

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: Lent is Upon Us! Be a “Bible Christian”!

Wednesday begins the holy Season of Lent! Lent is a chance for us to take on some of the practices of the Bible (after all, we Catholics are the original “Bible Christians”...) in order to authentically prepare for the meaning and celebration of Holy Week and Easter Sunday. For example, very often in the Bible, we see folks spending “40 days” to spiritually prepare their souls for a deeper relationship with God. Think, for instance, of Jesus’ time of 40 days in the desert after His baptism, in order to do battle with Satan. That’s, in fact, a good archetype for our experience of Lent: 40 days to renew our commitment to do battle with Satan (our tempter toward evil and sin), and to renew our commitment to our life-long *pursuit of holiness* (which was, after all, the primary teaching of the Second Vatican Council). Our experience of Lent culminates in our re-living and sharing in the ultimate battle between Christ and Satan on Good Friday, Christ’s victory of new life on Easter Sunday, and our ongoing participation in Christ and Heaven allowed for through the Holy Eucharist instituted on Holy Thursday.

Lent is a microcosm of our journey through this life toward our own Victory and “Resurrection” into Heaven. Lent is a chance to intensify our conviction to repent and to go deeper in our ongoing conversion from sin to holiness. And to help us, again, we Catholics use so many practices from the Bible: ashes on our heads, the confession of our sins, fasting, almsgiving, walking with Jesus on the Way of the Cross, etc. etc. The focus is not, of course, on some negative view of God, but rather on an honest appraisal of our utter need for God’s help to escape the burdens and temptations of Satan, help which our loving Father desires to give us, just as He gave to so many in the Bible, including His son Jesus. **So....I urge all of us – including our children and grandchildren – to make use of our parish Lenten practices** to go deeper in our walk with the Lord: Ash Wednesday Masses will be 9:00 am and 5:30 pm at each parish; Stations will be each Friday at Ada (6:00) and Kenton (7:00); a Cluster Penance Service will be offered at Kenton on March 24 at 12:30 pm; and our Cluster Holy Week liturgies will be offered at Ada this year at times to be announced (with Easter at both parishes). As a reminder, Fridays of Lent are **days of abstinence** from meat; Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are also **days of fasting**. These 40 days, let’s all imitate Jesus and go “into the desert” to anticipate Victory and Heaven!

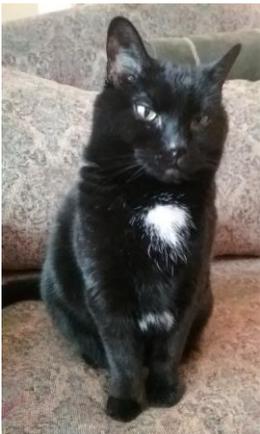
Fr. Ferguson is available to help you with any questions or concerns you may have; please contact him at hamilton.college@outlook.com or at 419-634-2626.

DID YOU KNOW? A Note From Your Parish Finance Council

[As indicated earlier, we will periodically be placing “blurbs” in the bulletin to make everyone aware of our practical, parish stewardship needs:]

The last fiscal year at Our Lady of Lourdes, we spent \$30,939 on employee benefits. This total includes health insurance and other benefits for our two full-time employees, as well as social security, etc., for all our full and part time staff. As mentioned last week, for an active parish our size, we have a “skeleton staff”, so we are definitely getting a “bang for our buck” with the hard work of our staff. These benefit costs are determined and required by our Diocese or the government, and we have little ability to reduce them. They are covered by the Weekly Offertory. However, we are still running short in covering our parish expenses. Please consider an increase in your Weekly Offertory, which provides the vast majority of our needed parish income. Thanks for your generosity and support of our parish family!

THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN by “Jackie”, the Pastor’s Cat



Hi boys and girls! My name is “Jackie”, and as you know, I am Father Ferguson’s cat. Do you know what this Wednesday is? It’s a special day called “Ash Wednesday!” That’s right! It’s the first day of a special season of the Church Year, called “Lent!” Lent lasts for 40 days, and it’s a way to get ready for Easter! Easter is when Jesus rose from the dead, and opened up Heaven for us to be able to go to someday! But we can’t get to Heaven if we still have lots of sins on our souls. So, Lent is a chance to tell God how much we want to turn away from sin and become more holy like Jesus! And on Ash Wednesday, we get to come to church and have real ashes put on our heads, to show God how seriously we want to become holy. I think I need to go to Ash Wednesday. It seems that no matter how hard I try, I still take delight in scaring the birds and fighting the other cats I see outside. But those are bad actions – sins – and they don’t help me to become holy. So I need to ask God for help to be nicer to the birds and cats I see. What are some things you need help from God for, in order to be more holy like Jesus? Why not tell Jesus in Church this Wednesday, and every day of Lent! Have a “purr”-fect week!

Join us for a Tea Party March 23 at 5:30 pm

Women's Tea
For Ladies and Girls of our parishes
Immaculate Conception &
Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday, March 23
5:30 pm
St. Anthony Center

Tea and Finger Foods

Wear a hat, gloves optional
Bring your own tea cup
If interested in decorating a table
contact Kathy Klingelhofer

\$10 per Person
RSVP required
Return slip with payment
before March 17

Yes, I (we) can attend the Tea Party! Number Attending: _____
Amount Enclosed _____
I would like to decorate a table: Yes _____ No _____

RETURN to ICC or OLL Parish Office

Volunteer

to be an Altar Server,
a Lector,

or an

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion!
(EMoHC)

Especially need Altar Servers for Saturday Mass
and EMoHCs for the Sunday Mass!

Training will be provided, date TBA!

***Must be a Confirmed Catholic to be a Lector or EMoHC and
must be Third Grade or older to be an Altar Server.



----- & Drop in Collection- - - - -

Name: _____

Grade (if not graduated): _____

Confirmed Catholic? _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mass Preference: Saturday _____

Sunday _____