



Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you...for God makes his sun rise on the bad and the good.

MATTHEW 5:44-45A

## Like a Sponge

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**o turn the other cheek, to go the extra mile, to love one's enemy, all of that is to absorb and thus stop the evil that can saturate life. When we do that, then evil ends with us, lest it keep escalating like a tsunami that overwhelms life.

Is anyone really willing to absorb the evils of life? Many are. Parents do who walk the floor at night with a crying infant or care for a child sick with a cold and then find themselves suffering the same illness. They absorb the evil in order to bring some comfort and so ease the child's pain. Someone does as well who listens endlessly to a lonely person on the phone or over a cup of coffee. They absorb the loneliness even as it tests their own patience. Those who protest injustice by participating in nonviolent demonstrations and then find themselves mistreated or even dealt with violently, they absorb the hate of others.

"Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:2), says the Lord to Moses. Absorbing the evils of life is a different sort of holiness, different than saying more prayers or giving up enjoyments during Lent. Part of our tradition is to do penance during the season of Lent. Perhaps this year a penance might be to become conscious of each day's opportunities to simply absorb someone's suffering, another's pain, a bit of the evil that so often ricochets through our days, always doing so in the image of Jesus. ●

### Reflect

***When have you ever suffered as you absorbed someone else's pain?***



**Holy Trinity**



**St. Thomas More**



**St. Patrick**

Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
212 S. Main St. PO Box 159  
Cherry, IL 61317-0159  
Phone 815-894-2006  
Office Email  
HolyTSP@gmail.com

**Pastor of the Three Churches**  
Fr. Thaddeus Tran

**Main Office: Holy Trinity Rectory**  
Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger  
Email: JulieHTC@outlook.com

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

St Thomas More Catholic Church  
302 Chestnut St.  
Dalzell, IL 61320  
Phone 815-663-6201  
Email  
thomasmore32@gmail.com

**Adoration Room at STM**  
Open Monday - Sunday  
Regular Hours  
9 am - 6 pm

**Events at St Thomas More**  
Rav Group is taking orders thru March 15  
Call 815-252-2215 to place an order

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
106 Church St.  
Arlington, IL 61312  
Phone 815-894-2006  
Mail: PO Box 159 Cherry IL 61317

**Website for the Three Churches**  
www.bureaucatholic.org  
and on Facebook at  
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

**Facebook for the Three Churches**  
Use Link on Home Page  
www.bureaucatholic.org

**Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164**



9:30 am - 10:30 am at Cherry Church Hall  
Sunday, February 19th - 5th thru 8th Grades  
Sunday, February 26th - K thru 4th Grades  
CCD email address is holytrinitycherry@gmail.com

**Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of February 20, 2023**

|           |      |          |                     |  |
|-----------|------|----------|---------------------|--|
| Monday    | 2/20 |          |                     | † No Mass  |
| Tuesday   | 2/21 | 9:00 am  | STM                 | † Frs. Boniface; Tom; Palcid;<br>Bernard; Peter Mary |
| Wednesday | 2/22 | 8:00 am  | STM (Ash Wednesday) | † Liz Olivero  |
|           |      | 12:00 pm | SP (Ash Wednesday)  | † Michael Bickett                                    |
|           |      | 5:30 pm  | HT (Ash Wednesday)  | † Alan Hahn  |
| Thursday  | 2/23 | 9:00 am  | HT                  | † Lois Marie Flaherty                                |
| Friday    | 2/24 | 9:00 am  | STM                 | † Geraldine Sondgeroth                               |

**Mass Intentions for the weekend of February 25-26, 2023**

|          |      |          |                |                                 |
|----------|------|----------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday | 2/25 | 4:00 pm  | St Thomas More | † Dec. Mem. Lavern Eiten Family |
| Sunday   | 2/26 | 8:30 am  | Holy Trinity   | † Michael Campbell              |
|          |      | 10:30 am | St Patrick     | † Dec. Mem. Ira Ritchie Family  |
|          |      | 5:00 pm  | St Thomas More | † For the Parishioners          |



## THE MEANING OF LENT

Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of the Lenten season, which consists of 40 days that commemorate the time Jesus spent in the desert before starting His saving mission as the Messiah sent by God the Father.

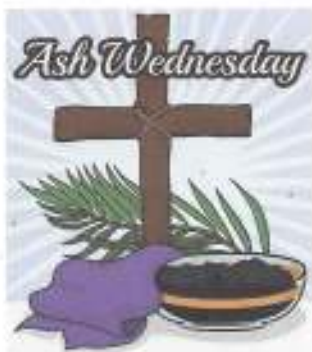
As the Good News tells us faithful, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. Afterwards, the Holy Spirit led Him into the desert, where He fasted for 40 days, and was subject to temptation by Satan. To honor Jesus's sacrifice and triumph over the devil, we, members of the Catholic Church, as well as those of other Christian denominations, are willing to set aside 40 days during Lent to refocus on Jesus and His saving mission, to imitate our Lord's sacrifice by willingly give up certain favorite food, drink, and daily comforts, as we look ahead to His salvific death on the cross and His resurrection at Easter time.

## HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR LENT?

- 1 GO TO CONFESSION!**  
We all sin, which means we all need to repent. Grace is waiting for you in the confessional!
- 2 RESOLVE TO LIVE A MORE HOLY LIFE**  
Make a careful examination of conscience every day and put in place specific plans for how you will overcome sinful habits.
- 3 PRAY... A LOT**  
Commit to praying more this Lent. If you need help, get a devotional or spend some time reading Scripture.
- 4 MAKE SOME SACRIFICES**  
Making even small sacrifices for God show him that we love him. They can also help make you more holy!

## Here are the Church regulations for fasting and abstinence during Lent:

- Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.
- Everyone aged 18 - 59 years old is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
- Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.



### Ash Wednesday

#### Feb 22nd Mass Times

8:00 am - STM

12:00 pm - SP

5:30 pm - HT



### STATIONS of the CROSS

Friday, February 24th - STM at 6:00 pm

Stations will alternate between the 3 churches on Fridays. The location will be posted in the bulletin and on the website.

## LATEST OFFERING'S

### WEEKEND FEB 12TH

HT - \$948.00

SP - \$512.00

STM - \$917.00

## Fish, Fridays, & Lent

Why isn't fish considered meat? It simply meant abstaining from eating the flesh of warm-blooded animals—since the thinking goes, Jesus, as the Lamb of God, was a warm-blooded animal. Fish, though, which are cold blooded were considered okay to eat on fasting days.

## CONFESSIONS

THE NEXT CONFESSIONS

WILL BE SAT. FEB 25TH

10:30 - 11:15 AM AT

ST THOMAS MORE

IN THE HALL.



# Dear Padre,

***I am wondering why Ash Wednesday is sometimes in February and sometimes in March. Who decides when Lent begins, and why is it always different?***

The beginning of Lent is determined by the date of Easter, which is a movable feast, unlike Christmas, which is always on December 25. Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon of spring. The first Sunday of Lent is six weeks before, and the Wednesday before the first Sunday of Lent is Ash Wednesday.

This subject has caused division in the Church since the second century, because the Eastern Church and the Western Church had different calendars. So, the calculations of the first full moon of spring differed and therefore the date of Easter and Ash Wednesday were different. Sometimes on a calendar you will see both Easter and Orthodox Easter listed on different Sundays. It is hard for most of us to appreciate why the differences between East and West are so important. Remember the prayer of Jesus, that we all may be one. We can honor our Lord's desire for unity and pray during this Lent for the unity of Christians everywhere. ●



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***The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org***

## **Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

| MONDAY      | TUESDAY     | WEDNESDAY       | THURSDAY                              | FRIDAY                        | SATURDAY                        | SUNDAY                            |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| February 20 | February 21 | February 22     | February 23                           | February 24                   | February 25                     | February 26                       |
| Weekday     | Weekday     | Ash Wednesday   | St. Polycarp,<br>Bishop and<br>Martyr | Friday after Ash<br>Wednesday | Saturday after<br>Ash Wednesday | First Sunday<br>of Lent           |
| Sir 1:1-10  | Sir 2:1-11  | Jl 2:12-18      | Dt 30:15-20                           | Is 58:1-9a                    | Is 58:9b-14                     | Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7                   |
| Mk 9:14-29  | Mk 9:30-37  | 2 Cor 5:20-6:2  | Lk 9:22-25                            | Mt 9:14-15                    | Lk 5:27-32                      | Rom 5:12-19 or<br>Rom 5:12, 17-19 |
|             |             | Mt 6:1-6, 16-18 |                                       |                               |                                 | Mt 4:1-11                         |

## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

***If we want to call ourselves Christians, this is the only way; there is no other. Having been loved by God, we are called to love in return; having been forgiven, we are called to forgive; having been touched by love, we are called to love without waiting for others to love first....***

**HOMILY IN BARI (ITALY), FEBRUARY 23, 2020**



BICCARDI DE LUCA - UPDATE / SHUTTERSTOCK