



The Newsletter of
St. Peter
the Apostle Parish,
River Edge,
New Jersey

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WHY LENT?

By David Ashley

Someone once asked, "Why do you Catholics celebrate Lent?"

It was an interesting question because I've never viewed it as a Catholic thing and I've certainly never thought of it as a celebration.

Lent, an important part of Christian calendar, is a reminder for us that when it comes to God, even the way we think of time and seasons is transformed. Lent is that time of preparation leading us to Easter. Lent is typically viewed as a season of 40 days, *not counting Sundays*, beginning on Ash Wednesday (this year, March 1st) and ending on Holy Saturday. The Sundays that fall in this period do not count as part of the 40 days. They are considered to be mini-Easters.

Forty is a symbolic number and in Scripture is often viewed as a time of testing and preparation. We can tie it to what we read in Mark 1:12-13:

12 At once the Spirit drove him out into the desert, 13 and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. *The New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE)*

Following his baptism, Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness preparing for what was to come and facing temptations that really hit at what kind of Savior He was going to be. The wilderness in Scripture is that untamed place, the tough place, a place of separation, loneliness and even darkness. It is in the wilderness where we can realize our need for and our reliance on God. Jesus emerges from the wilderness and begins his public ministry.

Here are some ways that Lent is viewed:

Lent is a period of...

REPENTANCE

Repentance isn't just uttering a blanket statement of "I'm sorry." Repentance is about making a change of the heart.

FASTING

During this time, some people choose to give up something. It's not about being showy and telling the world what we're doing. It's about letting something go and, in the act of letting it go, realizing how much more we need God.

GROWTH

For some, this is a time to study more, to read more, to pray more and, maybe, to add something to their lives. Lent would be a great time to get involved in a new ministry, a new group or a new Bible study.

SELF-EXAMINATION

It's an opportunity to take a look in the mirror, so to speak, and to look at where we need the light of Christ in our lives.

REMINDING

Lent is a time that reminds us that Jesus' journey from his baptism to the cross and resurrection is not an easy journey. Much happens along the way. There are many trials and tests and encounters. There are miracles and amazing things. There are lessons and we are invited to be a part of the journey.

I think back to that question, "Why do Catholics celebrate Lent?" and I think it should be reframed...

"How does God invite us to share in Jesus' journey to the cross and beyond?"

What did God give up for LENT? **Himself**

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LENT?

Lent invites us to a time of prayer, reflection and conversation... to see ourselves, one another, and our world through the eyes of our merciful God. The Small Christian Community CORE committee is forming a co-ed Lenten group to meet on Tuesday evenings. During these 90 minute weekly gatherings we will explore the Sunday Scriptures of Lent and help each other understand how Jesus fits into our daily lives. Hope you'll consider making a Lenten journey with us. Please join us at the...

Lenten Evenings of Peace & Friendship

A Journey Through Lent



Tues: 2/28, Tues: 3/7, *Mon: 3/20, Tues: 3/28
in the Chapel from 7:30pm till 9:00pm (You're welcome to come to one or all.)

To find more information just go to the Parish web site: saint-peter.org

Knight of Columbus

By Bob Garcia

Who are the Knights of Columbus:

Thanks to the efforts of Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven and some of his parishioners, the Connecticut state legislature on March 29, 1882, officially chartered the Knights of Columbus as a fraternal benefit society. The Order remains true to its founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity.

The Knights of Columbus has grown to 15,342 councils and 1.9 million members throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, Guatemala, Guam, Saipan, Lithuania, Ukraine, and South Korea.

The River Edge Knights of Columbus have been in existence since 1960 supporting St. Peter's the Apostle Church and its many ministries. Our council consists of over 200 fellow parishioners, friends and neighbors who also volunteer their time and donate their treasure to countless local community causes and various town-wide youth programs and activities.

What we do:

The Knights was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works.

Our charitable activities encompass an almost infinite variety of local, national and international projects. From international charitable partnerships with Special Olympics, the Global Wheelchair Mission and Habitat for Humanity to our own Food for Families and Coats for Kids projects and other local charities, the opportunity to work together with fellow Knights and their families is virtually endless.

In 2015, the Knights of Columbus set a new all-time record

for the 17th consecutive year. Our charitable donations increased from 2014 by more than \$1.5 million to a new total of \$175,079,192. In addition, we achieved our highest level of charitable service in 2015, volunteering more than 73.5 million hours of service. The number of service hours contributed by Knights rose in 2015 by more than a million over the previous year's total.

What we need:

In order to continue our charitable efforts throughout the parish and local community, we invite Catholic Gentlemen 18 years and over, to consider joining our ranks, or we suggest you initially volunteer for one of our many service programs.

If you decide to join our ranks, the first step in becoming a Knight is the Degree process; there are four degrees within the Knights of Columbus. Each degree ceremony imparts a lesson on the Order's core virtues of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The Admissions Ceremony (also known as the First Degree) is on the lesson of Charity; once you have completed this Degree, you are considered a Knight of Columbus and can participate in all council activities.

Upon taking the Third Degree, a member receives full honors of Knighthood and is "Knighthooded." The "Fourth Degree" imparts a lesson on the virtue of Patriotism. The primary purpose of this degree is to foster the spirit of Patriotism in members and the community at large, and encourages active Catholic citizenship.

"We are answering Pope Francis' call to go to the peripheries," Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said. "We can reach half way around the globe to help those in need and we can reach to our neighbor next door. And we do that every day. That makes us witnesses to the faith."

If you would like to be a part of this fraternal organization, or have any questions, please contact our Grand Knight – Bob Garcia on 201-262-7766, or email us at: kofcriveredge@gmail.com and check-out our website at: www.kofcriveredge.com.

We look forward to welcoming you. Viva Jesus!

WELCOME TO THE ST. PETER'S LIBRARY

By Eleanor Grybowski

St. Peter's Library is located across from the entrance to the church itself. It is open every Sunday after the 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. Masses. You will find someone to assist you at these Masses, if necessary. The library is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. where you will have to sign the books out yourself.

Rev. James Martin is a favorite author. The press and TV call on him frequently for his comments. He lives in New York City. Rev. Henri Nouwen is another favorite. You will find his books in section Y and L. Fr. Nouwen speaks from the heart. You could read his books over and over again for spiritual enlightenment. He passed away suddenly in 1996.

Any book in the library will be worth reading. They were carefully chosen. If you are considering adding to your spiritual life during Lent, please consider one of the books in our Library.

HAPPY READING!

It is important to "be fed" in order to be able to "feed" others...

As part of our Parish Mission all ministers of St. Peter's are invited to

“Ministry Appreciation Day”
Saturday March 11, 2017

Who is a minister at St. Peter's?

ANYONE who does anything in the life of the parish.

Here are some examples:

All parish priests and deacons,

Parish staff,

All ministers of the parish, in every area of parish life,

All organization and committee members,

Pastoral and finance councils,

All religious educators,

Those in youth ministry,

Youth members,

CYO Coaches

Altar servers,

Lectors

Linen cleaners,

Money counters,

Liturgical ministers,

Ushers and greeters

Social outreach ministers,

Those in evangelization ministries,

Spirituality,

Social event organizers

Landscapers

Maintenance crew

Yes, ANYONE who does anything in the life of the parish.

I would like to add ...

By Pam Lobley

I have checked out several different books from the library, including the authors that Eleanor mentions. The books are marvelous and not at all the type of thing you can find in your regular library. If you love to read, a Lenten book from the Parish library might be the perfect thing for you. It doesn't have to be tedious! In the case of both James Martin and Henri Nouwen, their books are easy, enjoyable reads whose ideas and peace stay with you.

Henri Nouwen has an entire website devoted to his life and work, and they are featuring a Lenten reading group. It works like this: you read his book, *Adam, God's Beloved*. In the book he talks about his friend Adam, a severely handicapped young man who could not speak or even move without assistance. Grippled by frequent seizures, he spent his life in obscurity. Yet, for Nouwen, Adam "became my friend, by teacher, my guide." It was Adam who led Nouwen to a new understanding of faith and the Gospel message.

While reading, you sign in and join their online discussion. No commitment or cost. If this appeals to you check out the site: www.henrinouwen.org.

Ministry Appreciation Day INFORMATION

The day begins with Mass at 9:00am in the church, we will also be providing lunch at noon that day (at no cost). In order to order lunch we will need to know the number of people who will be attending. So please sign up using the sign-up link below.

Here's the link:

**<http://www.saint-peter.org/>
#1483659057800-1ac62136-2339**

We look forward to seeing you there! Peace...Fr. Mike & the Parish Council

Parish Mission: "I Have Called You by Name"

Preacher:

Fr. Ken Beale
(Faith On Fire Missions)

Dates:

March 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15

You've probably heard the Parish call to a **Discernment of Ministry** that began with Fr. Mike's Pastor's Message in the Jan. 15th Bulletin. This was in conjunction with the erection of the **DISCERNMENT** sign in the Gathering Space and the posting of each week's call below it. Now, we are pleased to announce the upcoming **Parish Mission**. St. Peter's is privileged to have Fr. Ken Beale lead our **Parish Mission** and help us on our Spiritual journey & with our Easter preparations during Lent. We encourage you, your family and friends to attend as many Mission evenings as possible.

Daily Mission Topics:

Saturday, March 11, 2017

MINISTRY APPRECIATION DAY

(All Parishioners Should PLAN TO ATTEND!)

9:00am-Noon

Mass and Celebration & Discussion of Ministry

Noon-1:00pm

Luncheon for attendees

Sunday, March 12, 2017

I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME

7:00pm

Concert & Sing-a-Long Church (Fr. Ken & Parish Music Ministry)

Monday, March 13, 2017

FAITH OF THE SOULS

7:00pm

The Creed

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

THE HOPE IN OUR HEARTS

7:00pm

Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

THE LOVE ALIVE WITHIN US

7:00pm

The Eucharist



Father Ken Beale

Fr. Ken Beale is the Executive Director of Faith on Fire Missions. He began his formal formation to the priesthood when he entered the high school seminary in 1976. After completing the academic requirements and spiritual preparation, he was ordained a transitional deacon in September 1991 and to the holy priesthood in May 1992. While in graduate school, Father Ken was recruited by and commissioned into the Air Force Chaplain Corp. In 1988, he entered the Corp as a chaplain candidate. In 1992, after ordination, Father Ken was promoted into the ranks of the Reserve Chaplain Corp and, in 1994, began his career as an active duty Catholic chaplain. For over two decades, Father Ken has been serving those stationed on bases stateside and overseas. He retired from the United States Air Force Chaplain Corp in September 2014, but did not retire from the priesthood.

For many years, Fr. Ken served as a chaplain and a Major in the US Air Force with tours in Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Kyrgyzstan, United Arab Emirates, Iraq & Afghanistan.