

# THE PHILADELPHIA ORDINARIATE POST

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A NEWSLETTER OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH  
THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER IN THE PHILADELPHIA AREA

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February, 2018

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Lent is upon us:

### *The Worship*

*Ash Wednesday*, February 14<sup>th</sup>, Masses at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

--- Confessions on Shrove Tuesday, 5-5:45 p.m.; Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., Sundays 9-9:45 a.m.

*Fridays in Lent*, February 16<sup>th</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup> (except March 9<sup>th</sup>): Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:30; Soup Supper at 6:30

*Quiet Day*, Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9-2.

*Holy Week*, March 25th-April 1<sup>st</sup>:

### **Palm Sunday**

Blessing & Distribution of Palms, Procession & Sung Mass, 10 a.m.

*Confessions, 9-9:45 a.m.*

**Monday in Holy Week:** Mass, 6 p.m.

**Tuesday in Holy Week:** Mass, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday in Holy Week:** Mass, 10 a.m.

*Confessions after the Mass each day*

### **Maundy Thursday**

Sung Mass, Procession to the Altar of Repose 7:30 p.m.

*The Watch follows, until noon on Good Friday*

### **Good Friday**

Good Friday Liturgy, noon-3

Veneration of the Cross, Mass of the Presanctified, Preaching on the Seven Last Words

*Confessions after the service*

### **Holy Saturday**

The Altar Service, 10 a.m.

Vigil & First Mass of Easter, 8:30 p.m.

### **Easter Day**

Procession & Sung Mass, 10 a.m.

*Confessions, 9-9:45 a.m.*

### *The Spirit*

The spirit of Lent is penitence: sorrow for our sin. Christianity is a religion of redemption rather than affirmation, so we will never really get it unless we grasp the extent and gravity of our sin. We focus on sin not to beat ourselves up, but in order to understand what God has done in redeeming us from it. Our sorrow for sin is the foundation for our joy of forgiveness. Because of this, our Lenten penitence also prepares us for Passiontide, which is the last two weeks in Lent. Our appreciation for our own sin and need of redemption opens our hearts and minds to our Lord's suffering for us.

Fasting and our other external devotions help form a godly, Lenten spirit, a spirit of humility and dependence. The externals can be challenging, and help us to know our need for grace. All Christian life depends on grace, and Lent thus lays a deeper foundation for all that we do as Christians, drawing us closer to our Lord.

### *The Details*

Here are some possibilities for Lenten disciplines this year. I'm not suggesting that anyone attempt all of them.

1. **Fasting.** Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory fasts: one meal, normally taken in the evening. The Fridays in Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from flesh meat. The weekdays of Lent (not the Sundays) are all fast days, meaning that the amount of food eaten is reduced. A good rule is no snacks, no seconds, no desserts and no alcohol. If you don't normally eat snacks or desserts or drink, you may want to consider giving up some favorite food. The idea is to undertake something sacrificial, yet not overwhelming. All those whose health, work, and age permit should fast. The importance of the daily Lenten fast is not sufficiently appreciated these days. Jesus fasted forty days for us, and we should take the Lenten fast as an opportunity to respond in love. If we

don't learn to say no to a cupcake, how can we expect to say no to more serious temptations – pornography, internet addiction, addictive drugs, and the other scourges of our age? Moreover, the difficulties most of us have with even a modest fast teach us poverty of spirit, the first of the Beatitudes: our need to depend on God. We can't manage on our own, and are not supposed to. Unlike some other things suggested here for Lent, fasting will take no extra time out of your schedule.

2. **Mass.** Lent is a good time to add a weekday Mass to your usual observance. The weekday Masses are of a rather more intimate and quiet nature than the Sunday ones, and this can be a great blessing. Masses are Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m., Wednesday, 10 a.m., and Saturday at 9 a.m.

3. **Stations of the Cross.** Each Friday in Lent (7:30) we will follow our Lord's way to the Cross, using the stations in the church. This devotion makes His crucifixion ever more real and concrete for us. If you cannot be present with the parish for Stations, you can do the devotion privately. The form can be found in the Saint Augustine's Prayer Book and elsewhere.

4. **Spiritual Reading.** An ancient custom is to take a spiritual book for regular reading during Lent. This can be a book of Scripture, or one of the spiritual classics.

5. **Daily Office.** If you do not now read Morning or Evening Prayer from the Prayer Book (or have comparable daily devotions), Lent is a good time to start. It takes a little effort and discipline to get the habit established, but once it is there, it can bear great fruit. The regular prayers and Psalms and Scripture draw us out of our narrow spiritual views, and nourish us with the riches of the faith. We are still using the BCP since the Ordinatee book is not out yet. Each office takes 15-20 minutes a day. Let me know if you need help with "how to."

6. **Confession.** A sacramental confession at the beginning and end of Lent is not only an opportunity for a thorough self-examination, but also a powerful weapon against the temptations which come our way in Lent.

7. **Service.** As well as "giving up" in Lent, some wish "to take on" some special service, such as visiting the sick or shut-in, volunteering at a hospital, taking special care for a neighbor who may need it, or some special work at church (altar guild, coffee hour, thrift shop).

8. **Self-Denial.** You may want to give up some special pleasure or recreation for Lent (video games, web surfing, Facebook, novels). This can be done in conjunction with other practices: if, for example, you give up a half hour of TV every day, you might use the time to read Evening Prayer.

9. **Scripture Reading.** Delving into the Word of God is never out of season. Lent is a good time to establish (or reestablish) the discipline of a daily time of Scripture reading. You could also commit yourself to the Wednesday Bible Study during Lent.

**Etc.**

On Shrove Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, all are invited to the rectory after Mass (Mass is at 6, so this should begin about 6:45) for "**dessert night**" as a way to bid farewell to the pre-Lenten season. More importantly, this will be an opportunity to bid Godspeed to Joshua & Chelsea Nunziato (and Damian): they will be moving to Colorado in mid-February. If you can, bring a dessert to share. We will have some sandwiches for those who were fasting before Mass.

Lent is enough, right? Just a couple of other things for your edification. On the First Sunday in Lent, I will be blessing cars during coffee hour. If you want yours blessed, plan to drive to church that Sunday.

Our own Dr Mary Hirschfeld will be delivering a lecture in the Archbishop's Lecture Series at St Charles Borromeo Seminary on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Her topic is "Creation and Transcendence: *Laudato Si's* Challenge to the Technocratic Paradigm". It is open to the public without charge.

Right after Easter, April 4-6, there will be a major symposium at the Catholic University of America in Washington, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul's encyclical on human life and artificial contraception. Archbishop Chaput will be speaking, along with other notable scholars. Details can be found here: [www.cuatoday.com/hv2018](http://www.cuatoday.com/hv2018). Recommended, if you can take the time.

The 2018 Bishop's Appeal kicks off this month. Most of you will have received pledge cards for the Appeal in the mail. Pledges can be paid throughout 2018; checks payable to the Ordinariate. This is one of the two main funding sources for the operations of the Ordinariate. Our parish goal for 2018 is \$10,511. (We didn't quite make our share in 2017, and paid the balance from our operating budget.) Please be generous!

A number of CD's from Lighthouse Media with engaging teaching on a variety of Catholic topics are available for loan. Pick one up at coffee hour, and learn more about the faith. Just sign it out and bring it back for someone else when you are done. My wife has listened to more of them than I have and can make recommendations.

Meanwhile all the usual stuff blessedly continues: daily Mass, coffee hour on Sunday, Wednesday Bible study, the Thrift Shop, Aid for Friends, etc., etc.

I wish you all a blessed Lent. St John's will get a noticeable boost if we all devote ourselves to penitence, humility and charity with good will and a generous spirit this Lent.

Yours faithfully,  
Fr David Ousley