

Ministry Praise

LENT... Season of mercy and hope

Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. It is a "time of grace" and a preparation for Easter. God does not ask anything of us that He himself has not first given us. "We love because He first has loved us." (1 Jn. 4:19) Each one of us has a place in His heart. He knows us by name, He cares for us and He seeks us out whenever we turn away from Him.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to offer our lives to Him. What all of us are able to offer is "TIME", whether it be ten minutes or two hours, time for prayer, time for spiritual reading, time to reflect, time to listen to others and time to help them or just time to talk to Him. Let us ask the Lord to "*Make our hearts like His.*" In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed or indifferent. Father, give us new hearts that we might love as Jesus loved.

O God, You ask of us repentance and conversion of life. During Lent,
may we embrace the fullness of our life in Christ Jesus;
Create in us new hearts, O God.



In a world of violence and denial of basic human dignity may
we be lights in the darkness;
Create in us new hearts, O God.



In a world of abundance that allows children to go hungry, may we
work to banish famine and malnutrition;
Create in us new hearts, O God.



In a world that places ambition and the quest for wealth and power
above the values of family and faith, may we stand as witnesses
that You are the source of all true happiness;
Create in us new hearts, O God.

**MAY OUR DEEDS AND WORDS GIVE GLORY TO
YOU THIS LENT AND DRAW OTHERS
TO YOUR FAMILY OF FAITH!**

A PERSONALIZED WAY OF THE CROSS

Let us follow Jesus, walk in His footsteps and pray for all those in need today.

I Jesus is condemned to death. Jesus prayed, "Father, not my will but Yours be done." He is obedient unto death. *Pray for all those who are near death today. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.*

II Jesus takes up his cross. Jesus shoulders the heavy weight of the world's sins. He begins his Way of the Cross. *Pray for all those who are faced with difficult decisions. Our Father etc.*

III Jesus falls the first time. Scourged and crowned with thorns, Jesus staggers beneath the Cross. He is alone. *Pray for all those who are alone and for those who feel abandoned. Our Father etc.*

IV Jesus meets his sorrowful mother. The heart of Jesus remains united, even in suffering, with the heart of Mary. *Pray for all grieving parents and sorrowing children. Our Father etc.*

VI Simon helps Jesus carry His Cross. A stranger is compelled to assist, while those whom Jesus loved are nowhere to be found. *Pray for all those who lend a helping hand or say an encouraging word. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.*

VII Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. One holy woman offers compassion in the name of all who believe in Jesus. *Pray for all those who are caregivers for the sick and dying. Our Father, etc.*

VIII Jesus falls a second time. Jesus grows weaker with each agonizing step. *He suffers for each one of us. Pray for all shut-ins and those confined to bed. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.*

IX Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem. Jesus reaches out through His pain and comforts those who weep for Him. *Pray with those in need of consolation. Our Father, etc.*

X Jesus falls the third time. Jesus collapses from exhaustion, but rises to continue His painful Way to Calvary. *Pray for all those who feel their situation is hopeless. Our Father, etc.*

XI Jesus is stripped of His garments. Jesus, mocked and insulted, is left with nothing but His own trust in God. *Pray for the homeless, the hungry and for those who give them shelter and food. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.*

XII Jesus is nailed to the Cross. The Body of Christ is pierced. Jesus is obedient unto death, death on a Cross. *Pray for all those who are in physical or emotional pain. Our Father, etc.*

XIII Jesus dies on the Cross. Jesus forgives His enemies and commends His spirit to His Father. *Pray for all those who cannot find it in their hearts to forgive. Our Father, Hail Mary, etc.*

XIV Jesus is taken down from the Cross and laid in the tomb. Joseph, Nicodemus and the holy women lay Jesus' body to rest. *Pray for all the faithful departed. Our Father, etc.*

We adore You O Christ, and we bless You, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday! Good Friday! Holy Saturday! These days are “holy” and “good” because they celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. These truly are the Christian’s high, holy days. Do you want to enter more fully into the mystery of these days? Spend quiet time in prayer. Read the Scriptures. Attend the Triduum liturgies.

HOLY THURSDAY

On this day, You washed the feet of your disciples saying, “I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.” for “servants are not greater than their master”:

Christ Jesus, we thank You.

On this day You took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, “This is my Body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me”:

Christ Jesus, we thank You

On this day You took the cup also, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”:

Christ Jesus, we thank You.



GOOD FRIDAY

Jesus, You accepted crucifixion, and by Your bruises we are healed.
May we follow Your obedience to God’s will.

*Crucified Christ, Your forgiveness has no limits:
Immerse us in Your mercy so we may forgive as You have forgiven.*

*Crucified Christ, You stood without shame before those who ridiculed You:
Transform bigotry and hatred into understanding, compassion and love.*

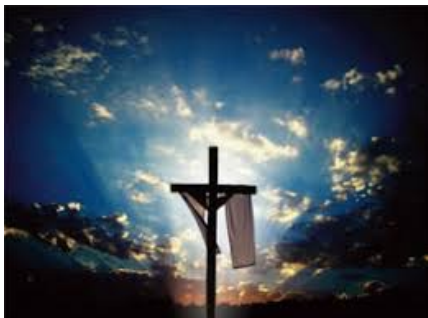
*Crucified Christ, You commended Your Spirit into the hands of Your Father:
Teach all men and women such trust and confidence in the goodness of God.*



Transform us into people of mercy who reach out to embrace You in the
Suffering Ones in our midst.

HOLY SATURDAY

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION — Seven Scripture readings about our salvation
history are read.



1. This night God looked at everything He had made and He found it very good.
2. The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, was asked by God.
3. The Israelites marched on dry land through the midst of the sea.
4. With enduring love, the Lord, your redeemer takes pity on you.
5. Come to me that you may have life. I will renew with you an everlasting covenant.
6. Walk to the splendor of the Lord.
7. I shall sprinkle clean water upon you and I will give you a new heart.



ALLELUA! HE HAS RISEN!

Lord God, You loved this world so much, that You gave Your one and only Son, that we might be called Your children too.

Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter, every day.

Let us have hearts of thankfulness for Your sacrifice.

Let us have eyes that we look upon Your grace and rejoice in our salvation.

Help us to walk in that mighty grace, and tell Your Good News to the world.

All for Your glory do we pray, Lord. Amen.

***MAY YOU HAVE A GLORIOUS
AND BLESSED EASTER!***

Our Needs, Worries and Concerns

RCIA – RCIC

The Lenten season marks the time of intense preparation for those men, women and children who will become full members of our faith community at Easter. May we pray for them and extend a hand of welcome to:

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Candidate

Brittney Bewsey
 Kaylynn Harbaugh
 Marc Voiers
 Chelsea Hanjura
 Alan Kerns
 Sandy Kerns
 Colt Adams

Sponsor

Kristin Gable
 Lisa Williams
 Adam Williams
 Jordan Boone
 John Wittler
 Mary Lou Wittler
 Mark Ernst

Rite of Christian Initiation of Children

Candidate

Asher Spring
 Bruce Hutchison

Sponsor

Tim Werts
 Diane Stevenson

Heavenly Father, send your blessings on those who are preparing for the Easter Sacraments. As they share their stories, give them the courage and strength to respond to God's call. Send their Spirit to calm their fears, increase their faith, and bless their sponsors who are their support. Blessings on all who are helping them to prepare. Amen.



Those Who Recently Found Eternal Rest:

Carlene Gerdeman
 Arthur Mueller
 Louise McRedmond
 George Bockey
 John Hohlbein
 Judy Grothouse
 Susanna Verhoff

If Winter comes, can spring be far behind?

**March 11 – Time changes to Daylight Savings Time.
 “Spring Forward”.
 Time to assess our Lenten Journey. How are we doing?**

**March 20 – Spring arrives.
 Time to welcome crocuses and the “Warm”.**



Please pray for those who will be attending the women’s ‘Welcome II 2018 Retreat’ on March 3 and 4.

Words by Pope Francis:

“May the Lord grant us the grace to understand this mystery of the Cross a little better.”





LITANY OF FORGIVENESS

God our Father, we are like Peter, sinking into the water, whose faith falters until Jesus grabs his hand; we are like the good thief deserving crucifixion, whose hope does not exist until he hears the words of Jesus. Bring us back to You through our encounter with your Son, Jesus Christ, the origin and goal of our faith.

For the times I lacked compassion and concern for others, *forgive me Lord.*

For not sharing my resources of time, talent and treasure, *forgive me Lord.*

For holding grudges and for refusing to have a forgiving heart, *forgive me Lord.*

For the times I have criticized and gossiped, *forgive me Lord.*

For not caring for myself physically, emotionally and spiritually, *forgive me Lord.*

For the ways I misuse nature and damage the environment, *forgive me Lord.*

For those times when I talked more than I listened, *forgive me Lord.*

For failing to see your face in the homeless and helpless, *forgive me Lord.*

For not living fully for you, *forgive me Lord.*

For doubting that you love me with an everlasting love, *forgive me Lord.*

For not reaching out to console others, *forgive me Lord.*

For believing that I could save myself, *forgive me Lord.*

God our Father, in this Lenten season may we not betray your love by trying to deserve it. Help us to recognize You as the origin and goal of all the desires you place in our hearts. Help us to be true to ourselves and true to You by continuing to beg for Your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Create in me, O God, a pure heart;
give me a new and steadfast spirit.*
