

Mother of Sorrows Parish

Lent – a 40-day journey back to our Baptism

Every Lent we come back to our baptism. We struggle with the hard questions we were asked: Do you reject Satan? And all his works? And all his empty promises? We stand alongside our sisters and brothers preparing for baptism. With them we look into the frightening water. As St. Paul reminds us, these are the waters by which we die to self, so that we might rise with Christ.

At Baptism, Christians take on three life-long disciplines: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. They help us to remain faithful to our baptism. Each of these disciplines can take many forms. Prayer is communication with God. Fasting is self-denial, self-control, simple living. Almsgiving is giving to those in need. We give of our money, our talents, our time.

These three disciplines function best when they are done together. They balance each other. The word itself, *discipline*, reminds us that we are disciples of Christ. Our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are three concrete ways that we live as faithful disciples.

Ash Wednesday – February 14

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our spiritual journey as we accompany Jesus on His way to the cross. As we are signed with ashes, we acknowledge that we are sinners and we promise that, during this Lenten season, we will strive to be better Christians. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. Traditionally, this means only one full meal and no meat. But fasting also means less entertainment, less noise, less nonsense.

8:00 AM	Mass with distribution of ashes
10:30 AM	Mass with distribution of ashes
12:00 NN	Liturgy of the Word with distribution of ashes
5:00 PM	Liturgy of the Word with distribution of ashes
7:00 PM	Mass with distribution of ashes

Lenten Letters to God– Sunday, February 18

Join us on Sunday, February 18 after the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM Masses to begin our Lenten Journey as we take time to write a letter to God about our hopes and aspirations this Lent. These letters will be sealed and collected in a basket found in the upper narthex, to be burned in the Easter fire at the Easter Vigil to celebrate the Lord’s Resurrection and our personal resurrection. If you cannot make it on February 18, supplies for writing these letters will be available in the upper narthex throughout Lent.



Lent + Easter



Fasting and Abstinence during Lent

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent.

Stations of the Cross

During the season of Lent, all are invited to journey with Jesus on his way to the cross. There will be several opportunities each week to pray the Stations of the Cross:

- 2:15 PM Friday with the students of MOSS
- 7:00 PM Friday evenings
- 7:00 PM Family Stations, February 23

Faith Formation families and Mother of Sorrow School families are invited to gather for the Stations of the Cross on Friday, February 23 at 7:00 PM, followed by a Lenten family social in the Social Hall.

- 7:00 PM Living Stations, March 22 and 23 in MOS School

Members of the parish Youth Ministry will lead us in prayer and reflection this weekend as they present the Living Stations of the Cross in the school. All are welcome!



Sacrament of Penance

On Ash Wednesday we hear the solemn invitation: *Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel*. St. Paul tells us that “this is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation.” All are invited and encouraged to take some time for self-examination and to celebrate this great sacrament of God’s mercy during Lent.

During Lent confessions will be heard at Mother of Sorrows Parish on Saturdays at 9:00 AM.

Five regional Penance Services will be held during Lent:

Wednesday, March 13	7:00 PM	Sacred Heart, Jeannette
Thursday, March 14	7:00 PM	Saint Regis, Trafford
Tuesday, March 19	7:00 PM	Mother of Sorrows, Murrysville
Wednesday, March 20	7:00 PM	Saint Barbara, Harrison City
Thursday, March 21	7:00 PM	Saint John, Delmont

Taizé and Eucharistic Adoration

During Lent, join fellow pilgrims at Eucharistic Adoration, a time of silence, gratitude, praise and peace on **Thursdays from 11:00 AM** (following the school Mass) until 7:00 PM.

Eucharistic Adoration concludes with **Taizé prayer at 6:30 PM**, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:00 PM.

Preparing for the Triduum - Family and Parish-wide Faith Formation

Special Family and Parish Faith Formation sessions are planned on **Sunday, March 10 from 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM and Wednesday, March 13 from 6:30 PM-7:30 PM** to give families and all members of our parish the opportunity to discover together the importance of the Easter Triduum. We will explore a number of the important ritual actions of the Triduum, including:

- Holy Thursday - Washing of Feet and Procession with the Blessed Sacrament
- Good Friday - Veneration of the Cross
- Easter Vigil - Procession of Light and Blessing of Baptismal Water

All families are invited and encouraged to attend, especially those preparing for the celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, those with children in Faith Formation, and those with children in Mother of Sorrows School.

Easter Triduum - March 28-31

The Easter Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year. What Sunday is to the week, the solemnity of Easter is to the Church year. The Easter Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, and reaches its high point at the Easter Vigil. As a parish family, we gather on these three days to celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ and our communion with each other in the Church.

Holy Thursday	March 28
7:00 PM	Mass of the Lord’s Supper followed by Adoration at the Altar of Repose in the Social Hall
12:00 MN	Midnight Prayer in the Social Hall
Good Friday	March 29
Noon	Stations of the Cross
1:30 PM	Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
Holy Saturday	March 30
Noon	Blessing of Baskets
8:00 PM	The Great Easter Vigil followed by a parish reception to honor our newly baptized members!
Easter Sunday	March 31
7:30 AM	Easter Mass
9:30 AM	Easter Mass
11:30 AM	Easter Mass



Lenten Scripture Study with Fr. Richard Rohr

Join us for a 4-part series based on *Wondrous Encounters*. The series will use Lenten Scriptural reflections to explore what it means to be in a process of continual conversion and transformation as children of God created in His image and likeness.

“There are two moments that matter. One is when you know that your one and only life is absolutely valuable and alive. The other is when you know your life, as presently lived, is entirely pointless and empty. You need both of them to keep you going in the right direction. Lent is about both.”



Sessions will be held after the 9:30 AM Mass on the following Sundays: February 25, March 3, March 10 and March 17. The suggested donation for the book is \$10.00. Please RSVP to Ellen Mady by emailing emady@dioceseofgreensburg.org, or by calling the Parish office at 724-733-8870 by February 14 if you are interested in participating.

Easter - a 50-day Celebration of our Baptism in Christ!

During this holy season of 50 days we remember what it means to be baptized. We celebrate our relationship with God who is Father, Son, and Spirit; a relationship which is constantly made new. We affirm our commitment to live as faithful members of God’s household, the Church.

As members of the Church, we are a sacramental people. We welcome new members through the living waters of Baptism. We complete our initiation through the anointing of the Spirit in Confirmation and in our table fellowship at the Eucharist. We struggle to live in communion with one another as we are fed with the Body of Christ and share in the saving cup of his Blood.

Sharing in the Eucharist binds us together as a people committed to living the Gospel, to the daily struggle for justice, to going beyond self to respond to the needs of others.

Celebration of First Communion

Children who have been preparing to receive First Communion will celebrate with the parish community throughout the Easter season. Please extend a special welcome to these children and their families.

Celebration of Confirmation - May 13

On Monday, May 13 at 7:00 PM, Bishop Larry Kulick will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with our eighth grade students. They are preparing to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and anointing with Sacred Chrism. Keep our young people, their families and sponsors in your prayers so that they will always be open to the gift of the Holy Spirit and the goodness that living our faith brings.

