

LENT
AT SAINT PAUL CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE
2010

The Lent-Triduum-Easter cycle is a journey from the water into the desert, back to the water and while still wet, out to the world. Immediately after his baptism, Jesus went into the desert wilderness. For forty days he was alone there fasting, praying and confronting temptation. In conscious imitation of the Master, we go into the desert, also keeping a fast of forty days.

Like Jesus, most of us enter the desert of Lent after baptism. But the memory of that encounter with the water of life sustains us in the dryness of the wilderness. We go forward in the company of those who are preparing for the Easter sacraments. We go into the desert with them to renew our own thirst, to intensify our own longing for the living water that only God can give us. If we do not thirst or if we not recognize our thirst, we will not be drawn to the waters that sustain our life.

The purpose of Lent, then, is to reawaken our thirst, to help us recognize that not only are we thirsty, but for what it is that we thirst, and where we can go to have that thirst satisfied. Having thus been refreshed by waters that only Jesus can give, we move on to be engaged in the church's mission as Christians renewed by the Lenten-Easter mysteries.

The following is a listing of opportunities available to you as you embark on your own journey.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday – Ashes will be distributed during Mass at 8:00 am, 12:00, 5:15 pm - upper church

Daily Mass

Monday – Friday at 8:00 am, 12 noon-upper church; Saturday - 9:00 am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil – 5:00 pm; Sunday - 7:30 am, 9:30 am (Parish Adult Choir), 11:00 am (Boston Boy Choir & St. Paul Men's Schola), 5:00 pm (Student Mass in lower church).

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesdays – 6:30 - 8:00 pm – upper church – *The Light Is On For You*

Thursdays – 1:30 – 3:30 pm – upper church

Saturdays - 3:00 - 4:30 pm, or by appointment – upper church.

Triduum

The full Triduum schedule will be published later in Lent, but please note that morning Mass times for Palm Sunday, Easter are as follows: 7:30 am, **9:00 am**, 11:00 am.

SPIRITUALITY OPPORTUNITIES

CSPC Presents: *Spirituality for a Time of Financial Crisis*

On Saturday, Feb. 27, the CSPC Committee will sponsor a half-day morning program of reflection at Spaulding Hospital, Cambridge (formerly Youville). The theme will be *Spirituality for a Time of Financial Crisis*. The program will be led by St. Paul parishioner Dr. Robert L. Weber. There will be a free-will offering for this event. To register, please contact CSPC secretary Dierdre O'Donnell-Griswold at secretary@saint-paul-cspc.org.

Lenten Bible Study

The Book of Revelation is the topic of the Little Rock Scripture Study Group. We meet in rm. 201 of the parish center on Sundays 1:00-2:30 pm, or Tuesdays 6:00-7:30 pm. The program includes individual study, prayer, small group discussion and video lectures. For more information, contact Ron at (617) 734-7425 or ronchechoo@yahoo.com.

St. Paul's Friday Night at the Movies

Join fellow parishioners on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Student Center lounge for a series of films chosen for their artistic merit and ability to provoke a serious discussion about Christian values. Everyone is welcome; there is no fee

Small Faith Groups

These small groups will focus on the Sunday Scripture readings. Meetings at different times and days afford a multiplicity of opportunities for participation. There will also be an on-line group. Sign up sheets will be available in the church vestibule this weekend (Feb. 13/14).

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are led by the Harvard Student Association on Lenten Fridays – 3:30 pm – upper church

LENTEN DAILY REFLECTIONS

Each week during the Lenten season a flier entitled *Take Five for Lent* will be available at the back of the church. This flier will offer a short, inspiring faith reflection for every Lenten weekday, as well as an easy action step to concretize the reflection. A Lenten practice does not need to take much time. It simply requires desire and focus. God can do much with that. These handouts will give you a focus. Pray that you might be given the desire.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Lenten Lunches

The Homeless Outreach Committee will begin its series of Lenten Lunches on Wednesdays, Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 at 12:30 pm, in the lower church. Contributions of prepared dishes, fresh fruit, cookies and snacks should be dropped off at the parish center no later than 11:00 am on each Wednesday (or anytime during business hours the day before). Items needing to be thawed or reheated should have instructions attached. If you would like to prepare a dish, help with set-up, food distribution, clean up, or hospitality, call Carol at (617) 666-2855 or Mercedes at (617) 492-7047.

Operation Rice Bowl

Operation Rice Bowl, a Lenten project sponsored by the Catholic Relief Services of the United States Catholic Conference, is an opportunity to identify with and assist the poor in this country and overseas. The program has four components: prayer, fasting, education and almsgiving. We encourage you to take home a "Rice Bowl" container and a home calendar guide. Both items are to found in the church vestibule. Let our Lenten spirituality be rooted in solidarity with people everywhere, especially with the poor. Rice Bowls should be returned at the Holy Thursday Liturgy, when it is suggested that there be a "procession of the faithful with gifts for the poor."

LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Abstinence

Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligations of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence meat may not be used at all.

Fast

Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their sixtieth year, are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

On all the other weekdays of Lent, the Church urges its members to participate in the Eucharist, to pray regularly and to take up the voluntary observance of fasting. In particular, during Lent it is commendable to participate in those programs like "Rice Bowl" or our Lenten meals which share our abundance with the less fortunate in our world.

IN NEIGHBORING PARISHES

<u>Ash Wednesday</u>	<u>St. Peter</u>	8:00 am, 12:00 noon, 3:00, 7:00 pm
<u>Daily Mass</u>		8:00 am, Monday–Saturday
<u>Ash Wednesday</u>	<u>St. John the Evangelist</u>	7:00 am, 12:10 pm, 6:30 pm
<u>Daily Mass</u>		7:00 am, Monday-Friday, 9:00 am Saturday
<u>Ash Wednesday</u>	<u>St Mary</u>	8:00 am, 12:10 noon (English), 7:30 pm (Spanish)
<u>Daily Mass</u>		8:00 am

