



LENT

Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
2024
Lake Jackson, Texas

Regular Lenten Services

Sunday Masses

(w/ overflow in the hall)

Saturday Vigil:	5:30 pm
Sunday	8:00 am
	9:30 am
	11:00 am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday	8:30 am
Wednesday	8:30 am
Thursday	8:30 am
Friday	8:30 am

Rosary

Mondays	7:00 pm
Tue. thru Fri.	8:00 am
Sat.	9:00 am

Stations of the Cross

Fridays	7:00 pm
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Sacrament of Reconciliation (prior to Feb. 14)

	5:00 - 6:00 pm
Saturdays	4:00 - 5:00 pm

Adoration Chapel (in the church)

Weekdays, Mon-Fri	9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday	12:00 noon to 6:00 pm

(will be closed on Feb. 14 and March 27-31)

Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry

Fridays	4:30—6:30 pm (or until sold out)
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(drive through only)

Special Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday - February 14

Mass with Ashes	8:30 am, 5:30 pm
Liturgy of Word w/ Ashes	6:30 am, 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent
(From Feb. 20 thru March 26)

Tuesday	5:00 pm—6:00 pm
Wednesday	5:00 pm—6:00 pm
Thursday	5:00 pm—6:00 pm
Saturdays	4:00 pm—5:00 pm

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion - March 24

Masses: Sat. 5:30 pm
Sun. 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am
Palms Distributed at all Masses

Holy Thursday—March 28 Mass of the Lord's Supper
7:00 pm
Adoration at Altar of Repose until Midnight

Good Friday—March 29

Celebration of Our Lord's Passion	3:00 pm
Stations of the Cross	7:00 pm

Holy Saturday—March 30

Easter Vigil	8:30 pm
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Easter Sunday—March 31

Masses: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am

Lent: a Time for Spiritual Growth

Some of our spiritual growth opportunities for Lent are:

ASH WEDNESDAY—Occurs at the beginning of Lent (Weds. Feb. 14) with several ash liturgies in the church: 6:30 a.m. (Ash Service), 8:30 a.m. (Mass), 12:00 noon (Ash Service) 5:30 p.m. (Mass) and 7:00 p.m. (Ash Service).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS—Are celebrated in the church every Friday of Lent, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

DAILY MASS—Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday—Friday at 8:30 a.m.

RECONCILIATION—(see pages 2-3 for Dates & Times)

PRAYER—One of the disciplines of Lent is to pray more abundantly. In the parish, prayer opportunities include spending time in Eucharistic Adoration in the church and praying the Rosary on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday mornings at 8:00 a.m., and Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.

FASTING—A second discipline of Lent is to observe fasting and abstinence from eating meat. We are asked to do fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. We are also asked to abstain from eating meat on all Fridays of Lent plus on Ash Wednesday.

GIVING—A third discipline of Lent is to do extra works of charity, both in the form of additional monetary contribution and the giving of our time and talent in the ministries and outreaches of our parish.

CRS RICE BOWLS—CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program for families and faith communities. Look for these little savings banks (available in the beginning of Lent) to construct and to store your Lenten alms.

INSPIRING OTHERS—We all know a relative, friend, neighbor, or co-worker who may need to re-connect with God. During Lent we will be offering Discussion Groups every Thursday of Lent to discuss and share what we have learned from our Christmas book handout "How to Share Your Faith".

BEST LENT EVER—This annual program by Dynamic Catholic provides daily reflections to form us and guide us on our journey. Given by Matthew Kelly, these reflections can be viewed by signing up to receive the program's e-mails.

BP. BARRON's DAILY LENT REFLECTIONS—This daily program from Word on Fire by Bishop Robert Barron, provides an e-mail for each day of Lent with a reflection on the gospels throughout Lent. Sign up to receive the e-mails.

Our Parish Website—Our parish website (URL is www.smlj.org) contains references to the many spiritual growth resources shown above. Go to <https://smlj.org/lenten-resources>

2024 Lenten Focus: The Eucharist

*Is the Eucharist the **Real Body and Blood of Christ** or is it just a **Symbol** ?*

The Catholic Church professes that in every celebration of the Mass, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Recent Pew Research Center surveys have found that many Catholics don't believe this critical core teaching, with nearly seven-in-ten believing that the consecrated Eucharist is just a **symbol** of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Disbelief or misunderstanding of the doctrine of Real Presence is a serious challenge to one of the most important reasons for church, to encounter the risen Lord in Mass where He feeds us with His very Body and Blood, sustaining our faith.

As a result of the new revelations about our current understanding of the Eucharist, the U.S. bishops are concerned about the need for a deeper formation into the meaning of the doctrine of Real Presence. They have developed an initiative called the National Eucharistic Revival, which is aimed at uniting us once again around the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. It is dedicated and committed to restoring our belief in the Real Presence.

At St. Michael's, we will offer a program entitled "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist." This program, consisting of four weekly small, faith-sharing sessions, will be held during the upcoming Season of Lent. In the weekends leading up to Lent, you will hear more about "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist", and we will be providing an easy way for you to register for this program. There will be a table in the hallway of the Family Life Center following weekend Masses with informational materials and for members of our team to be present to answer questions and to assist in registration.

The Church asks each one of us to embrace this challenge that this presents for our church. "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist" will be a great program to help develop the concept of Real Presence in new or aspiring Catholics, along with being an effective refresher to supplement the beliefs of Real Presence in existing, even long term Catholics.

We encourage all of our faithful to participate in this program to achieve a new and/or deeper understanding and belief of in the Real Presence. Thank you very much for your prayerful consideration and may God Bless each one of you this Lent as you join us in this journey of Eucharistic Renewal.

If you have not yet registered to participate in "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist" there is still time to do so. Go to: www.smlj.org/presence for more information and/or to register.

ASH WEDNESDAY



For the Journey

Loving Father,
during this Lenten journey,
inspire me to meditate on your sacrifice
as I seek to deepen my relationship with you.
May the ashes on my forehead,
remind me from where I came.
Give me strength,
give me hope.
You who are all-loving,
grant that I may be in communion
with you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Forever Ambassadors of Christ

Today's Readings: Joel 2:12 –18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5 – 6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17 (3a); 2 Corinthians 5:20 — 6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18.

Has anyone ever asked you, “What is that on your forehead?” Each year on Ash Wednesday, we Catholics display a sign telling the world that we are followers of Christ, that we are sinful but hopeful in our redemption through the paschal mystery. The ashes remind us that we are in relationship with God, who sent his only Son to redeem humanity through the sacrifice on the cross.

Throughout the Lenten season, as a community, we ask God for his guidance and mercy as we journey together to repentance and prepare to renew our faith at Easter. The season invites us to return to God with our whole hearts so that we may be not only one with him but also ambassadors for Christ in the world.

The Lenten ethos is one of sacrifice, primarily God’s sacrifice of Jesus for the salvation of humankind. Through our meager Lenten practices, we join in the sacrifice of Christ in the hope of sharing also in his resurrection. Jesus goes into the desert before he begins his public ministry to be alone with God as he readies himself for what is to come. Jesus put his complete trust in God. This season calls for a pause in our lives through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving so that we too may grow closer to God.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Art by / Ilustración de Kate Cosgrove © LTP

In His Mercy

Loving Father,
you sent a rainbow
as a sign of your mercy
and of our relationship with you.
Soften our hardened hearts.
May the mercy that we show others
be a sign that through the waters of baptism
you live in us and that we are your
adopted children.
May our Lenten prayer and sacrifice
fortify us to continue your mission on earth.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Sunday, February 18, 2024

Abundant Mercy

Today's Readings: Genesis 9:8–15; Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:12–15 .

“See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every little creature.” With these words, God shows his love as he promises anew to be in relationship with creation. In the reading from the First Letter of Peter, we hear that God saved the eight who were aboard the ark through the waters of the flood and now saves us through the waters of baptism. God, whose love brought us into being, seeks relationship and communion with us. To reconcile us with him, he sent his Son, who prepared for his mission by fasting for forty days in the desert.

During the forty days of Lent, many of us give in to temptation and find ourselves repenting time and again. Knowing that God is merciful and understands our shortcomings, we can always resolve to begin anew. God yearns for relationship with us and does not give up on us.

As one of your Lenten practices, you may have chosen to read the day’s Scriptures attentively. Try to approach the readings with fresh eyes willing to allow the text to relate to your life today. Familiar texts can speak to us in the new circumstances, challenges, joys, and sorrows of our lives. All we need is an openness to the Word. God’s Word is always relevant.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



I Surrender

Loving Father,
I come before you,
asking for your mercy.
May my faith be as strong
as that of Abraham.
Grant me steadfastness this Lent,
in my pursuit of a deeper prayer life.
Free me from obstacles
that keep me from you.
May I find peace in your presence.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Sunday, February 25, 2024

Glimpses of Glory

Today's Readings: Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18; Psalm 116:10, 15, 16–17, 18–19; Romans 8:31b–34; Mark 9:2–10.

In today's Gospel, Peter, James, and John glimpse Jesus' glory as he is transfigured before them on the mountaintop. Peter, intent on staying at the site of their beatific vision of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, suggests that three tents be made. "Rabbi, it is good that we are here," he tells Jesus.

Each week we participate in a mystery as we take part in Sunday Mass. There, as the Eucharistic Prayer is prayed, the bread and the wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. But the elements of bread and wine are not all that are transformed during the liturgy. In the Eucharistic Prayer, it is also prayed that we "may become one body, one spirit in Christ." When we are especially attentive to the prayers, songs, and gestures of the liturgy, we may say to ourselves and one another, "It is good that we are here." Transformed by the liturgy, we leave the church to bring the presence of Christ and the Word of God into the world.

Just as the apostles could not stay with Jesus on the mountaintop, the faithful cannot remain in the church. As the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy states, "The renewal in the eucharist of the covenant between the Lord and his people draws the faithful into the compelling love of Christ and sets them on fire." Our mission, as we leave the liturgy, is to testify to God's love, bringing hope to those facing difficult times. We make Christ known as we accompany others.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Journey With Me

Lord God,
fill my heart with love,
so that I can see you in others
and recognize them as the temples
in which you reside on earth.
May your spirit guide my every step.
In my struggles,
give me strength and courage
so that I will be steadfast in faith
as I continue my journey.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Sunday, March 3, 2024

Renewed Temples

Today's Readings: Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Corinthians 1:22–25; John 2:13–25

Lent is a time for interior and exterior cleansing. Jesus was outraged when he saw what was taking place in the temple. The moneychangers failed to show reverence for the house of God when they used it as a marketplace. While some could not understand Jesus' overturning of the moneychangers' tables, the disciples recalled the words of Scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me." Jesus' reaction to the sales in the temple make it apparent that such zeal was missing from others.

In baptism, we become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Our consideration of Christ's care for the temple in Jerusalem is an opportunity to reflect on how we care for all human beings, who are made in the image and likeness of God. Do we treat them with the dignity that a child of God deserves, remembering each person is sacred?

Just as you show concern for others, you need to care for yourself. How do you care for your interior life? Do you seek reconciliation with God through the sacrament of penance? Do you take to heart that God's mercy is for you as well as for others? In the remaining weeks of Lent, be especially attentive to the words of the penitential act. During this part of the Mass, the faithful may pray the Confiteor, after which the priest calls on God's mercy. The other option is for the faithful to pray the Kyrie, saying, "Lord, have mercy / Christ have mercy" to the priest's invocations. Seeking mercy, our zeal for God is apparent.

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Light of the World

Lord God,
when we were unfaithful,
you remembered us.
Your love is so great
that you sent your Son
to be the Light of the World.
May I keep my eyes fixed upon your light,
and never surrender to the dark, O Christ.
Who lives and reigns with you,
in the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.



Sunday, March 10, 2024

Light of Hope in the Darkness

Today's Readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23; Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6; Ephesians 2:4–10; John 3:14–21.

Hope and joy are recurring themes in the readings and prayers on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Midway through Lent, just as we begin to weary in our resolve, the readings remind us of God's love and the eternal life that awaits, and the prayers relate the Christian response of joy. The entrance antiphon begins, "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her," recalling for us that Lent is also a season for joy.

The liturgical color varies from the season's violet to rose today to visually encourage us. This day points to the reconciliation that is ours because of Christ's death and resurrection. And we have merited none of this. Only by the mercy of God do we live in Christ. As the reading from Ephesians states, "It is the gift of God; it is not from works so no one may boast."

Some accept the gift of faith, but as the Gospel states, "The light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light." At baptism, we received the light of Christ and, with that light, join Christ in dispelling darkness. This week, be aware that you carry the light of Christ within you and can bring others to it.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Always Near

Loving Father,
you who answer when I call,
who continue to love me,
even when I fall,
you are ever present and merciful.
May I be a mirror of your promises.
Never let me stray too far
from your gaze.
May your hand never be far from mine.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Sunday, March 17, 2024

Covenant of Love

Today's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15; Hebrews 5:7–9; John 12:20–33.

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the readings begin by recalling the covenant God made with the chosen people. The Lord tells the prophet Jeremiah, “I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” In the covenant that God keeps with us today, he offers us eternal life. Jesus refers to that life in the Gospel reading, saying, “Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.”

The first reading explains that all shall know God, for he “will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.” In the second covenant, Jesus lays down his life for us on the cross, erasing our sins and reconciling us with God. The Letter to the Hebrews explains that Christ “became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.”

To obey God, to have a place for him in our hearts, we seek a pure heart, praying from Psalm 51, “Create a clean heart in me, O God.” In this psalm, we ask not only that our souls be cleansed of sin but for a steadfast and willing spirit. How will you carry this psalm with you through this week so that you can be true to the love God offers? How can this psalm turn you to God’s presence so that you might be a walking testimony of his love?

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



Promise of Life

Lord God,
you entered Jerusalem in triumph,
and we shouted, "Hosanna!"
As the Lenten journey closes,
may I continue to remember
your sacrifice and love.
Give me the strength
to follow your cross.
May my heart find serenity
and joy in your promise.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Sunday, March 24, 2024

Seeing Ourselves in the Story

Today's Readings: Mark 11:1–10 or John 12:12–16; Mass: Isaiah 50:4–7; Psalm 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20, 23–24; Philemon 2:6–11; Mark 14:1–15:47.

Today's readings leave us much to ponder. During the Gospel at the procession, a crowd welcomes Jesus to Jerusalem, singing, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" At the end of the Gospel from Mark, Jesus was not hailed but reviled as passersby taunted, "You who would destroy the temple in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross."

In the last verses from Mark's Gospel, we witness the faith of the steadfast disciples, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of younger James and Joses, and Salome. These women had followed Jesus in Galilee, stood by until his death, and watched where he was laid in a tomb. Apparent, too, is the faith of Joseph of Arimathea, who wrapped Jesus in linen and laid him in the tomb.

Also obvious in the Gospel is the wavering faith of those who had followed Jesus for three years. Not only did Judas betray Jesus, but Peter could not stay awake with him as he prayed in the garden, and later Peter denied him three times. The Gospel proclaimed today does not record the apostles' presence at the crucifixion. During Holy Week, Christians have the opportunity to be with Christ as his last days are recalled. Take to heart Jesus' words to the apostles in Gethsemane: "Remain here and keep watch."



Celebrating our High Holy Days

The High Holy Days of the Church are the sacred days which span from Holy Thursday evening through Easter Sunday. This short span of time are the high point of the entire church year. Our entire Lenten journey is a preparation for the celebration of this sacred time. Lent is like a 40 day retreat to help us be ready and energized to enter the Triduum and celebrate it with great reverence.

PASCHAL TRIDUUM