



# St. Rose of Lima Church

## Lent 2017 — Don't Miss it!

February 22, 2017

Dear Friends,

In preparing to begin another Lent, I was haunted by a song from the show Jesus Christ Superstar. It is a song sung by Mary Magdalene and the apostle Peter: **Could We Start Again Please?**

The question keeps resounding in my head and my heart: "Isn't that what Lent is all about?" The question posed by each of us: "Could We Start Again, Please???" And God's resounding answer: YES!

None of us is perfect and despite outward appearances there is brokenness in all of our lives. Each Lent is an opportunity for growth as a human person as a follower of Jesus. It calls us to reflect in honesty and humility on our brokenness—but not only on the brokenness, but on the grace and mercy and forgiveness of God who wants no more than to grace what is broken in our lives.

Unfortunately, Peter and Mary are not asking for a second chance for themselves but rather are looking for a way around the death and resurrection of Jesus. They want things to stay the same — something so many of us want. We are comfortable with the "status quo." Change is difficult.

The song's melody is haunting as Mary Magdalene asks Jesus to start his ministry all over again so it doesn't apparently end on Calvary. But he does go to Calvary and so must we. We are called to die to the old, to the comfortable, to the sinful in our lives in order to rise to something new. This is what our ashes mean. They are not a badge of honor but an outward sign of our humble acknowledgement of our need for God's grace. They are a sign of our willingness to once again make room for that grace, and to allow it to transform us. I don't need your grace and you don't need mine. I think we sometimes think of grace as being the same for everyone so the whole thing is easier to deal with.

We each need Lent as an opportune time to empty ourselves to make room in our lives for that specific grace God offers to each of us as beloved sons and daughters.

When it comes to the three traditions of Lent I wonder if as we start again, we can step out of our comfort zones and approach them a little differently? Not just for the sake of "stepping out," but rather to take an action to enable a deeper conversion.

**Prayer**—spending more time listening in prayer, not necessarily talking all the time. Being quiet in waiting for the answer to the question: "What is God trying to tell me?"

**Fasting**—not just from food or drink, but from the routines we all fall into that prevent us from living consciously. Fasting from the things that dull my awareness of God's presence in my life at every moment, in every relationship, in every human encounter.

**Almsgiving**—more than the "2 rolls of pennies in the mite box" but rather spending time looking for, finding, and acting in a concrete way to reach out to the poor and the marginalized

**A special invitation:** to those who have stopped coming to Mass with any regularity, please take the opportunity of this Lent to come back and join us for Eucharist on the Sundays of Lent and join all of us in "starting again".

Let us strive to live a holy life as we journey throughout this Season of Lent. As we do, may it lead us to be mindful of the reality around us, our identity and our mission. I pray for a holy, prayerful and fruitful Lenten journey. May we reach Easter with hearts and minds renewed in the Lord!

*Fr John Mc Cross*

# Lent 2017

St. Rose of Lima Short Hills, NJ

ASH WEDNESDAY March 1  
MASSES WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES  
6:45 AM • 9:00 AM • 12 Noon • 7:30 PM  
4:00 PM distribution of ashes *outside of* Mass

SUNDAY MASSES  
5:30 PM Saturday Evening  
7:30 AM • 9:00 AM Family Music Group • 11:00 AM Choir Mass • 12:30 PM

WEEKDAY MASSES  
Mon. - Fri. 6:45 AM • 9:00 AM & Sat. 9:00 AM

THE WAY WALKER SERIES / STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
Fridays of Lent Simple Soup Supper (6:30 PM)  
followed by Stations of the Cross (7:30 PM) with Reflection

SOLEMNITY of the ANNUNCIATION of the LORD  
Saturday, March 25 • 9:00 AM • Bilingual Mass  
CONFESSIONS IN ITALIAN FOLLOWING MASS

TAIZE PRAYER WITH THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE  
April 3 • 7:30 PM  
WEEKLY TIMES FOR PENANCE • SATURDAYS • AFTER THE 9:00 AM MASS & 4:30PM  
PARISH STUDENTS WILL CELEBRATE PENANCE AT SCHEDULED CLASS TIMES.

SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS  
THROUGHOUT THE LENTEN SEASON. ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO  
PARTICIPATE IN A SMALL GROUP GATHERING. TIMES ARE NOTED IN THE BULLETIN.

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 9

SACRED TRIDUUM APRIL 13 - 16

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 16





# Repent and Believe in the Gospel?

## ASH WEDNESDAY

In most parishes the Masses or celebration of the Word of God are filled to capacity. One has to admit, the public proclamation of personal failure isn't actually a common occurrence in our culture.

Yet, year after year, we gather with our brothers and sisters on Ash Wednesday and acknowledge we are sinners. Not only that, but we wear a mark on our foreheads, alerting everyone with whom we come in contact to our failings and sinfulness. So what draws us to the Church on Ash Wednesday? The answer is found in the opening words of the Mass: *You are merciful to all, O Lord.* It is the essential belief in the mercy of God. We recall God's mercy by acknowledging our need for it. If ashes are a sign of our sinfulness, then the cross, the shape the ashes take as they are applied, proclaim even louder that God wants nothing more than to make us whole.

- Todd Williamson

## CAN SMALL CHILDREN RECEIVE ASHES?



There are no age requirements for the celebration or reception of most sacramentals, including blessed ashes. If a child is old enough to experience guilt for bad behavior, he or she is likely old enough to understand the meaning of Lent and the sign of ashes.

But such understanding is NOT a canonical requirement anyway. Even if they lack the use of reason, their reception of the ashes indicates they fully belong to a community in need of forgiveness that wants to be on the Lenten journey of conversion.

## ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK LENTEN REGULATIONS

The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence. On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted and **two (2) smaller meals which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.** Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

1. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially," or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
2. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
3. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty\*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, March 5, 2017 to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, June 11, 2017.**

\*Canon 920, §1. *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

# WAY WALKERS 2017 • MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>



Simple Soup Supper (6:30 PM) sponsored by WORSHIP MINISTRIES  
followed by Stations of the Cross (7:30 PM)  
with reflection by



His Eminence, Cardinal  
Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R

Cardinal Archbishop of  
Archdiocese of Newark

## REFLECTING ON THE WAY WALKER EXPERIENCE

"When our family started regular participation in the Way Walkers Series we viewed it as a nice Lenten sacrifice. However what we discovered was a gift instead. A gift of relationship with God, of inspiring homilies, of a sense of community and great soup! We look forward to attending again this year." —RF



# WAYWALKERS 2017



Simple Soup Supper (6:30 PM) followed by  
Stations of the Cross (7:30 PM) with Reflection

FRIDAY OF LENT	PRESENTER	ORGANIZATION PROVIDING SOUP SUPPER
March 3	Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.	Worship Ministries
March 10	Monsignor Edward Bradley	SRL Ladies Auxiliary
March 17	Bishop Ricardo Ramirez	Knights of Columbus
March 24	Reverend Mark-David Janis, CSP	Religious Ed Board
March 31	Reverend Bowie Snodgrass	SRL Academy Parents
April 7	Reverend Paul Holmes	Madonna dell' Assunta

## YOUTH GROUP LIVING STATIONS

April 9 • 7:30 PM



Our parish will once again be participating in **CRS Rice Bowl**, Catholic Relief Services Lenten program, as a way to deepen our relationship with Christ and bring hope to our brothers and sisters in need, especially the most vulnerable in our world. We invite you to pray, fast, and give to CRS through your enclosed family rice bowl for Lent.

During the Lenten season, you are asked to place this rice bowl on your family table to remind you of those who are hungry throughout the world. Each week, fill the rice bowl with change or bills from sacrifices you've made to help the poor ie. Skip one cup of gourmet coffee, have your child do a special chore, one night a week have a simple supper, or give up a special treat. Every dollar counts.

There will be extra rice bowls available at Way Walkers, Lent Scripture Groups and at the doors of the Church. Students will receive rice bowls during Religious Education.

**Rice bowls are to be returned to church during Holy Week.  
On Holy Thursday, at the Mass of the Lord's Supper rice bowl  
donations will be offered during the collection for the poor.**

When you give to CRS Rice Bowl...

- Lenten alms go to alleviate hunger and poverty in communities overseas and in the U.S.: seventy-five percent of gifts support CRS' humanitarian programs around the world, including in the countries featured in the Lenten calendar. Some examples include:
  - Agriculture projects help farmers improve harvests
  - Water and sanitation projects bring clean water to communities
  - Microfinance projects support small businesses
  - Mother and child health projects offer health and nutrition services
  - Education projects provide resources and training
- In the first 40 years, more than \$250 million has been given through CRS Rice Bowl to support programs that prevent hunger and poverty around the world. Of that, \$62.5 million went to programs in the U.S. through local dioceses and \$187.5 million went to CRS programs overseas.

Scan to start your CRS Rice Bowl experience. Or visit [CRSRicebowl.org](http://CRSRicebowl.org)



# Show Mercy to People Who Need It Most

The corporal works of mercy are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, comfort the sick, visit the imprisoned and bury the dead. The jubilee year of mercy offers a special opportunity to show these works of mercy to people around the world. Here are a few ways you can remember our brothers and sisters overseas this year as you pray, learn, act and give.



## PRAY

Make a commitment to pray each day for poor and vulnerable people worldwide. Not sure where to start? Pray with the daily news headlines. Ask God to bless the people you read about in the paper or on social media.

## LEARN

Take time to become more familiar with the challenges facing our brothers and sisters overseas. Choose an issue you feel moved to learn more about—like hunger, climate change or the refugee crisis—and commit to reading and reflecting on it throughout the year. To learn about how the Church is responding to these issues, visit [crs.org](http://crs.org).

## ACT

It's easy to feel like there's not much we can do to support people we may never meet. These resources can help you show mercy to people in need overseas.

- Support struggling artisans and farmers by purchasing fair trade coffee, chocolate and craft items. When you purchase fair trade items, you ensure that the people who produce them earn a living wage and work in safe conditions. Visit [crs.org/fairtrade](http://crs.org/fairtrade) for more information.
- Urge our nation to act on behalf of the poor through legislative advocacy. Ask your lawmakers to enact policies that help “these least ones” (Matthew 25:40). Catholics Confront Global Poverty represents the official voice of the Catholic Church in the United States on policy issues that improve the lives of poor and vulnerable people overseas. Text CCGP to 30644 or visit [confrontglobalpoverty.org](http://confrontglobalpoverty.org) to learn more.
- Finally, devote this Lent to an intentional practice of mercy through CRS Rice Bowl, a Lenten faith in action program that invites you to pray, fast and give to people in need worldwide. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org).

## GIVE

Catholic Relief Services lives out the corporal works of mercy on behalf of Catholics in the United States by serving the poor in more than 100 countries. You can help contribute to our efforts to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty by visiting [gifts.crs.org](http://gifts.crs.org).

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. We are motivated by the example of Jesus Christ to assist poor and suffering people in more than 100 countries on the basis of need, without regard to race, religion or nationality.





# Getting Ready for Lent

Conversations that Matter!

## St. Rose of Lima Parish Scripture Groups for Lent 2017

+ Get more out of the season of Lent

- + Learn more about Scripture
- + Deepen your faith and prayer life
- + Join with others for fellowship and community

### Sign-Up for a Scripture Group

by mail, email, website or card in box at doors of the church  
For a beautiful video on St. Rose small groups, look at Small Faith Communities: Why Small Groups.

Lent Groups will begin the week of February 26  
and end the week before Palm Sunday

For more information, contact Sr. Donna at 973-376-1960 x. 3501 or Email: [srdonna@stroseshorthills.org](mailto:srdonna@stroseshorthills.org)

**From our Parishioners...**

I have thoroughly enjoyed the Lent small groups. Hearing how others reflect on the scripture and the season and apply to their lives is what keeps me going!

The quality of people in the groups is outstanding. The small groups provide a great environment to explore our faith with support.

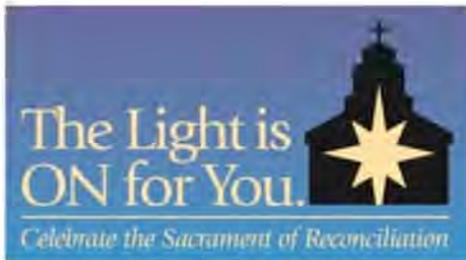
+ St. Rose of Lima Parish Lent Faith Reflection Groups +  
Sign-up Card 2017

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ If you are interested in being a facilitator check here \_\_\_\_\_

Lent groups begin the week of Ash Wednesday February 26 and end before Holy Week	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				6:00 AM Men's Prayer Group Ryan Hall		7:15 AM Convent	No Groups on Saturday
	10 AM Sr. Donna's Office Devine Center	10 AM Dougherty Center		8:00 AM Women's Prayer Group Convent	10 AM Mothers' Group Ryan Hall	W A Y W A L K E R S	
			1:30 PM Dougherty Center				
		7:00 PM Sr. Donna's Office Devine Center		6:30 PM			

# Why Go to Confession During Lent?



Even when the door that Baptism opened to enter into the Church is closed a bit because of our weakness and our sins, Confession reopens it, because it is like a second Baptism that forgives us all and illuminates us to go forward with the light of the Lord.

Let us go forward, joyful because life is lived with the joy of Jesus Christ; and this is a grace of the Lord. —Pope Francis

Lent is a beautiful season to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. As we realize more deeply the goodness of God, we also become more aware of the ways we have failed to live as we should. The faithful are to be encouraged to participate in the sacrament of Penance during Lent.

## SCHEDULE FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

### Individual Rite of Penance

Every Saturday following the 9:00 AM Mass; 4:30 - 5:15 PM  
Confessions in Italian – March 25 after the 9AM Mass

### First Reconciliation

February 20 - 11:30 AM – February 22 - 7:00 PM – February 27 - 11:30 AM

### SRL Students

Sunday Religious Education Students will celebrate the sacrament at schedules class times.

SRL Sunday Religious Education – March 5 & 12 • 10AM

SRL Academy Penance Services – March 6 & 13 • 1:15 PM

SRL Religious Education Penance Services - March 20 & 21 • 4:00 PM

SRL Religious Education Junior High Penance Services - March 27 & 28 • 7:00 PM

### Taize Prayer with Individual Confession

April 3 • 7:30 PM

Many people have avoided celebrating the Sacrament of Penance, sometimes for years at a time, because they "don't know what to do". **GOING TO CONFESSION** cards are available at the doors of the Church. This brief explanation is intended for a person who has not been to confession in some time or for an adult who is going for the first time. Please take a card home and read it and/or use it when you go to confession.

ST. ROSE BOLD YOUTH MINISTRY IS PROUD TO PRESENT  
A SPECIAL PARISH LENTEN TRADITION:

# LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A dramatic presentation of the Passion of our  
Lord by our high school teens



## SUNDAY, APRIL 9 7:30pm in the church

With contemporary music by the  
Family Music Group

Questions? Please contact:  
Tracy Ricciardi

Director of Adolescent Faith Formation  
at 973-376-1960 or @ [tricciardi@stroseshorthills.org](mailto:tricciardi@stroseshorthills.org)



**CAST, READERS AND STAGE CREW NEEDED  
IF INTERESTED PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN FORM**

**SOME SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
REHEARSALS REQUIRED**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING AND RETURN TO YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE IN  
DEVINE CENTER Or fax to 973-379-5356**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested in participating (please check all you are interested in/willing to do)

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_ Cast: \_\_\_\_\_ Stage Crew: \_\_\_\_\_

# St. Rose of Lima Mass Time Survey

*The parish is evaluating the time of our Saturday evening Mass. Please complete the survey to provide us with your feedback. You can complete the survey online by visiting the parish website at [www.stroseshorthills.org](http://www.stroseshorthills.org) or complete the hardcopy survey below and return to the parish.*



## 1. Which Mass at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church do you mostly attend? (Please choose one.)

5:30 PM (Saturday Vigil)

9:00 AM

7:30 AM

11:00 AM

12:30 PM

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. If the Saturday evening vigil Mass (5:30PM) is changed, which of the following options do you prefer? (Please choose only one.)

Option 1 (current): 5:30PM

Option 2: 5:00 PM

Option 3: 4:00 PM

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional comments or suggestions (optional):

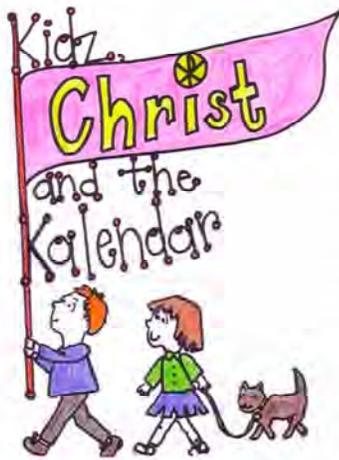
### Contact Information (optional):

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Survey can be completed online through the parish website: [www.stroseshorthills.org](http://www.stroseshorthills.org) or a hardcopy of survey may be returned by fax at 973-379-5356, in the offertory collection, dropped at the Devine Center or mailed to St. Rose of Lima Church, 50 Short Hills Avenue, Short Hills, NJ 07078 Thank you.



# KIDZ & FASTING

As we approach Lent, it might be helpful to review some information about fasting and abstinence. There are many kinds of fasts, and several reasons to fast. As Catholics, we tend to think of fasting as either reducing our food intake or giving up a treasured treat.

Traditionally there are four reasons for fasting:

1. Preparation for a feast
2. Penance and atonement for sins
3. Acknowledgment that all we have comes from God
4. Solidarity with those who live in want

While our fasting might be for all of these reasons, in Lent we tend to focus on the first two.

## What is a fast?

But are we really fasting? Lent begins with the story of Jesus' fast in the desert—a fast of 40 days without food. Many of us have probably never been 40 hours without food. The definition of a fast for Catholics is eating only one full meal a day along with two smaller meals—a light breakfast and lunch and a normal dinner, for example. That's pretty much what I eat every day, so it's really not much of a fast.

**As Catholics, we are required to fast only two days out of the year—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The requirement to fast applies only to those who are between the ages of 18 and 60. I guess the thinking is that going without food would not be healthy for children and seniors. Really, though, all the fast asks of them is to not snack between meals, so I'm thinking we can encourage the fast for everyone, no matter what their age.** The U.S. bishops recommend (but don't require) that every day of Lent be a fast day. Given the very generous Catholic definition of fasting that seems easily doable for the more devout among us.

## What about meatless Fridays?

Technically, going without meat on Fridays is not fasting; it is abstaining. Presumably you can eat until you burst, as long as there is no animal flesh on your Friday menu. Older Catholics can remember when all Fridays were abstinence days. Now, only Ash Wednesday, the Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday are so designated. And the age range is expanded. The rule applies to all those 14 and older.

One thing a lot of Catholics don't know is that every Friday of the year is still designated as a penitential day. We are supposed to do some penitential act, such as abstaining from meat. **The difference between today and my childhood is that the penitential act can be anything we want. It doesn't have to be giving up meat, but we still have to do something.** The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists 20 different penitential actions. Below are some penitential actions that KIDZ can do:

- ❖ Gestures Of Reconciliation
- ❖ Concern For The Poor
- ❖ Saying I Am Sorry
- ❖ Examination Of Conscience
- ❖ Going To Mass
- ❖ Reading Scripture
- ❖ Praying A Psalm
- ❖ Praying The Lord's Prayer
- ❖ Going To Confession
- ❖ Sharing