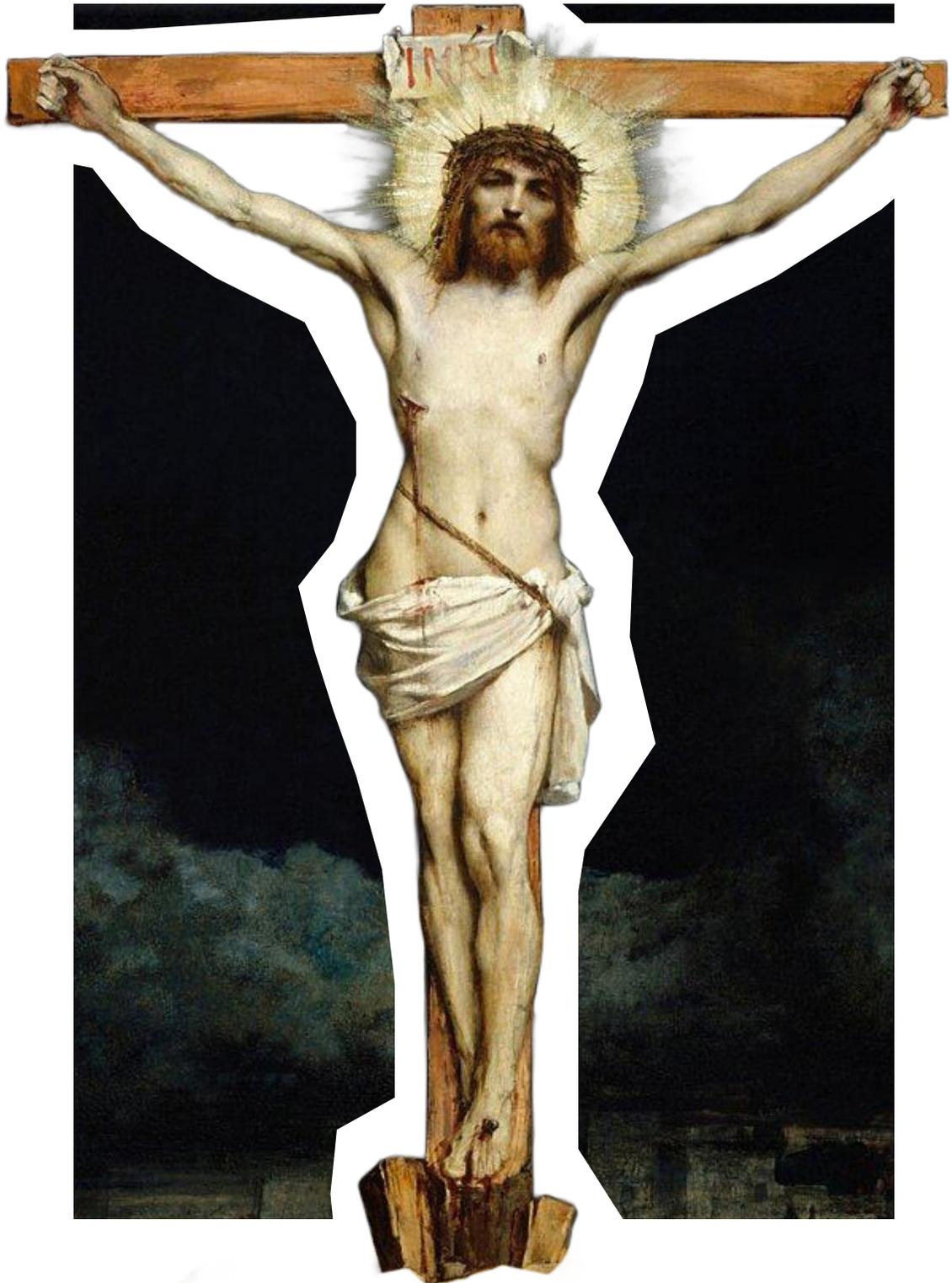
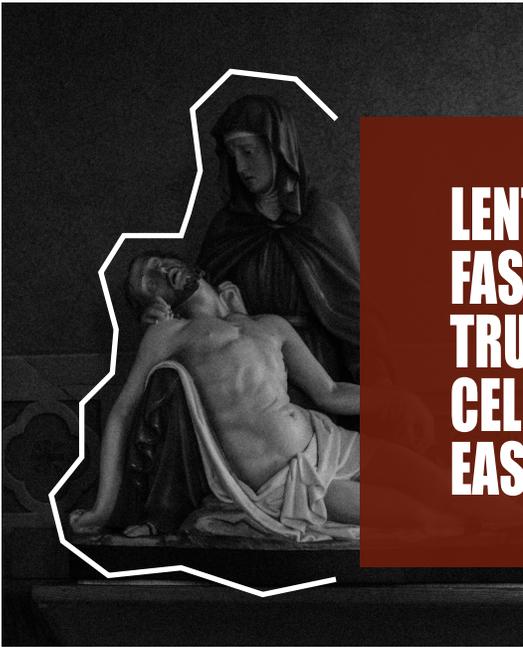


# AVON CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



# LENTEN GUIDE 2026



**LENT IS A 40-DAY SEASON OF PRAYER, FASTING, AND ALMSGIVING TO BRING ABOUT TRUE CONVERSION OF HEART TO PREPARE TO CELEBRATE THE LORD'S RESURRECTION AT EASTER.**

## **DISCIPLESHIP DIGEST**

In this season of fasting, we also hold onto a quiet but powerful truth: feasting is coming. Lent is not the end of the story. Resurrection joy is on the horizon. So we embrace the fast, not because it's easy, but because it makes room for what truly matters.

Lent isn't just another season we squeeze into an already full calendar; it's the interruption we need... at least I know I do. Trust me, I know a thing or two about calendars. They excite and overwhelm me all at once! I received a Skylight calendar for Christmas, and I love it so much that I've literally added "Make Lent a priority" to every single day. Because if it's not on the calendar... well, you know how that goes.

Through the prophet Joel, God speaks with both tenderness and urgency: Even now... return to me. Not when life settles down. Not when the schedule magically clears—(when does that ever happen?) Even now, right in the middle of carpools, meetings, practices, emails, and the never-ending to-do lists. Even if it means the dreams on my whiteboard need to be put on pause—if you know, you know.

Wherever you find yourself as Lent begins, running on caffeine and grace, feeling spiritually strong, or wondering how you got so far off track, God meets you here. No

rescheduling required. It's on the calendar. It's official.

This Lenten guide is meant to walk with you on that journey of return. It's not about "doing Lent perfectly" if that were the goal, I'd regularly fail at it. Through prayer, Scripture, reflection, and simple practices, we're invited to slow down, listen more deeply, and respond honestly. Dare I say it: we're invited to make Him the priority and allow everything else to flow from that.

Returning with our whole heart means bringing all of ourselves, the joyful and the weary, the faithful and the frustrated, the parts we've got together and the parts we absolutely do not. God doesn't want our performance; He wants our hearts.

And the good news? We don't walk this season alone. As a community, we journey together, fasting now, trusting that feasting will come. And if you know me, there will certainly be feasting too. But for now, join me in our fast...and in His goodness.

Even now, the invitation stands. Just respond.

*Desi Gould*, Director of Evangelization

**COMMUNITY THEME: EVEN NOW  
"EVEN NOW," DECLARES THE LORD, "RETURN TO ME WITH  
ALL YOUR HEART..." JOEL 2:12**

# ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE, 2/18

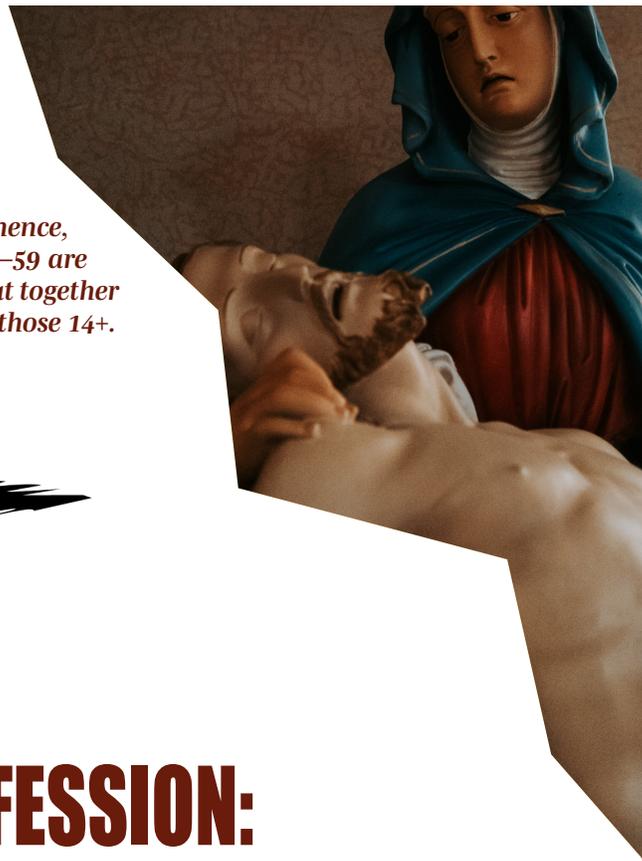
*Ash Wednesday is the start day to Lent: a day of fasting, abstinence, and receiving ashes to remind us of our death. Catholics aged 18–59 are required to consume only one full meal and two smaller meals that together do not equal a full meal. Abstinence from meat is mandatory for those 14+.*

## ST. MARY:

8:30 a.m., 12 p.m. (Liturgy of the Word with ashes), 7:30 p.m.

## HOLY TRINITY:

7:45 a.m., 12:15 p.m. (Ashes only), 5 p.m., 7 p.m.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONFESSION:

**MARCH 4:** Diocesan-Wide Evening of Confession: Wednesday 5-8 p.m.

**MARCH 16:** Special Lenten Confessions at St. Mary: Monday 6-7:20 p.m.

**MARCH 25:** Special Lenten Confessions at Holy Trinity: Wednesday 7-8 p.m.

## REGULAR OPPORTUNITIES:

Holy Trinity:  
Saturdays 3:30-4:30 p.m.

St. Mary:  
Mondays 6:30-7:20 p.m., Saturdays 2:30-3:30 p.m.



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

DATE	LOCATION	MINISTRY LEADING
February 7 p.m.		
February 20	St. Mary	Marriage Ministry
February 27	St. Mary	OCIA
March 6	St. Mary	Music Ministry, organ concert following
March 13	Holy Trinity	Elyria Catholic Living Stations
March 20	Holy Trinity	Women's Ministry
March 27	Holy Trinity	Children's Ministry

**'BEHOLD, THIS CHILD IS DESTINED FOR THE RISE AND FALL OF MANY IN ISRAEL, AND TO BE A SIGN THAT WILL BE CONTRADICTED, AND YOU YOURSELF A SWORD WILL PIERCE, SO THAT THE THOUGHTS OF MANY HEARTS MAY BE REVEALED.'**

Luke 2:34-35

## **FAITH FORMATION** \* = registration required

*If you're looking to go deeper in your faith this Lent – hoping for a community of men or women to build you up or a place to bring your questions to our priests – these events and studies are here for you.*

**11-4**  
**JAN APR**

### **90-Day Men's and Women's Communal Spiritual Exercise**

Exodus 90 and Magnify 90 are 90-day spiritual exercises done with community to prepare the heart for Easter. Men's and women's groups meet at 7-8:20 a.m. at St. Mary, and all are invited, at any point, to come join this challenge. Whether you're simply curious, discerning a next step, or ready to dive deeper, men's and women's ministry leaders will be available to share, listen, and walk with you. Come as you are, bring a cup of coffee, and explore what intentional discipleship could look like for you.

**23**  
**FEB**

### **Women's Lenten Devotional Study\***

Join us for a six-week devotional book study on Mondays from February 23 to March 30 rooted in Scripture, prayer, and authentic conversation. This study includes a devotional book and offers two Monday meeting times to fit your schedule: 9-10:30 a.m. or 7-8:30 p.m. Together, step away from the noise and enter into a sacred season of renewal alongside other women (18 and older) to reflect, listen, and allow God to shape our hearts through the Lenten journey. Location varies, details shared after registration.



**28**  
**FEB**

### **Morning Manna: Starting Lent with Purpose (Reflection & Q&A)\***

Join us on Saturday, February 28 after 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's for a special Lenten edition of Morning Manna. Fr. Anthony Donatelli will lead us through exploring the meaning and purpose of Lent. Gather in the St. Mary's cafeteria for a light breakfast during this time of offered reflection, insight, and practical ways to enter more deeply into this holy season. This is a free event, but registration is required.



**22**  
**MAR**

### **Teaching Mass with Fr. Anthony**

Join us on Sunday, March 22 at 5-6:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity for a special teaching Mass with Fr. Anthony. Throughout the Mass, Fr. Anthony will pause at key moments to explain the prayers, gestures, and meaning of the liturgy, helping us grow in our understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist. This experience is open to all and especially recommended for junior high through adults, whether you are new to the faith or seeking to deepen your love for the Mass. This fulfills your Sunday obligation!



## SPECIAL EVENTS

*Perfect to invite a friend to, these special events are sure to show you the spirit of Lent and bring our hearts closer to Him.*

**13  
FEB**

### Women's Retreat: Abide in His Love\*

Join us for a women's evening of reflection and renewal on Friday, February 13th at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity. During this pre-Lenten gathering, hear from our guest speaker Mary Kate Glowe, experience Eucharistic adoration, and enjoy a social to follow.

Allow the Lord to meet you, restore you, and gently prepare your heart for the Lenten season ahead. Come as you are for this free event!



**19  
MAR**

### St. Joseph Feast Day Mass

Join us in celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph on Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. This special Mass honoring St. Joseph's example of faithful leadership, humility, and service will feature the Men's Ministry and Men's Choir. It invites our parish community to pray together and give thanks for the men who serve our families, parish, and church. All are welcome.

## SPECIAL MEALS

*Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat. Come together for a simple, meatless meal!*

**27  
FEB**

### St. Mary's Fish Fry

Join us on Friday, February 27th at 4 p.m. in the St. Mary gym for a traditional Lenten Fish Fry, hosted by the Holy Name Society. This dinner offers a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and a shared Lenten meal. More details about menu options will be shared closer to the event.

Following the fish fry, all are invited to gather in the church for the Stations of the Cross, led by our Catechetical Leaders and OCIA candidates. Come nourish both your body and soul!

**13  
MAR**

### Soup & Stations

Join us on Friday, March 13th at 5:30 p.m. in the Holy Trinity gym for a soup supper, hosted by Faith Formation. This supper will feature a variety of homemade soups and bread, presenting an opportunity to gather in fellowship and prepare our hearts for prayer.

Following the supper, all are invited to remain for the Elyria Catholic Living Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. in the church. Come share a meal, deepen community, and enter more fully into the Lenten journey together.

**27  
MAR**

### The Simple Supper

Join us on Friday, March 27th at 5:30 p.m. in the Holy Trinity gym for a Simple Supper hosted by Children and Youth Ministry. Enjoy a comforting meal of grilled cheese, tomato soup, and vegetables—a simple gathering rooted in Lenten hospitality and community.

Following the supper, all are invited to the church for the Children's Shadow Stations of the Cross, beginning at 7 p.m. Come share a meal, pray together, and experience this meaningful Lenten tradition as a parish family.

# LENTEN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Avon Catholic Community has two parish missions this season! We welcome in Fr. Leo Patalinghug and Fr. Eric Garris to share their priestly knowledge with us, encouraging us to conform our hearts deeper to the heart of Christ.



## Plating Grace with Fr. Leo Patalinghug – “The Cooking Priest” in partnership with St. Raphael Parish

Join Fr. Leo for a **three-night talk series and/or a cooking demonstration** at Tom’s Country Place! Fr. Leo, is a priest of the Voluntas Dei community (The Will of God) and an award-winning chef and TV host.

1) The **talk series** is a special Lenten mission hosted at St. Raphael Parish, each night at 7 p.m.:

- Sunday, February 22: Becoming a Saint
- Monday, February 23: Mary and Spiritual Combat
- Tuesday, February 24: The Eucharist

2) The **cooking demonstration\*** is on Sunday, February 22 from 2-4 p.m. at Tom’s Country Place. Fr. Leo will share his culinary skill, humor, and inspiring reflections to invite us to rediscover how meals can become moments of grace. This experience is perfect for individuals, couples, and friends as we prepare our hearts for the Lenten season. Tickets are \$50 and doors open at 1 p.m.

## Reflection by Fr. Eric Garris, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Cleveland and Praise and Worship with Max & Sam Menkhaus

Join us Monday, March 9, at St. Mary and Tuesday, March 10, at Holy Trinity for a powerful two-night Lenten experience.

1) **On Monday, March 9**, join us for Mass at St. Mary at 6:30 p.m. with Fr. Eric’s reflection to follow at 7 p.m. Fr. Eric Garris will give a reflection titled, “Even Now,” inspired by the words of the prophet Joel: “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart...” (Joel 2:12).

Ordained in 2017, has served as parochial vicar at St. Raphael in Bay Village and St. Gabriel in Concord, and as chaplain at Oberlin College. He is currently the Vocations Director for the Diocese of Cleveland and an adjunct professor at St. Mary’s Seminary and Graduate School of Theology. He is a lover of Cleveland sports, coffee, documentaries, and Jesus.

2) **On Tuesday, March 10**, join Max & Samantha Menkhaus at Holy Trinity at 7 p.m. for praise and worship. This talented husband-and-wife team will lead us into a deeper encounter with the Lord through their gifts of leading worship!

These evenings will be filled with prayer, music, and opportunities to experience Christ more deeply. Come and join us this Lent to grow in faith, fellowship, and the joy of the Lord!



# Hallow

## Ways to Use Hallow This Lent - Use Your Christmas Gift from Avon Catholic This Lent!

This Christmas, Avon Catholic partnered with Hallow, the #1 prayer app, as a gift to our parish family. Lent is the perfect time to open that gift and use it intentionally as we journey toward Easter together.

Through prayer and meditation rooted in the Catholic faith, Hallow helps people grow closer to God and find peace every day. On the app, you can pray alongside Fr. Mike Schmitz, Sr. Miriam James, Mark Wahlberg, Jonathan Roumie, and many more. Hallow also offers mental health and sleep content, audiobooks, sacred music, and guided reflections to support your whole self—body, mind, and soul.



### Ways to Use Hallow This Lent

- Pray daily with guided Scripture, reflections, and the Daily Examen
- Journey through Lent with Stations of the Cross and seasonal challenges
- Make space for silence and meditation, even for a few minutes each day
- Pray as a family with family-friendly content
- Prepare your heart through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer
- Pray together as a Parish

All parishioners—both subscribers and those using the free version—are invited to join our parish page on Hallow. There, you can:

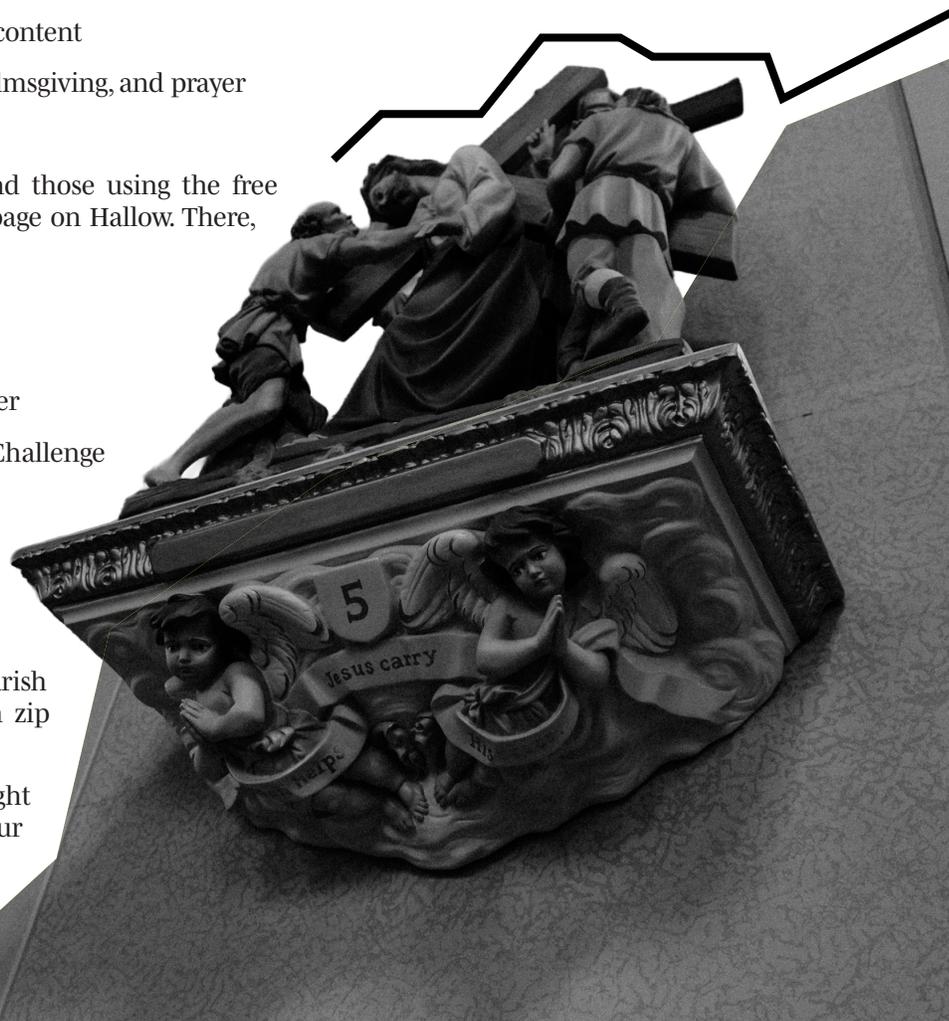
- Create a profile
- Share prayer intentions
- Take part in prayer challenges together

Join our Parish Lenten Prayer Challenge beginning Ash Wednesday!

Already on Hallow? Visit the Church tab in the app, create your profile, and find our parish by searching by parish zip code.

Not yet on Hallow? Visit [hallow.com/parish](https://hallow.com/parish) (or scan the QR code), search by parish zip code, and follow the prompts to join.

This Lent, let the Lord meet you right where you are. Your Christmas gift is still waiting to bless you. Open Hallow, press play, and pray!



# LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear brothers and sisters,

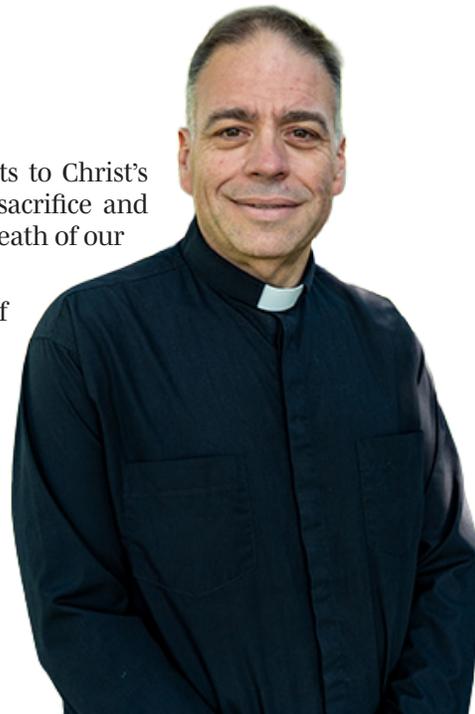
Lent is upon us – the time of the year to more intentionally conform our hearts to Christ's sacrificial heart. May this 40-day period be a time filled with meditation on His sacrifice and fasting, all with the Resurrection to come at Easter in mind. When we enter into the death of our sacrifices, Jesus is trustworthy to bring beauty and life in the end.

I extend an invitation to you: to live your life these next 40 days in the context of sacrificing for the community around you. By opening your heart to what is in store before you, you are taking intentional steps to be conformed to Christ's sacrificial heart. Within this guide, there are many opportunities for where this intentionality may lie: inviting a friend to an event, showing up for your people, and spending time with Him in prayer. Come into this pursuit of Him today, and each day throughout Lent with us, and you will not leave unchanged.

To our beloved parish communities of Holy Trinity and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, please know of my heart for you. May you walk through this season with hearts of courage, willing to go with Him to the cross, for there, He will be with you.

May you know His power in our midst,

Rev. Vincent Hawk



## HOLY WEEK LITURGY SCHEDULE

### HOLY THURSDAY:

St. Mary: 7 p.m., adoration to follow until 10 p.m.

Commemorates the Last Supper (where Jesus instituted the Eucharist) and the beginning of the Easter Triduum.

Commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. It is a day of fasting and abstinence.

### GOOD FRIDAY:

Holy Trinity: 3 p.m.  
St. Mary: 7 p.m.

### EASTER VIGIL:

Holy Trinity: 9 p.m.

A joyous Mass commemorating Jesus' Resurrection. OCIA candidates and catechumens enter into the Church at this Mass.

Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his crucifixion and death. The most significant Christian holiday.

### EASTER SUNDAY:

Holy Trinity: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m.  
St. Mary: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m.