

Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

Lent 2017 Newsletter

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1

“Finding Everyday Holiness in Lent”

by Fr. Edward Smith

The Catholic Digest Staff offered some wonderful ideas about growing into the spirit of Lent. This holy season truly affords us an opportunity to grow spiritually in ways that we rarely embrace in other times of the year. Therefore, here are some suggestions on how to find 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, and 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 the Communal Lenten Penance service (March 26) and think about how sin breaks our relationships with others and with God, and how we all yearn to be healed and made whole.

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.

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

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God withholds Himself from no one who perseveres.

Church Humor

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, and to have the two as close together as possible.

George Burns

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Mardi Gras Celebration—February 25, 2017



dreamstime.com

Come and join us for a great evening!

Live music from *Strukely and Cole*—kick up your heels and dance!

Raffles and Auctions will be held throughout the night. Many chances to win beautiful gift baskets.

Dress up in a Mardi Gras costume for a chance to be named Mardi Gras King or Queen!

GREAT FOOD! All-you-can-eat buffet of Authentic New Orleans Mardi Gras food

Gumbo
Shrimp Creole
Jambalaya
Roast Chicken
Breaded Pork Chops
Red Beans & Rice
Cornbread
Southern Cole Slaw
Dessert
Beer, Pop, Water

Pre-Sale Tickets Only

\$25 each

For tickets call 440-934-4227

Deadline: February 20, 2017

Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Music at 8:00 p.m.

St. Teresa of Avila Church
1878 Abbe Road
Sheffield Village, OH 44054



continued ***“Finding Everyday Holiness..”***

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!"

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. You can join in Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM, at St. Teresa Church.

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 Reverend Edward J. Smith

Did You Know ?

Contribution Statements for 2016—by request only. Call the office at 440-934-4227 or email st.teresa.office@neohio.twcbc.com. By sending your statement via email we save postage.

Cemetery Decoration Removal—Please remove Christmas decorations from your loved one's headstone by March 31, 2017.

Think Spring! As soon as the weather breaks the grass and weeds begin to grow! Please prayerfully consider how you can help with planting flowers in our flower beds, weekly weeding/watering, and cemetery upkeep (trimming around headstones). Call the church office if you feel inspired to spend time on your knees in the garden!

Lenten "Food for the Soul"

Lenten Retreat

Sponsored by the Marian Guild
of St. Anthony of Padua Church

St. Anthony of Padua Church
1305 E. Erie Avenue, Lorain, Ohio 44052

Fr. Michael Gurnick, Secretary and Vicar for Clergy and Religious in the Diocese of Cleveland, will be the speaker.



All men and women are invited !

Monday, March 20, 2017

Mass at 6:30 p.m.

Followed by Dinner/Speaker

Chicken Noodle Soup
Vegetarian Vegetable Soup
Rolls, Dessert and Coffee
FREE

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Offerings accepted:

Household Cleaning Supplies
Personal Hygiene Supplies

Please call St. Teresa's office
at 440-934-4227 to reserve your seat

Support Through Prayer

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, as he selects the next shepherd of our diocese; for our apostolic administrator, Bishop Daniel Thomas, as he serves the needs of our diocese while we are in transition; for Bishop Richard Lennon, as he adjusts to a new stage in his life and ministry; that the Holy Spirit will enlighten and empower all the leaders of our Church with faith in the promises of Christ, hope for the years to come, and charity that knows no boundaries. **In Jesus' Name we pray.**

Bringing America Back to Life

Convention

**Friday, March 10 and
Saturday, March 11, 2017**

The Embassy Suites
5800 Rockside Woods Boulevard,
Independence, Ohio, 44131

We believe that through Prayer - Action - Voting - and Education (PAVE) we can build a culture of life. Our goal is to cultivate a community of individuals and organizations committed to paving the way to restore the sanctity of life at all stages.

Our nationally acclaimed convention has been responsible for growing the choir to the point that the lifesaving songs of the pro-life movement are being heard across the country.



For more information and to register visit

bringingamericabacktolife.org



Why Reconciliation?



"Let us look on Jesus who suffered to save us and rose again for our justification." **(Isaiah 53:4-6)**

The sacrament of reconciliation offers to us the healing grace of God in restored relationships: not only our individual relationships with friends and family, but our relationship with God and with the Catholic Church.

All are asked to join an
An Evening of Confession,
March 15, 2017
from 6—7 p.m.
At St. Teresa of Avila Church

As you prepare for the Evening of Confession, review some additional resources at www.welcomecatholics.com, such as:

"Timeless Message of Love and Forgiveness"

"A Journey to Love and Mercy"
Why's & How To's of Confession

If you are seeking additional information on the Sacrament of Confession visit "**Learn More About Confession**" at the above website.

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Lenten Activities

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. (except Ash Wednesday & Holy Week)

Fish Fry

Our Delicious Fish Fry will be served each Friday during Lent:

March 3–April 14 between 4:30–7:00 p.m.

Many other delicious items available too!

Lent & Holy Week

Ash Wednesday: March 1; 8:30 a.m. Mass w/Ashes & Distribution of Ashes at Noon (no Mass)

Stations of the Cross: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. (except for Ash Wednesday and Wednesday of Holy Week)

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday: Veneration of the Cross at Noon and Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday: April 15: Food Blessing at 11:00 a.m. and Easter Vigil at 9:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Masses: April 16: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Up Coming Parish Events!

Bible Study

The 1st and 3rd Thursday of each Month

Religious Formation

PSR: Tuesdays from 6–7:15 p.m. If Sheffield Schools are closed due to bad weather on Tuesdays, PSR will be cancelled as well.

Confirmation: Combined with St. Anthony of Padua Church. Call the office for information.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Volunteer at Food Pantry

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

Are you looking for ways to support and become more involved in our Parish Community?

- Pray! Spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration
- Bible Study—twice a month we learn and share God's living Word!
- Volunteer at our Lenten Fish Fries.
- Join our Homebound Ministry and visit homebound parishioners and those in nursing homes.

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.