Mount Saint Peter Parish
Lent / Easter, 2010

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 17

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our spiritual journey as we accompany Jesus on his way to the cross. When 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.

Regional Schedule for Ash Wednesday

8:00	AM	St Margaret Mary	Mass
8:30	**AM**	**Mt. St. Peter**	**Mass**
9:00	AM	St. Joseph	Mass
12:00	Noon	St. Mary	Mass
4:00	**PM**	**Mt. St. Peter**	**Liturgy of the Word**
5:00	PM	St. Margaret Mary	Liturgy of the Word
5:30	PM	St. Mary	Liturgy of the Word
6:15	PM	St. Joseph	Mass
7:00	**PM**	**Mt. St. Peter**	**Mass**
7:00	PM	St. Margaret Mary	Mass

* 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.

Lent + Easter

Washed, Anointed, and Fed

Station of the Cross

During the season of Lent, all are invited to journey with Jesus on his way to the cross. In our region, there are several opportunities each week to pray the Stations of the Cross:

6:45 PM	Wednesday	St. Joseph (following 6:15 PM Mass)
12:30 PM	Friday	St. Mary (following 12:00 NN Mass)
7:00 PM	**Friday**	**Mt. St. Peter**
7:00 PM	Friday	St. Margaret Mary

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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 the Lenten season.

Throughout Lent, there are weekly opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament throughout the region:

Wednesday	**5:30 PM**	**St. Joseph**
Saturday	**9:00 AM**	**St. Mary**
	12:00 NN	**Mt. St. Peter**
	1:00 PM	**St. Margaret Mary**

Four Deanery **Penance Services** will be held toward the end of Lent:

Wednesday, March 24	**7:00 PM**	**St. Mary, New Kensington**
Thursday, March 25	**7:00 PM**	**St. James, Apollo**
Monday, March 29	**7:00 PM**	**St. Margaret Mary, Lower Burrell**

Lenten Fish Fry

During Lent, we abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on the Fridays of Lent. The Lenten Fish Fry provides the opportunity both to abstain and to support the mission of the parish. All are welcome for the traditional menu of Baked or Fried Fish Dinners, Pasta Fagioli, Clam Chowder (New England & Manhattan) & Linguini with red or white clam sauce, and Shrimp in a Basket.

Ash Wednesday	11:00 AM - 7:00 PM (eat in until 6:00 PM)
Fridays in Lent (except Good Friday)	11:00 AM - 7:00 PM (eat in until 6:00 PM)

Celebrating the Triduum - A Family Night - March 15

A special Lenten Family Night is planned on **Monday, March 15, from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM** to give families the opportunity to discover together the importance of the Easter Triduum. 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 First, and those with children in Mary Queen of Apostles School.

This gathering will replace the regularly scheduled Faith First class for this evening. Our time together will help us prepare to celebrate the Easter Triduum at the end of the month, by exploring a number of the important ritual actions of the Triduum:

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

Tenebrae - Palm Sunday - March 28

A service that invites us to enter into Holy Week. Please join with the Mt. St. Peter Choir and Chamber Strings to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story, beginning at 7:30 PM in the church.

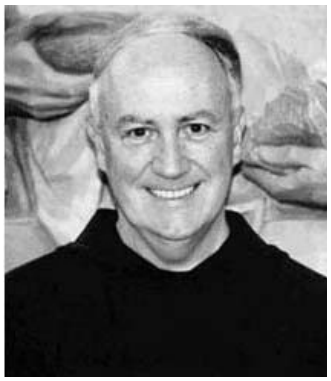
Easter Triduum - April 1 - 4

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	***April 1***
7:00 PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper
	followed by adoration in Marble Hall until
12:00 MN	Night Prayer
Good Friday	***April 2***
8:00 AM	Morning Prayer
Noon	Stations of the Cross
1:30 PM	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday	***April 3***
Noon	Midday Prayer and Blessing of Baskets
8:15 PM	The Great Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	***April 4***
8:00 AM	Mt. St. Peter
10:00 AM	Mt. St. Peter
12:00 NN	Mt. St. Peter

Please note that on Easter Sunday there will be three Masses.
All of the Masses will be in Church. There will be no Mass in Marble Hall on Easter Sunday.

Parish Mission - March 21-24



Plan to attend the Lenten Parish Mission with Father Scott Seethaler, OFM, Cap. Fr Scott will preach all the weekend Masses on March 19/20. Fr. Scott will also speak at 7:00 PM on each of the four evenings of the mission (Sunday - Wednesday). The general theme of the Mission is God's **Amazing Grace**.

- Sunday — Don't Let Worry Win
- Monday — Five Paths to Spiritual Maturity
- Tuesday: — Return of the Prodigal (followed by Confessions)
- Wednesday — A Peace the World Can Not Give

Lenten Book Club

During the Lenten season, the parish will be offering an opportunity for parishioners to grow together in their faith with *Coffee House Faith*, a Lenten Book Club. A spiritual book will be chosen for all participants to read and discuss over a favorite specialty coffee or tea.

Participants can choose either a Tuesday morning or a Wednesday evening (dates and times are listed below). All gatherings will take place in the Upper Room. If you are interested and haven't already contacted Sister Valerie, please do so as soon as possible.

Tuesday Morning Gathering
following 8:30 AM Mass

- February 23
- March 2
- March 16
- March 30

Wednesday Evening Gathering
at 7:00 PM

- February 24
- March 3
- March 17
- March 31

Celebration of First Communion and Confirmation

Children who have been preparing to receive their **First Communion** will celebrate with the parish community at the following liturgies. All in the parish are asked to extend a special welcome to these children and their families.

Saturday	**April 17**	5:30 PM	**Saturday**	**May 8**	5:30 PM
Sunday	**April 18**	8:30 AM, 10:30 AM	**Saturday**	**May 15**	5:30 PM
Saturday	**April 24**	5:30 PM	**Sunday**	**May 16**	8:30 AM, 10:30 AM
Sunday	**April 25**	8:30 AM, 10:30 AM	**Saturday**	**May 22**	5:30 PM
			Sunday	**May 23**	8:30 AM

Children will celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, May 4**, at St. Joseph Church in New Kensington.

Adults and older children who have been preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will celebrate this Sacrament on **Pentecost Sunday, May 23,** at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg.

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT: FOR CHRIST IS RISEN AS ALL THINGS TELL. GOOD CHRISTIAN, SEE YE RISE AS WELL.