

Helping all become one with God - A Clustered Parish with St. Charles, Hartland

Lenten Answers to Lenten Questions

By Deacon Allen Olson

There are many resources to utilize online that can help in our understanding and appreciation for the symbolism and beautiful history of our Catholic tradition.

To help us all on this path, here is some helpful information.

What is Lent?

The penitential season of Lent is upon us, and we Catholics, like Christians everywhere, begin preparing to commemorate the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Just a few short weeks ago, we celebrated his birth, and now the Church begins our preparation to join him on his journey to Calvary. The church scene becomes somber, more intense, and such terms as contrition, conversion, penance, almsgiving, fasting and abstinence dominate the liturgy.

What are you doing for Lent this year?

Ask Catholics what “they’re doing for Lent” this year, and they’ll probably tell you that they are giving up a favorite food, a favorite pastime or anything else they really love but isn’t essential in their lives.

Giving up something for Lent fosters self-discipline and tempers our desires. It is a form of fasting. It is a form of penance. It promotes spiritual growth. If you’re giving up something for Lent, that’s great. But think also about the possibility of **doing something positive** to bolster your spiritual life and make the world a better place. Look for ways that you can increase your knowledge of your faith, strengthen your spiritual life or perform special acts of mercy and kindness at home, at work, in your parish or in your community.

What almsgiving really means

Giving alms has always been an important part of Lent. For many people, it means giving money to Catholic charities or some other good cause. But the concept of almsgiving goes much deeper. It is our response to the teachings of Jesus

that encourage us to reach out to people in need—not just with our money—but with our time and our talents. Today we call it **stewardship**.

Lent gives us the opportunity to cultivate a spirit of generosity. It gives us a chance to share what we have and who we are with other people. It puts us in communion with others and helps us understand that we are all members of the Body of Christ. Think carefully about how you will share your time, your talents and your treasure during Lent. Keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”



Fasting and abstinence

Fasting and abstinence are Church-imposed penitential practices that deny us food and drink during certain seasons and on certain days. These acts of self-denial dispose us to free ourselves from worldly distractions, to express our longing for Jesus, to somehow imitate his suffering.

Abstinence traditionally has meant not eating meat and, for centuries but no longer, included meat by-products. Many may recall the calendar hanging in the kitchen that included a fish symbol on each Friday of the month. Catholics never have been compelled to eat fish on days of abstinence, but rather, to avoid meat.

While abstinence refers to the kind or quality of food we eat, fasting refers to the amount or quantity of food consumed. One idea for fasting would be to offer fasting up



for someone who needs spiritual strength. Archbishop Fulton Sheen called this type of suffering a “spiritual blood transfusion” that can enliven the soul of those for whom we suffer. Think about that person every time you are tempted to break your fast.

Prayer

Prayer during Lent is a way to stir up our love and enthusiasm by having a deepening conversation with the Almighty. Remember that the light of God’s love shines more brightly in the darkness of the recognition of our own sinfulness.

What is mercy?

The word “mercy” comes from the Latin *merce*, which means “reward.” Mercy is God’s undeserved gift for those who show mercy. “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” May we always remember that God offers mercy to all, but it can only be accepted by those who show mercy to others.

Pretzels: A Lenten treat

Pretzels originated in Europe during the Middle Ages. A monk was making unleavened bread for Lent with flour and water because eggs, milk and lard were not consumed as part of the Lenten fast. He twisted some of the dough into the shape of people praying with both arms folded across their chests. He decided it would be a perfect treat for children learning to say their prayers. He called the treats *pretiola*, the Latin word for “little reward.”

*Stations of the Cross

It is like bringing Jerusalem to our church we bring Jesus’ walk in Jerusalem to us. It describes Jesus from being

“condemned to death” to being “laid in the tomb.” Stations mean **stopping point**.

The Triduum

The Triduum lasts from sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday (three days). Triduum actually means three days.

The three Holy oils are:

- Oil of the sick
- Oil of Catechumens
- Chrism oil or Holy Chrism

The **Easter Season** is 50 days long and ends on Pentecost.

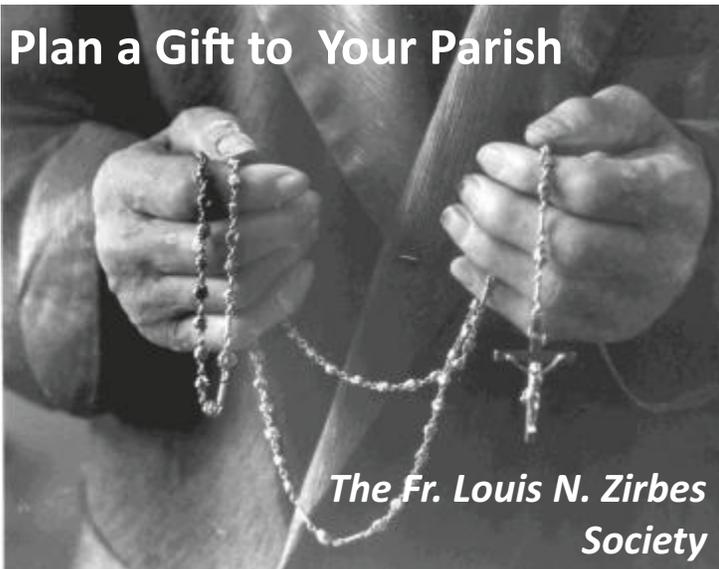
Why do we say that there are forty days of Lent? When you count all the days from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, there are 46.

It might be more accurate to say that there is the “forty-day fast within Lent.” Historically, Lent has varied from a week to three weeks to the present configuration of 46 days. The forty-day fast, however, has been more stable.

The Sundays of Lent are certainly part of the Time of Lent, but they are not prescribed days of fast and abstinence. So does that mean that when we give something up for Lent, such as candy, we can have it on Sundays? Apart from the prescribed days of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and the days of abstinence every Friday of Lent, Catholics have traditionally chosen additional penitential practices for the whole time of Lent. These practices are disciplinary in nature and often more effective if they are continuous, i.e., kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the Church, but by individual conscience.



***Stations of the Cross** will be prayed Fridays at 6:30 p.m. (beginning March 8) and at 8:30 a.m. Wednesdays (beginning March 13), both at North Lake.



The photo above is one of Fr. Zirbes holding his gold nugget rosary, given to him at his ordination by his Aunt Lizzie, who prospected in the Klondike during the gold rush. The rosary was very sentimental to him, but what is most striking in this picture are his hands. A broken blister on his thumb, dirt under his fingernails, and paint blotches on both hands. Obviously, Fr. Louis Zirbes was a priest of action, physically involved with the creation of St. Clare from the ground up, present even to dig the basement of the original church.

Fr. Zirbes was pastor of St. Clare (now St. Teresa of Calcutta) for an amazing 48 years while also pastoring St. Charles in Hartland. He was totally dedicated to the long-term success of his parishes.

How can we reflect Fr. Zirbes' dedication to our parish's future?

Where's Jesus?



RSVP by Wed., April 10 to Lisa at
966-7010 or
lisa@stteresaofcalcutta.org

Consider naming St. Teresa of Calcutta in your Will when you are planning your estate.

Some options are:

- **Bequest in a Will**, which is the most popular vehicle for giving. It can be indicated as a stated amount, a percentage or as a remainder gift (whatever remains in the estate after debts, taxes and bequest).
- **Life Insurance** can be designated to the parish at full value of a policy.

There are many other options you can discuss with your financial planner or customer banking representative.

When you alert us that you have indicated St. Teresa as a recipient of a bequest, life insurance policy, or other planned gift, you will automatically be enrolled in the **Fr. Louis N. Zirbes Society**, and be part of this outstanding group of people who are committed to the future of our parish. Benefits of being in the Society include an annual brunch and a yearly Society update.

Please contact Chris Slowinski at 262/966-2191, ext. 102, or chris@stteresaofcalcutta.org with any questions or to enroll in the **Fr. Louis N. Zirbes Society**. To insure accuracy, we will send you a form on which you can indicate your intention to donate.

If you have already established a planned gift to St. Teresa of Calcutta, we would like to include you in the Society as well; contact Chris with that information.

Thank you for considering a planned gift to our parish!

Saturday, April 13
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
North Lake Parish Center

For children ages 3 to 9 (and friends!)
Prayer * Story-Telling
Crafts * Music
Hunt for Jesus
Light lunch provided

Local Lenten Penance Services

Mon., March 18, 4:45 p.m. St. Mary of the Hill, Hubertus
Mon., March 18, 6:30 p.m. St. Bruno, Dousman
Sat., March 23, 10 a.m. St. Charles, Hartland
Tues., April 9, 6:30 p.m. St. Teresa of Calcutta
North Lake

Day of Reconciliation for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Wed., April 10, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. **Pray, Reconcile, Rejoice**

St. Anthony on the Lake, Pewaukee
St. Dominic, Brookfield

Other Lenten Prayer Opportunities

Rosary prayed after Communion Service (Mon.) and Mass (Tues. & Thurs.) at North Lake

Stations of the Cross will be prayed Fridays at 6:30 p.m. (beginning March 8) and at 8:30 a.m. Wednesdays (beginning March 13), both at North Lake.

Small Groups are gathering throughout Lent in people's homes and at the Parish Center to read and pray about the readings for the upcoming week. New participants are always welcome! Contact Chris for more information: chris@stteresaofcalcutta.org or 966-2191, ext. 102.

St. Charles Parish Mission 2019 with Dr. Dan Scholz, Cardinal Stritch University, April 1-3, 6-8 p.m. each evening in church. Focus: **exploration of Holy Ground in our lives by breaking open Scripture.**



Holy Week and Easter Mass Schedule

Holy Thursday: April 18

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
7 p.m., St. Charles

Good Friday: April 19 - Service of the Lord's Passion

1 p.m., St. Charles, Hartland
3 p.m., St. Teresa of Calcutta, North Lake
Stations of the Cross - 6:30 p.m., St. Teresa of Calcutta, Monches

Holy Saturday: April 20 - Blessing of Easter Food

1 p.m., St. Teresa of Calcutta, Monches

Easter Vigil: April 20

8 p.m., St. Charles, Hartland

Easter: April 21 - Resurrection of Our Lord

9 a.m., St. Teresa of Calcutta, North Lake
11 a.m., St. Teresa of Calcutta, Monches



Hearing Assistance

Since the renovation of our North Lake church, including an upgrade to the sound system, Mass attendees may have seen this sticker on the back window, promoting availability of a site-specific hearing device.

These aids can be used by anyone needing help to hear sound from any of the microphones used during Mass, including the one used by the priest. The device fits over one ear and can be placed over existing hearing aids as well.

The hearing aids can be obtained before Mass in the Sacristy (there are four available). Simply put in the two batteries provided and turn the unit to "On." After Mass, please return the unit; we ask that they not be taken home to use another time as they are expensive and we want to keep track of them.

Let us know if you have any questions or suggestions about this hearing assistance program.

ENCOUNTERING HEAVEN ON EARTH



Adult Lenten Series

Gather in the North Lake Parish Center for a Soup Supper at 6:30 p.m. The program (which includes viewing Bishop Barron's videos, discussion, and parishioner faith sharing) begins at 7 and lasts until 8:30 p.m.

March 14

A Privileged Encounter

March 21

Called Out of the World

March 28

God Speaks Our Story

April 4

Preparing for Sacrifice

April 11

The Real Presence

(with Eucharistic Adoration)

Invite your friends!

Walk through the Liturgy with Bishop Barron and you'll be transformed through insights on this most privileged and intimate encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ.

See how the Mass brings us out of the fallen world and into the heavenly realm, how it resonates with a call from God and a response from his people, the Church, and, most importantly, how we are intimately joined with the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus through the Holy Eucharist.

THE MASS

WWW.WORDONFIRE.ORG



MASS.WORDONFIRE.ORG



You'll have a wild time at Vacation Bible School!

**MONDAY, JULY 15 TO FRIDAY, JULY 19
9 A.M. TO NOON**

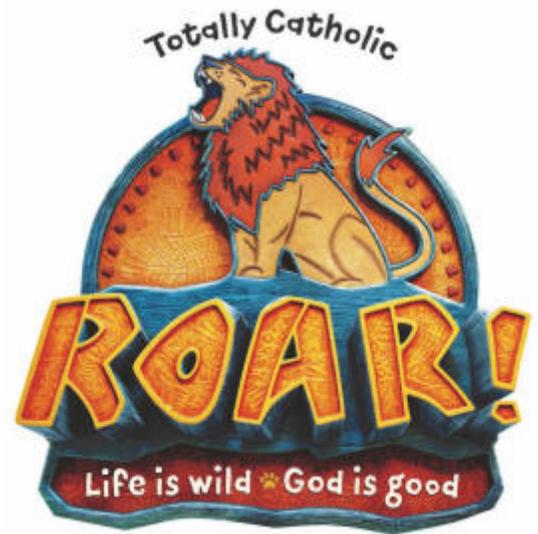
For children age 3 to entering
4th grade in Fall
\$40 per child

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Songs	Themed DVDs
Art Projects	Snacks
Experiments	Mid-week family dinner
Games	

Registration Forms available on our
parish website
(www.stteresaofcalcutta.org), at the back
of church or at the Parish Center.

**CALL 262/966-7010 FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO VOLUNTEER**



Look inside for:

- Fr. Louis N. Zirbes Society
- Where's Jesus: April 13
- Penance, Stations, Lenten and Easter Schedules
- Adult Lenten Series: Thursdays from Mar. 14 to April 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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