Rosary
- Family prayer time
- 1 hour reading daily
(the Bible, auto-biography of a saint, teachings of the church.)
- Adopt a Priest to offer a daily prayer for Weekly confession
- Become active in an outreach ministry
(pro-life, prison, homeless, old folks home, local pregnancy center)



"Lent is not something we do for God – Lent is something we do *with* God."

