



Lent

Sts. Peter and Paul Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
808 N. Mason Road
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(314) 270.2452

March 2018 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

Church Web Site: www.ecc-usa.org

CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Mass Times 4:00 PM unless otherwise noted

March 4, 2018: Third Sunday of Lent	+Fr. Carl
March 11, 2018: Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) Mass Time: 2:00 PM	Fr. Bill
March 18, 2018: Fifth Sunday of Lent	Fr. Tom
March 25, 2018: Passion (Palm) Sunday	+Fr. Bob

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, 314.800.3456, pastor@sspp-eccusa.org

Associate Pastor: Fr. Bill LaGrand, 314.650.9214, associate@sspp-eccusa.org

Presiding Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, 636.240.7839, domcarl@ecc-usa.org

Prayer Intentions

If you would like us to remember a special intention for you at Mass, please contact one of our priests.

If you or someone you know is in need of spiritual assistance (prayers, Sacrament of the Sick, etc.), please contact one of our priests.

Inquiries regarding the administration of Sacraments or services (Baptisms, First Communion, Marriages, and Funerals) are welcomed.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Fr. Bill LaGrand, M.A.

March 4, 2018 – 3rd Sunday of Lent: God is the center of our lives. The commandments given to Moses point the way toward authentically living out this reality. Jesus reminds us to make God the center. Jesus demonstrates this truth by contrasting his life and message with that of the temple system. The Resurrection proves the truth of his message. (John 2: 13-25)

March 11, 2018 – 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday): We should meditate on this verse from John, “God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life. This gift is neither deserved nor earned, but it should be responded to by us. (John 3: 14-21)

March 18, 2018 – 5th Sunday of Lent: We must learn from the example of Jesus’ suffering that our own losses, experiences of grief, and sacrifices are often the way that God is able to write in our hearts and do something new in our lives. (John 12: 20-33)

March 25, 2018 – Passion (Palm) Sunday: We are introduced to the drama of Holy Week. In his presentation of the Passion of Jesus, Mark has told us the most important action story of all time, and today, we experience this epic story. (Mark 11: 1-10; Mark 14: 1-15; 47)

FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP’S DESK

+Fr. Carl Swaringim, Ed.D., Presiding Bishop

Lent, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Attached to this Sts. Peter and Paul March Bulletin is a Lenten Family Calendar that I found as a free download from Loyola Press (www.loyolapress.com). I did make a couple of textual additions.

Even though the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA does not have formal Lenten Rules of Fasting, etc., we certainly recognize that Lent is a time for personal and collective repentance and spiritual growth. The traditional Lenten practices remain laudable ways of penance and spiritual growth; they are still followed by many people in churches, like ours, in the Old Catholic Tradition.

The Family Lenten Calendar gives simple daily recommendations for increasing our own spirituality and recognition of our duties of love and concern for others, both family and in the broadest sense, our neighbor.

I hope you find the recommendations on this calendar to be innovative ways to celebrate Lent in preparation to celebrate again the glorious Resurrection of the Lord.

Blessings,

+Fr. Carl

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Lenten Practices: As +Fr. Carl stated above, while the ECC+USA does not subscribe to the mandates on Fasting and Abstinence from certain foods, nor do we teach you must make a "sacrifice" during Lent, we do encourage you to practice your faith as much as is comfortable to you. We do encourage you to focus on your prayer life and Jesus' journey to his death and resurrection. Our parishioners received a daily meditation booklet with the February bulletin to aid in their 2018 Lenten Season prayer lives. Additional copies are available at church.

Mass time change: On **Sunday, March 11, 2018, our mass time will be 2:00 PM** due to a scheduling conflict.

Special blessings to our parishioners who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this month:

Birthdays:

Dwight Jacobi: March 6

Anniversaries:

Bishop Carl: March 30: Ordination to the Priesthood (55 years!)


LENTEN FAMILY CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst.... 'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor -- He knows your weakness. He only wants the chance to love you." ---- Saint Theresa of Calcutta</i></p>			<p>14 February Ash Wednesday Attend an Ash Wednesday Mass or prayer service today.</p>	<p>15 As a family, research and select a charity that you will support during Lent.</p>	<p>16 Fast from taking second helpings at meals.</p>	<p>17 Take over a disliked chore for a family member.</p>
<p>18 First Sunday of Lent Attend Mass often. The Eucharist is our greatest communal prayer and a surefire way to encounter Jesus.</p>	<p>19 Pray with your family at mealtime. Make a point of praying for people in need.</p>	<p>20 At bedtime, pray for people who are homeless and sleeping on the streets tonight.</p>	<p>21 Be more courteous in your attitude, words, and deeds.</p>	<p>22 Make a list of ten things you are grateful for in your life.</p>	<p>23 Fast from criticizing others aloud or silently in your mind. Seek to understand instead.</p>	<p>24 Pray while creating a piece of artwork. Do something creative, and do so for the glory of God.</p>
<p>25 Second Sunday of Lent Forego a favorite TV program for a week.</p>	<p>26 Go through your closets and donate usable clothing and household goods to a local charity.</p>	<p>27 Pay attention to someone you are tempted to brush aside.</p>	<p>28 Fast from gossip.</p>	<p>1 March Pray at the sound of sirens from emergency vehicles. Pray for the people who might be in trouble.</p>	<p>2 Fast from e-mail, text messaging, or both for a day.</p>	<p>3 Speak less and listen more. Give others the gift of your undivided attention.</p>
<p>4 Third Sunday of Lent Pray while you go for a walk.</p>	<p>5 Fast from overscheduling your time. Leave some time to simply be.</p>	<p>6 Curtail your extra spending and donate what you save to your chosen charity.</p>	<p>7 At the end of the day, take time to thank God for all the graces you received during the day.</p>	<p>8 Pray the Rosary or other traditional prayers of the Church. Realize that you are joining your voice to millions of others who have prayed these prayers through the years.</p>	<p>9 Fast from the habit, substance, practice, or mindset that most stands in the way of your growing closer to God.</p>	<p>10 While grocery shopping, purchase an additional day's supply of food and drop it off at a local food pantry.</p>

LENTEN FAMILY CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Fourth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>During prayer, picture yourself meeting Jesus in a scene from the Gospels. Imagine your reaction and response.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Send a greeting card or a letter to a relative, friend, or fellow parishioner who is homebound.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Fast from eating food mindlessly, that is, from not even bothering to taste it.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Clean up a common area at work, in the neighborhood, or at home. Do it as a gift for the good of all.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Invite a widowed neighbor to join your family for a meal.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Fast from worrying. Trust God instead.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Plant a tree that will benefit future generations.</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Fifth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Pray for the willingness to seek forgiveness from people you have hurt.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Fast from light. Sit by the light of one candle in your home. Remember that Jesus has called you to be a light for the world.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Make a prayer out of performing a loving action for others. For example, when you take out the garbage or help your child with homework, do it mindfully.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Pick a day when you fast from using electronic appliances.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>When you see or hear a news story about someone in trouble, pray for the person as a family.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Fast from hitting the snooze alarm. Get up and use the extra time for prayer.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>At the grocery store, pray for the farmers and all those who help make available the food that you will bring to your table.</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</p> <p>Prayerfully read one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Monday of Holy Week</p> <p>Volunteer for a parish program that helps those in need.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Tuesday of Holy Week</p> <p>Let a favorite hymn run through your mind as a prayer.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Wednesday of Holy Week</p> <p>Fast from comparing yourself to others. We are all one in God.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Holy Thursday</p> <p>Recognize your own needs and give them their due. Allow others to help you from time to time.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Good Friday of the Lord's Passion</p> <p>Fast from complaining. Notice how often you are tempted to complain!</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Holy Saturday</p> <p>Be mindful of all that God has done for you.</p>
<p>1 APRIL</p> <p>The Resurrection of the Lord</p> <p>Celebrate Easter!</p>	<p><i>Notes and Reflections...</i> "Now that, like the two women, we have visited the tomb, I ask you to go back with them to the city. Let us all retrace our steps and change the look on our faces. Let us go back with them to tell the news... In all those places where the grave seems to have the final word, where death seems the only way out. Let us go back to proclaim, to share, to reveal that it is true: the Lord is alive!" —Pope Francis, Homily, Holy Saturday, April 15, 2017</p>					 <p>One Holy Catholic Apostolic Ecumenical</p>

Sts. Peter & Paul Ecumenical Catholic Church