

LENT 2021

Lent begins, Wednesday, February 17th with Ash Wednesday, a day of fast and abstinence for Catholics. Ashes remind us to turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel. Ash Wednesday masses will be at IC at 7:30 AM, 9 AM & 6:30 PM; OLG 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM; **St. Teresa 7:00 PM. In addition, brief liturgy of the word services outside of mass with distribution of ashes will be held** at IC at 12:15 PM and 5 PM and at **St. Teresa at 12 Noon.**

Ashes will be distributed during Masses and liturgy of the word services, just after the homily using a revised protocol from the Vatican. The celebrant will bless the ashes, sprinkling them with Holy Water. He will then address the congregation as a whole in one of the two approved forms: **Repent and Believe in the Gospel OR Remember that you are dust and unto dust you will return.** This invocation will NOT be

repeated for each individual receiving ashes. As with Holy Communion, those receiving the ashes will remain in their pews, they will not be signed on the forehead with a cross. Rather, they are asked to kneel, if possible, or stand, and lean forward bowing their heads, and ashes will be lightly sprinkled on the tops of their heads. There will be no physical contact between the minister and the recipient.



While imposition of ashes with the sign of the cross on the forehead has been customary in the United States on Ash Wednesday, in many other parts of the world, the tradition of sprinkling dry ashes on top of the head, rooted in scriptural tradition, is a common practice. Sackcloth and ashes were used in Old Testament times as a symbol of humility, mourning, and/or repentance. Someone wanting to show his repentant heart would often wear sackcloth, sit in ashes, and put ashes on top of his head. The ashes signified desolation and ruin and were a public sign of repentance and humility before God. When Jonah declared to the people of Nineveh that God was going to destroy them for their wickedness, everyone from the king on down responded with repentance, fasting, and sackcloth and ashes (Jonah 3:5–7). God saw genuine change and it caused God to “relent” and not to destroy them (Jonah 3:10). Very simply, sackcloth and ashes were used as an outward sign of one’s inward condition. God’s forgiveness in response to genuine repentance is celebrated by David’s words: “You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy” (Psalm 30:11). We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. Prayer invites us into God’s presence, whether personal or communal, through Scripture, devotional prayer, adoration, meditation, journaling, Stations of the Cross, other sacramentals and especially through the Eucharist, our great prayer of Thanksgiving. Our Lenten fasting is rooted in experiencing hunger for food, but it goes beyond this. We are hungry so that we might discover what we truly need. Fasting helps us look at all that we consume (and all that consumes us). It helps us discern what is good and right in God’s eyes. Fasting clears the deck, simplifies our lives, and frees us to work toward a world that is more just and loving. Almsgiving is the way in which we work for greater justice. It is all the deeds we can do and the gifts we can offer to help recreate the world anew.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, April 2, 2021, are days of fast and abstinence. Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence. Fasting is to be observed by all those 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 60th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two other meals sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

Abstinence is observed by all those 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

With regard to the obligatory days listed above, however, there are frequent questions about the degree of seriousness of the matter. The teaching of Pope John Paul II may be simply paraphrased: the obligation to do penance is a serious one; the obligation to observe, as a whole or “substantially,” the penitential days specified by the Church is also serious. No one should be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe an individual day of penance is not considered serious. People should seek to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed should be considered a minimum response to the Lord’s call to penance and conversion.

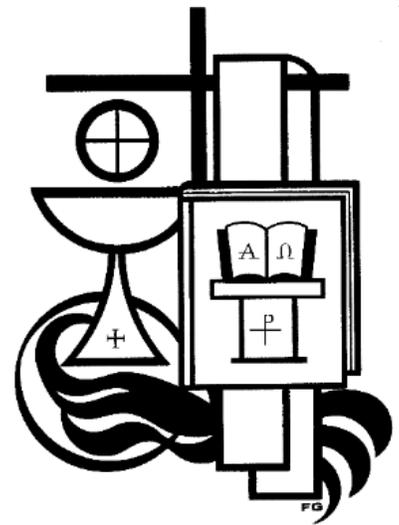
The Sacrament of Reconciliation Consider making a commitment this Lent to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and receive the healing grace of God’s forgiveness and love.

- IC School & Parish Penance Service Wednesday, March 24th 2:00 PM
- IC individual confessions Tuesday, March 2nd 7 PM; Thursdays, March 11th and 25th at 7 PM; Saturdays at 11 AM (No Saturday Confessions April 3rd)
- OLG individual confessions March 3rd, 17th, 24th 6:00 PM & 7:45 PM; March 19th & 26th after 8:00 AM Mass; & Saturdays at 6:15 PM (No Saturday Confessions April 3rd)
- St. Teresa individual confessions Saturday, March 28th at 4 PM & Wednesday evenings 6:30 PM

Adult Formation Online – Spring 2021 – Celina Cluster **Fr Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S., Ph.D.**

The following list of videos are about 20-30 minutes and can be viewed online at your convenience <https://celina-ic.org/fr-tim-talks/>
Additional talks will be available during Lent

- ❖ Eucharist as Sacrifice: Giving Thanks – Giving Life
- ❖ Is it a Sin?
- ❖ The Problem and Meaning of Suffering
- ❖ The Church: A Primer in Ecclesiology
- ❖ The World Church
- ❖ Reconciliation
- ❖ Vision of the Church From Recent Popes
- ❖ The Gospels of Christmas: What do these mean for us?
- ❖ The Protestant Reformation
- ❖ The Catholic Reformation: The Council of Trent



RITE OF ELECTION & CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

In the Rite of Election, we celebrate the Lord's choosing of men, women and children who, with the help of the Church, acknowledge God’s election of them for the Easter Sacraments.

The Rite of Election marks the beginning of the final period of intensive preparation prior to receiving the sacraments of initiation. The Call to Continuing Conversion marks the final period of preparation for those preparing to be received into full communion or for those Catholics completing their initiation through Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Catechumens seeking baptism, confirmation and eucharist, and candidates for reception into full communion, as well as those Catholics completing their initiation will be welcomed at the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, Sunday, February 21st at Immaculate Conception, Celina. Normally, Archdiocesan wide celebrations are held in Dayton and Cincinnati, but are hosted in local parishes in 2021 due to COVID-19.