



St. Patrick Catholic Community

# Entering into Lent



## Dear Friends,

Ash Wednesday is the one day of the year that Christians proudly wear the ashes they receive. Many Christians make the effort to receive the ashes as it marks the beginning of another Lenten season.

The interesting thing is the ashes are done in the shape of a *cross*. The *cross* is a sign of death, and for the people in the time of Jesus, it was a horrifying sign. For us as Christians though, the cross is a sign of victory over sin and death. Many people will receive the ashes on their foreheads marked with this sign of the cross.

But what does this really mean? The cross is a pathway that demands we let go and turn away from things we have placed in front of our relationship with God. It slowly happens that we become busy with life and we slowly “die” spiritually. We disconnect from God, our community and from our baptismal call to discipleship. The ashes in the sign of the cross are the call to say no to all the voices that say our faith gives us nothing, it is not necessary, or even that we can be “spiritual, but not religious.” These and other reasons that are given all have one outcome: we feel that we can live without discipline, community or the Sacraments.

Coming forward to receive the cross on our foreheads this Ash Wednesday, I invite all of us to remember what the cross asks us to do: to reconnect with our good experiences in faith and the good work we did for others, and to rekindle the relationships we once had but don’t anymore.

I pray these next six weeks will be a good reflection on the cross we first received on our foreheads at our baptism and now the cross of ashes.

I offer my blessings to all of you and look forward to seeing all of you on Easter Sunday and for the seven weeks of Easter that we celebrate in our Catholic family.

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Eric Tellez, Pastor

## Dive into your faith this Lent

### Reconnecting with Your Faith with Becky Eldridge



Join us March 16-18 for a weekend filled with great talks on reconnecting with our spiritual lives during the distracting and busy times we live in. Each day, Becky will host a different event tailored to our parish.

Keep an eye out for more information about this weekend. Becky Eldridge is an award-winning Catholic author, speaker and spiritual director.

### Lent Reconciliation Opportunities

We'll have additional opportunities to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesdays during Lent. On Ash Wednesday, February 14, confessions will be heard from 1-3 pm. On each Wednesday from February 21 to March 20, we'll have two priests hearing confessions from 6 - 7:30 pm. There will also be a lenten penance service on Wednesday, March 27 from 6 - 8 pm to help us encounter the Lord's mercy.

### Music & Prayer Tuesdays

Join us for Tuesday evenings of music and prayer with Taize Prayer on February 27 and Come Fill the Well on March 5, both at 6:30 pm.

On February 27, we'll dive into Taize prayer, a prayer method that combines music, readings and silent reflection.

On March 5, Our Director of Music, Paul Hillebrand, will lead us as we take time to slow down and encounter the Lord through music, filling the 'well' in our hearts.

### Undies Sundays

As a Lenten tradition at St. Patrick, we'll be collecting new, white cotton briefs at all our Masses for those in need. The underwear will go to our partner organizations to meet the needs of the people they serve.

# What can we do during Lent?



Lent isn't just some Catholic diet plan. Our faith calls us to enter into the season in three ways:

## Praying

Lent is a great time to encounter God in prayer, and our Catholic tradition offers us a variety of ways to do so. Here are some ideas:

- Make a commitment to go to Mass
- Attend daily Mass
- Spend time in quiet prayer on your commute
- Go to Eucharistic Adoration
- Join a Bible study
- Pray as a family

## Fasting

Giving up things for Lent can be a powerful experience, especially when we're intentional with our sacrifice. Learning to live with less can help us increase our reliance on God.

Here are some ideas:

- Eating less than normal
- Fasting from things we love, like chocolate or sweets
- Fasting from things that lead us away from God
- Fasting from things that distract us like social media, TV or our phones

## Almsgiving

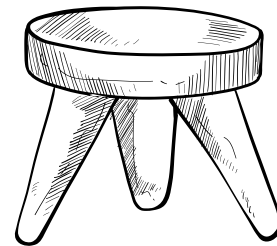
As Christians, Jesus always calls us to serve the poor, but Lent can be a time of giving sacrificially of the resources God has given us.

You could:

- Put money aside as an offering
- Give by supporting a mission
- Volunteer with a non-profit
- Participate in 'Undies Sundays'
- Work to place the needs of others before your own
- Be open to seeing the suffering in the world

## What's the 'Three Legged Stool?'

In our almsgiving, we consider needs at the parish, local and global levels. As you discern your lenten almsgiving, keep in mind the impact you can have in our community and beyond.



### Parish

#### *Catholic Charities Community Services*

Catholic Charities, among a multitude of other services, helps to provide counseling support to parishioners in need. Offering quality behavioral health services here at St. Patrick, these services can change lives, especially in a world grappling with mental health challenges. Enclosed in this mailing, you'll find an envelope for you to be able to give to support these programs.

### Local

#### *Habitat for Humanity*

St. Patrick has long been a partner with Habitat, who provides affordable housing to families in central Arizona. For 24 years, St. Patrick has been partnering with Habitat, contributing \$50k to build two homes per year for families in need. In 2024, St. Patrick will complete its 50th build with Habitat. Including a donation in the provided envelope goes to support this longstanding relationship.

### Global

#### *Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl*

As the official humanitarian agency of Catholics in the US, Catholic Relief Services works to assist the poor and suffering in 91 countries, without regard for race, religion or nationality. As a tool and fun activity to guide your giving, we'll have the familiar rice bowls available in the Narthex during Lent.



### Scan the QR code to learn more!

Using your phone's camera, scan the code to learn more about Lent at St. Patrick.

Or go to: [stpatcc.org/lent](https://stpatcc.org/lent)

### Follow us on social media:



@stpatrickscottsdale



St. Patrick Lenten Calendar

# February 2024

Hang this on your fridge to follow along as we enter into Lent!



**ST. PATRICK**  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES IN MISSION

SUN

MON

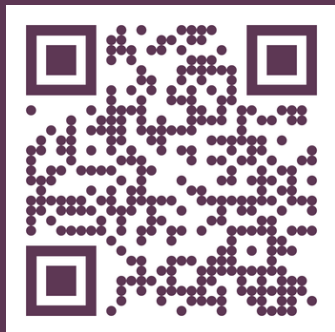
TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT



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### Ash Wednesday Schedule

*\*Ashes distributed at all Services*

6:30 am Word Service in Daily Mass Chapel  
8 am Mass in Church  
10 am Word Service in Church  
12:05 pm Mass in Church (livestreamed)  
4:15 pm Family & Youth Word Service in Church  
5:30 pm Word Service in Church

14  
*Ash Wednesday*  
**View Schedule to Left**  
**1-3 pm:**  
Reconciliation

18 *1st Sunday of Lent*

19

20  
**6:30 pm:**  
New Parishioner  
Orientation

21  
**6-7:30 pm:**  
Reconciliation  
(Two Priests)

22

23

24  
**9-11:30 am:**  
Kevin Saunders  
Bible Study

25 *2nd Sunday of Lent*

26

27  
**6:30 pm:**  
Taize Prayer

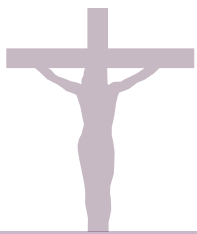
28  
**6-7:30 pm:**  
Reconciliation  
(Two Priests)

29

1 | March

2

Anointing of the  
Sick after all  
weekend Masses



St. Patrick Lenten Calendar

# March 2024



**ST. PATRICK**  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES IN MISSION

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	4	5 <b>6:30 pm:</b> Come Fill the Well	6 <b>6-7:30 pm:</b> Reconciliation (Two Priests)	7	8	9 <b>9-11:30 am:</b> Kevin Saunders Bible Study
10 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	11	12	13 <b>6-7:30 pm:</b> Reconciliation (Two Priests)	14	15 <b>6:30 pm:</b> St. Patrick's Day Celebration Dinner	16 <b>8:30 am:</b> Women's Prayer Breakfast w/ Becky Eldridge
17 <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>  Becky Eldridge speaking at all weekend Masses	18 <b>9 am &amp; 6:30 pm:</b> Talks w/ Becky Eldridge	19 <i>Solemnity of St. Joseph</i>	20 <b>6-7:30 pm:</b> Reconciliation (Two Priests)	21	22	23 <b>9-11:30 am:</b> Kevin Saunders Bible Study  <b>4:30 pm:</b> Palm Sunday Mass
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i>  <b>Regular Mass Schedule:</b> 8:30 & 10:30 am, 5 pm	25	26	27 <b>6-8 pm:</b> Lent Penance Service (Multiple Priests)	28 <i>Holy Thursday</i>  <b>7 pm:</b> Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration	29 <i>Good Friday</i>  <b>12 pm:</b> Family Stations of the Cross <b>7 pm:</b> Liturgy of the Passion	30 <b>11 am:</b> Easter Basket Blessing  <b>7 pm:</b> Easter Vigil <i>No 4:30 pm Mass</i>
31 <i>Easter Sunday</i>  <b>Easter Mass:</b> 8:30 & 10:30 am, 12:30 pm  <i>No 5 pm Mass</i>	<div><h2>Lenten Observances</h2><p>Our faith gives us many traditions that help us live into the Lenten season. Below are encouraged practices for Catholics:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday</li><li>Abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent</li></ul></div>					