

HOLY WEEK AND THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Palm Sunday

Each celebration of the Eucharist on Palm Sunday weekend, March 23 and 24, will begin with the Solemn Procession with Palms as we commemorate Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Weather permitting, the entire assembly will gather outdoors and process into church after the opening rites.

Masses on Palm Sunday weekend are Saturday at 5:00 pm (English) and 7:00 pm (Spanish); Sunday at 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm (Spanish) and 5:00 pm (English)

The Easter Triduum

The Easter Triduum is the high point of the year for Christians.

These three days—Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday—are days to save and to savor. On these three days, we gather a number of times with each other. Together we hear some of the church’s most beautiful prayers and scriptures and we make some of our finest music. Please look closely at the parish schedule and make plans to take part in the various liturgies and other gatherings of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

The Paschal Fast

The Church keeps the paschal fast from Good Friday throughout the Easter Vigil. Unlike the penitential fasting of Lent, now over, it is a fasting even from the sacraments in joyful yearning for Easter.

In the midst of this fast, Holy Saturday is a day of quiet preparation. The Elect and Candidates gather in the morning for rites in anticipation of that night’s Easter Vigil. Easter foods are blessed in the chapel on Holy Saturday at 1:00 pm

Christian Initiation

Resurrection joy finds its most perfect expression in the Easter sacraments. The Elect and Candidates celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at the solemn Easter Vigil.

Throughout the fifty days of Easter, we will baptize infants in the midst of the Sunday assembly.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM 2024

Holy Thursday, March 28

8:00 pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper

The parish gathers in the languages of our Sunday worship
We welcome the Passover the liturgy of the word
the washing of feet
the liturgy of the Eucharist
the procession and adoration
before the Blessed Sacrament

Good Friday, March 29

12:00-2:00 pm Meditation on the Seven Last Words of Christ with the music of Taizé

3:00 pm Stations of the Cross in the Church in English

4:30 pm Bilingual Living Stations of the Cross outside

Following the Living Stations of the Cross:
Liturgy of the Passion – Spanish (5:30 pm)

8:00 pm Liturgy of the Passion – English

Holy Saturday, March 30

1:00 pm Blessing of Easter Foods in the Chapel

9:00 pm Easter Vigil (Bilingual)

We keep watch in darkness
The Easter fire
We give thanks for light
The stories of salvation
We give thanks for water
The liturgy of baptism and confirmation
The liturgy of the Eucharist

Easter Sunday, March 31

Masses at:
8:00 am in the church (English)
10:00 am in the church (English)
12 noon in the church (English)
2:00 pm in the church (Spanish)

(overflow for all Masses in the parish hall)

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH
ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA

LENT AND THE EASTER TRIDUUM - 2024

February –March 2024

Lent is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning spring. As nature (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) is awaiting rebirth, we too are called to an inner rebirth. The three disciplines of Lent—**prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**—are meant to call us to conversion that we might experience God’s love more intimately.

Prayer invites us to take time to be still so that we can nurture our relationship with God and with ourselves. Prayer assures us that God is with us. Prayer changes us.

Fasting helps create a hunger for God and for what really matters in our lives. Fasting challenges us to trust that God will provide all that we need.

Almsgiving moves us to acknowledge how much we have been given and fills us with gratitude and praise. Almsgiving frees us from fear by compelling us to surrender what we have and who we are to others. Almsgiving changes us.

Ash Wednesday, February 14, is a day of fast and abstinence.

Ashes will be distributed during the following:
9:00 am Mass
12 noon Mass
5:00 pm Liturgy of the Word

5:30-6:30 Only the distribution of ashes in the parish hall

6:30 pm and 8:00 pm Masses in Spanish

PARISH LENTEN MISSION

Fr. Tim Hepburn, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel in Gainesville, will offer a Lenten Mission in English from 7:00-8:30 pm March 4, 5 and 6.

A native of Atlanta, Father Hepburn was ordained in 1993 and later earned a post-graduate licentiate in sacred theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan. He has served as a pastor; a chaplain at Blessed Trinity High School, Roswell; and as chaplain at Emory University, Agnes Scott College and Georgia Tech.

A popular speaker and musician, Father Hepburn also served as director of the Office of Vocations from 2011-2018.

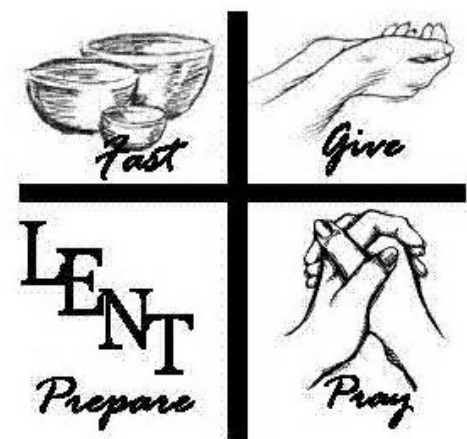


LENTEN PRAYER

God of all people,
you walk with us
on our life’s journey.
You know our joys
and struggles.
You know us better
than we know ourselves.
This Lenten season,
may we, too,
learn to walk with others.
Through prayer, fasting,
and almsgiving,
may we encounter you
in our neighbors in need
and live your call to serve
our human family.
Amen.



You thumbed grit into my
furrowed brow, marking me
with the sign of mortality,
the dust of last year’s palms.
The cross you traced seared,
smudged skin, and I recalled
other ashes etched into my
heart by those who loved
little or not at all.
Elizabeth-Anne Vanek



ARCHDIOCESAN LENTEN REGULATIONS

Abstinence from meat is observed by all Catholics 14 years and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted to maintain strength according to one’s needs. The Fridays outside of Lent remain days of penance, but each individual may substitute the traditional abstinence from meat with some practice of voluntary self-denial or personal penance.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Our Lenten Reconciliation Service will be held on Tuesday, March 5, at 7:00 pm. At this time we will join our previously baptized candidates in celebrating a brief rite of Word, song and prayer as we together express our contrition and our hope to rise with Christ beyond sin and death. Please plan to celebrate this healing sacrament on this night when we will have the assistance of many neighboring priests for confessions. Please note that no confessions are scheduled during the Sacred Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

DAILY WORSHIP

At St. Thomas Aquinas we celebrate daily Mass, Monday-Friday at 12:00 noon. Every Thursday evening we celebrate a 7:00 pm Mass in Spanish.

RITE OF ELECTION

The Rite of Election celebrates God’s call to our Catechumens to the waters of Baptism at Easter.

This year, the Rite of Election for our deanery will be held on Saturday, February 17 at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church at 10:00 am. There, Archbishop Hartmayer will declare the Catechumens the Elect of God. They will be declared ready to celebrate the sacraments of initiation at Easter.

The Book of the Elect, which includes the names of those who will be baptized at St. Thomas Aquinas this Easter, will remain near the baptismal font throughout Lent.

On the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, we will celebrate the Scrutinies with the Elect on Sundays at the 10:00 am Mass and the 2:00 pm Mass in Spanish.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is offered at St. Thomas Aquinas:

Monday-Friday: Following the noon Mass until 2:00 pm in the church

Wednesday: 7:00-8:00 pm in the chapel

Thursday: 6:00 pm-6:45 pm in the church

Saturday: 8:00-9:45 pm in the church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross in English are held every Friday at 11:15 am

Bilingual Stations of the Cross are Held every Friday at 7:00 pm



FISH FRY

Starting February 16 through March 22 we will be serving dinner from 4:30 pm until 7:00 pm.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
LENT AT A GLANCE FEBRUARY-MARCH 2024			February 14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Distribution of ashes at 9:00 am, 12:00 noon Masses, 5:00 pm Liturgy of the Word, Distribution of Ashes only between 5:30-6:30 pm in the parish hall. 6:30 pm & 8:00 pm Masses in Spanish.	15 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 6:00 pm Adoration 7:00 Mass (Spanish)	16 11:15am Stations of the Cross in English 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00 pm bilingual Stations of the cross 8:00-9:00 Adoration Fish Fry 4:30-7:00 pm	17 Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:30-4:30 pm 8:00-9:45 pm Adoration
18 Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continual Conversion 10:00 am and 2:00 pm Spanish	19 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00	20 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00	21 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00-8:00 pm Adoration	22 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 6:00 pm Adoration 7:00 Mass (Spanish)	23 11:15am Stations of the Cross in English 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00 pm bilingual Stations of the cross 8:00-9:00 Adoration Fish Fry 4:30-7:00 pm	24 Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:30-4:30 pm 8:00-9:45 pm Adoration
25 Presentation of the Creed 10:00 am and 2:00 pm Spanish	26 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00	27 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00	28 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00-8:00 pm Adoration	29 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 6:00 pm Adoration 7:00 Mass (Spanish)	March 1 11:15am Stations of the Cross in English 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00 pm bilingual Stations of the cross 8:00-9:00 Adoration Fish Fry 4:30-7:00 pm	2 Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:30-4:30 pm 8:00-pm –3:00 am Nocturnal Adoration
3 First Scrutiny 10:00 am and 2:00 pm Spanish	4 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00-8:30 pm Parish Lenten Mission	5 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00 pm Parish Lenten Mission and Penance Service	6 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00-8:30 pm Parish Lenten Mission	7 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 6:00 pm Adoration 7:00 Mass (Spanish)	8 11:15am Stations of the Cross in English 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00 pm bilingual Stations of the cross 8:00-9:00 Adoration Fish Fry 4:30-7:00 pm	9 Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:30-4:30 pm 8:00-9:45 pm Adoration
10 <i>Laetare Sunday</i> Second Scrutiny 10:00 am and 2:00 pm Spanish Daylight Saving Time	11 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00	12 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00	13 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00-8:00 pm Adoration	14 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 6:00 pm Adoration 7:00 Mass (Spanish)	15 11:15am Stations of the Cross in English 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00 pm bilingual Stations of the cross 8:00-9:00 Adoration Fish Fry 4:30-7:00 pm	16 Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:30-4:30 pm 8:00-9:45 pm Adoration
17 Third Scrutiny 10:00 am and 2:00 pm Spanish	18 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00	19 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00	20 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00-8:00 pm Adoration	21 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 6:00 pm Adoration 7:00 Mass (Spanish)	22 11:15am Stations of the Cross in English 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00 pm bilingual Stations of the cross 8:00-9:00 Adoration Fish Fry 4:30-7:00 pm	23 Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:30-4:30 pm Vigil Masses for Palm Sunday begin outside
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Masses begin outside	25 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00	26 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 5:00 pm Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Christ the King	27 12noon Mass Adoration until 2:00 7:00-8:00 pm Adoration 7:00 pm Seder Supper	HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER ON BACK COVER		