

SAINT PATRICK CHURCH + LENTEN PROGRAM 2024



LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the 40 days of Lent, we imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

THE LENTEN PRACTICES OF PRAYER, FASTING & ABSTINENCE, ALMSGIVING, and CONFESSION

The traditional pillars of Lenten observance are **Prayer, Fasting & Abstinence, Almsgiving and confession.** These pillars should be practiced in relationship to our Easter baptismal renewal.

Prayer: More time given to prayer during Lent should draw us closer to the Lord. We might pray especially for the grace to live out our baptismal promises more fully. We might pray for those who will be baptized at Easter and support their conversion journey by our prayer. We might pray for all those who will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation with us during Lent that they will be truly renewed in their baptismal commitment.

Fasting: Fasting (deliberately saying "no" to our desires for satisfaction) is one of the most ancient practices linked to Lent. In fact, the paschal fast predates Lent as we know it. Fasting is more than a means of developing self-control. It is often an aid to prayer, as the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. Fasting should be linked to our concern for those who are forced to fast by their poverty, those who suffer from the injustices of our economic and political structures, those who are in need for any reason. **The obligation to FAST, limiting to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18-59.** Those who are younger or older may freely embrace these disciplines. Lenten disciplines should never endanger your health.

Abstinence from meat: Ash Wednesday and Fridays of the season of Lent are DAYS OF ABSTINENCE. **This obligation to abstain from meat is binding on Catholics 14 years of age and older.**

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 14 and **GOOD FRIDAY**, March 29 are days of fast and abstinence. **FRIDAYS OF LENT** are days of abstinence (no meat is to be eaten).

Almsgiving: Almsgiving (giving to the poor) is linked to our baptismal commitment and is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us. Works of charity and the promotion of justice are integral elements of the Christian way of life we began when we were baptized. Please consider participating and making your contribution to **OPERATION RICE BOWL** (Rice Bowl containers can be found on the tables in the back of the church).

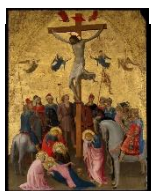
Confession/Penance/Reconciliation: Lent is the primary time for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance. Early Christian teachers called this sacrament "second Baptism," because it is intended to enable us to start again to live the baptismal life in its fullness. Those who experience the loving mercy of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation should find themselves standing alongside the newly baptized at Easter filled with great joy at the new life God has given all of us.

Individual Confessions will be heard every **Wednesday afternoon from 4:30 – 6:00 PM** and **Saturday afternoon from 2:30 – 3:45 PM** in the Confession Room. Instructions on making a good confession can be found on the tables in the back of the Church.

A Special Deanery Reconciliation Service with Individual Confessions at Immaculate Conception Church in Nashua with many Confessors on Sunday afternoon, **March 10 at 2:00 PM**

STATEWIDE DAY OF CONFESSION

Most parishes in New Hampshire make an effort to have the Sacrament of Reconciliation available for an extended period on **Monday of Holy Week, March 25.** At St. Patrick Church, Fr. Dennis will be in the Confession Room to hear confessions during the hours of 11:00 am–1:00 pm and from 5:00 pm–7:00 pm on that day.



Monday Lenten Retreat

During these sessions, participants will explore the Passion Narratives with a focus on the Last Week of Jesus' life before Easter (Holy Week). Video presentations, hosted by Fr. Dennis, will include Scripture Scholars from Little Rock Scripture Study and Dr. Brant Petrie. 4 Mondays: February 26, March 4, 11, 18 - 4:30-6:00 pm - in the **PARISH HALL**.

Friday Evenings of Lent: Simple Lenten Soup Suppers: 6:00 PM



We come together as a parish family on Friday evenings during Lent at 6:00 PM to share a simple meal. The meal will consist of chowder or meatless soup, bread and water. We ask that you please call the office (673-1311) if you plan on attending in order that we have enough food for all or if you are interested in providing a crock pot of meatless soup. There is a sign-up sheet in the church hall for soup-makers. No charge. Donations are accepted.

Friday Evenings of Lent: Stations of the Cross: 7:00 PM



Following the Simple Lenten Soup Supper, we gather in church to participate in the Stations of the Cross.

Bible Study with Sally Wilkins



A study of the **Acts of the Apostles** continues Tuesday Evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 PM ALSO a study of the **Book of Revelation** continues on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00 AM. All are welcomed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Masses: Saturday at 4:00 PM; Sunday at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

**Weekday Masses: Monday, Thursday, and Friday at 7:30 AM;
Wednesday at 5:30 PM**

Ash Wednesday February 14	Masses and Distribution of Ashes at 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM Distribution of Ashes Only – at 12:10 PM Confessions – Confession Room 4:30 – 5:15 PM
Thursday, February 15	Bible Study 9:30-11:00 AM
Friday, February 16	Lenten Soup Supper – Church Hall at 6:00 PM Stations of the Cross – Church at 7:00 PM
Saturday, February 17	Confessions – Confession Room 2:30 – 3:45 PM

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Week of FEBRUARY 18

Wednesday, February 21	Confessions – Confession Room 4:30 – 5:15 PM
Thursday, February 22	Bible Study 9:30-11:00 AM
Friday, February 23	Simple Lenten Soup Supper – Church Hall at 6:00 PM Stations of the Cross – Church at 7:00 PM
Saturday, February 24	Confessions – Confession Room 2:30 – 3:45 PM RCIA Rites at the 4pm Mass

SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Week of FEBRUARY 25

Monday, February 26	Lenten Retreat– Parish Hall 4:30 – 6:00 PM
Wednesday, February 28	Confessions – Confession Room 4:30 – 5:15 PM
Thursday, February 29	Bible Study 9:30-11:00 AM
Friday, March 1	Simple Lenten Soup Supper – Church Hall at 6:00 PM Stations of the Cross – Church at 7:00 PM
Saturday, March 2	Confessions – Confession Room 2:30 – 3:45 PM

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Monday, March 4
Wednesday, March 6
Thursday, March 7
Friday, March 8
Saturday, March 9

Week of MARCH 3

Lenten Retreat– Parish Hall 4:30 – 6:00 PM
Confessions – Confession Room 4:30 – 5:15 PM
Bible Study 9:30-11:00 AM
Simple Lenten Soup Supper – Church Hall at 6:00 PM
Stations of the Cross – Church at 7:00 PM
Confessions – Confession Room 2:30 – 3:45 PM

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Monday, March 11
Wednesday, March 13
Thursday, March 14
Friday, March 15
Saturday, March 16

Week of MARCH 10

Lenten Retreat– Parish Hall 4:30 – 6:00 PM
Confessions – Confession Room 4:30 – 5:15 PM
Bible Study 9:30-11:00 AM
Simple Lenten Soup Supper – Church Hall at 6:00 PM
Stations of the Cross – Church at 7:00 PM
Confessions – Confession Room 2:30 – 3:45 PM

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Monday, March 18
Wednesday, March 20
Thursday, March 21
Friday, March 22
Saturday, March 23

Week of MARCH 17

Lenten Retreat– Parish Hall 4:30 – 6:00 PM
Confessions – Confession Room 4:30 – 5:15 PM
Bible Study 9:30-11:00 AM
Simple Lenten Soup Supper – Church Hall at 6:00 PM
Stations of the Cross – Church at 7:00 PM
Confessions – Confession Room 2:30 – 3:45 PM
Palm Sunday Mass – Church at 4:00 PM

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 24
Monday, March 25
Tuesday, March 26
Wednesday, March 27

Week of MARCH 24

Palm Sunday Masses – 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Confessions – Confession Room – 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Mass at 7:30 AM
Mass at 5:30 PM

LENT ENDS AND THE SACRED TRIDUUM BEGINS ON HOLY THURSDAY MARCH 28

Thursday, March 28
Friday, March 29
Saturday, March 30

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM
Adoration follows and Night Prayer at 9:00 PM
Good Friday – Parish Offices Closed
Good Friday Morning Prayer at 9:00 AM
Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM
No confessions today
EASTER VIGIL MASS at 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES AT 8:00 and 10:30 AM

EASTER MONDAY

NO AM MASS and PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

APRIL 1

