

Reflections



Fr. Paul Schmidt

*“We are
called to
renew our
dedication to
the life of
pilgrimage.”*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We belong to a pilgrim Church. We are always on the way. We belong to a Church of sinners that is always in need of reform. We hope one day to reach the end of our journey, purified and ready for eternal happiness. But heaven does not happen here. We must keep striving for it all the days of our lives.

The Church asks us every year, during lent, to renew our dedication to the life of pilgrimage. Church law requires us to practice the virtue of penance during lent. Penance is the virtue by which we work to reduce the lasting effects of sin in our lives. We all experience the effects of original sin. We also suffer the effects of our personal sins. By penance we discipline ourselves to root out the ingrained habits that lead us to continue in our sinful ways. We also make amends for the harm we have done.

Penance can involve giving up some food or activity. It can also mean developing a positive habit, such as regular prayer, daily Mass attendance, regular Bible reading or works of generosity and charity. Church law does not specify particular actions during lent, aside from not eating meat on Fridays or Ash Wednesday (for those 14 and older), and fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (for those 21-60). Beyond these prescriptions, we have the responsibility of choosing our own lenten practices. The important thing is that we do something. One sign of our penitential attitude is that we stop singing the Easter song Alleluia.

It is better to do one thing well than to try to do many things and wind up doing nothing well. One well-kept lenten resolution can really help change our lives. A good habit developed during lent does not need to be abandoned when Easter rolls around. It can be kept for a lifetime.

The Sacrament of Penance is also an important part of our observance of lent. Church law requires anyone who has committed a mortal sin to confess that sin within the space of a year. Church law also requires that we receive Holy Communion at least once during the paschal season of Lent-Easter, which runs from Ash Wednesday through Trinity Sunday (the Sunday after Pentecost). These are bare minimums, of course. We should want to receive Holy Communion every time we participate in the Mass. And we should generally receive the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) more often than once or twice a year. This sacrament is medicine for our souls. It gives us the graces that our own efforts lack.

During lent our parish welcomes new members through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Several people have been preparing since last fall to receive the Sacrament of Baptism and to be accepted into the Catholic Church. During the coming weeks, at the 8:30 Mass, we will celebrate liturgical rites gradually initiating these people. At the Easter Vigil, they will receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist, and become fully initiated members of our Catholic Christian family. Let us all pray for them during these last important days of preparation.

The opposite page contains the schedule of lenten services. May we all persevere through the 40 days of this lent. May our lives be enriched. May our parish be strengthened. May God be glorified. And may we take forceful strides along our pilgrimage to the land where we shall sing the Easter Alleluia forever.

Father Paul Schmidt and the priests, deacons, religious
and lay staff of St. Joseph Parish

2010 Parish Lenten Calendar

Ash Wednesday

February 17- Masses: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. (English); 9:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Stations of the Cross

Fridays, February 19, 26 & March 12 in the church at 7:30 p.m. (English)

Fridays, February 19, 26, March 5 & 12 in the parish center at 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)

Lenten Meditations (DVD Program)

Mondays, February 22 & March 1, 15, 22, 29 from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Venue – TBA)

Parish Mission

Sunday, March 7; Monday, March 8; Tuesday, March 9 from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the church

Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Saturday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m.

Feast of St. Joseph

Friday, March 19

Masses: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Reconciliation Services

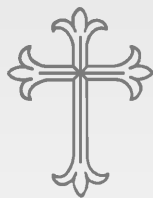
Parish Communal Reconciliation Service:

Monday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Individual Confessions:

Saturdays, February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



Chrism Mass

Thursday, March 18 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light at 7:00 p.m.

Franciscan Mystery Play

Friday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m. in the church

Palm Sunday, March 28

Palms will be blessed and distributed at all Masses

Procession outside at 12:30 p.m. Mass

Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday, April 1

Tenebrae Prayer: 8:00 a.m. Mass: 9:00 a.m.

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:30 p.m. Adoration until Midnight

Good Friday, April 2

Tenebrae Prayer: 8:00 a.m.

Ecumenical Cross Walk: 12 noon

Stations of the Cross: 2:00 p.m.

Good Friday Services: 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (English - church); 7:00 p.m. (Spanish - school gym)

Holy Saturday, April 3

Tenebrae Prayer: 8:00 a.m.

Easter Vigil: 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 4

Mass in the Church: 7:00, 8:30, 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. (English)

Mass in the School Gym: 8:30 a.m. (Spanish) and

11:00 a.m. (English) (Children's Mass with "Salubong", followed by an Easter Egg Hunt)