

Our Lady of Good Counsel
Religious Education Ministry
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Lent, 2012

Dear Parents and Special People,

A Lenten Prayer

*Heavenly Father,
you sent your Son to be a light for the world.
By the power of this light,
may the discouraged find hope,
the lost find guidance,
and the anxious find peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

(LTP, 2012, Children's Daily Prayer Book)

As we ponder quietly in our hearts how Jesus is a light in our lives, we encourage you to illuminate your families' lives this Lent through the celebration of weekly Mass, through participation in Lenten devotions, such as Stations of the Cross (Fridays at 7:00 pm), and acts of outreach to those in need in parish, community, and beyond.

May our Lenten promises teach us to thank God for every moment of life as we ready ourselves to celebrate the joy of Easter.

Yours in Christ,



Dr. Linda M. Dix

Ash Wednesday Parish Distribution of Ashes

Wednesday, February 22 – Main Church



6:30 am Mass
9:00 am Mass
12:00 Noon Prayer Service
4:00 pm Prayer Service
7:00 pm Mass

Ashes for the Homebound are available in baskets in the back of the Main Church.

Stations of the Cross Presided by our Parish Deacons



Religious Education Students
March 12, 13, and 15: 4:15 pm - Main Church

Good Counsel Students
Fridays in Lent: During class hours - Main church

Parish Families
Fridays in Lent: February 24, March 2, 9, 16, and 23 - 7:00 pm - Main Church

Living Stations

Parish Families:
Friday, March 30 – 7:00 pm

*Good Counsel School Students
and Families:*
Thursday, April 5 – 10:00 am



*Living Stations are portrayed by the
Grade 8 students of
Our Lady of Good Counsel School.*

Presentations are in the Main Church

Seven Last Words of Christ

Palm Sunday, April 1
Good Friday, April 6
7:00 pm in the Main Church



*Seven Last Words of Christ are
prayerfully presented by members
of the Parish Youth Group
accompanied
by the Parish String Ensemble.*

Chrism Mass

Monday, April 2, 7:30 pm
Cathedral of Saint Mary in Trenton

Open to all parishioners, and in particular, our eighth
grade students and participants in the Initiation
Process



A school bus will depart Good Counsel 5:30 pm

A brief social follows Mass, with light refreshments
and an opportunity to meet Bishop O'Connell.

We return to Good Counsel approximately 10:30 pm

The Diocesan Festival Choir, under the direction of
Mr. Lucasi, will provide the music for this liturgy.

Parish Lenten Reconciliation Liturgy

Tuesday, April 3
7:00 pm - Main Church



*Come and celebrate the Sacrament
of Reconciliation
this Lent with Parish Families!*

Family Activities for Lent:

1. Look for ways to share the love which God has so generously given us. Send a note of appreciation to someone with whom we interact. Send a cheery card to someone whose spirits need to be raised.
2. Children can meditate by completing incomplete sentences and then drawing pictures that illustrate the sentence they have written. Examples: *God is... Jesus is...Love is...Lent is... A Catholic is... Faith is... The Church is...*
3. Throughout Lent (*about 10 minutes a night?*) take turns reading to each other. One suggestion: *The Tale of the Three Trees*. When you have finished, discuss why this is a good Easter story.
4. Display Baptism pictures of the family. Discuss what they represent.
5. Write a family covenant. How will you as a family promise to spend your forty days?
6. Prepare a Lenten Christ Candle, symbol of Christ as the light of our world. Decorate it with family mementos. Add a touch of purple to signify forgiveness. Light the candle each evening as a conscious family symbol of Christ's presence in your life.
7. Choose one day each week on which you can have an inexpensive soup or cereal supper. Donate the money saved to the hungry.
8. For younger children, make a cloth or paper cross of purple for the refrigerator door as a reminder of penitence, humility, and suffering.
9. Make a belief poster on cardboard that children can decorate. Work on the poster throughout Lent. Some suggestions are:
 - Believe in yourself; you are God's creation.
 - Believe in your job; honest work is a form of worship.
 - Believe in your family; create harmony and togetherness by working together.
 - Believe in your neighbor; friends are an important ingredient of a happy life.
 - Believe in the present; yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come.
 - Believe in God's promise; God meant it when God said, "*I am with you always.*"
 - Believe in God's mercy; since God forgives you, you can forgive yourself and try again tomorrow.
 - Believe in Christ's presence in your life; Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
10. Give up things. Since Lent is a time of personal and communal conversion, it is an especially fitting time to cut back on life's extras. However, the purpose of Lent is not solely to give up things; it is to turn our lives from what does not really satisfy and to fill ourselves with God's life. Our culture promises fulfillment through material things. Finding something "to do without" can remind us that our hearts desire can be filled only by God.