

Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church
OUR PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM
FOR 2012

On Wednesday, February 22nd, Catholics will once again begin the annual period of prayer and penance which prepares for the Easter Triduum.

The custom of giving up things during Lent is often seen as a type of fasting, and it can have value as such. But the more important “giving up” during the season of Lent is giving up sin in our lives. We are to give up sin, not only for Lent, but forever. The discipline of Lent is a time to work through the conversion necessary to let go of whatever evil still finds a home in us.

As a means to making this Lent spiritually fruitful, we invite and encourage all of you to participate in our Parish Lenten Program for 2012. **Please keep this sheet as a handy reference throughout the Season of Lent.**

FAST AND ABSTINENCE
AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

LITURGICAL SERVICES

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND:

Masses will be celebrated at 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 12:10 pm and 7:00 pm.

Ashes (symbol of our repentance) will be blessed and distributed within all Masses.

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday through Friday at 7:30 am and 9:00 am; Tuesday at 7:00 pm also (except on March 6th due to Parish Mission); Saturday at 8:00 am.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND BENEDICTION:

As it does throughout the year, Eucharistic Adoration will take place each Friday immediately following the 9:00 am Mass. Except on March 16th (due to Confirmation), Adoration will conclude with Benediction at 7:00 pm, immediately followed by the Stations of the Cross.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Place yourself (in spirit) beside our Savior as He journeys to Calvary. Stations of the Cross will be held **in the main church** each Friday in Lent (except on March 16th) **immediately following 7:00 pm Benediction**. Also, the students of our Parish School will pray the Stations on the following Mondays at 2:00 pm: February 27th, March 5th, 19th and 26th. Our “Living Stations” presentation is scheduled for Monday, April 2nd at 7:00 pm in the church. All are welcome.

(See reverse side.)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard on the **Wednesdays** of Lent (except Ash Wednesday and March 7th) from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, and on **Saturdays** from 4:00 to 4:45 pm in the chapel. On Wednesday, March 7th, confessions will be heard **immediately following the Parish Mission**. As always, our parish priests are available for confession by appointment.

PARISH MISSION

Augustinian Father Frank Sirolli will preach this year's Parish Mission on **March 5th, 6th and 7th**. The theme is: *"Made in the Image of God: The Spirituality of God's Presence within Us."* Join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the preaching of the Good News, and Benediction each evening.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Operation Rice Bowl focuses on the major Lenten themes: prayer, almsgiving, fasting and a renewed solidarity with the poor of the world. The format is simple. On one evening of each week of Lent, families eat a light, low-cost meal. Before and after the supper, they give thanks for their blessings and pray for the hungry of the world. Money saved by eating a simple meal instead of a regular dinner is placed in a "rice bowl" on the dinner table. **Cardboard "rice bowls" have been inserted in the bulletins and are available at the doors of the church. A large "Rice Bowl" container will be in the Narthex throughout the Lenten season to receive your donations.** Your participation in Operation Rice Bowl helps **Catholic Relief Services** to support development and self help projects in 50 countries, including job training, agricultural development and maternal and child health initiatives. Twenty-five percent of the funds collected remain here in the Archdiocese and are used to purchase food to stock the local emergency food cupboards and soup kitchens.

WHY CATHOLIC?

This program is conducted through small Christian community groups. The first phase of this program ("Pray") is scheduled for Lent, and will run for six weeks. It's not too late to join a group. Contact our Director of Parish Services Maria Stumpf (215-362-7400) for more information.

THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK

"The Little Black Book" is a collection of six-minute meditations on the Sunday Gospels of Lent (Cycle B). Copies of this extremely popular and inexpensive booklet are **available in our Bookstore and Parish Office**. The Parish Bookstore, located in Annex Room #1 (beyond the church restrooms) is open on Saturdays from 4:30 to 5:15 pm, and on Sundays from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

This program is offered by a team of parishioners to people thinking about returning to a practice of their Catholic faith. Sessions are offered at a parishioner's home. Please contact Mike at 215-872-7009 or MikeCRH@gmail.com.

30 DAYS' PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

This prayer will begin on February 19th, and will end on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19th. Copies of the prayer can be found in the Narthex, as well as on our website (www.mmredeemer.org). In addition to your personal intentions, please pray for our Archdiocese and our Parish ---- particularly for our youth.

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT MMR

Father Keith Chylinski will lead a Women's Day of Retreat and Reflection here on **Tuesday, March 20th**, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information.

Please note: Specific details regarding all of our Lenten activities can be found on a weekly basis in the parish bulletin throughout the Lenten season.