



## FORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



### LENT

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY**

Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 Noon & 7:30 PM

#### **JOY OF THE GOSPEL**

Discussion 1  
Week of March 9<sup>th</sup>  
In area groups

#### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Wednesday, March 19th  
7:30 PM - St. Vincent's Church

#### **JOY OF THE GOSPEL**

Discussion 2  
Week of March 23rd  
In area groups

#### **RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
7:30 PM - St. Vincent de Paul

#### **JOY OF THE GOSPEL**

Discussion 3  
Week of April 6<sup>th</sup>  
In area groups

### HOLY WEEK

#### **TENEBRAE SERVICE**

Wednesday, April 16th  
7:30 PM St. Vincent's Church

#### **HOLY THURSDAY**

April 17th  
6:00 PM Jewish Seder Meal (Ticket required)  
8:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Last Supper

#### **GOOD FRIDAY- APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>**

3:00 PM Children's Liturgy of the Passion  
7:30 PM Passion and Veneration of the Cross

#### **HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

9:30 PM Lighting of the Easter Fire & Exultet  
10:00 PM - 8:30 AM Vigil of the Lord: Salvation  
Story through the Jewish Scriptures

#### **EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>**

8:30 AM Epistle and Gospel, Homily  
Liturgy of the Water  
Liturgy of the Eucharist

Easter Breakfast for all follows the Service

11:45 AM Easter Sunday Mass (for late risers)

# IT'S NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S LENT!

Remember your feeling of excitement last fall when you realized Christmas was coming? Oh sure, you may have groaned too: so much to do, schedule, plan, get ready. But there were probably also moments when you looked forward to the “good stuff.” A lot of that may not have had much to do with the real meaning of Christmas, but at least our culture keeps Christmas constantly in our consciousness for weeks on end. Even an annoyed, “Christmas has become *so* secularized,” can momentarily draw our thoughts to, “It’s supposed to be about God’s sending Jesus to us.”

Yes, Christmas *is* a big deal. Yet Easter is supposed to be **THE** major feast for us Christians. Holy Week—Holy Week changes everything! We see a whole deeper dimension to that gift; we see in Easter the promise that God does and will conquer all suffering, does and will make us whole. We get no help from our secular culture on this. Marshmallow peeps and gaudy baskets aside, we see few public decorations and have no Easter music bombarding us from store speakers and radio. And then, of course, there’s the fear that if we let ourselves remember Easter, we’d have to be more aware of Lent. Ugh! Sin, gloom, suffering, guilt, giving stuff up. There’s no question that our Church culture has not helped much with this. “Grandma’s Lent” almost always focused on the negatives: about ourselves as sinners and the consequent appropriateness of making ourselves as miserable as possible to pay for that.

This year the Liturgy Committee invites you to a bold new experiment to leave Grandma’s Lent behind.

Consciousness. The Liturgy Committee invites you this Lent to consider Jesus’ fidelity—and what it means for us to take that as a model. Close your eyes and imagine St. V’s on Easter morning: the lilies, the cool water of the filled baptismal font, the candles—and Fr. Richard Lawrence saying to you, “And so I ask you to renew your baptismal promises. . . .” You celebrated Jesus’ coming at Christmas, you’ve celebrated “ordinary” Sundays acknowledging the miracles and preaching heralding the coming of the kingdom, you’ve had six weeks of Lent to ponder what it means to be faithful to the faithful Jesus and a Holy Week to top that off—**do you want** to re-commit to following Jesus, do you want to enter more fully into what it means to be baptized in the name of Father, Son and Spirit? If you think you’re going to want to say Yes, what can you do for these six weeks to make that re-commitment real?

Calendar. Christmas means making time for Christmas: holiday get-togethers, family gatherings, shopping, cooking, decorating. Even if we succeed in not overdoing it, we are aware that we need to adjust our calendar to let Christmas happen. Do we dare to do the same for Holy Week? Right now, six weeks away can you mark those days? Can you protect them as a time to make a little more room for Christ? Might you even consider (*gasp!*) taking a day or a half day of “vacation” time on Good Friday or Easter Monday to give yourself a little Easter breathing space?

Community. There will be an “Easter preparation” (aka Lenten) activity each week as well as Holy Week itself. Can you consider participating? (See front of this flyer.) Perhaps memories of Grandma’s Lent have led you to write off the communal penance service, stations, or the Good Friday service. Hey, you’ve admired Liturgy Committee’s banners for Advent and Lent, why not let them show you they can also put together a meaningful service? Is it possible that partying at the Seder is not all you can manage for one night and the Holy Thursday liturgy might just make it even more memorable? If your other commitments prevent that, can you join us, your parish community, in spirit? Each week in the bulletin (and on the website) there will be at least one suggestion for how to do that.

***Grandma’s cooking? We might want to hold on to that. But maybe it’s time to let go of her Lent. Easter’s coming!***