

LENT - THE CALL TO CONVERSION

by Virginia Stillwell

All of us who grew up Catholic seem to know in our bones what Lent is about. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, right? We don't eat meat on Fridays, we fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and we give up something, probably something we like to eat or drink. We pray more, by receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation, and perhaps by attending the Stations of the Cross or a special formation event at our parish. We might toss our spare change into a jar each day to give to a favorite charity at the end of Lent. We're pretty sure "how" to do Lent. It's a little harder for us to know "why" we do what we do during Lent. (First clue: It's not to lose weight, pat ourselves on the back, or appreciate the ham and candy on Easter Sunday.) Getting to the root of those Lenten disciplines might help us to embrace them with a willing spirit. And it might even invite us to rethink "how" we do Lent.

During the decades preceding the Second Vatican Council much scholarship was being done on the origins of Christianity, the scriptures, the liturgy and the liturgical year. In that process many things were discovered about the Mass and our liturgical rites, including the fact that Lent was originally a season when the community focused on preparing unbaptized adults to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. They did this primarily through rituals and prayer, but also through teaching and example.

Based on this scholarship, the pope and bishops at the Council decided to revise the Lectionary (readings for Mass) so that we would hear a richer variety of scriptures that would faithfully unfold the original themes of the feasts and seasons. Among the fruits of this lectionary revision were the development of a three year cycle of Sunday scriptures and a renewed focus on the baptismal character of the season of Lent.

This year we are hearing from Cycle A of the Sunday lectionary. During Lent, the Cycle A scriptures,

in particular, help us to recognize the core significance of Baptism in our lives. Both the baptized and those preparing for Baptism are called to open our hearts and our lives to the saving power of Jesus Christ. As children of Adam and Eve (i.e. human) we are tempted, but those who are baptized into Christ are offered the grace to turn away from sin and place our trust solely in the Lord, our God. The "why" of the Lenten disciplines, scriptures, and liturgical rites is to help us realize our powerlessness to save ourselves, reach out to Christ, and follow the Baptismal call to conversion with willing spirits.

One aspect of the Lenten call to prayer is the increased number and depth of liturgical rites in which the Christian community prays for and with those preparing for the sacraments. This Sunday at the 10:00am Mass we pray for the candidates and send them to the bishop to celebrate the Rite of Election. In this rite unbaptized catechumens from around the archdiocese will be elected for baptism and those who seek full communion with the Catholic Church and Confirmation will be called to continuing conversion.

The gospel for the Second Sunday of Lent focuses on the Transfiguration of Jesus. At 10:00am Mass that Sunday we will pray for the candidates for full communion and confirmation – and all of us – to become more fully transformed in Christ. The gospels for the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent remind us of the three primary symbols of salvation through Baptism: living water, light in the darkness, and resurrected life. On one of those Sundays we will pray together for the elect (unbaptized candidate), that he will open his heart to the saving love that Christ offers him in Baptism.

As you choose your Lenten disciplines this year, I invite you to remember the gifts and call of Baptism and seek to discover more fully what that might mean in your life today.



MARCH 1, 2020
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

St OLAF
Catholic Church

SAINT OLAF CATHOLIC CHURCH ■ MINNEAPOLIS,
MINNESOTA ■ 612-332-7471 ■ SAINTOLAF.ORG



EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

Mar 01: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11
Mar 08: Gn 12:1-4; Ps 33; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD

UPCOMING PRAYER & LISTENING SESSIONS

March 14, 9am – Noon, St. Alphonsus, Brooklyn Center

Survey ends March 1. Take the survey. Let your voice be heard. Visit disciplemakerindex.com or click on "Take the Survey" on our website. Paper surveys are available upon request.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Saint Olaf will host a legislative briefing presented by the Office for Social Justice of Catholic Charities on Wednesday, March 4 from 7:30-9:00 am in Fleming Foyer.

The briefing includes:

- Catholic social teaching and public engagement
- 2020 Legislative Priorities
- Experiences & stories to ground our advocacy work
- Opportunities for action and advocacy

Call the parish office for more information.



Serve the Poor Support Life Strengthen the Faith

Each year, the Catholic Services Appeal funds 20 Designated Ministries including:

- Serving 265,000 meals & snacks to those in need.
- Supporting over 100,000 Catholics via hospital chaplains.
- Strengthening the Faith of those in prison through the Sacraments.

Contributions go directly to the Designated Ministries.

To learn more, go to csafspm.org.

To donate, go to GiveCSAF.org.

ENCOUNTERING HEAVEN ON EARTH

Fr. Wehmann will present *The Mass*, a video series by Bishop Robert Barron. Mondays from 12:30PM to 1:00PM March 2 - April 6 in Forliti Gathering Room. No charge.

MINNESOTA: OUR COMMON HOME

Join Fr. Kevin Kenney and Mary Kennedy in a 6-week series exploring how we can live out Integral Ecology as Minnesota Catholic Stewards. Thursdays 6:00pm-7:00pm March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 2 and 16. Includes light supper. Register online, freewill donations to cover material costs and meal are welcomed.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER
12:00 PM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**
12:30 PM ROSARY
4:00 PM **MASS**

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

6:00 AM **MASS**
8:00 AM **MASS**
10:00 AM **MASS**
12:00 PM **MASS**
4:00 PM **MASS**

MONDAY, MARCH 2

7:00 AM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**
7:30 AM SAMARITAN MINISTRY HOSPITALITY
12:00 PM **MASS**
12:00 PM AA
12:30 PM ENCOUNTERING HEAVEN ON EARTH

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

7:00 AM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**
12:00 PM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**
5:15 PM **MASS**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

7:00 AM **MASS**
7:00 AM AA
7:30 AM LEGISLATIVE POLICY BRIEFING
12:00 PM **MASS**
12:00 PM AA
5:15 PM **MASS**
6:00 PM ALANON

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

7:00 AM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**
12:00 PM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**
5:15 PM **MASS**
6:00 PM MINNESOTA OUR COMMON HOME

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

7:00 AM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**
10:00 AM KNITTING CLUB
12:00 PM **MASS**
12:30 PM ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER
10:00 AM RCIA
12:00 PM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**
12:30 PM ROSARY
4:00 PM **MASS**

ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK 33

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Feb 10 - Feb 16	\$16,757	\$18,680	-\$1,923
YTD through Week #33	\$927,468	\$901,028	\$26,440