



LENT

2021

*Saint Mary's Catholic Church
Newport, Maryland*

Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. on the Fridays of Lent

This year it is not possible, because of the pandemic, to have a soup dinner together as a community before Stations.

Confessions

Confessions are heard on Saturday afternoons from 4 – 4:45 p.m. and after Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings of Lent.

Almsgiving

Catholic Relief Services “Rice Bowl” – Through CRS Rice Bowl, we hear stories from our brothers and sisters in need worldwide, and devote our Lenten prayers, fasting and gifts to change the lives of the poor. Each day of Lent, individuals are invited to use the Lenten Calendar—included with every CRS Rice Bowl—to guide their Lenten almsgiving. These daily almsgiving activities—for example, give 25 cents for every faucet found in your home—help families reflect on the realities of our brothers and sisters around the world and how they can be in solidarity during the Lenten season. Information on the Rice Bowl program may be found on our parish website.

Good Shepherd Food Pantry – baskets remain all year long at the front entrance to the church for donations of non-perishable food items for distribution at our Food Pantry on the third Saturday of each month. Please bring your donations as often as possible to assist those most in need.

Clothing Bin – please clean out your closets and donate your gently used and clean clothing to the shelter in the roadway to the left of the Parish Hall. Your donations are appreciated by those without enough clothes to get them through the seasons.

The Annual Appeal – donations to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal are always welcome to support the Church’s charitable works throughout our area. Envelopes are available.

From a sermon by Saint Leo the Great, pope

(Sermo 6 de Quadragesima, 1-2: PL 54, 285-287)

Dear friends, at every moment *the earth is full of the mercy of God*, and nature itself is a lesson for all the faithful in the worship of God. The heavens, the sea and all that is in them bear witness to the goodness and omnipotence of their Creator, and the marvelous beauty of the elements as they obey him demands from the intelligent creation a fitting expression of its gratitude.

But with the return of that season marked out in a special way by the mystery of our redemption, and of the days that lead up to the paschal feast, we are summoned more urgently to prepare ourselves by a purification of spirit.

The special note of the paschal feast is this: the whole Church rejoices in the forgiveness of sins. It rejoices in the forgiveness not only of those who are then reborn in holy baptism but also of those who are already numbered among God's adopted children.

Initially, men are made new by the rebirth of baptism. Yet there still is required a daily renewal to repair the shortcomings of our mortal nature, and whatever degree of progress has been made there is no one who should not be more advanced. All must therefore strive to ensure that on the day of redemption no one may be found in the sins of his former life.

Dear friends, what the Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion, so that the Lenten fast enjoined by the apostles may be fulfilled, not simply by abstinence from food but above all by the renunciation of sin.

There is no more profitable practice as a companion to holy and spiritual fasting than that of almsgiving. This embraces under the single name of mercy many excellent works of devotion, so that the good intentions of all the faithful may be of equal value, even where their means are not. The love that we owe both God and man is always free from any obstacle that would prevent us from having a good intention. The angels sang: *Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth*. The person who shows love and compassion to those in any kind of affliction is blessed, not only with the virtue of good will but also with the gift of peace.

The works of mercy are innumerable. Their very variety brings this advantage to those who are true Christians, that in the matter of almsgiving not only the rich and affluent but also those of average means and the poor are able to play their part. Those who are unequal in their capacity to give can be equal in the love within their hearts.