

Lent 2017

St. John Fisher Parish

Next Wednesday, March 1st, we celebrate Ash Wednesday which marks the official start of our Lenten journey. As a parish community, we have a number of events to help inspire us during this season:

- **Ash Wednesday Masses:** March 1st at 7:15am, 8:30am, noon and 6pm
- **Small Group Faith Sharing** to Discuss *Joy of the Gospel* by Pope Francis. Please register at the back of the Church, or talk to Father Richard or Mary Jane Weber.
 - Tuesday Evening Group** (starting Feb 28th) from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the Parish Hall
 - Thursday Morning Group** (starting March 2nd) from 8:15am-9:30am in the Parish Office/Rectory
- **Soup Suppers:** All are welcome to join us in the Parish Hall and enjoy some delicious soup and listen to great presenters on a variety of topics.

The evening is from 6-8pm [Dinner 6:00-6:45pm, Speaker 7:00-8:00pm]

- March 8: Jim Howell (Catholic Charities)
- March 15: Dr. Charles Bentz (Physicians for Compassionate Care)
- March 22: Jason Kidd (Director of Family Life for the Archdiocese)
- March 29: Father Jeff Erwin (Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese)

- **Stations of the Cross:**
 - Each Friday at 7pm on March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24, March 31 and April 7*
 - April 7: Shadow Stations of the Cross*, presented by SJF Youth Ministry, will be on the last Friday, April 7th, followed by a simple meal in the Parish Hall.
 - April 14: SJF School 8th graders will be presenting a living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 14th at 2:15pm
- **Reconciliation Service:** Wednesday, April 5th at 7pm
- **Palm Sunday:** St. Luke Lutheran will join us at 11:00am, for the Liturgy of the Word, as is tradition at SJF
 - * *Please return your Catholic Relief Service Rice Bowl no later than today.*
- **Triduum:**
 - Holy Thursday Mass: April 13th at 7pm,
followed by Adoration, ending with Benediction at 9pm.
 - Good Friday Liturgy: April 14th at 7pm
- **Easter Masses:**
 - Saturday Vigil: April 15th at 9:00pm
 - Easter Sunday: April 16th at 9am and 11am (no 5:30pm Mass)



WHEN IS ASH WEDNESDAY?

Ash Wednesday, the first day of the penitential season of Lent in the Catholic Church, is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. It is a “movable” feast that is assigned a date in the calendar only after the date of Easter Sunday is calculated.

How is it calculated? I’m glad you asked.

According to the norms established by the Council of Nicaea (325 AD) and later adopted for Western Christianity at the Synod of Whitby, Easter Sunday falls each year on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. This year the vernal equinox falls on Monday, March 20, 2017 and the first full moon after that occurs on Tuesday, April 11, 2017. Therefore, Easter Sunday is celebrated this year on April 16. If you want Ash Wednesday, just count backwards 46 days and you get **March 1, 2017**.

But why 46? I thought Lent was the season of “40 days” in the desert. What’s the deal?

The six Sundays in Lent are not considered part of the official “Lenten fast” (every Sunday is a special remembrance of the Resurrection of Christ), and so if you subtract six from 46, you get the famous 40 days of Lent.

There you have it. That is why this year Ash Wednesday is on March 1.

19 things to give up for Lent that aren't chocolate

By Monsignor Keith Derouen, Ponder These Things

1. **Fear:** God is on my side. In Him I am more than a conqueror. (See Romans 98)
2. **The need to please everyone:** I can't please everyone anyway. There is only one I need to strive to please.
3. **Envy:** I am blessed. My value is not found in my possessions, but in my relationship with my Heavenly Father.
4. **Impatience:** God's timing is the perfect timing.
5. **Sense of entitlement:** The world does not owe me anything. God does not owe me anything. I live in humility and grace.
6. **Bitterness and Resentment:** The only person I am hurting by holding onto these is myself.
7. **Blame:** I am not going to pass the buck. I will take responsibility for my actions.
8. **Gossip and Negativity:** I will put the best construction on everything when it comes to other people. I will also minimize my contact with people who are negative and toxic and bring other people down.
9. **Comparison:** I have my own unique contribution to make and there is no one else like me.
10. **Fear of failure:** You don't succeed without experiencing failure. Just make sure you fall forward.
11. **A spirit of poverty:** Believe with God that there is always more than enough and never a lack.
12. **Feelings of unworthiness:** You are fearfully and wonderfully made by your creator. (see Psalm 139)
13. **Doubt:** Believe God has a plan for you that is beyond anything you could imagine. The future is brighter than you could ever realize.
14. **Self-pity:** God comforts us in our sorrow so that we can comfort others with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.
15. **Retirement:** As long as you are still breathing, you are here for a reason. You have a purpose to influence others for Christ. That does not come to an end until the day we die.
16. **Excuses:** A wise man once said, if you need an excuse, any excuse will do.
17. **Lack of counsel:** Wise decisions are rarely made in a vacuum.
18. **Pride:** Blessed are the humble.
19. **Worry:** God is in control and worrying will not help.

Editor's note: Since the initial publication of this column, it's been noted that the following suggestions were originally published as part of "40 Things to Give up for Lent: The List" by Rev. Phil Ressler at www.greaterthings.today. To find the full list and a link to Ressler's book "40 Things to Give up for Lent and Beyond," visit <https://www.greaterthings.today/40-things-to-give-up-for-lent-the-list/>.