

Week of February 19, 2012 | 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, leading up to Ash Wednesday

Sunday | February 19

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Question of the Week:

When has it been hardest for you to believe that your sins are forgiven?

Psalter III | Ordinary time | Week 7

Monday | February 20

Spiritual goal for this week:

Preparing our hearts for Lent means allowing the Spirit to touch us with the desire to grow spiritually. Turn your heart to Christ today as you prepare for this sacred season.

Tuesday | February 21



Mardi Gras!

Don't be afraid to throw a party today!

Lent is a serious time of

renewal, but one also needs to enjoy life, and today is the day for that!

Wednesday | February 22

Ash Wednesday

Today's Gospel:
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Father in heaven, the light of Your truth bestows sight to the darkness of sinful eyes. May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of Your forgiveness, and the gift of Your light. +Amen. (From the Collect of today's Mass.)

We fast today and abstain from eating meat.

Thursday | February 23

Feast! St Polycarp



May our faith be so strong that it can be a witness to others. May

we so live our faith that others are drawn to Christ.

Friday | February 24

Remember our spiritual goal for this week, to enter into Lent with full hearts.

We abstain from meat today.

Saturday | February 25

Lent is a good time for housecleaning! Empty those closets and give to the poor every item which someone else could use. Spend these forty days giving your home – as well as yourself – a new Heart.



In your home, create a sacred space of quiet and prayer.

Notes | Links

Eat a lighter diet today. Give the savings you have to the poor. Prepare for the **First Sunday of Lent** this weekend.

Week of February 26, 2012 | 1st Week of Lent

Sunday | February 26

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Question of the Week:

When or how could you step away from your daily responsibilities to renew yourself, so that you can do a better job of following in the footsteps of Jesus?

Psalter 1 | Lent | Week 1

Monday | February 27

Spiritual goal for this week:

In order to grow spiritually, we do need to step away from all the things that concern us in our daily lives. This need not be a long retreat; you can turn your heart to Christ in a moment, allowing the Spirit to enter your heart.

Tuesday | February 28



Jesus, help me prepare to confess my sins and prepare for Easter. Keep my eye on the real purpose of this Season – preparing for YOU. Keep me

on my pathway of faith.

Wednesday | February 29

Return today to the readings from last Sunday:

We purify our hearts by allowing the Spirit to touch them, as Jesus did in the desert. What draws you away from God's love this week?

Thursday | March 1

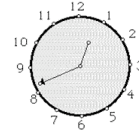
**Make God's love explicit to someone near you today!
Show them how much God cares**



for them.

Friday | March 2

It's time to forgive those against whom you hold any sort of grudge or hatred. This includes those in the "other" political party. Turn your heart to love.



We fast today and abstain from eating meat.

Saturday | March 3

How did you do this week?
Did you find those quiet moments in which you could be alone with God? It's not too late!

Notes | Links

Week of March 4, 2012 | 2nd Week of Lent

Sunday | March 4

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Question of the Week:

What are some amazing ways or places in which you have seen Jesus appear in your life?

Psalter II | Lent | Week 2

Monday | March 5

Spiritual goal for this week:

In order to really see Jesus, we must be attentive to how he is present among us today. This week, make a point of paying attention to him, present in the people and events around you, even those you think most unlikely.

Tuesday | March 6



The greatest gift you can give each other is time. Take time with one another this Lent. Talk and Listen. Not everything has to happen with the TV or Internet running.

Wednesday | March 7

Feast today! Sts Perpetua & Felicity

May our faith be like theirs: full of love and devotion.



Thursday | March 8

Feast! St John of God

Let your heart turn to Christ. Open yourself to his word in your life.



Friday | March 9

Remember your goals for this week: to pay attention to the ways in which Christ is present in your world. How have you seen him this week?

We abstain from meat today.

Saturday | March 10

Oh Christ, you wait for us with the patience of a gentle parent. We turn now finally to you, asking you to guide us, aware that you gently nudge us toward love.

Notes | Links



Don't let this Season pass without meeting

Christ in the poor. There you will find him waiting.

Visit CommonHope.org to learn more about one way to do that in Guatemala!

Week of March 11, 2012 | 3rd Week of Lent

Sunday | March 11

Gospel: John 2:13-25

Question of the Week:

When has the message of the cross seemed absurd to you, and when have you seen its wisdom?

Psalter III | Lent | Week 3

Monday | March 12

Spiritual goal for this week:

We who follow the teachings of the Master may find ourselves in positions contrary to society sometimes. We tend to forgive when everyone else wants to send in bombs! We welcome strangers when others want to build walls on our borders! This week, examine your own attitudes to see how they compare with those of Jesus.

Tuesday | March 13

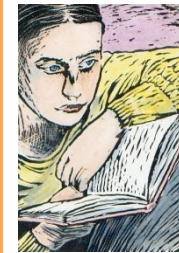


What do you ask of God today?
Pay attention to what is within your heart.

Wednesday | March 14

Do you need to re-start Lent?

It's never too late to begin your spiritual journey. If you've been racing around in your life, too busy to stop and allow the Spirit to guide you, then make today the first day of Lent for you and *just start over*.



Thursday | March 15

Remember this week's goal.

How does following Jesus nudge you toward an attitude of greater love for your neighbors?



Friday | March 16

On this Friday in Lent, pray the Stations of the Cross either with the parish or alone. Let each stop along the way lead you closer to Christ.

We abstain from meat today.

Saturday | March 17

Feast today!
St. Patrick

St. Patrick's Day is famous for partying and merriment.



You sent the great bishop Patrick to the people of Ireland to share his faith and to spend his life in loving service. May our lives bear witness to the faith we profess, and our love bring others to the peace and joy of Your Gospel. (The Collect from today's Mass)

Notes | Links

Week of March 18, 2012 | 4th Week of Lent

Sunday | March 18

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Question of the Week:

How do you experience “being saved” from hatred, prejudice, isolation, greed, and other forms of sinfulness?

Psalter IV | Lent | Week 4

Monday | March 19

Feast today! St. Joseph



St. Joseph was the husband of Mary and father of Jesus. We honor him as a patron of workers & fathers.

“Generations of fathers have followed in his footsteps, & imprinted on their children's souls the inestimable value of faith...”

John Paul II. Angelus message, March 2002.

Tuesday | March 20

Spiritual goal for this week:

This week we want to see ourselves as persons who have been saved from darkness in order to live in the light. This is not an abstract belief, but a real experience as we move toward ever greater love.

Spring begins in the Northern Hemisphere today at 1:14 AM (EDT).

Wednesday | March 21

From today's Mass:

The Lord is just in all his ways and holy in all his works. The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth. (Psalm 145)



Thursday | March 22

Lent is the springtime of your spiritual life...



Our hearts grow lighter as we shed the weight of darkness: Carrying grudges is hard work!

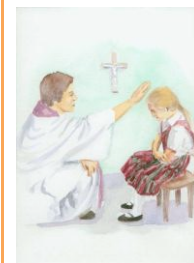
Being selfish isolates us! Hoarding money makes us poor! Tending the poor and vulnerable makes us rich.

Friday | March 23

Find a time today for silence. Let it well up around you.

We abstain from meat today.



Saturday | March 24



If you have not done so yet, plan to go to Confession this weekend as you prepare for Easter.

Notes | Links

Week of March 25, 2012 | 5th Week of Lent | The Solemnity of the Annunciation

<p>Sunday March 25 Gospel: John 12:20-33 Question of the Week: How do you “die to yourself” out of love for those around you? How does this bring you to new life?</p> <p>Today is the Feast of the Annunciation.</p> <p>Psalter I Lent Week 5</p>	<p>Monday March 26</p> <p>Spiritual goal for this week: In a word, this week’s goal is conversion. Turning our hearts to Christ requires constant attention to the presence of Christ around us. Simply pause now, let your heart drift toward him: listen, observe, share a thought, a prayer or a joke with Christ.</p>	<p>Tuesday March 27</p> <p>Evaluation Day Sometimes at this point in Lent we grow weary of our fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. Pause today to recharge your Lenten heart and if you need to, make a fresh start. It’s not too late!</p>	<p>Wednesday March 28</p> <p>The Goal this week is Conversion. Christ is calling you to be near to himself, to live in deep communion with him.</p>
<p>Thursday March 29</p>  <p>Make this Lent unlike any other! Start as a family or household today. Take inventory of your home and give away everything someone else might need. Be generous!</p>	<p>Friday March 30</p> <p>Be still and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10)</p> <p>Today’s resolution: Invite someone to share lunch or supper with you this week, someone about whom you’ve been mindful lately.</p> <p>We abstain from meat today.</p>	<p>Saturday March 31</p> <p>Prayerfulness Carve out a half hour today to be alone with God. Visit the parish church while running errands, or simply sit quietly and allow the voice of God to well up within your heart.</p>	<p>Notes Links</p> <p>The Annunciation</p>  <p>You have revealed the beauty of Your power by exalting the lowly virgin of Nazareth and making her the mother of our Savior. May the prayers of this woman bring Jesus to the waiting world and fill the void of incompleteness with the presence of her Child. (from the Collect in the Mass for this Feast)</p>

Week of April 1, 2012 | Holy Week

Sunday | April 1

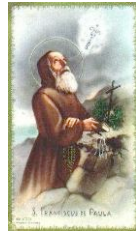
Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47

Question of the Week:

When have you found it hardest to accept God's will? What enabled you to accept it?

Psalter II | Holy Week
Palm Sunday

Monday | April 2



seek communion with Christ.

Feast today! St. Francis of Paola

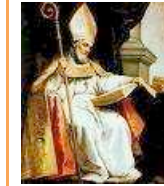
St. Francis was a hermit, who led many to deep intimacy with Christ. May his example help us who live in the world to also

Tuesday | April 3

Spiritual goal for this week:

Enter into the death of the Lord this week, by dying to yourself in love for others. Through this means, the Spirit will raise you to new life.

Wednesday | April 4



Feast Today! St. Isidore

He applied knowledge to the work of God and used his great intellect for good. For figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. (Luke 6:44)

The Sacred Season of Lent comes to a close tomorrow. We begin Triduum – three days of observance to mark the Paschal Mystery.

Thursday | April 5

Holy Thursday

[Triduum begins at Evening Prayer.](#)

We celebrate the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist where the Priest, the People, the Bread & Wine, and the Word of God come together to “do this in memory of me.”

The Body of Christ. Amen.

Friday | April 6

Good Friday

We observe on this day the passion and death of Christ. We enter into this same death ourselves at baptism.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

We abstain from meat today.

Saturday | April 7

Easter Vigil

On this most holy of nights, we remember the story of our salvation, bless new water and fire, and initiate into the church those ready to be baptized.

Exult, Heavenly Powers!

Notes | Links



April Fool's Day

Spring is in the air! Be a “fool for Christ” and act in ways which the world rejects but which we Christians embrace: give up a grudge, share your money, say a kind word to a stranger, love your enemies and do good to those who harm you...

Sunday
April 8

The Gospel: John 20: 1-9 Mary Magdalene came to the tomb.

Question of the Week (Breaking Open the Word):

Happy
Happy
Easter!
Easter!

Step One: *Listen to the Word*

As you hear this lovely retelling of the story of Mary at the tomb, what words or phrases strike you? What image or feeling lingers for you?

Step Two: *Look into Your Life*

What are the ways in which you have experienced God's promise of Resurrection after also experiencing "the dark night of the soul"?

Easter! We rejoice and celebrate because now we know that God is with us, raising us up to new life in Christ.

Easter Sunday

Exult, Heavenly Powers!

