



Signs of the Times



Volume 51

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Lent Begins Ash Wed.
Feb. 6th to
March 22nd

The Law of Fasting and Abstinence:

*(These rules do not apply to
women who are pregnant or
people who are sick)*

Fast: [age 18-59] You may eat 2 light meals and one regular size meal. No snacking between meals (unless doctor says you need to or need to take medicine; drinking milk water and juice is ok.)

Abstinence: [all ages] Eat Fish is ok. No meat (chicken, beef, pork)

About The Season of Lent

The key to understanding the meaning of Lent is simple: Baptism. Preparation for Baptism and for renewing baptismal commitment lies at the heart of the season. Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate (celebrate) the Resurrection. Lent begins on February 6, 2008 and ends on March 22, 2008, which is the day before Easter. Ash Wednesday ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance. They also remind us of our mortality ("remember that you are dust") and the day when we will stand before God and be judged. Lenten practices of prayer, almsgiving and fasting always involves giving up sin in some way. The goal is not just to stop sin for the length of Lent but to remove sin out of our lives forever. **Prayer:** More time given to prayer during Lent should draw us closer to the Lord. **Almsgiving:** is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our thanks for all that God has given to us. **Fasting:** a simple meal connects us to the poor, who could not buy meat for their meals. Lent is also the time for those who are baptized to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to renew their baptismal commitment.

Diocesan News



From the Director:
Msgr. Glenn L. Nelson

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Lent is already upon us. It is a wonderful season to help reduce our connection to sin and reunite ourselves to a life of holiness. Sometimes we become "lazy" in our prayer life and forget how important it is to be on guard against the devil's temptations. Jesus too was tempted when he was in the desert for 40 days, so he knows it is not easy to resist. However, knowing that Jesus too was tempted and resisted temptation and never sinned, gives us hope and strength to face our daily trials and not sin. During lent we practice denying our human need to satisfy every desire. I hope that you take the time to practice some virtue (Humility, Forgiveness, Kindness, Diligence, Charity, Temperance and Chastity) to help fight against the "7 deadly sins" (Pride, Anger, Jealousy, Laziness, Greed, Gluttony, and Lust).

During Lent, people usually pick one thing to do for Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. I have some "Rice Bowls" for you if you wish to donate some money to poor people. As an example: you could do all three at once..... How? If you "give up" cookies for Lent, you abstain (do not eat cookies, then the money you would have spent for the cookies you put in your Rice Bowl for the poor. As you put the money in your Rice Bowl, you say a prayer for all those people in the world who are hungry and do not have enough food to eat. Wow, all 3 (Prayer Fasting and Almsgiving) done from just giving up cookie!!! (smile)

We know that the season of Lent is a gift to us sinners who are in need of God's grace. Please take advantage of one the times we have reserved for Confessions. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful Sacrament of Healing. Please come to confession and feel the

love and forgiveness of God as He forgives your sins!!!

Also, if you are looking for some spiritual growth, consider joining us on our Lenten Retreat in March. (See back page for more information). If you cannot stay overnight, that is fine, join us on Saturday. Cathy Signor and others have worked very hard to get the event prepared, I know it will be a wonderfully spiritual time.

I pray that you will have a very spiritual and holy Lent. Let us look forward to the great Easter event that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

God bless you all!!!



Easter Basket Blessing

Saturday—March 22, 2007
Newman Center, DeKalb
10:00 AM

Join Monsignor Nelson and have your Easter Basket Blessed!

Please pray for...

Those who are sick:

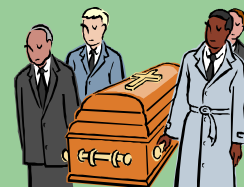
Tom Zaremski (brother of Lori Cazal, Interpreter)



Those who have died:

James LaVoy Sorenson— 86, January 20, 2008

(If not for Mr. Sorenson to have been involved in the video communications for Deaf, we may never have the Video Relay Service today)



Holy Triduum, Confessions & "Why Catholic?" Schedule

Holy Triduum and Easter Mass Schedule

AURORA
(Interpreted)
St. Joseph Church
722 High Street

Holy Thursday March 20th
7:30 PM

Good Friday March 21st
7:30 PM

None Saturday

Easter Sunday March 23rd
10:30 AM

ELGIN
(Interpreted)
St. Thomas More
215 Thomas More Drive

No Interpreted Mass

CRYSTAL LAKE
(Interpreted)
St. Thomas Church
Route 176 & Oak

Easter Sunday March 23rd
9:00 AM

For accommodations on other
Triduum Masses please contact
Mary Donner at
dockie50@yahoo.com

ROCKFORD
(Interpreted)
Holy Family Church
Alpine & Highcrest Roads

Holy Thursday March 20th
7:30 PM

Good Friday March 21st
7:30 PM

None Saturday

Easter Sunday March 23rd
9:30 AM



March 20, 21 & 22, 2008
and Easter March 23, 2008

Good Friday is a day
of Fast and Abstinence

DeKALB
(DEAF MASS)
Newman Center
512 Normal Rd.

Holy Thursday March 20th
7:30 PM

Good Friday March 21st
12:00 Noon

None Saturday

Easter Sunday March 23rd
10:15 AM

Confession Schedule

AURORA
St. Joseph Church
722 High Street

April 6, 2008
8:30 to 9:00 AM

ELGIN
St. Thomas More
215 Thomas More Drive
(with Fr. Mike Depcik)
Feb. 17, 2008
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM



CRYSTAL LAKE
St. Thomas Church
Route 176 & Oak

Feb. 24, 2008
8:30 AM to 9:00 AM

ROCKFORD
Holy Family Parish Center Chapel
Alpine & Highcrest Rds.

Feb. 24, 2008
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Amboy
St. Patrick Church
32 N. Jones Avenue

Feb. 16, 2008
4:00 to 4:30 PM

Freeport
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
1400 Kiwanis Drive

By Appointment

DeKALB
Newman Center
512 Normal Rd.

Feb. 17, 2008
9:45 AM to 10:15 AM

DeKalb

Christ the Teacher/Newman Center
512 Normal Road, DeKalb, IL 60115
Library/Hoffman Room

Dates to be set by next newsletter

Bible Study:

"Why Catholic?"

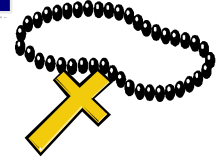


Rockford

Diocese of Rockford :
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
555 Colman Center Drive, Rockford, IL, 61108

Dates to be set by next newsletter

Deaf Ladies of the Visitation Rosary Retreat



There is still some openings for the Deaf Rosary Retreat with Monsignor Glenn Nelson on March 8th and 9th, 2008 at Stronghold Center in Oregon, Illinois.

We will learn how to pray the Rosary and why we pray the Rosary. We will have pizza dinner, Mass, share our faithful stories and make rosaries for the poor.

Please contact Cathy Signor, Retreat Coordinator at cathy.signor@yahoo.com as soon as possible for more details.

Annual Summer Picnic

Watch for our next newsletter for the date! We would like everyone to join us for this good time of friends, family, food, games and prayer.

Do you have ideas you would like to share? Do you want to help with the picnic? The picnic committee is now forming and volunteers are needed. Please contact Cathy Signor, our picnic organizer and join the fun. E-mail Cathy at cathy.signor@yahoo.com We hope to see you there!



Date in next newsletter!

