

A blessed First Sunday of Lent to you! The whole meaning of this season is to be intentional by listening. What helps us listen? The Holy Spirit. Lent is a time to be as Jesus was: "Led by the Spirit." Take time at the beginning of this Lenten journey to be intentional by taking time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your journey to give up something/do something more; listen; act; and most importantly pray. There are many resources to help you both present and forthcoming. Among them will be a schedule of events going week by week in the bulletin (pending early deadlines) and by email. Feel free to pick up the Lenten Books /nail/CRS Rice Bowl that are located by the Cross in the Gathering Space Lobby as well. Again, the most crucial step we are called to take is by being intentional through Prayer as there are many opportunities in the community to enter in through Adoration, Stations of the Cross, Daily Mass, Confession, etc. but also take time at home to be more intentional in your prayer life personally as well. That is how we will become like Jesus to resist the devil by being Led by the Spirit! Also pray about where the lord is calling you to become that disciple/apostle/missionary by beginning a new habit that will last well beyond this season. Although the three habits of prayer/fasting/almsgiving are emphasized in this season, they serve as a reboot to allow us to go further, again, beyond these forty days!

We are also reminded by our bishop/diocese/universal church:

"The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, and concludes when the Paschal Triduum of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord begins at the start of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 2, 2026.

Traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and other forms of self-denial, are recommended most warmly by the church. Daily Mass is particularly encouraged.

Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence from eating meat for those 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday also are days of fasting for those ages 18 to 58 inclusive. (On these days, those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength according to one's needs, are also permitted. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.)"

With the various needs at each parish at the moment, I am not totally prepared to offer a comprehensive Lenten/Easter Season Schedule, but please see below for this week:

Week of February 22:

Sunday, February 22: Rite of Election for OCIA candidates at Dubois

Monday, February 23: St. Eusebius Parish (at St. Richard's): 6pm: Stations of the Cross with Adoration/Benediction and Confession after.

Tuesday, February 24: St. Charles Parish (at St. Charles): 6pm: Stations of the Cross with Adoration/Benediction and Confession after.

Wednesday, February 25: Immaculate Conception Parish: 6pm: Stations of the Cross with Adoration/Benediction and Confession after.

Thursday, February 26: *Additional Lenten Weekday Mass Opportunity at Immaculate Conception at 12:10pm.*

(Note: Weekday Mass is celebrated at IC every weekday during the year pending day off/holidays/vacation. Please check the parish website for updated schedule. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will also be offered after Weekend Mass at St. Charles/St. Eusebius Parishes and every Saturday afternoon at Immaculate Conception from 3P-3:40P).

With the first Sunday of Lent this weekend, this is also a reminder to pray for all who will be receiving the Sacraments, especially our OCIA Candidates, Second Graders (Penance), Third Graders (Eucharist), Ninth Graders (Confirmation). Also, if you have ever wondered if you can receive the sacraments and have not already done so, it is never too late. Please contact our office to see how we can best help you!

A word regarding attendance: Again, I am grateful for your presence. If you are joining us for the first time from no spiritual home: Welcome! If you have not had the opportunity to join us for a long time due to various reasons and are back: welcome back! If you are joining us from another parish because of me being your Parochial Administrator, you too are my spiritual children and welcome to you! **Regardless, if you are joining us from another parish (even beyond Clarion County) please know if you offer your offertory gift here (or if you are a parishioner of IC and visiting another area parish) your envelope it is automatically sent to your parish. If you are not prepared to offer a gift or financials are difficult, please know we are glad you are here. Again, to help our neighboring parishes, please drop your envelope (even if you cannot offer a gift) into the basket every weekend so that we know your needs are being met. This is not only helpful for census data, but it allows me to know we are meeting the needs of the area.** Please use this time of Lent to also invite someone back who you would like to bring to the Lord or haven't seen in a while. Remember Lent is about becoming transformed and a better disciple not just for Easter but beyond in the Christian Life. **ALSO, PLEASE MAKE SURE THE CHURCH OFFICE HAS YOUR UP-TO-DATE EMAIL AND CONTACT INFORMATION** so you are receiving the latest information as email especially is important with the various parish schedules and such as I cannot always make the early bulletin deadlines and the schedule is always subject to change for various reasons ☺!

On a Personal Note: Please know I love being here with you as Pastor and having IC as my primary assignment. Know you remain my priority while also prioritizing/administrating our brothers and sisters at both St. Eusebius/St. Charles Parishes. I often hear “I don’t know how you are doing this”, etc.; thank you for your concern but I assure you, I’ve got this and know when to reach out for help. I love being a priest and for my whole priesthood have been used to having at least two assignments/jobs at any given time. It is the Holy Spirit that is helping me discern with you what is best to do, and we trust in that together. I do ask for your continued prayers and patience and if you feel so moved for an invite to continue to get to know you through dinner, events, etc. Even in the present busy circumstances I am having a blast! 😊

In the meantime, please take some time in this season to reconcile with the Lord through the Sacrament of Penance, reach out to a neighbor in need, and re-connect with someone you have not seen in a while as well as invite someone to worship with you. Please know of my continued prayers as we journey into the desert of this Lenten Season together!

PLEASE ALSO MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS WELL!

Men’s/Women’s Conferences:

Another wonderful way to enter the season is through the annual Men’s and Women’s Conferences coming up Saturday, March 7) is the annual 2232 Men’s Conference that promises to be a wonderful way to spend your Saturday. The time commitment is only four hours, and you will have an opportunity to listen to a few great speakers as well as attend Mass and Confession. Invite your son or Father; or invite your neighbor to join you! Remember that Immaculate Conception is a host satellite location, so you don’t have to travel too far. On Saturday, April 18 is the Ladies turn. Again, it is the same time commitment with a few great speakers, confession, and mass. Ladies, invite your daughter/mother or neighbor to join you as well. I am hoping that we have great showing of parishioners taking advantage of this wonderful world class opportunity in our back yard. I am also looking for any woman who may have attended this conference in the past to help steer the advertising; please contact me if you would like to help! The women’s conference does not offer a satellite offering; however, you are welcome to join in person as I will be there as the Spiritual Director! Please see bulletin or 2232men.com or 138women.com for more information on these conferences; and I hope to see you there!

IC School Purses/Bling Event: Please join us in attending or helping with our annual Purses/Bling event on Saturday, March 21. Your promotion/donation/attendance at the event helps us help our school. Please see the bulletin for more details and you can also purchase tickets after weekend Masses or at the School Office!

Fellowship Weekends: Typically held the third weekend of the month. We are looking for volunteers to assist us in this effort. Again, while the “99” has been tasked with *coordinating* the event, my hope is that other groups/parishioners would/should assist. If your group/family can assist, please contact Linda Summerville to sign up to help!

Bible in a Year event at IC: All are welcome on Saturday, March 28 for the Bible in a Year Event. This daylong event including lunch brings the worldwide acclaim of Ascension Press’ podcast to us! More information in next week’s bulletin.

Holy Week: Again, I hope to have a comprehensive schedule out to you via email this week including these events as I am still working on it. However, please make sure you have your up-to-date emails to the parish office as that will be the primary means of communication (due to bulletin deadlines, scheduling conflicts, etc.). Please do not presume the schedule will be the same as it was last year. Also, please make sure you have downloaded MyParishApp not only for communication purposes but for the many resources offered on it as well!

Pentecost Weekend: While we are months away, one of the events on our Lent/Easter Calendar will be this celebration commemorated by an *All-night Eucharistic Vigil* (like we did on Christ the King weekend). Please consider looking at your schedule and how you may want to spend some time (especially through the night) with our Lord on the weekend of May 23/24.

Church Hours for Private Prayer: The Church will be open weekdays until 7:00 pm.

Have a blessed First full week of Lent!
Fr. Jason

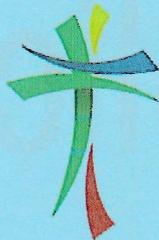


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2026 Catholic
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Your gift to the
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ensures all have
the opportunity to
encounter Christ
in the sacraments,
especially the Eucharist.



Diocese of Erie

2026 Catholic Services Appeal



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