

Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

Lent/Easter 2016
Newsletter

The Church's Spirit of Lent by Fr. Edward Smith

The liturgical season of Lent is almost upon us, and there are countless ways to get in touch with the Church's spirit of Lent. There are plenty of opportunities to engage in prayer, fasting, and charity. With that in mind, here are some practical ideas from the staff at Catholic Digest for you to consider for finding everyday holiness in Lent.

Remember your own Baptism. If you have memories of your Baptism, share them with your family. If you or other family members have baptized children, ask: How did you feel as you brought your child to the font? If you can, ask your parents about your own Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion. Think about what it means to be part of the Body of Christ through these sacred moments.

Create a prayer space in your home. A small table with a purple cloth and a cross or candle on it is all you need. Don't feel guilty if you don't go to your prayer space to pray every day. Set it up in a place where you will see it as you come and go; let it be a quick reminder to raise a prayer of thanks and praise to God.

Bless your children. If you don't do so already, let Lent be a time to begin blessing your children by making the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads. We all need that reminder of our connection to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Clean out, give away. Make traditional spring-cleaning symbolic of the interior cleaning and clearing of clutter that Lent calls all of us to undertake. As part of your cleaning, select items or articles of clothing to donate to others. If you're giving them to someone you know, accompany the gift with a small note detailing a happy memory you associate with the item (e.g., "I wore this on my first date with my husband. May it bring you joy!") to add a personal touch.

Set out on a journey. As the Hebrews journeyed for 40 years in the desert to the Promised Land, we too journey to Easter through the 40 days of Lent — and not always in a straight line. Real spiritual growth often takes a more meandering path. Reflect on this aspect of the season, either alone or with family and friends, by mapping out and then walking a meandering path

in your neighborhood or in a nearby park or woods. Create stopping points along the way at which you can pray — for friends, relatives, the neighborhood, our world.

Practice and seek forgiveness. Forgive someone for a wrong or hurt, and ask for the forgiveness of someone you've hurt — or at least take a first step. Talk to your priest or trusted friend or adviser and move toward reconciliation. Also take time to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. Even if you aren't ready to celebrate the sacrament, participate in your parish's Lenten Penance service and think about how sin breaks our relationships with others and with God, and how we all yearn to be healed and made whole.

Celebrate spring. We often think of Lent as a season of harshness and privation. But Lent is also a springtime season that celebrates new life soon to be born. To help you reflect on this period of renewal, visit a local farm and learn about planting or watch the newborn animals discover the world for the first time. Practice good stewardship of this new life by lending a hand to a project that helps protect the environment or prevents mistreatment of animals.

Continued Page 2

Inside this issue:

GoFundMe	2
The Church's Spirit of Lent (cont'd)	2
Parish School of Religion	3
Jubilee of Mercy	3
Upcoming Parish Events	4



*God withholds
Himself from no
one who perseveres.*



Saint Teresa of Avila Parish in Sheffield Village, Ohio is in the process of building a Shrine in honor of our Patron Saint. Our parish was founded in 1845 by a hearty group of 21 German families who were new to America. These brave catholic souls were made up of hard working farmers who carved our village out of the wilderness. 2015 was a wonderful and exciting time for our Parish, and the Universal Church. We celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Birth of Saint Teresa of Avila. In October 2015 we did dedicate a small outdoor garden shrine in honor of our Patroness. Based on the fact there is no national shrine in honor of St Teresa, our goal is to build a shrine on our church grounds here in Sheffield Village, Ohio. We expect that once the project is completed visitors from all over the world will come to visit this shrine. Additionally, we'll seek national recognition for this shrine once the project is completed. Therefore, we are seeking assistance from friends and family beyond our parish boundaries. Donations toward this shrine can be made in Memory or in Honor of a loved one. Our hope is that we will have so many visitors that it will be necessary to greatly expand our parking lot and also provide appropriate restrooms, and a small Gift Shop. In order to complete this

GoFundMe by Dan Gillotti

worthy project we are asking for your financial assistance please. Our goal for this project is \$600,000. For donors large or small, please know that Saint Teresa of Avila is a charitable 501 (c) (3) non-profit entity, and your generous contributions are tax deductible. Also, please ask your employers if they will consider donating to this effort. Please make your donations to: <https://www.gofundme.com/wa4qgn2w>.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Dan Gillotti

Parish Finance Council Member and Historian

The Church's Spirit of Lent (cont'd)

Share in God's generosity. Jesus' death and Resurrection is the ultimate gift to us. Remember all the gifts God has given you, and imitate God's generosity by increasing your offering to your parish and to outside charities, and keep it up throughout the coming year. Try to see these offerings as sharing in the love and generosity of God, a love and generosity that are stronger than sin and death.

Work for justice. Sin isn't just personal; it's also social. And the Church strongly proclaims that reconciliation and working for justice go hand in hand; neither is optional for baptized disciples. There are numerous organizations working for justice on all levels of the political spectrum, locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Explore the Church's documents on social justice (Just Peace is one of many sites where you can find these writings). Investigate, discern, and get involved.

Simplify. Try to keep things simple as a family. So many of us are spending so much of our lives in a relentless pursuit of more stuff. Try to rediscover the simple joys of being together. Don't be discouraged if this doesn't always go well. If we were perfect, what need would we have of a Savior? "O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam," the Church sings at Easter, "that won for us so great a Redeemer!"

"O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam," the Church sings at Easter, "that won for us so great a Redeemer!"

Spend time with the Blessed Sacrament. We can never fully plumb or exhaust the mystery of God's presence in the Eucharist. We all would benefit from some extra time spent at church in God's presence before the tabernacle, adoring and contemplating the gift of God's own self to us. This Eucharistic Adoration, like our Eucharistic celebration, is a way to praise and thank God with our prayers and with our lives, to help us participate in Christ's redemptive life, to strengthen the entire Body of Christ, and to help us be Christ in our own lives. Thus our Eucharistic Adoration comes out of, and leads us back to, our community celebration of Sunday Eucharist.

Pray! Offer a brief prayer of praise in the morning and in the evening. Start, return to, or continue praying the Rosary. Start with as little as a decade if that is all you have time for. Talk with Mary, the Mother of God, whom the Church holds up to us as the perfect model of discipleship. Ask her to help you always say "yes" to God's will, as she did.

The Rev. Edward J. Smith

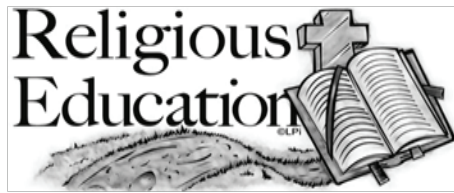
Parish School of Religion by Susan Pritchard

It's hard to believe that over half our school year is over. Everything has been going wonderfully thanks to our dedicated Catechists. We appreciate them sharing their time, talents, and faith to help our children come to know Jesus and his Church.

Our PSR school year began with a prayer service that was very well attended by our PSR families. We prayed a living Rosary with students and their family members. Each represented a bead of the rosary and lead the prayer for that bead.

We began to prepare for Christmas by receiving God's healing and mercy at an evening of Reconciliation. Our students also participated in our Advent service project. Through the generosity of our students and their families, over 100 household and baby supplies were collected and packed for donation for Blessing House.

The end of January was a very special time for our Second Graders who received the Sacrament of Penance for the



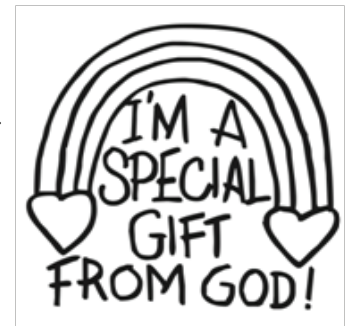
first time. On April 30th at 4:30 Mass they will receive their First Holy Communion. All parishioners are invited to attend and join us for cake and punch in the Hall following Mass.

As we prepare ourselves during Lent, our PSR students will attend Stations of the Cross and Reconciliation before Easter. For this year's Lenten service project, we will participate in the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Campaign. Thank you for your generous support of this project.

Our PSR year will end in May with the Crowning of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by an ice cream social in the Hall.

God's Peace to you,

Susan Pritchard, DRE



Love Hopes & Bears All Things—Jubilee of Mercy

The Doors of Mercy have been opened!

“Anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope”

Pope Francis, Bill of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

For more information visit www.dioceseofcleveland.org

For the Pope's 2016 Lenten message in this Jubilee Year of Mercy go to www.ohiocathconf.org and read the E-Focus Newsletter for February.

Works of Mercy

THE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish sinners.
4. Comfort the afflicted.
5. Forgive offenses.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

ST. TERESA OF AVILA
CATHOLIC CHURCH

1878 Abbe Road
Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054

Phone: 440-934-4227

F ax: 440-934-4500

E-mail: st.teresa.office@neohio.twcbc.com

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID

LORAIN, OH
PERMIT NO. 25

Website stteresaparish.com



Up Coming Parish Events!

Wednesdays During Lent

Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.
(Except Wed., of Holy Week)

Bible Study

Thursdays, Feb 18, March 3 & 17

Extra Confession Times

Wed, February 24 from 6–7 p.m.

Parish Cluster Communal Penance Service on Sunday, March 20 @ 2 p.m.
at St. Anthony of Padua Church

Fish Fry

Fridays, Feb 12–March 25, 4:30–7 p.m.

Living Stations of the Cross

Sunday, March 13 at 7 p.m.
At St. Anthony Church
Performed by Elyria Catholic High School Students

Holy Week

Mass of the Lord's Supper, Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m.

The Lord's Passion, Friday, March 25, Noon

Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 25 at 3 p.m.

Food Blessing, Saturday, March 26 at 11 a.m.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 26 at 9:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Mass, March 27:
8:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

Religious Formation

PSR: Tuesdays from 6–7:15 p.m.

Confirmation: Sundays 9–11 a.m.
at St. Thomas Church/School

Schedules are in the bulletin, on our Parish website or call the office.



Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Volunteer at Food Pantry

2nd, 3rd & 4th Saturday/month
8:30 am–1 pm

Parish Life Center Is for Rent

For information visit our website at stteresaparish.com or call our office at 440-934-4227.

For monthly Parish Committee meeting dates, visit our website at www.stteresaparish.com or watch the bulletin for current dates/times.