

Lent 2024



On Ash Wednesday, the ashes that we receive are a reminder of our own state of sinfulness and need for repentance and purification. Lent is not merely a preparation for Easter. Remember that on Ash Wednesday, we sign ourselves as disciples of Jesus Christ, and we strive to live the following forty days so that the world knows we are Christians. Mass/Distribution of Ashes—8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.; Distribution of Ashes only—5:00 P.M. ☞



Lent is a season when we are invited to “fertilize” our spiritual lives. God knows that we need this time every year. He knows that, as human beings, we get caught up with the demands and distractions of life. The busyness of life, struggles in relationships, illness, loss of life, all the uncertainty that we experience in our world can be overwhelming. Lent is an invitation to take care of ourselves so we can renew our friendship with God and with one another. This Lent, let us together as a community of faith and individually as disciples, take a long and hard look at where and when we experience all of these distractions. Let us use this time to recommit ourselves to doing the traditional practices that bring our hearts closer to God and help us to walk more gracefully towards the great celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection this Easter. Let us be all about the *prayer, fasting, and almsgiving* that strengthens our resolution to follow the Lord more closely and with greater integrity. Let us embrace this penitential season with hope and joy! ☞

Sign Up for the FREE Lent Streaming!

Watch the New Series from Matthew Leonard
Liturgy & Life: Unveiling the Mystical Movement of the Mass

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2024 Lent Challenge Exodus & Exile

Each day of Lent, spend ten minutes with **John Bergsma** as he reads and reflects on one chapter of the *Book of Exodus* and then gives you a daily challenge to complete. Once a week, join **Scott Hahn** as he delivers an inspiring series of eight talks based on his new book *Catholics in Exile* – filmed with a live audience at the new St. Paul Center headquarters. Start your journey here:

<https://stpaulcenter.com/exodus/>

BEST LENT EVER

At critical times throughout Salvation History, God’s people have been invited to consecrate themselves. We are at one of those critical times in history, and consecrating ourselves, our families, our country, and indeed, the whole world to the Eucharist may make all the difference. Join us now for **BEST LENT EVER** and be one of the first people in history to go on this journey!

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html>



“The Agony, Trial and Crucifixion of Jesus”

A live presentation from Jerusalem by **Sami Backleh** on Sunday, February 25th from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. at St. Mary’s Family Community Center. Registration is not required. There will be a goodwill offering. ☞



Lenten Scripture & Song

St. Mary’s Choir
Sunday, March 17th
2:00 P.M.
St. Mary’s Church

Lenten Regulations

Regulations for Abstinence and Fasting During Lent—All Catholics who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on *Ash Wednesday* and *all the Fridays of Lent*. All Catholics between the ages of 18 to 59, inclusive, are also bound to observe the law of fast on *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday*. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day. Liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse. A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday* fast and abstinence. The obligation to do penance and to observe the appointed penitential season is a serious one. ☞

STATIONS of the CROSS

This Lent, join us at 7:00 P.M. for *Friday Night Stations of the Cross*. All are invited to join us as Fr. Richard Kosisko leads us through the Stations of the Cross. The Stations will take place on:
February 16th, February 23rd, March 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. ☞

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

“Chaplet of the Divine Mercy” - We will sing the “Chaplet of the Divine Mercy” Saturdays/Sundays during Lent, 15 minutes before mass begins. On weekdays, the Chaplet will be **recited** 15 minutes before mass begins. ☞

Grotto

The “*Side Grotto*” for private meditation, prayer and reflection upon the crucified Lord is located at the right side altar. *This area is open daily from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.* Please feel free to walk and meditate on the Stations of the Cross at your leisure. Booklets are available at the church entrances. Please remember to return booklets. ☞



Walk the Prayer Garden—Everyone will have the opportunity to privately walk the *Stations of the Cross* in our prayer garden at your convenience (weather permitting). **Stations of the Cross booklets will be available for you to use at the side entrance of the church. Please remember to return these booklets. ☞

ANOINTING & BLESSING

A **blessing and anointing** of all in need will be celebrated on Sunday, March 17th immediately following our 11:00 A.M. mass. Everyone will be asked to move to the front of the church for the blessing service. ☞

March 14th (6:30 P.M.) - St. Mary, Mother of God, Yatesboro

March 16th (12:00 Noon) - Christ, Prince of Peace, Ford City

March 19th (6:30 P.M.) - St. Patrick, Brady's Bend

March 21st (6:30 P.M.) - St. Mary, Mother of God, Freeport

REGIONAL PENANCE SERVICES



Thursday, February 22nd; Host—Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (Freeport) Leader: Rev. Adam Clever
Thursday, February 29th; Host—United Presbyterian Church (Freeport) Leader: Rev Diane Randolph
Thursday, March 7th; Host—United Methodist Church (Freeport) Leader: Rev Jeff Truscott
Thursday, March 14th; Host—Trinity United Methodist Church (Brackenridge) Leader: **Deacon JT Tuskan**
Thursday, March 21st; Host—St. Mary, Mother of God Church (Freeport) Leader: From Sower's Chapel
Soup and sandwiches served in church social hall from 12:00 to 12:50 P.M.
Worship Service will begin at 1:00 P.M.

WALKING THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Walk the Way of the Cross—Palm Sunday, March 24th—2:00 P.M.—Meet at St. Mary's Church
Please Join Us – youth, adults, veterans, families, golden agers – for this dramatic journey retracing the events that led up to Jesus' crucifixion on Mount Calvary as we lead the community in prayer together throughout the streets of Freeport. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** ☞

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Wednesday

Mass will be at 6:00 P.M.

Holy Thursday

CHRISM MASS – Blessed Sacrament Cathedral (Greensburg) at 10:00 A.M.

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 P.M.; Adoration until 11:00 P.M.; Night Prayer at 11:00 P.M.

Good Friday

Liturgy of the Word/Veneration of the Cross/Communion Service at 1:30 P.M.

**Note: The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday. It is a nine day prayer (Novena) in preparation for the Divine Mercy Feast Day, celebrated on the Sunday after Easter (April 7th). This Novena and chaplet may be prayed in church or at home.

Pamphlets will be available at each entrance of the church.

Following the liturgy of the word, the Divine Mercy Novena will begin.

Tenebrae at 8:00 P.M. (Community Service)

Holy Saturday

Blessing of the Easter Food Baskets at 12:00 Noon; Easter Egg Hunt at St. Mary Cemetery (weather permitting) at 1:00 P.M.

Inclement weather—Fellowship Hall

Easter Vigil - 8:00 P.M.; **Easter Sunday** - Mass at 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.