



Our Parish Journey Through Lent

FEBRUARY 2026

Lent Begins

What are your priorities right now? Lent invites us to pause, reorder our lives, and focus on what matters most—letting go of what matters least.

Lent is the Church's season of preparation for Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday and lasting 40 days (excluding Sundays) until Holy Thursday, Lent mirrors Christ's time in the desert. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus spends 40 days fasting, praying, and preparing for His mission. Lent offers us that same opportunity for focus and renewal.

Lent is an invitation to take your spiritual life seriously. It is a time to form life-giving habits and leave behind those that weigh us down. It is a season to rediscover the abundant life Jesus promises at Easter.

Take these 40 days to seek God's dream for your life—and allow it to change you.

Are you ready?
Lent begins on Ash
Wednesday, February 18.

From the Pastor

Dear Saint Jude Parish Family,

As we enter this sacred season of Lent, we are invited to deepen our relationship with Christ through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Lent is a time of renewal—a time to “clean house” within our hearts and make room for God's grace to transform us.

This guide offers a variety of ways to journey through Lent together as a parish family. Whether you are drawn to quiet personal reflection, family-centered activities, or communal experiences, I encourage you to take a moment to explore the opportunities offered. No matter where you are on your faith journey, there is something here for you.

At the heart of our Lenten practices is the Word of God. I invite you to embrace the spiritual discipline of “Lectio Divina”, a prayerful reading of the Scriptures that can serve as a foundation for spiritual growth during this season. In our bulletins during Lent there will be a brief daily prayer-starter using the Gospel-of-the-day from the liturgy. Consider how you will embrace the three pillars of Lent—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—by deepening prayer, simplifying through fasting, and sharing your time, talents, and resources with those in need.

To support your daily prayer and reflection, we invite you to use our Lenten handout, *A Journey for the Soul*, as a companion throughout the season.

However you choose to walk this Lenten path, know that Jesus, our brother and Savior, walks with you. May this season be filled with grace, renewal, and a deepening love for our Lord.

In Christ,



Lenten Prayer Practices

LECTIO DIVINA

This Lent, Fr. Jim invites our parish family to spend time in deep prayer with God through Scripture. Lectio Divina, or divine reading, is a sacred way of being with Jesus through the Gospels.

Find the Gospel text using the reference on the Parish Lenten Calendar or by visiting www.usccb.org.

Before you begin, ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit: *Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten my heart and mind to listen to your Word.*

Lectio (Read)

Read the text slowly and prayerfully. Listen for the word God has prepared for you to hear. You may wish to read the passage more than once to quiet yourself interiorly. Receive the word God is offering you.

Meditatio (Meditate)

When a word or phrase stands out, pause and rest with it. Repeat it quietly. Ponder its meaning and allow God's Word to speak to your heart in a personal way.

Oratio (Pray)

Prayer is your response to God's Word. Speak to the Lord from your heart. What do you want to say in response to what you have heard? Enter into loving conversation with God.

Contemplatio (Contemplate)

Rest in God's presence. Sit quietly and receive His transforming embrace. Contemplation is not something you do—it is allowing God to act within you.

THE THREE PILLARS OF LENT



Living Lent More Intently

The three pillars of Lent—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—guide us through this penitential season. As we journey through Lent, let us embrace these practices with open hearts, allowing them to transform us as we prepare for the joy of Easter.

Prayer - Deepening our relationship with God through intentional time—Mass, Scripture, silence, devotions, and honest conversation with God.

Fasting - Practicing self-discipline by giving something up (or doing less of it) to refocus our hearts on God and grow in freedom from excess.

Almsgiving - Sharing our time, talent, and treasure with those in need—acts of generosity that express love of neighbor and concern for justice.

DAILY PRAYER & REFLECTION



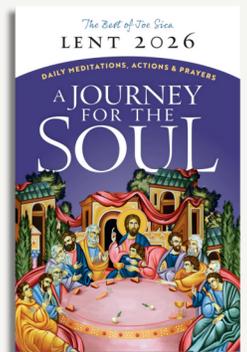
Daily Reflections with Fr. Jim

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, join us on *Flocknote* as we journey through Lent together. Each week, we'll share Bishop Barron's Sunday sermons along with *Fr. Jim's Daily Reflections*, offering guidance, prayer, and encouragement throughout the season. To join *Flocknote*, scan the QR code or visit stjudewlv.flocknote.com/home. To access Fr. Jim's Daily Reflections, scan the QR code shown in the image.



A Lenten Prayer Companion

To support your daily prayer and reflection this Lent, we invite you to use our handout, *A Journey for the Soul*, as a companion throughout the season. With warmth, wisdom, and a touch of humor, beloved author Father Joe Sica guides us through life's storms—disappointment, defeat, discouragement, and devastation—toward healing, hope, and transformation.





Lenten Observances

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18

- 6:30 AM Mass with Distribution of Ashes
- 10:00 AM Distribution of Ashes Only
- 12:00 PM Mass with Distribution of Ashes
- 4:15 PM Distribution of Ashes Only
- 6:00 PM Mass with Distribution of Ashes

PENANCE SERVICE

February 23 | 7:00 PM

Lent is a special time to receive the Sacrament of Penance as we prepare for Easter. This communal service gathers the faithful to acknowledge the effects of sin and celebrate the liturgy of reconciliation.

Each person will have the opportunity for a private, individual confession with a priest, offering healing, forgiveness, and renewal during the Lenten season.

Penance Services at Nearby Parishes

February 25 | 7pm St. Julie Billiart, Newbury Park

March 3 | 7pm St. Paschal Baylon, Thousand Oaks

March 23 | 7pm Holy Cross, Moorpark

March 24 | 7pm St. Maximilian Kolbe, Westlake Village

March 25 | 7pm Padre Serra, Camarillo



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays | 12:30pm - 7:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration is time spent in prayer with Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist outside of Mass. There is no wrong way to pray—bring your intentions, offer thanksgiving, read Scripture, pray the Rosary, or simply sit in quiet silence. Come for a few minutes or stay as long as you like. All are welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays During Lent | 7:00 PM

Taking about thirty minutes, the Stations of the Cross is a simple yet powerful way to prayerfully walk alongside Jesus. Through fourteen stations, we reflect on the key moments of Christ's Passion—from His sentencing to His death and burial. This devotion is especially meaningful during Holy Week, particularly on Good Friday.



St. Jude the Apostle Parish

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
February 15 Lenten Booklet Handout Middle School Ministry 10:30am	February 16	February 17 Palm Burning 6 pm Young Adult Ministry 7 pm	February 18 Mt 2:1-2 Ash Wednesday (Day of Fasting) Mass 6:30 am, 9 am Ashes Only: 10 am
February 22 Matthew 4:1-11 First Sunday of Lent Confirmation Year 1 3:30pm	February 23 Mt 25:31-46 Sandwich Ministry 9:30 am Parish Penance Service 7pm	February 24 Mt 6:7-15 High School Ministry 6 pm University Series 7 pm	February 25 Lk 10:1-12 Adoration 12:30pm Confession 3 pm St. Jude Novena
March 1 Matthew 17:1-9 Second Sunday of Lent Family Faith Formation 9 am	March 2 Lk 6:36-38	March 3 Mt 23:1-12 Young Adult Ministry 7 pm Meditation Prayer Group 7:30pm Family Faith Formation 5:30 pm	March 4 Matth 23:1-12 Adoration 12:30pm Confession 3 pm St. Jude Novena University Series
March 8 John 4:5-42 Third Sunday of Lent Easter Basket Collection Signups after all Masses Confirmation Year 1 3:30pm	March 9 Lk 4:24-30	March 10 Matthew 18:21-35 High School Ministry 6 pm	March 11 Mt 5:1-12 Adoration 12:30pm Confession 3 pm St. Jude Novena
March 15 Jn 9:1-41 Fourth Sunday of Lent Care Bag Packing Party held after all Masses Confirmation Year 2 3:30pm	March 16 Jn 4:43-54 Sandwich Ministry 9:30 am	March 17 Jn 5:1-16 University Series 7pm Young Adult Ministry 7 pm	March 18 Jn 5:1-16 Adoration 12:30pm Confession 3 pm St. Jude Novena University Series
March 22 John 11:1-45 Fifth Sunday of Lent Easter Basket Collection Middle School Ministry 10:30am Special Needs (Elem.) 11 am Confirmation Year 2 3:30pm	March 23 John 8:1-11	March 24 Jn 8:21-30 University Series 7 pm High School Ministry 6 pm	March 25 Luke 1:26-38 Annunciation of the Lord Adoration 12:30pm Confession 3 pm St. Jude Novena
March 29 Palm Sunday Matthew 26:14—27:66 Welcome New Catholics! Family Faith Formation 9 am Special Needs 11 am	March 30 Jn 12:1-11 Chrism Mass at Los Angeles Cathedral 7 pm livestream at lacatholics.org	March 31 John 13:21-33, 36-38 Family Faith Formation 5:30 pm	April 1 Mt 26:1-13 Adoration 12:30pm Confession 3 pm St. Jude Novena
April 5 Easter John 20:1-9 Mass 8 am, 10 am and 12 pm (No Evening Mass)			

ish Lent Calendar 2026

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18 12 pm, 6 pm am, 4:15 pm 	February 19 Lk 9:22-25 Bible Study 9:15 am Lectio Divina 10:30 am Book Club 6:30 pm - 8: pm	February 20 Mt 9:14-15 Stations of the Cross 7 pm 	February 21 Luke 5:27-32 Food and Recycling Collection 9 - 10 am
Lk 11:29-32 0 pm - 7:30 pm m - 6 pm a 7 pm	February 26 Mt 7:7-12 Lectio Divina 10:30 am	February 27 Mt 5:20-26 Stations of the Cross 7 pm 	February 28 Mt 5:43-48
Lew 20:17-28 0 pm - 7:30 pm m - 6 pm a 7 pm es 7 pm	March 5 Lk 16:19-31 Bible Study 9:15 am Lectio Divina 10:30 am	March 6 Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 First Friday Devotion 10:15 am Stations of the Cross 7 pm 	March 7 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 Easter Basket Collection Signups after all Masses
Lk 17-19 0 pm - 7:30 pm m - 6 pm a 7 pm	March 12 Lk 11:14-23 Bible Study 9:15 am Lectio Divina 10:30 am University Series 7 pm	March 13 Mk 12:28-34 Stations of the Cross 7 pm 	March 14 Lk 18:9-14 Care Bag Packing Party held after all Masses
Lk 17-30 0 pm - 7:30 pm m - 6 pm a 7 pm es 7pm	March 19 Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a Bible Study 9:15 am Lectio Divina 10:30 am	March 20 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 Stations of the Cross 7 pm 	March 21 Jn 7:40-53 Easter Basket Collection Food and Recycling Collection 9 - 10 am
Lk 1:26-38 of the Lord 0 pm - 7:30 pm m - 6 pm a 7 pm	March 26 Jn 8:51-59 Bible Study 9:15 am Lectio Divina 10:30 am Knights of Columbus 6:30 pm	March 27 Jn 10:31-42 Stations of the Cross 7 pm 	March 28 Jn 11:45-56
Lk 4-25 0 pm - 7:30 pm m - 6 pm a 7 pm	April 2 Triduum John 13:1-15 Holy Thursday 7:30 pm followed by Adoration in the Hall (No Noon Mass)	April 3 Triduum Jn 18:1-19:42 Good Friday 12 pm and 6 pm 	April 4 Triduum Matthew 28:1-10 Holy Saturday 7:30 pm Welcome Newly Baptized!
		DAILY ROSARY GROUP <i>In the St. Jude Chapel at 11am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and The Cenacle of Rosaries on Wednesday at 10am.</i>	

Almsgiving During Lent



40 Days - 40 Pieces

This Lent, Loaves and Fishes invites you to go beyond giving something up by giving. We are Jesus' hands and feet. Choose one piece of clothing to donate each day during Lent and help serve those in need locally. A donation cart will be available in the vestibule from Ash Wednesday through Good Friday.



Food and Recycling Collection

February 21 and March 21 | 9am-10am

On the third Saturday of each month from 9-10, you can drive up and drop off your non-perishable food items and/or monetary donations in the church parking lot. Please visit www.saintjudetheapostle.org/food-collection



Sandwich Ministry

February 23 and March 16 | 9:30am

Join us once a month in the parish hall to pack 250 bag lunches for those in poverty at Harbor House and senior residents at Many Mansions in Thousand Oaks. It's fun and a great way to give back to the community.



Easter Basket Collection

Sign-Ups: March 7-8 | Collection: March 21-22

Help brighten a child's Easter by providing a basket for children from infants to 13, delivered through local agencies. Baskets can be store-bought or handmade, wrapped in cellophane, and dropped off in the parish hall before or after Mass on collection dates. Contact Jane McDade at (805) 405-6154.



Frank's Homeless Project - Packing Party

March 14-15 | Following all Masses
Join us on the patio after all Masses as parishioners assemble Care Bags filled with hygiene products donated by our community. These bags are distributed to local agencies serving the homeless. Monetary donations help purchase items needed to complete over 1,000 Care Bags.



Easter Offering

Support our parish by making a one-time or recurring donation. Your generosity helps sustain our ministries and community. Scan the QR code or visit www.saintjudetheapostle.org. Thank you for your continued support!



Events



Burning of the Palms

February 17 at 6pm

Join us on Shrove Tuesday to burn the blessed palms from last year's Palm Sunday (please remove all staples). We will pray together and enjoy fellowship with desserts as we prepare our hearts for the Ash Wednesday fast. All are invited to bring palms and a favorite dessert to share

University Series

The University Series offers engaging Lenten seminars that connect faith to real life through timely topics, multi-media



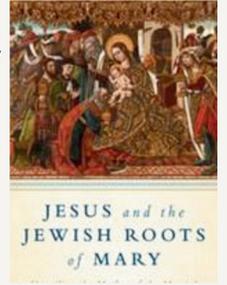
presentations, and Q&A. Sessions run Monday–Thursday evenings and Friday lunchtimes during Lent. Purchase a Season Pass or discounted single presentations at www.theuniversityseries.org by February 18, or pay cash at the door.

Sessions at St. Jude:

- **Feb 24** Fr. Robert Sirico, The Economics of the Parables
- **March 4** Bill Moran, Catholics are Wrong!
- **March 12** Michael McNaught, Being Church in the Dawn of A.I.: Challenges and Opportunities.
- **March 17** Deacon Jerome Bettencourt, Your Story of Salvation: How Scripture Guides Your Faith.
- **March 18** Ann Pettit, What is the Ultimate Gift?
- **March 24** Fr. Dave Heney, What if I Get Sick?

Bible Study

Thursday Morning Bible Study begins **March 5 at 9:15 a.m.** with a new study, *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary* by Dr. Brant Pitre. This study traces Scripture from the Garden of Eden to the Book of Revelation, using the Old Testament and ancient Judaism to reveal the biblical foundations of Catholic teachings about Mary as the new Eve, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, and the new Ark of the Covenant. For more information, contact cara.grace42@gmail.com.



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 29th
8am, 10am, 12pm, and 4pm

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Thursday, April 2nd
7:30 pm followed by Adoration in the Parish Hall. (No Noon Mass)

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday of the Passion of the Lord

Friday, April 3rd
Noon & 6pm

HOLY SATURDAY

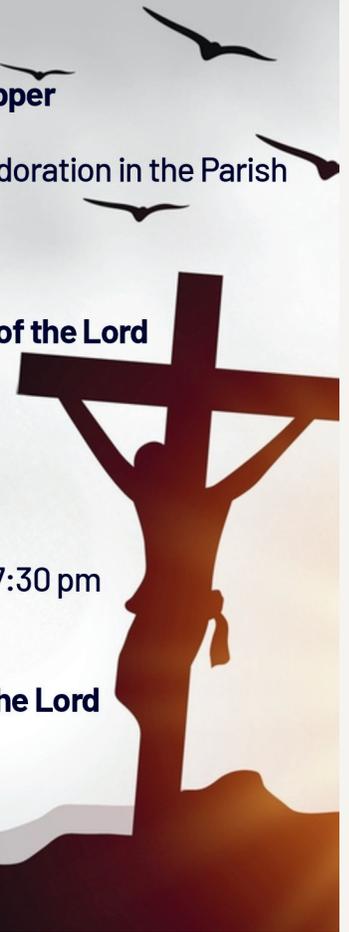
Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 4th at 7:30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY

The Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday, April 5th
8 am, 10 am and Noon
(No Evening Mass)



The Easter Triduum & Holy Week

Holy Week is the most solemn and glorious week in Christianity—the pinnacle of the liturgical year—more sacred even than Christmas, because it commemorates the final week of Our Lord’s life and the very purpose of His coming: our salvation. Beginning with Palm Sunday, when Jesus makes His final entrance into Jerusalem, and culminating in the joy of Easter Sunday, the Church is drawn ever more deeply into the sacred mystery of Christ’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

The Sacred Triduum

From sundown on **Holy Thursday** to sundown on **Easter Sunday**, the Church celebrates the **Easter Triduum**, the most sacred time of the entire liturgical year. These three days are one continuous celebration that reaches its high point in the **Easter Vigil** and concludes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. The Triduum recounts the final days of Jesus’ earthly life—His Passion, Death, and Resurrection—when the Lamb of God laid down His life for our sins.

Holy Thursday

The evening Mass of Holy Thursday, known as the **Mass of the Lord’s Supper**, commemorates the institution of the Eucharist, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and the priesthood at the Last Supper. Following the homily, the optional **Washing of the Feet** recalls Christ’s call to servant leadership. Extra hosts are consecrated for Communion on Good Friday, when no Mass is celebrated. After Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is carried to the Altar of Repose, symbolizing Jesus’ coming Passion.

Good Friday

Good Friday is a **mandatory day of fasting and abstinence**, marking the day of Christ’s crucifixion. The church reflects this solemnity: the altar is stripped bare, the tabernacle stands empty, and the sanctuary lamp is extinguished. These powerful signs remind us that Christ has died. It is a day of mourning, prayer, and reflection on the sacrifice of the Cross.

Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday is a day of quiet sorrow as Christ lies in the tomb. There is no daytime Mass. Many of the faithful continue their fast from Good Friday as they wait in hope for the Resurrection. During this time, we recall that Christ descended to the dead and opened the gates of heaven for the just who had gone before Him.

Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday

The **Easter Vigil**, celebrated after nightfall on Holy Saturday or before dawn on Easter Sunday, is the most beautiful and dramatic liturgy of the Church year, unfolding in four parts—the Service of Light, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of Baptism, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist—during which many OCIA catechumens are welcomed into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Easter Sunday then proclaims the Resurrection of the Lord, the joyful fulfillment of our Lenten journey of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and the glorious culmination of the Paschal Mystery at the heart of our Christian faith.

Source: *The GoodCatholic.com*

