

**What are the origins of Lent? Did the Church always have this time before Easter? Part 2**

Of course, the number "40" has always had special spiritual significance regarding preparation. On Mount Sinai, preparing to receive the Ten Commandments, "Moses stayed there with the Lord for 40 days and 40 nights, without eating any food or drinking any water" (Ex 34:28). Elijah walked "40 days and 40 nights" to the mountain of the Lord, Mount Horeb (another name for Sinai) (I Kgs 19:8). Most importantly, Jesus fasted and prayed for "40 days and 40 nights" in the desert before He began His public ministry (Mt 4:2).

Once the 40 days of Lent were established, the next development concerned how much fasting was to be done. In Jerusalem, for instance, people fasted for 40 days, Monday through Friday, but not on Saturday or Sunday, thereby making Lent last for eight weeks. In Rome and in the West, people fasted for six weeks, Monday through Saturday, thereby making Lent last for six weeks. Eventually, the practice prevailed of fasting for six days a week over the course of six weeks, and Ash Wednesday was instituted to bring the number of fast days before Easter to 40. The rules of fasting varied. First, some areas of the Church abstained from all forms of meat and animal products, while others made exceptions for food like fish. For example, Pope St. Gregory (d. 604), writing to St. Augustine of Canterbury, issued the following rule: "We abstain from flesh, meat, and from all things that come from flesh, as milk, cheese and eggs."

Nevertheless, I was always taught, "If you gave something up for the Lord, tough it out. Don't act like a Pharisee looking for a loophole." Second, the general rule was for a person to have one meal a day, in the evening or at 3 p.m.

These Lenten fasting rules also evolved. Eventually, a smaller repast was allowed during the day to keep up one's strength from manual labor. Eating fish was allowed, and later eating meat was also allowed through the week except on Ash Wednesday and Friday. Dispensations were given for eating dairy products if a pious work was performed, and eventually this rule was relaxed totally. (However, the abstinence from even dairy products led to the practice of blessing Easter eggs and eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday.)

Over the years, modifications have been made to the Lenten observances, making our practices not only simple but also easy. Ash Wednesday still marks the beginning of Lent, which lasts for 40 days, not including Sundays. The present fasting and abstinence laws are very simple: On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the faithful fast (having only one full meal a day and smaller snacks to keep up one's strength) and abstain from meat; on the other Fridays of Lent, the faithful abstain from meat. People are still encouraged "to give up something" for Lent as a sacrifice. (An interesting note is that technically on Sundays and solemnities like St. Joseph's Day (March 19) and the Annunciation (March 25), one is exempt and can partake of whatever has been offered up for Lent.

Nevertheless, I was always taught, "If you gave something up for the Lord, tough it out. Don't act like a Pharisee looking for a loophole." Moreover, an emphasis must be placed on performing spiritual works, like attending the Stations of the Cross, attending Mass, making a weekly holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, taking time for personal prayer and spiritual reading and most especially making a good confession and receiving sacramental absolution. Although the practices may have evolved over the centuries, the focus remains the same: to repent of sin, to renew our faith and to prepare to celebrate joyfully the mysteries of our salvation.

- Rev. William P. Saunders

**Schedule of Events:****Monday March 25**

5:30 Confessions

6:00 p.m. Mass

7:00 p.m. youth formation (6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>)

**Tuesday, March 26**

7:30 a.m. Confessions

8:00 a.m. Mass

6:00 p.m. youth formation (k-5<sup>th</sup>)

**Wednesday, March 27**

7:30 a.m. Confessions

8:00 a.m. Mass

**Thursday, March 28**

7:30 a.m. Confessions

8:00 a.m. Mass  
6:00 p.m. Lenten Mission night #2  
**Friday, March 29**  
5:00p.m. Children's Way of the Cross  
6:00 p.m. Mass/Way of the Cross  
**Saturday, March 30**  
3:30 Confessions  
4:00 p.m. mass  
(KC's selling tickets for chicken dinner)  
**Sunday, March 31**  
(KC's selling tickets for chicken dinner)  
7:30 a.m. Confessions  
8:00 a.m. Mass  
9:30 Confessions  
10:00 a.m. Mass  
2:00 p.m. First Communion Mass  
5:00 p.m. Nazareth Night



**MASS INTENTIONS**



**For the Week of March 26, 2019 – March 31, 2019**

**8:00 A.M. – Tuesday March 26**

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

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Rai & Thaddeus Pellegrin, Amy Bourg (B),  
Penny Simmons, Geraldine Donaldson, Maria Chwalek*

**8:00 A.M. – Wednesday March 27**

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

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Cammy Naquin Carrere*

**8:00 A.M. – Thursday March 28**

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

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Holy Souls in Purgatory, Horace Boquet*

**Friday, March 29**

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

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Priests & Seminarians, Emsy, Beldon Foret & Sons, Cecile Fabre*

**4:00P.M. - Saturday, March 30**

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

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Loyd Savin, Eldred & MayBelle Ellender, 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.,  
Jerry & Matthew Arceneaux, Keri Lynn Niette, Eric, Joel & Frank Rogers, Clinton & Wilma Picou,  
Ruth Pinell, Ramos & Coralie Hornsby, Jimmie & Virgie Prosperie, Cecile Fabre, Julie Braud, Pearl Ferry*

**8:00A.M. - Sunday, March 31**

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

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Lawrence & Eula Mazerac, 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, Vin & Joyce LeBlanc family,  
Gilbert & Rita Bergeron family, Sterling & Mary Ellen Authement, Sterling Authement Jr,  
Mark & Randy Naquin, Marion & Irma Bascle, Norman & Eunice Falgout, Eugene & Leona Theriot,  
Israel & Mae Authement, Tel Meeker, Larry Falgout, Dean & Dot Bascle, David & Iris Bascle,  
Tessa Dupre, Allen Theriot, Craig Dupre, Butch, Eugene Theriot Jr., Earline Theriot, David Percle,*

*Francis & Iris Theriot, Patricia Grabert, Becky Gautreaux, Phillip Theriot, David Massey, Jenna Theriot, Norman Falgout Jr., Chris Boudreaux, James Bergeron, Margie & Elton Thibodaux, Paul Jackson, Angela Authement, Meva Blanchard, Christopher Madere, Dorina Dupius, Ruth Pinell, Wilma, Eugene & John Dusenbery, Ella Mae Guidry, Jesse Fanguy Sr., Ann Hebert, Veronica Trahan, Terry Lirette, Amelie Thibodeaux, Clyde Pitre, Clyde, Elizabeth & Curtis Lirette, Matthew & David Naquin Sr, Andrew Sr., Edna, Elie, Morris, Bruce Pitre, Special intention, Marie Gaston*

**10:00A.M. - Sunday, March 31**

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

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Norris & Diana Bourg, Melvin Hebert, Herbert, Celina, Joyce, Deborah & Ronald Belanger, Rosie & Richard Lafont, Ruth Hebert, Cecile Fabre, Jenny H. Picou*

**MEMORIALS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 24, 2019**

The Sanctuary light burns this week in memory of the *Fabre, Fanguy & Robichaux families* requested by Steve & Suzanne.

The 3 Altar candles burn in memory of *Jerry & Matthew Arceneaux* requested by Mrs. Arceneaux.  
The Altar Bread is in memory of *Erous Eschete* requested by Linda McMath.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

**March 16 & 17 2019:** Envelopes: \$2935.00 +Loose: \$802.00+ \$ 920.99 (Online)

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**The Knights of Columbus:**

St. Ann's Knights of Columbus will begin selling tickets for a BBQ chicken dinner at all Masses on March 23- April 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$10.00 and the dinner will include: ½ chicken, Baked Beans, potato salad and bread. The parish center will be open for anyone who would like to eat inside. The meals will be available for pick up on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**A GATHERING FOR LADIES**

Ladies, do you crave some time to get away from the daily grind? Some time to be with other women and share stories? Some time to be alone and pray? All Ladies 18+ are invited to join us for **"Our Ladies' Morning"**, our new ladies group! We will meet together on **First Saturdays at 8am mass** to pray for our families, our intentions, and for vocations. Afterwards, we will share a **potluck breakfast**. So spread the word to family and friends, and we hope to see all the ladies on **Saturday, April 6th!** **Babysitting will be provided!** Please contact Lisa Lapeyrouse for more information 985-852-2007

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

**March 2019**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
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.,

**CHURCH CLEANING: Week of March 31** – Kathie B., Betty, Johnnie, Mandy, Susan H.

<b>MASSES</b>	<b>MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST</b>	<b>COMMENTATOR/ LECTOR</b>	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>
<b><u>March 30 &amp; 31</u></b>				
<b>SATURDAY 4:00P.M.</b>	<b>Marianne, Brian, June, Yvonne</b>	<b>Connie, Randolph</b>	<b>Tyler, Grace</b>	<b>Steve B., Dave, Ollie</b>
<b>SUNDAY 8:00A.M.</b>	<b>Christine, Patsy, Jesse, Dana</b>	<b>Nick, Hayes</b>	<b>Lee, Volunteer</b>	<b>Dickie, Bob, Carol</b>
<b>10:00A.M.</b>	<b>David, Melissa, Mindy, Cindy D.</b>	<b>Anna, Lisa</b>	<b>Henry, Kailey, Hailey, Brianna</b>	<b>Lanny, Volunteer</b>

