

## Lenten Regulations

**Ash Wednesday**, March 9<sup>th</sup> begins the Holy season of Lent. Ashes will be distributed at the 7:30 a.m. and the 7:00 p.m. masses. This day, along with **Good Friday** is a day of **Fast** and **Abstinence**. All **Fridays** of Lent are Days of Abstinence.

**Abstinence** means that no meat is taken that day. It binds all who have reached 14 years of age. **Fast** means that only one **Full** meal is to be taken that day. Two lesser meals not to equal the full meal is permissible, but nothing between meals. **Fast** binds all who have reached 18 years of age and have not yet reached 60 years.

During Lent, we are urged to practice acts of mortification---giving up some favorite foods or activities in solidarity with the Lord who gave so much for us, and as a sign of our inner desire for conversion of life.

**Stations of the Cross** will be offered each Friday at 7:00 p.m. All are invited and encourage to come and take part in this devotion.

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**Fish Fry** Everyone is invited to take part in the Friday fish fry meals that are offered at our partner parish, Our Lady Queen of Peace in East Vandergrift. The meals are offered from 3:00 to 6:00 every Friday during Lent except Good Friday.  
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## Lenten Penance Services

Four Penance Services will be offered in our deanery this Lent, at which many priests will be available for confessions. This Sacrament is especially meaningful in preparation for Easter. The services are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monday, April 4 <sup>th</sup>	St. James, Apollo
Tuesday, Apr. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christ the King, Leechburg
Thursday, Apr. 14 <sup>th</sup>	St. Joseph, New Kensington
Monday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>	St. Margaret Mary, Lower Burrell

All services begin at 7:00 p.m.

## **Holy Week/Easter Schedule:**

Palm Sunday: 4:30 p.m. (Saturday Vigil); 9:30 a.m. Blessing of palms outside  
Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper with translation of Holy Eucharist:  
7:00 P.M.; **Good Friday** (celebration of the Lord's passion) 1:30 p.m.  
**Easter Sunday: Vigil** (Saturday night) **8:45 p.m.**; Sunday, **8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**  
**No Youth mass Easter night, as the masses of Easter are the vigil and the two morning masses.**

There are a series of **Ecumenical Lunches** being offered this year in the Apollo area. Please feel free to come and pray with us and share a lunch at any or all of these services. They all take place at Noon on Wednesdays.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Message giver</u>
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Boiling Springs Presbyterian	Lea Austin
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	St. James the Greater	Rick Helsel
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	First Presbyterian	Fr. John Euker
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	First Lutheran	Terri Swails

### **Diocesan Lenten Appeal**

Catholic Schools.....Youth and young adult events.....Catholic Charities....Training programs for Catechists and teachers.....Assistance with building insurance and facilities management.....Living quarters for retired clergy...programs for enrichment....These are but a few of the many services our Diocese provides because of your support of Diocesan Lenten Appeal. Once again this year, we ask that you be as generous as possible. You may have already received the pastor's letter along with a brochure explaining these services and making an appeal for your generous support. We would like to go well over the target the Diocese has set for us this year. Last year's total collected was \$28,535. We would like to collect \$35,000 this year. If we reach that goal, it will return over \$6,000 to our parish in addition to these many services we receive from the Diocese. Please consider a pledge to Diocesan Lenten Appeal this year as you contemplate your Lenten sacrifices.

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We look forward to the **reception into the full communion** of our church, two candidates who have been faithfully studying and preparing for this event at Easter. In immediate preparation a Rite of Election will take place at the Cathedral on Sunday, March 13th, at which Bishop Brandt will formally elect those prepared to receive the Sacraments at Easter. Also, a number of our children will be receiving their **First Holy Communion** during the Easter Season. Congratulations to each of them and many thanks to the Catechist and RCIA people who have worked with them over the year. If you know of any one who may be interested in becoming Catholic, please let us know. It is not too early to have them start some inquiry with us!

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Currently we have about 10 families who use the Electronic Transfer of Funds as a means for their offertory giving. EFT's are a simple but sure way of regular offertory giving. You simply figure out what you would normally give to the Church during a month, and designate that amount to be deducted from either your checking or savings account. Forms for this process are available at the office. You need fill out the form only once, and the amount is deducted each month.

# WINTER/SPRING NEWSLETTER

February 2011

Dear member of St. James' parish family,

Many eventful things are going on at St. James and we are a parish on the move! Now that we are approaching spring, it is time for another communication. First though, may I express how delighted I was at the great turnout for our winter social on February 6<sup>th</sup>. This became a Super Bowl party, thanks to our beloved Steelers who provided an extra incentive! We offer many thanks to the pastoral council who planned and carried out the event.

As we move past winter, our faith focus becomes the great Christian feast of Easter. It is late this year, occurring about as late as it can possibly occur, on April 24<sup>th</sup>. There are various adjustments that we make because of this, which will be noted in this newsletter. We will soon begin our preparation for Easter with the holy season of Lent, starting on March 9<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday. Make note of the time of masses that day and the distribution of ashes, as well as our schedule of liturgical services.

Two special additions will occur in the Lenten season this year. First, we will conduct a parish mission, and are excited to welcome Deacon John Lozano, a mission director from Philadelphia, who will be with us in the Fourth week of Lent. Secondly, we will host an Ecumenical Lenten luncheon on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Details of these events are included in this newsletter.

Easter occurs when we in the northern hemisphere see the promise of spring all around us. Recently the world has witnessed remarkable events with the yearning for freedom arising throughout the Middle East. May we always treasure our freedom with responsibility and be motivated to keep vigilant on our Lenten journey to free ourselves from whatever is sinful. If so, Easter will indeed be glorious!

You are always in my thoughts and prayers,

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. John T. Euker