

LENT...

A Season to Grow

Christian Formation

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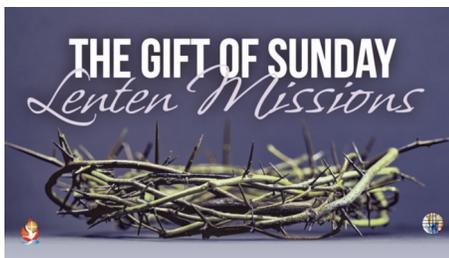
“We are called not just to abstain from sin during Lent, but to true conversion of our hearts and minds as followers of Christ.”

This statement from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website becomes more real when we understand the etymology of the word “Lent”. The English word Lent is a shortened form of the Old English word *lencen*, meaning “spring season”. Linguists who study the history of words agree that the oldest roots of the word Lent refer to the increasing daylight in Spring.

For the baptized, then, Lent is a time when the seeds of God’s Word, sown in the soil of our hearts, need the increasing light of our Lord’s own Life, Mercy, Truth, and Love. Just as a seedling sprouting out of the earth is drawn to the sunlight, so should our hearts and souls be drawn to Christ.



This Lent, we invite you to join us for spiritual opportunities to rekindle your relationship with our Lord. All are welcome!



We must make a renewed effort to encounter our Risen Lord in the Eucharist, in Reconciliation, in personal prayer and reflecting on the sacred Scriptures. In January of this year, a theological reflection and study guide entitled “The Gift of Sunday”, was published with the ecclesiastical approval of Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI, for use in catechesis and prayerful reflection with the People of God in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. On **Wednesday, March 3rd, Lenten Missions based on “The Gift of Sunday”** will be held at 18 parishes throughout the archdiocese.

On **Wednesday, March 24th**, area priests will be available for the sacrament of reconciliation at several parishes throughout the archdiocese from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., for **“12 Hours of Reconciliation”**. Check the archdiocesan website, www.archmil.org, for more details.

Here at St. Gabriel, our opportunities for **Eucharistic Adoration** have been expanded. Adoration will now take place on the **2nd & 4th Wednesdays** of the month, from **noon til 8:00 p.m.**, with Benediction offered to close the time of Adoration. Make time to spend even a few minutes in silence with the Real Presence of Christ, to listen for His whisper in your heart.

St. Gabriel is also planning to serve as a host site for this year’s **Men of Christ Conference**. On **Saturday, March 20th**, we will begin with 8:00 a.m. Mass, followed by virtual speaker presentations until noon. Watch for registration details soon.

If you’ve struggled to read the Bible in the past, check out Ascension Press’ **Bible in a Year podcast**, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. Each 20-25 minute episode includes: two to three scripture readings; a reflection from Fr. Mike; and guided prayer to help you hear God’s voice in his Word. Even though the podcasts began on January 1st, you can still join now and continue to listen through the rest of this year. Previous segments are chronicled.

Finally, grow in charity. Our children, youth, and their families will once again be encouraged to participate in the **Rice Bowl activity**, sponsored by Catholic Relief Services. Jesus’ example challenges us to share with those in need. The Rice Bowls are available in the gathering area of church and will be collected during Holy Week.

May this liturgical season truly be one of growth for all of us, so that its culmination in Holy Week and Easter Sunday will find us reveling in the Easter light of Jesus Christ, risen from the grave!

