

What are the origins of Lent? Did the Church always have this time before Easter? Part 1

Lent is a special time of prayer, penance, sacrifice and good works in preparation of the celebration of Easter. In the desire to renew the liturgical practices of the Church, The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican Council II stated, "The two elements which are especially characteristic of Lent — the recalling of baptism or the preparation for it, and penance — should be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. It is by means of them that the Church prepares the faithful for the celebration of Easter, while they hear God's word more frequently and devote more time to prayer" (no. 109). The word Lent itself is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words *lencen*, meaning "Spring," and *lencentid*, which literally means not only "Springtide" but also was the word for "March," the month in which the majority of Lent falls.

Since the earliest times of the Church, there is evidence of some kind of Lenten preparation for Easter. For instance, St. Irenaeus (d. 203) wrote to Pope St. Victor I, commenting on the celebration of Easter and the differences between practices in the East and the West: "The dispute is not only about the day, but also about the actual character of the fast. Some think that they ought to fast for one day, some for two, others for still more; some make their 'day' last 40 hours on end. Such variation in the observance did not originate in our own day, but very much earlier, in the time of our forefathers" (Eusebius, *History of the Church*, V, 24) When Rufinus translated this passage from Greek into Latin, the punctuation made between "40" and "hours" made the meaning to appear to be "40 days, twenty-four hours a day." The importance of the passage, nevertheless, remains that since the time of "our forefathers" — always an expression for the apostles — a 40-day period of Lenten preparation existed. However, the actual practices and duration of Lent were still not homogenous throughout the Church.

Lent becomes more regularized after the legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313. The Council of Nicea (325), in its disciplinary canons, noted that two provincial synods should be held each year, "one before the 40 days of Lent." St. Athanasius (d. 373) in his "Festal Letters" implored his congregation to make a 40-day fast prior to the more intense fasting of Holy Week. St. Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386) in his Catechetical Lectures, which are the paradigm for our current RCIA programs, had 18 pre-baptismal instructions given to the catechumens during Lent. St. Cyril of Alexandria (d. 444) in his series of "Festal Letters" also noted the practices and duration of Lent, emphasizing the 40-day period of fasting. Finally, Pope St. Leo (d. 461) preached that the faithful must "fulfill with their fasts the Apostolic institution of the 40 days," again noting the apostolic origins of Lent. One can safely conclude that by the end of the fourth century, the 40-day period of Easter preparation known as Lent existed, and that prayer and fasting constituted its primary spiritual exercises.

- Rev. William P. Saunders
(Part 2 of the Article coming next Week)



MASS INTENTIONS



For the Week of March 19, 2019 – March 24, 2019

8:00 A.M. – Tuesday March 19

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Rai & Thaddeus Pellegrin, Randy & Ken, L.D. Donaldson family, Cecile Fabre, Edward Chwalek

8:00 A.M. – Wednesday March 20

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Russell Guilfou (B), Maria Chwalek

8:00 A.M. – Thursday March 21

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Holy Souls in Purgatory, Russell Guilfou

8:00 A.M. - Friday, March 22

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Jerry & Matthew Arceneaux, Cecile Fabre, Emsy, Beldon Foret & sons

4:00P.M. - Saturday, March 23

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Crystal Naquin Hebert, Loyd Savin Carmen, Ann & Michael Boquet, Eldred & MayBelle Ellender, Carmen, Ann & Michael Boquet, Wilbert & Elsie Hebert, Linda Ann Hebert, Salome H. Matherne, Matthew S. Matherne, Peter W. Hebert, Samuel Dominic Hebert, Michael Lee McGee, Wayne G. Cancienne, Wilbert Dupre Sr., Kenneth J. Breaux, , Jerry & Matthew Arceneaux, Albert Pinell Sr., Mr. & Mrs., Carl Boquet, Linda & Parish Boquet, Jerry & Gertrude Aucoin, Eric, Joel & Frank Rogers, Julius Boquet, Ruth Pinell, Cecile Fabre

8:00A.M. - Sunday, March 24

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Lawrence & Eula Mazerac, Judith & Donald Lirette Jr., Rhea P. Voisin, Eddie Voisin Jr., Sue Bueche, Mary Eve & Vayne Bascle, Lionel Bascle family, Arthe' Breaux family, Arthur Lee Fabre, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Fabre, Mr. & Mrs. Irby Petit, Aubrey Lee Boquet, Cindy R. Broussard, Erous Eschete, Vin & Joyce LeBlanc family, Gilbert & Rita Bergeron family, Rachel Falgout (B), Tammy & Corey Johnson (WA), Christopher Madere

10:00A.M. - Sunday, March 24

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Keri Lynn Niette, Norris & Diana Bourg, Melvin Hebert, Ruth Pinell Herbert, Celina, Joyce, Deborah & Ronald Belanger, Rosie & Richard Lafont, Brian Authement, Ruth Hebert



~*~ *Eternal rest grant unto them, O` Lord* ~*~

We pray for the repose of the soul of

~Mrs. Cecile Fabre~

~*~ *May her family and friends find comfort and consolation* ~*~

MEMORIALS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 17, 2019

The Sanctuary light burns this week in memory of the

Fabre, Fanguy & Robichaux families

requested by Steve & Suzanne.

The Altar Candles burn this week in memory of *Loyd Savin* requested by his wife and children.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

March 9 & 10 2019:

Envelopes: \$4350.00 + Loose: \$1358.00 + \$1023.00 (Online)

Thank you for your generosity!

YOUTH FORMATION NIGHTS:

Monday 7-8:15 p.m. (6th-10th) **Tuesday 6-7:00 p.m. (K-5)**

March 25th March 26th
 April 15th & 29th April 16th & 30th

If you have any questions please Call Lisa L. @ 985-852-2007

First Communion practice:

March 26th during class

First Communion Mass:

Sunday, March 31st at 2 p.m

Cake and punch reception to follow in the center

Nazareth Night!!

Sunday, March 31 at 5:00 p.m.

Nazareth night is a ministry meant to support families.

The night consists of music, spiritual talk/teaching, adoration/benediction, followed by a pot luck supper.

All ages are welcome!

+WAY OF THE CROSS+

All Friday's in Lent there will be a Children's Way of the Cross at 5 P.M.

Mass will be celebrated at 6 P.M. followed by the Way of the Cross.

There will be NO Mass on Friday mornings during Lent.

Mondays in Lent:

+ Mass will be offered on Mondays in Lent at 6:00 p.m. +

ST. ANN LENTEN MISSION NIGHTS:

Thursday, March 21 at 6 P.M

Thursday, March 28 at 6 P.M

Thursday, April 3 at 6 P.M

Please consider praying for a Priest/Seminarian on the designated days below:

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 Seminarian Joseph L.	11 Seminarian Piotr Klewek	12 Rev. Michael B.	13 Rev. Joey Lirette	14 Rev. Andre Melancon	15 Rev. Antonio Speedy	16 Seminarian Matthew Prosperie
17 Rev. Roch Naquin	18 Rev. Wilfredo Decal	19 Rev. Ty Nguyen	20 Seminarian Caleb Anderson	21 Rev. Jerry Villarubia	22 Bishop Sam Jacobs	23 Rev. Sovi DeVasia
24 Rev. Alex Gaudet	25 Rev. Joe Varughese	26 Rev. Joey Pilola	27 Seminarian Stephen Castille	28 Rev. Glenn LeCompte	29 Msgr. Cletus Egbi	30 Rev.A. Luzon Jr.,

The Office of Worship:

The Diocesan office of Worship is inviting choir members, vocalists and cantors from every parish in the diocese to participate in a diocesan choir for both the Chrism Mass and Priesthood ordination this year.

The Chrism Mass is on Holy Thursday morning, April 18, 2019 at 10:30 AM at the Cathedral of St. Francis de Sales, Houma. Music Rehearsals for the Chrism Mass are Thursdays, April 4 and 11, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Cathedral.

The Priesthood Ordination is on Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the Cathedral. Music rehearsals for the Chrism Mass are Fridays, May 24 and 31, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Cathedral.

It is necessary for choir members to make the rehearsals to participate.

Annual Bishop's Appeal:

On behalf of our seminarians, retired priests, and all who will benefit from the Annual Bishop's Appeal, we express our gratitude to all of our parishioners who have made a gift to the 2019 Annual Bishop's Appeal. Each donation truly makes a difference. St Ann Parish has reached 36.73% of our goal. If you have not made a pledge and wish to help our parish reach its goal please go to the diocese website hdiocese.org for more information or call the parish office.

CHURCH CLEANING: Week of March 24 – Sam & Regina, Debbie T., Doris A., Stella

MASSES	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	COMMENTATOR/ LECTOR	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS
<u>March 23 & 24</u>				
SATURDAY 4:00P.M.	Adrian, Debra L Sue, Steve	Hayes, Connie	Mason, Grace	Steve H., Jan
SUNDAY 8:00A.M.	Tim, Mona Doug, Bert	David, Nick	Lee, Volunteer	Butch, Leroy, Walton
10:00A.M.	Leroy, Lisa, Connie	Cindy, Alaina	Zack, Bailey, Destiny, Madison	Kenneth, Joseph

