

PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MAILING ADDRESS: 7409 W. CLEARWATER AVE, KENNEWICK, WA 99336

PARISH OFFICE: 7411 W. CLEARWATER AVE, SUITE A, KENNEWICK

OFFICE: 509-735-8558

email: office@holyspiritkennewick.org

website: www.holyspiritkennewick.org

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritParishCommunity>

FR. MICHAEL BRZEZOWSKI

509-735-8558

pastor@holyspiritkennewick.org

DEACON KEN ELLIS
509-948-4355

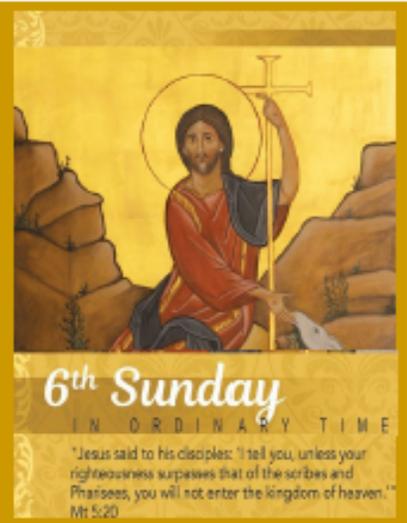
deaconkenneth@charter.net

DEACON ERIC SHABER
208-521-7846

ecshaber@gmail.com

DEACON MIKE GAULKE
509-551-7626

micaжере@msn.com



FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Parish Staff:

Secretary	Debbie Forgette	735-8558
Bookkeeper	Bianca Medina	735-8558
Parish Community Center (PCC) Coordinator	Presently Unstaffed	

Faith Formation:

Pre-school to 5th Grade	Karen Gorham	735-8558
6th to 8th Grades/Edge	Danielle May	528-9780
9th to 12th Grades/Life Teen	Jennifer Moore	492-6209
	& Joe Bliss	216-402-3118
	email: lifeteenhs@gmail.com	
Confirmation	Deacon Mike & Carol Gaulke	551-7626
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults	Joe & Sherry Schroeder	405-2242

Ministers of Music:

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass	Julianne Barnaby	735-2163
9:30 a.m. Mass	Paula Bachelor	375-9019
5:00 p.m. Mass	Perry Kelly	735-8558
Children's Choir	Presently Unstaffed	735-8558

Ministries of Worship:

Scheduler for Liturgical Ministers	Trish Feeny	551-0486
Eucharistic Adoration	Liz Friedrich	783-6223
Prayer Line	Adele Ogrzyzek	627-0201
Altar Server Training	Zack Rinderer	582-2543

Parish Ministries:

Mary Martha Prayer Group	Camille Henneberry	735-4858
Welcoming Committee	Jan Beardemphl	948-3367
PCC Nursery	Wynona Vaz	222-8982
Ministry to Sick and Shut-Ins	Deacon Eric Shaber & Charlotte Shaber	208-521-7846
Bible Study	Judy Turner	438-7938
Women's Group	Linda Rego	221-1130
Weekend Mass Refreshments	Judy Urrutia	438-5039

Councils and Committees:

Parish Council	Jim Carey	627-0321
Finance Council	Jared Liebert	947-9386
Stewardship	Lenice & Pat Nagle	582-6893
Evangelization	Rob Privette	438-1222
Voice of the Spirit	Dieter Bohmann	987-3158
Parish Library	Ann Stevens	396-2723

Charter Organizations:

Catholic Daughters	Linda Garner	627-2748
Knights of Columbus	Peter Dreisbach	205-2377
St. Vincent de Paul	Message Line	591-0632
American Heritage Girls	Erin Leistritz	406-579-1891

Natural Family Planning:

Carol Gaulke	619-5464
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Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday: 5:30 p.m.
Ash Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Thursday: 12:15 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday: 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Please visit our Holy Spirit Facebook page to join livestream events:

<https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritParishCommunity>

Office Hours: Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Babies and young children are usually baptized during Mass on Saturday or Sunday, or on Saturday at 12:00 p.m. Call the parish office for a list of upcoming Baptism dates and to receive registration information for pre-Baptism classes. (735-8558)



On Being Married at Holy Spirit ... Engaged couples who wish to be married at Holy Spirit Parish are asked to contact the parish office at least nine months prior to their desired wedding date. The couple and the priest will then meet to begin the Marriage preparation program. (735-8558)

Deaths

What should I do when there is a death in my family? Please call the parish office and speak with the office staff and the pastor before making arrangements with the funeral home, to ensure that the church is available at the desired date and time. (735-8558)

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 15, 2026

Calendar for the Week: (Note: PCC = Parish Community Center)

Sunday, February 15:

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.

No Edge (Middle School)

No Life Teen (High School)



Monday, February 16:

Weekday

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Elizabeth Ministry Training, PCC room 7, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), PCC rooms 7, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 17:

Weekday

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Holy Spirit Mommy and Me, PCC nursery, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

No Religious Education classes

Sacrament of Reconciliation, CHURCH, 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:30 p.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Young Adults Fat Tuesday event, PCC 6/8, 6:15 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Council 4th Degree, PCC room 9, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 18:

Ash Wednesday



***** NOTE ADDITIONAL EVENING MASS TIME *****

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Bible Study, *Matthew: The King and His Kingdom*, PCC rooms 6/8, 10:00 a.m.

Mary Martha Prayer Group, PCC room 5, 1:30 p.m.

Mass in the church at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 19:

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Mass in the church at 12:15 p.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

St. Vincent de Paul, PCC room 7, 10:00 a.m.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), PCC rooms 7, 7:00 p.m.

American Heritage Girls Board Meeting, PCC room 9, 5:45 p.m.

American Heritage Girls, PCC hall, 6:45 - 8:45 p.m.

Celebration Choir, church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 20:

Friday after Ash Wednesday

Knights of Columbus Red Cross Blood Drive, PCC hall, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 9:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., in the vestibule. Concludes with *Prayers for Priestly Vocations* and *Prayers for Peace* at 5:00 p.m. and the *Rite of Benediction* at 5:15 p.m.

Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m.



Saturday, February 21:

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Catholic Daughters, PCC 5, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Vigil Mass in the church at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 22:

First Sunday of Lent

Mass in the church with the OCIA *Rite of Sending* at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.

Edge (Middle School), PCC rooms 5 and 6/8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Life Teen (High School), PCC hall, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



Understanding Lent

Walking with Christ Toward Easter

Lent is a sacred season, a time set apart for renewal of heart and soul. Each year, the Church invites us to step away from distractions and walk with Christ in a deeper way. For forty days, we trace his footsteps—entering the desert with him, learning to listen, pray, and trust. This sacred journey mirrors the rhythm of our own lives: seasons of challenge that prepare us for new life in God.

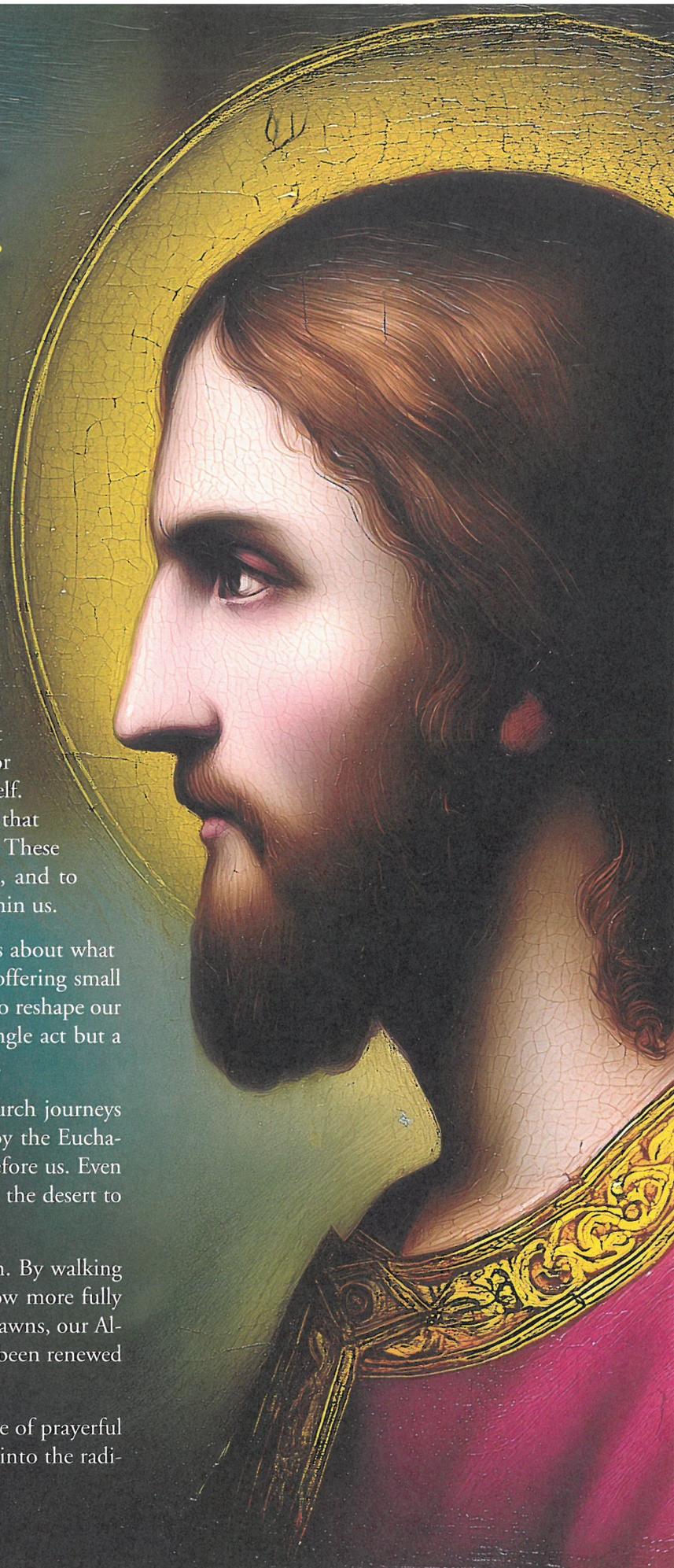
The practices of Lent—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—are not burdens but pathways. **Prayer** deepens our friendship with God, opening our hearts to his voice. **Fasting** teaches us that we are not ruled by our appetites but created for something greater—communion with God himself. **Almsgiving** lifts our gaze outward, reminding us that love of neighbor is inseparable from love of God. These disciplines work together to form us, to free us, and to awaken us to the life of grace already present within us.

Lent is not simply about what we “give up.” It is about what we receive: mercy, forgiveness, and renewal. By offering small sacrifices and acts of love, we allow God’s Spirit to reshape our hearts. In this way, conversion becomes not a single act but a daily turning—away from sin and toward Christ.

We do not walk this road alone. The entire Church journeys together, nourished by Scripture, strengthened by the Eucharist, and inspired by the saints who have gone before us. Even in our struggles, God is near, leading us through the desert to the joy of Easter morning.

Ultimately, Lent prepares us for the Resurrection. By walking the way of the cross with Jesus, we come to know more fully the life that only he can give. And when Easter dawns, our Alleluia rings out with deeper joy because we have been renewed in heart and spirit.

May this Lent be a season of grace for you, a time of prayerful return to the Lord, and a journey that leads you into the radiant light of Easter.



SYMBOLS AND PRACTICES OF LENT

Lent is rich with symbols that help us live out this season of renewal. The most visible sign is the **ash cross** traced on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. It reminds us of our mortality—“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”—and of our call to repentance.

The **liturgical color purple** is used in churches throughout Lent, symbolizing penance, humility, and preparation. In some parishes, crucifixes and statues may be veiled in the final weeks, creating a sense of longing and anticipation for Easter’s joy.

Another central devotion is the **Stations of the Cross**, traditionally prayed on Fridays during Lent. By reflecting on Christ’s Passion step by step, we learn to unite our own sufferings with his and to see the depth of his love.

Many Catholics also embrace **simplicity and silence** during Lent—reducing entertainment, quieting daily noise, and creating space for God’s voice. Acts of service and charity flow naturally from this spirit, reminding us that Lent is not just about discipline but love of neighbor. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** holds special importance, offering grace and renewal as we return to God’s mercy.

The Church teaches that Catholics in **good health** are to observe the following rules for **fasting** and **abstinence**. From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

“Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence. Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. Fasting is required from age 18 until age 59. It permits one full meal and two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. Abstinence from meat binds Catholics from age 14 and older.”

Together, these symbols and practices point us toward the heart of Lent: a season of turning back to God and preparing to celebrate the Resurrection with renewed faith.

THE MEANING OF LENT

The word *Lent* comes from the Old English *lencten*, meaning “springtime.” In the Church, Lent refers to the forty-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that prepares us for Easter. The number forty has biblical significance: Moses fasted forty days before receiving the Ten Commandments, Elijah journeyed forty days to Mount Horeb, and Jesus fasted forty days in the desert.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday** and concludes at the start of the **Paschal Triduum**—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Sundays are not counted in the forty days, as each Sunday is a “little Easter,” a celebration of the Resurrection.

The focus of Lent is conversion of heart. The Church encourages us to pray more faithfully, fast from food or distractions, and give generously to the poor. These practices are not ends in themselves but signs that we are turning away from sin and toward God. Lent invites us to renew our baptismal commitment and prepare joyfully for the Resurrection of Jesus.

HOLY WEEK & THE TRIDUUM

The final days of Lent lead into **Holy Week**, the most sacred time of the Church year. Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday**, when we remember Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The palms we carry remind us both of his kingship and the Passion that follows.



On **Holy Thursday**, we celebrate the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, recalling the institution of the Eucharist and Jesus washing the disciples’ feet. After Mass, the Eucharist is placed in a place of repose, inviting quiet adoration.



Good Friday commemorates the Passion and Death of Jesus. The liturgy includes the reading of the Passion, solemn intercessions, veneration of the Cross, and for some, Holy Communion, but no Mass. It is a day of fasting and abstinence, uniting us to Christ’s sacrifice.



Holy Saturday is a day of waiting and reflection. That night, the **Easter Vigil** begins in darkness with the blessing of the new fire and the Paschal Candle. We hear salvation history proclaimed, celebrate baptisms and confirmations, and rejoice in the Resurrection.

These three days form the **Paschal Triduum**. They are the heart of the Christian faith, leading us from the cross to the joy of Easter morning.

Holy Spirit St. Vincent de Paul Conference

At the end of January, we met a lady with numerous chronic health problems who was asking for food. She was receiving public assistance but, during a move, missed filing some required documentation and is now reapplying for everything. During our visit, we also discovered that she was behind on her PUD bill. We were able to help meet both of those needs. We meet the first and third Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in PCC room 7. If you feel called to share in this ministry, please stop in.



Blessed Francis Faa di Bruno was born in Alessandria, Italy on March 29, 1825, the youngest of twelve children. After earning a doctorate in mathematics and astronomy at the Sorbonne, he joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Francis was ordained a priest in 1876 at the age of fifty-one. He died in Turin on March 27, 1888, and was beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II on September 25, 1988.

*Karoline Kya Jordan and Oliver Oen Jordan,
children of Megan Weis Jordan,
were baptized at Holy Spirit on February 7th.*



*May God's blessings of peace and joy
be with them and protect them all of their days.*



ENDING HUNGER WITH CRS RICE BOWL

This Lent, our community will participate in Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl—connecting our prayers, fasting and almsgiving to encounter God through our global family. We'll meet, pray for and learn from families in Ghana, Guatemala and Timor-Leste who are rising above the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Pick up your rice bowl from the table in the vestibule. Then, visit crsricebowl.org/join to share your Lenten prayer intentions.

CRS LENTEN PRAYER

God of Hope, You journey with us through the desert. You challenge us to become more like Christ. During this Lenten season, may our prayers, fasting and almsgiving give us the courage to go forth and share our gifts with the world. May our encounter with you allow us to bring hope to our global family. Amen.



Thank you for your patience during the ongoing roofing project and repair work in our church. Our roofing contractors are finishing the trim work outside. This has required some specialized equipment to manufacture the trim for the curved sections of our church building. Regarding the water damage which affected our church interior in December ... once our insurance claim with Catholic Mutual is processed and awarded, our next step will be to work with the diocese on the bidding process for the reconstruction of all the damaged areas.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All dates are tentative

Monday	February 16	Fr. Michael Brzezowski
Tuesday	February 17, 5:30 p.m.	Janis Bensch RIP
Thursday	February 19, 12:15 p.m.	Angelo Tavernaro RIP
Friday	February 20	JoAnn Hicks
Saturday	February 21, 4:00 p.m.	Hank Ogryzek
Sunday	February 22, 5:00 p.m.	Denny Johnston RIP

The Sunday morning Mass is normally offered for the people of the parish.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Liedigk**.
May she rest in peace with the risen Lord.

To have your need added to our parish prayer phone chain,
please call Adele Ogryzek at 627-0201.
To have your need added to the list which is published in the bulletin
once each month, please call the parish office.

STEWARDSHIP: Stewardship involves more than just the gifts we bring to the altar. Today's readings say clearly that it is fidelity to God's law that makes our offering acceptable.

December 2025: \$95,768.32

(Total over 4 weekends.)

Thanks for your giving of time, talent, and treasure.

For online giving, visit:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/holy7409270>

Thank you for maintaining your financial support of our parish as you are able. If you'd prefer to mail an offering, please send it to **Parish of the Holy Spirit, 7411 W. Clearwater Ave., Ste. E, Kennewick, WA 99336**. If you are currently using offering envelopes and would like to switch to online giving (or bill-payer from your bank), please call the parish office so we can discontinue your envelope mailings with our printing service. Thank you.



Plan to donate blood at the Holy Spirit Council of the Knights of Columbus sponsored **Blood Drive** from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on **Friday, February 20th** in the PCC hall. Each year in the U.S., more than 4.5 million lives are saved by blood transfusions, and about 1 in 5 people admitted to a hospital will need blood.

Sign up in the vestibule this weekend. Or sign up online anytime at www.redcrossblood.org/, and click on "Holy Spirit Kennewick" on the sign up page.

A Note From the St. Serra Club of Tri Cities

"Blessed are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are they who observe His decrees, who seek Him with all their heart." (from Psalm 119) You could teach others God's laws and decrees—and assist them in living them—as a priest, permanent deacon, brother, monk or nun.

VATICAN NEWS

The Pope's Solidarity Amid Ukraine's Freezing Winter

The appeal for Ukraine voiced by the Pope at his General Audience on Wednesday, February 4th, has taken the form of concrete charity in response to the "consequences of the bombings which," as Pope Leo XIV said, "have once again begun to strike energy infrastructure." That appeal has now been translated into action through the Dicastery for the Service of Charity, which, at the Pope's request, has sent 80 electric generators, along with medicine and food supplies, to Ukraine. Read more at <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>.



Enrich your Lenten experience by attending Eucharistic Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on **Tuesday, February 24th** after 5:30 p.m. Mass. Readings and prayers during this Holy Hour will focus on devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. All parishioners and visitors to Holy Spirit are welcome to attend. These Holy Hours are sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

LENT ON FORMED®



How to Lent is a four-part video series providing insights into the origins of Lent, why the Church compares Lent to a desert, and how to create a Lenten plan that will transform your life beyond Easter Sunday.



Lent with Brother Francis is an animated Catholic video series providing daily meditations, prayers, and actionable tips to help children understand and experience the Lenten season.



In the video series *Restore*, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, helps you turn away from what wounds you and toward God who heals you and makes you whole. Sr. Miriam invites you to meet the tenderness of God's mercy as you practice prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

If you haven't already signed up for **FORMED** all you need to do is the following:

- Go to formed.org
- Type in your parish name or zip code.
- Enter your name and email, and that's it!

You are registered. You should now be able to download the FORMED app to your phone, tablet, and TV.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

DAILY PRAYER VIGIL

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from February 18 to March 29, 2026

Participants are asked to spend a few hours each week, peacefully and lawfully praying to defend the innocent lives of the unborn in the public right of way outside of Planned Parenthood at 7426 West Bonnie Place in Kennewick. Participants must not attempt to block access to Planned Parenthood or otherwise obstruct access. Signs are available at Hope Medical, just south of Planned Parenthood.

Alternatively, if you are not able to join the vigil on-site, we would greatly appreciate your prayers from home.

For more information, please visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/>.



Lent begins on
Ash Wednesday, February 18.

Please note the following changes to the **Weekday Mass** schedule throughout Lent.

- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Masses will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m.
- On Tuesdays, Mass will be celebrated at **5:30 p.m.**
- On Thursdays, Mass will be celebrated at **12:15 p.m.**

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 5:30 p.m. each Friday during Lent (except on Good Friday, April 3rd at 3:00 p.m.).

Join us for **Soup Suppers** on Wednesdays during Lent, in the PCC hall at 6:00 p.m., **beginning February 25th**. Rolls will be provided, but you are welcome to bring bread, crackers, or saltines to share at your table.

Please contact Suzanne Heaston at 509-987-2779 or heaston76@msn.com if you are able to bring a soup in a crockpot on any given Wednesday. A few more soups are needed most Wednesdays throughout Lent.

A DAY OF LENTEN REFLECTION



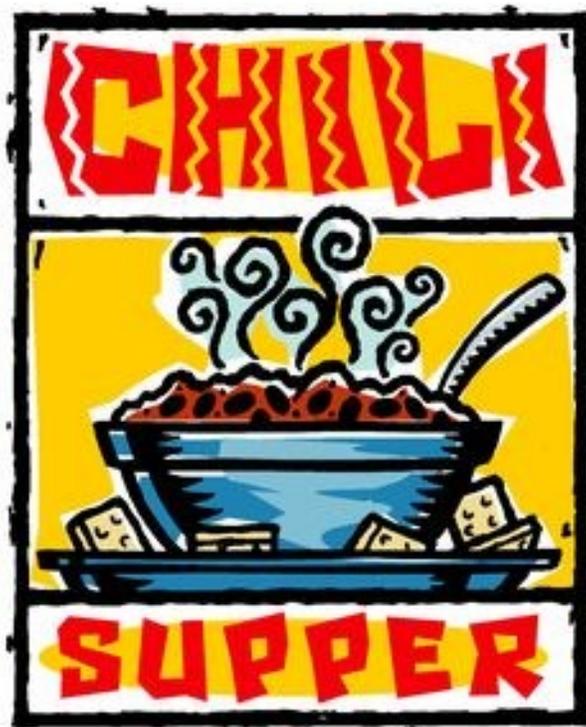
St. Serra Club invites you to their annual day of Lenten reflection on Saturday, **March 7, 2026**, at St. Patrick Parish in Pasco from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The speaker will be **Fr. Robert Nyeko**, the hospital chaplain at Lourdes Health in Pasco. This is a great opportunity to spend a few hours with God this Lent without leaving the Tri-Cities. The \$10.00 registration for each participant will cover food (breakfast and lunch) and supplies. Please invite family and friends. Call Peggy Schouviller at 509-581-7110 to register.

Recitation of the Rosary for the repose of the soul of **Frank Ferreira** will be prayed **Friday, February 27th at 10:00 a.m.** at Holy Spirit.

The Mass of Christian Burial for **Mr. Ferreira** will be celebrated **Friday, February 27th at 10:30 a.m.** at Holy Spirit.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Present their Annual

FREE



FREE

and Bingo Night—Fun for all ages!

Saturday, February 28
in the PCC hall following
the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass





“Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’
and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’”

MATTHEW 5:37

Some Walk Away

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“**L**et your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No’” (Matthew 5:37). This teaching of Jesus seems to get lost, perhaps because it comes at the end of a long listing of commandments. Regardless, it seems to get right to the point, almost making the other commandments unnecessary or perhaps clarifying them. Either you are going to be a child of your heavenly Father and live like one, or you are not. If you are a child of God, you would not contemplate any evil behaviors, let alone actually do them.

That is the clarity of the teaching of Jesus. It is authentic. It is compelling. It invites a response. Yet, there are those who were present with him who did not understand. Who missed the point. Who insisted on another way. Who could not discern the simplicity of the truth. To each of these men and women, including some with the religious title of scribe or Pharisee, he observed, “And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be” (Matthew 6:23). Even sadder is that not only did they miss the point, they also simply walked away.

Do you want to say more than a simple “Yes” or “No”? Do you want to say, “Yes, but... I can’t do it now.” Or “I can’t forgive this particular person.” Or “I can’t welcome this particular stranger.” Or “I can’t love him or her or them.”

Have you also missed the point? Do you also want to walk away? ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

What teachings of Jesus are too hard to consider?

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is the 40-day season of prayer and penance in preparation for the celebration of the greatest event in human history: the redemption of the human race by Jesus Christ. This year Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and ends at sundown on Thursday, April 2. This is followed by the Sacred Triduum, April 2-4, and Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, April 5.

LENTEN LITURGICAL AND DEVOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES **AT THE PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Ash Wednesday: February 18, Masses at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., both with the imposition of ashes.

Daily Masses: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:00 a.m.
Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.
Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. (beginning on February 19)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesdays, 4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the CHURCH.
Sundays, 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. in PCC ROOM 9.

Thursday, March 12, Lenten Penance Service at 6:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays, February 20 through March 27, at 5:30 p.m. and Good Friday, April 3 at 3:00 p.m.



HOLY WEEK AT THE PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Thursday, April 2, 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday Liturgy: Friday, April 3, 6:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass: Saturday, April 4, 8:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES: Sunday, April 5, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (no evening Mass)

LENTEN DISCIPLINES:

Catholics are obliged to observe the Season of Lent in a spirit of penance, whereby our exterior acts of prayer, self-denial, and charity bear witness to the inner values of our faith.

The Church specifies certain practices of penance during the Season of Lent:

Self-imposed observance of fasting on any of the weekdays of Lent is recommended.

Catholics are obliged to fast and abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, February 18 and Good Friday, April 3. The law of fasting is obligatory for Catholics from age 18 to age 59.

The law of fasting prescribes that only one full meal be taken per day; the other meals should be significantly smaller, but in accord with one's health needs. Fasting assumes the avoidance of snacks between meals.

The Fridays of Lent are obligatory days of abstinence (from eating meat). Catholics age 14 and older are bound by the law of abstinence.

The substantial observance of these disciplines is a grave obligation; that is:

Anyone who neglects all forms of penance, or deliberately shows contempt for the Church's penitential disciplines, may be guilty of serious sin.

Occasional failure to observe penitential regulations is not seriously sinful.

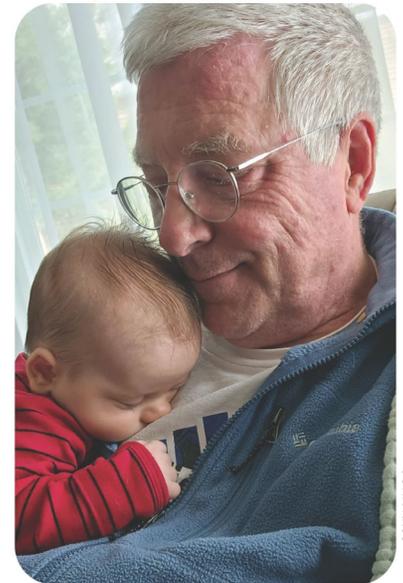
Proportionately grave circumstances—sickness (or some chronic illnesses), pregnancy, dietary needs, social obligation—excuse from the obligation of fasting and/or abstinence, but not from seeking out other alternate forms of penance or personal sacrifice.

Dear Padre,

My grandkids' parents don't want them to be baptized. Can I do it myself secretly so as not to cause problems?

Your concern is understandable, but secret baptisms are prohibited in the Catholic Church. The decision to baptize a child is determined by his or her parents. To secretly usurp their decision may cause problems of its own. For an infant to be baptized, "The parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent," and "There must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion" (*Code of Canon Law*, 868 §1). An exception is permitted when the child's life is in immediate danger: "An infant of Catholic parents or even of non-Catholic parents is baptized licitly in danger of death, even against the will of the parents" (CCL 868 §2). Here, the Church's pastoral concern is for the child to receive the immediate graces from the sacrament; the question of raising the child in the faith becomes moot in a life-or-death situation.

"Since the earliest times, baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit.... Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1282). Continue to pray that your family may see baptism as a sign of God's love, which offers true freedom for humanity. ●



Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



The Spirit opens borders, first of all, in our hearts. He is the Gift that opens our lives to love. His presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of

mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves.... Sadly, oddly enough, in a world of burgeoning "social" media, we risk being ever more alone.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025

Monday

February 16

Weekday

Jas 1:1-11

Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday

February 17

Weekday

Jas 1:12-18

Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday

February 18

Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18

2 Cor 5:20-6:2

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

February 19

Thursday after

Ash Wednesday

Dt 30:15-20

Lk 9:22-25

Friday

February 20

Friday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:1-9a

Mt 9:14-15

Saturday

February 21

Saturday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:9b-14

Lk 5:27-32

Sunday

February 22

First Sunday

of Lent

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Rom 5:12-19 or

5:12, 17-19

Mt 4:1-11

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

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