

What Is Lent?

What is Lent? Ash Wednesday was a few days ago, starting the Lenten countdown toward Holy Week and Easter, but maybe some of us are not completely clear as to why these weeks of preparation are there in the first place.

One opinion is that Lent is a time to deprive yourself. You give up candy or smoking or deserts or heavy meals or ... choose your favorite. These are good and definitely part of Lenten practice (even if they are like New Year's resolutions, since we usually break those).

Lenten deprivation.

It gave birth to Mardi Gras, meaning Fat Tuesday, literally. In contrast to tough Lent, eat all the fat you can, parade around in costume, go wild. The public usually does not recall that Mardi Gras has something to do with the quaint old practice of Lent. But that sharpens the question: what have they or we forgotten about Lent and its practice of penance?

What if we described Lent as a "Retreat"?

A Retreat, in Catholic and other religions, is a space of days taken to pray and to be with God. Often one goes to a retreat house to have one. In St. Louis, for instance, there is a beautiful place called "White House"—the president has never been there, it is a different one—which has a stunning view of the Mississippi River. For many decades Jesuits have preached retreats there every weekend and sometimes during the week. Sizeable groups of men or of women stay for two or three days to meditate, listen to talks, and to refresh their spiritual lives.

No, no, I do not mean that you should disappear for the five weeks of Lent to the nearest retreat house. But what about letting each Lenten day partake of certain retreat practices? For instance, what about setting aside a little time daily to let your insides settle down for a while, to create space within you to welcome God. Maybe set up a special place in your house or someplace else just to pray. How about a picture or crucifix or maybe just a candle? Or just 10 minutes of silence?

And why not take some time to read in advance the Gospel from the upcoming Sunday Mass? Sit down, read it slowly, and let the scene described take place within the your mind and heart. This week you could ask Jesus how it felt to have the Spirit drive him into the desert, as described in the Gospel.

The point? Let the Lord's loving deeds be your motivation for "giving up" anything during Lent. You might begin to see that you are making a gift of gratitude to God, rather than just "giving up" something you like. How does this prepare us for Holy Week and for Easter? By doing exactly what Jesus does when he makes himself a gift of suffering and death. He is returning a gift of love to the Father. Lent prepares us to witness this reality of our savior.

It is the same gift we receive at every Mass when we go to Communion.

Maybe we could let ourselves be driven into the desert ourselves, and let the Holy Spirit guide us. That is the meaning of Lent.

John Foley, SJ

First Sunday in Lent February 18th, 2018

St. Stephen's Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

856-7806

33 St. Stephens Road

PO Box 250

St. Stephens, WY 82524

Fr. Jim Heiser.....Pastor
Dcn. Bryce Lungren.....Deacon
Sr. Monica Suhayda, CSJ.....Past. Asst./ Gift Shop 856-4330
Patti McMahon.....Director of Religious Education

Blessed Sacrament & St. Joseph's Church

332-4415

Sr. Teresa Frawley, OSF.....Past. Asst./Director of Religious Education

St. Stephen's Church

Friday: Adoration followed by benediction 3:45pm

Saturday: Confessions 2:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Sunday Masses: 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM

Wednesday & Friday: Mass at 5:00pm

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass at 7:15am

1st Saturday: Adoration at 8:00am; Mass at 9:00am

St. Joseph's Church, Ethete

Sunday Mass: 11:00 AM

Confessions 15 minutes before Mass

Wednesday & Friday Communion Service at 5:15 PM

Blessed Sacrament, Ft. Washakie

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 PM

Confessions 15 minutes before Mass

.....
Come in seeking; come in wondering; come in hurting. Come into this house of companionship and compassion. Come in. You are welcome here. Our faith Family opens its doors to you and in the name of Christ, bids you Welcome!
.....

The purpose of St. Stephen's Indian Mission, the presence of the Roman Catholic Church among the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho, is to grow into a strong community of believers, sharing our lives in the Holy Spirit, forming one welcoming People of God, who are committed to Jesus Christ, his gospel and mission.

Readings for February 19th through February 25th:

Mon: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
 Tue: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
 Wed: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
 Thur: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 16:13-19
 Fri: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
 Sat: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
 Sun: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's 2/25/18

9:00 Mass

Lector: Penny Robertson

Extraordinary Ministers: Karen Brown & Melissa Brown

5:00 Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

Parish Collection

2/11

\$1946.98

"Teach us to give and not count the cost." St. Ignatius de Loyola

Events:

2/18: Rosary @ 8:20am
Coffee and Donuts
after 9am Mass

2/23: Stations of the Cross 5:30

2/23-2/24 Ladies Retreat with
Sister Therese Steiner SCL
(Please see flyer on bulletin board.)

St. Stephen's Religious Ed/Baptism

Please plan to attend three classes if you wish your child to be baptized. Classes for March will be posted.

Religious Ed classes are after the 9am Mass.

If you have questions regarding baptism or religious education classes, please call the religious education office (856-7806 ext. 16).

*Congratulations to those who were
baptized last Sunday!*

Daniel Tindall

Adne Rosella Duran

Artemisia Little Owl Duran



LENT

Favorite Page

Add our website to your favorites page. Classes, events, and the bulletin are all on there:

www.saintstephensmission.com

Having Mass offered for an anniversary, marriage, special occasion, gift or in memory of someone is a special gift. Cards are available at the office. Diocesan guideline is \$10.00 for a Mass.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

Mass Intentions/Communion Service & Schedule this week:

2/17: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament For the people
 2/18: 9am St. Stephen's Ann & Fritz Rehbein on their 68th anniversary
 11am St. Joseph's Norman Willow
 5pm St. Stephen's Elma Brown on her birthday
 2/20: 7:15am St. Stephen's Francene Lonebear
 2/21: 5:00pm St. Stephen's Lori Spoonhunter
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service
 2/22: 7:15am St. Stephen's +Michael Bernatis
 2/23: 5:30pm St. Stephen's Jean Watt
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service & Stations of the cross

The Diocese of Cheyenne has an opening for the Chancellor position. The Chancellor assists the Diocesan Bishop in the administration of the Diocese. The Chancellor serves as the principal ecclesiastical notary of the Diocese and as a notary public. Submit an application, letter of Interest and a current resume by mail, e-mail, online, or in person by February 28, 2018 to: Tammy Skala, Human Resource Director, Diocese of Cheyenne, 2121 Capitol Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82001, Office: 307-638-1530 - tskala@dioceseofcheyenne.org - Find all information online, including complete job description and application: www.dioceseofcheyenne.org/employment.html

Important Notice

If you are planning a birthday party, baby shower or other family event and plan on using Eagle Hall, Keel Gym, Sister Incarnata Hall, or any church facility then you will need to contact Melissa in the parish office at least 20 days prior to your event so we can obtain insurance coverage (at no cost to you) for the day of your gathering. This is in accordance with the Diocese of Cheyenne policies. The rental fee and deposit will need to be paid at the time of reservations.

Rosaries

Many people spend hours making rosaries and send them to the Mission. Please remember to pray with them and offer a prayer for those who donate them.

FORMED

Visit formed.org and use our parish code **6Y749F!**

Blessed Sacrament & St. Joseph's

Baptism Classes

The last Sunday of each month will be Baptism Sunday at St. Joseph's. Three classes are required. Please call Sister Teresa at 332-4415 to schedule classes.

Religious Education Classes

Classes are during the 11am Mass.

Confirmation

Confirmation class begins promptly after the 11am Mass.