

Saint Peter Catholic Church

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Lent 2009

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

“Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel’” (Mark 1:15). This exhortation of Jesus is addressed to you and me today: **Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel!** It was in the waters of the **Sacrament of Baptism** that the Lord purified us from our sins and gave us a new birth in the Holy Spirit (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1262). The season of **Lent** is that time when we – ever more attentive to the Word of God and **prayer** – prepare ourselves by **penance** for the renewal of our baptismal promises at Easter. Besides prayer and penance, the **giving of alms** to help the poor and needy is a third traditional element for our Lenten spiritual renewal. Indeed, this threefold spiritual program is set out for us by Jesus Himself in the Gospel According to Saint Matthew (6:1-18).

Enclosed please find a **parish calendar** listing the many opportunities provided for you by Saint Peter Parish to ready yourself for our celebration of the saving Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. You may also check our website at **www.saintpetercatholic.com**. During this Lent, I encourage you to rededicate yourself to **prayer**, your loving conversation with God. In addition to carving out time for prayer **at home and as a family**, essential to any Lenten spiritual program is regular participation in the **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass** in observance of the **Lord’s Day** (Vigil on Saturday at 4:00 pm, Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:00 am). As your schedule allows, you might additionally assist at **Mass** celebrated on **weekdays** at 8:00 am (Wednesday through Saturday) and 5:15 pm (Tuesday and Friday). Also, consider spending some quiet time **before the Blessed Sacrament which is exposed continuously for 24 hours** beginning after the Wednesday morning 8:00 Mass and concluding with Benediction before the Thursday morning 8:00 Mass. Every Tuesday evening at 6:00 there is **solemn sung Evening Prayer** (Vespers) and on Wednesday, March 18, there is **solemn sung Evening Prayer with Benediction**. On Fridays the **Stations of the Cross** are prayed at 12:10 pm followed by the **soup luncheon** (homemade soup and bread) served in Kolbe Hall.

We have the opportunity to do **penance** in union with our Catholic brothers and sisters around the world as we follow the universal Church Lenten discipline regarding fasting and abstinence. Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent are days of **abstinence from eating meat** for those 14 years of age and older. In addition, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of **fasting** (one full meal, two smaller meals) for those who are 18, but not yet 59. Also, there are expanded opportunities for you to receive the **Sacrament of Penance**. **Confessions** are heard Wednesday through Saturday at 7:00 am, Tuesday and Friday at 4:15 pm, Saturday afternoon from 2:45 to 3:45, and Sunday morning from 7:00 to 7:45. Additionally, there are two all-day Saturday sessions of Confessions (9:00 am to Noon and 1:00 to 3:45 pm) on March 14 and March 28.

In order to enrich and inspire, we will watch immediately before Mass a brief **video** produced by Catholics Come Home (www.catholicscomehome.org) on the first three Sundays of Lent while on the Fourth Sunday we will see the award-winning **Fishers of Men**. On the Fifth Sunday of Lent we will hear **parishioners’ personal testimonies of faith** at all the Masses. Finally, continuing our observance of the Year of Saint Paul proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI, Phil Lawson and I will offer a **four-part series on the life and message of Saint Paul** on Wednesdays (March 4, 11, 18, and 25) at 6:30 pm.

May the Lord richly bless you and your loved ones during this Lenten season. Saints Peter and Paul, pray for us! Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

In the Lord,

Rev. Kevin C. Louis
Pastor

Reverend Kevin C. Louis, S.T.L., Pastor
Reverend Keith Kitzhaber, Pacelli/Saint Peter Middle School Chaplain, In Residence