

Easter

EASTER VIGIL
April 3 at 8 pm*

The one that's at night with the candle entrance

It is time to leave the desert and enter the Garden!

A time of rejoicing as Jesus has risen from the tomb. The Vigil starts outside with the tradition of lighting the new Easter candle from a bonfire. Each person is also given a candle. The flame is spread to everyone inside the church symbolizing the Light of Christ conquering the darkness. Anyone becoming Catholic is baptized, confirmed and invited to share in their First Communion. Everyone renews their baptismal promises of rejecting Satan and is sprinkled with baptismal water.

#CoolCandleEntrance
#LightOvercomesDarkness
#NewPeople

EASTER SUNDAY

April 4 at 7:45 am, 9:45 am*
& 11:30 am – No 6:30 pm Mass

The one with all the rejoicing

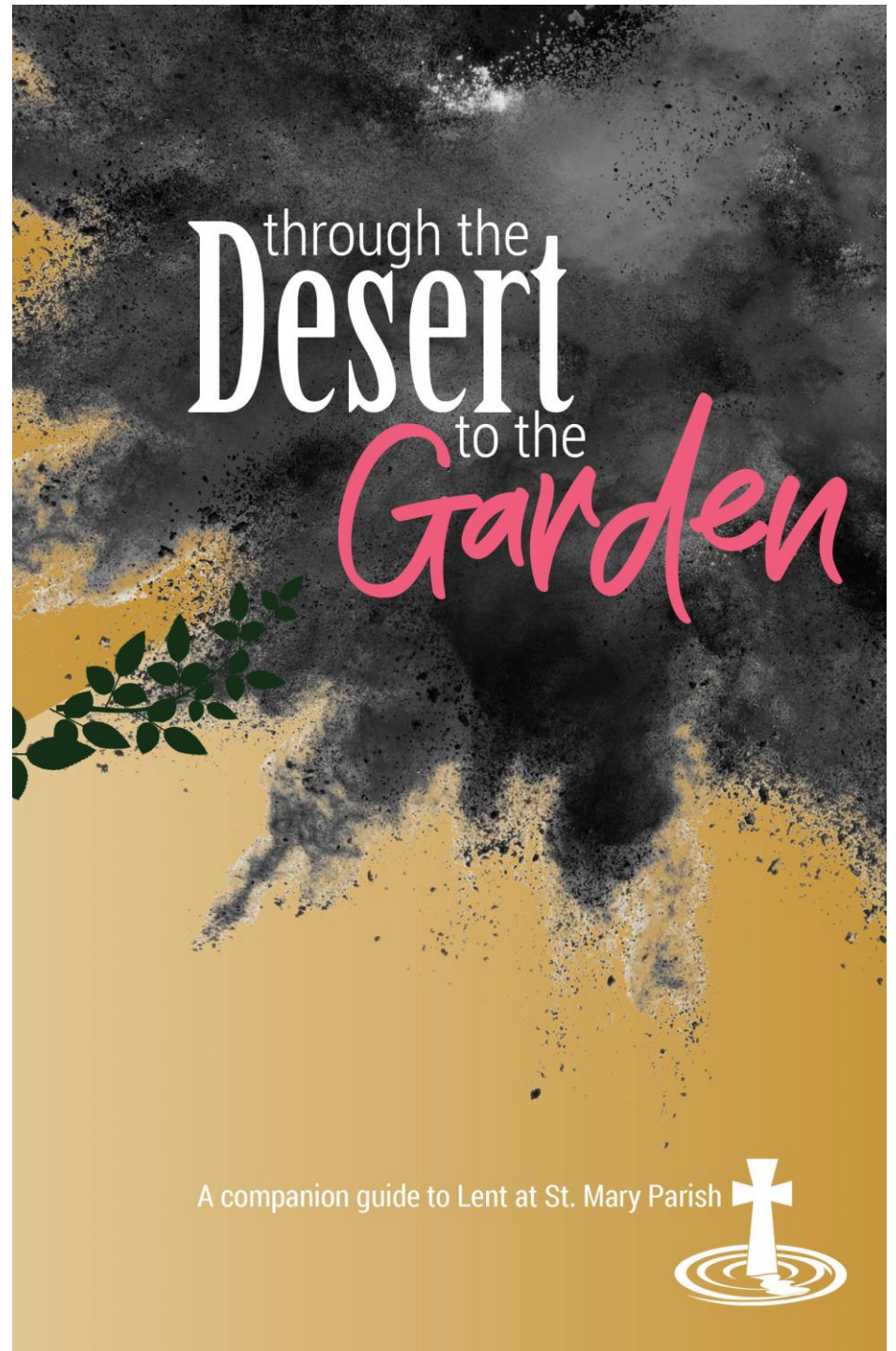
We have arrived in the Garden!

The tomb is empty, He has Risen! Easter, not Christmas, is the most important Catholic feast. Without the resurrection there would be no Christian faith. Christ proves and fulfills his promise of new life, both in Heaven and on earth.

#MaryMagdalaGotThere1st
#NoBody #HeLives

WATCH MASS

*To watch livestream and previous Masses (viewable at your convenience), click the [WATCH MASS](#) button at stmaryparish.org.



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GOOD FRIDAY

April 2 Services at 12:15 pm*
& 6:30 pm

The one with the death, sadness and more fasting

The commemoration of the crucifixion and death of Jesus. It is important to note that Good Friday Liturgy is not a Mass. Communion is only distributed from remaining consecrated hosts from Holy Thursday. Christ's death is tragic, however the cross is really Christ's throne from which he has conquered sin and prepares of us for the joy of Easter. Good Friday is the second day of fasting during Lent, again two small meals or snacks that equal one regular one for anyone over 18 years old.

#DeathAndSuffering
#ToughDudeTalkToHim
#TakeUpYourCross #WereYouThere

WATCH MASS

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HOLY Week

PALM SUNDAY

March 27 at 4:30 pm | March 28 at 7:45 am & 9:45 am*; 6:30 pm

The one where you hold palms and read the story from the Last Supper to Jesus' death

The sixth and final Sunday of Lent and official start of Holy Week. We are remembering Jesus' grand entry into Jerusalem where the crowds shouted Hosanna and waved palm branches, a symbol of the big victory Jesus would soon have over death. Traditionally the priest and a few others read the Scripture narration of the Last Supper through the crucifixion.

#LongGospel #PalmBraiding
#DonkeyRides

HOLY THURSDAY

April 1 at 7 pm*

The one with The Last Supper and the washing of feet

The end of Lent and beginning of the three most holy days in the Catholic Church. Jesus gives us a new commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We all need the reminder each year. Jesus expressed this message by washing the Apostle's feet. Typically the priest washes and dries several people's feet during the Mass. There is no formal end to this Mass, the table is stripped and the Body of Christ is carried to the chapel where all are encouraged to kneel before it in reflection for as long as you feel inclined or until you can no longer feel your knees.

#LoveLikeJesus #SmellyFeet
#BreadIsBody #WineIsBlood

LENT IS A Journey

PUT YOURSELF IN THE DESERT

Adapted from a reflection by Jennifer Hartline, Catholic Online (catholic.org)

They say God is in the desert.

Here, in the desolation? There's no flowing water, no color, no fragrance, no softness or beauty. Just barrenness and silence.

Yet, here in the desert there are no distractions; nothing to please our eyes and tempt us to look elsewhere. It is a hostile environment so we are compelled to turn to the Lord, hungry for relief.

At first the silence is deafening and jarring. But if we lean into it and accept the stillness, then we may finally be able to **hear His gentle voice again.**

That is the hope and prayer for this barren Lent. That whether He speaks or not, we will pray. If we feel nothing at all, we will praise Him. If our mind is a void and our heart empty, we will just quietly bow before

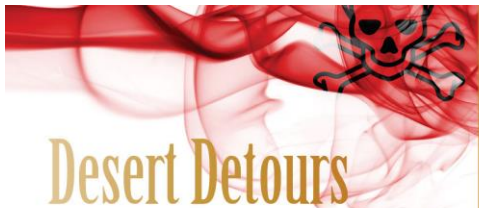
Him with humility and gratitude for all He has done.

It's a struggle and requires a repeated act of the will. Lazy flesh is asked to learn greater discipline; a faint heart is urged on to courage; a spirit full of ourselves is dared to risk being emptied, trusting in Him to fill the void.

Yes, God is in the desert. By grace, may we learn to walk steadfastly with Him, growing in trust and obedience. May we follow Him faithfully *through* it and may it bear great fruit.

If God has chosen this desert for us, **we will follow Him into it.**

We don't go alone; He is leading us.



Desert Detours

LENTEN HOMILY SERIES

LENT WEEKEND MASSES

Saturdays 4:30 pm
 Sunday 7:45 & 9:45 am, 6:30 pm

Traveling through modern day life, like the desert, can be dangerous. Vices—poison to the soul—threaten and need antidotes (a.k.a. virtues).

Our time in the desert can be a difficult journey but we are sustained by the knowledge that ultimately it can take us to the Garden and a reunion with Jesus. Fr. Bill's Lenten homilies will focus on those Desert Detours - the barren parts of our journey and more importantly the remedy to those vices of life. Inspired loosely by Bishop Robert Barron's "Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues", the homily will focus on the antidotes that lead to joy, peace and faith. Go to the St. Mary Appleton YouTube channel to listen to Fr. Bill's weekly homilies.

FEB. 20/21
 Poison: Pride, Antidote: Humility

FEB. 27/28
 Poison: Greed, Antidote: Generosity

MARCH 6/7
 Poison: Anger, Antidote: Forgiveness

MARCH 13/14
 Poison: Lust, Antidote: Charity

MARCH 20/21
 Poison: Sloth, Antidote: Zeal

Did You Know?

LENT IS NOT 40 DAYS LONG.

There are actually 46 days between Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday. Sundays are not included in Lent and are, in fact, meant for celebrating and feasting as you remember Christ's resurrection.

LENTEN ALMS PROJECT TO BENEFIT REACH

The one where you turn your money/ treasure into a prayer by using it to help others

Almsgiving is considered prayer because it's giving to God, and it's a form of fasting because it involves sacrifice. This year, our parish Lenten Alms Project will benefit REACH, a program that supports in-home caregivers of those with memory loss. A marginalized group before COVID-19, these caregivers now face even greater isolation due to limited respite opportunities and decreased community support. REACH helps address these needs by providing free support, coaching, and encouragement so those experiencing memory loss can more often remain in their homes and maintain better mental and physical health.

In addition to supporting REACH, look for information on our **Card Campaign**, an outreach to our isolated parish family members who may be homebound or in care facilities.

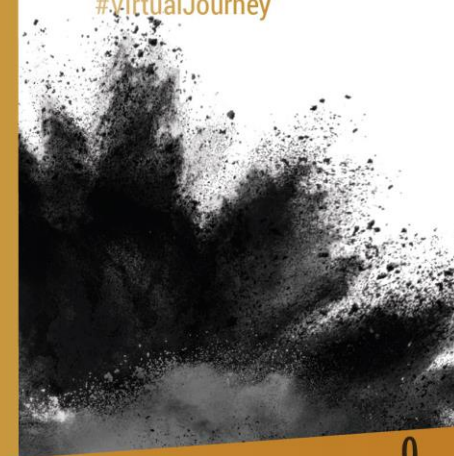
#LovingOurNeighbors
 #MakeRipples #ShareYourGifts

FACEBOOK GROUP: RIPPLES OF GOD'S LOVE - LENT EDITION

The one where you use social media to share fun and faith with old and new friends

Let's be together, even if we can't BE together! We'll share prayers, reflections, inspiration, and grow together as we walk through Lent. Invite your family & friends - no need to be a member of St. Mary. Just search the group name on Facebook and send a request to join.

#DesertFriends #NoPressure
 #VirtualJourney



Community Opportunities

NEW! CONNECT GROUPS

Virtual or in-person; times set by each group; SIGN-UP and details on the [LENT 2021 page at stmaryparish.org](#)

The one where you get together to make friends and talk about God and whatever with refreshments!

Taking on the Desert Together
- Is your prayer life making you feel like you're in the desert alone? You don't have to journey alone! Our lives are strengthened when we can sit down with each other, share our life experiences, friendship and faith. Join a group that reflects you! Besides growing in our common interests, we can all help each other grow in our relationship with Jesus. We will be launching in-person and virtual Connect Groups of up to 12 people to pray, laugh, share and walk from Ash Wednesday to Easter (and maybe beyond).

#FaithFamilyTogetherness
#BetterTogether
#In-Person&Virtual

ROCKs FAMILY LENT PROJECT

Bag delivery weekend of Feb. 13/14 to parish households with children ages 3-17

Extra Lent Project Bags bags available at St. Mary

The one where you help the kids see that being friends with Jesus leads us to a place full of beauty and love.

The ROCKs team wants to help make Lent meaningful for your family! The bag will include a Desert to the Garden project, treats, activities and more designed to help kids and families walk with Jesus and prepare their hearts for Easter. The garden will be constructed of elements that can be earned with acts of kindness that soften our hearts and ease the burdens of those around us.

#SpecialDelivery #BFFJesus
#CultivateKindness

Lenten Prayer & Worship Opportunities

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17: Masses at 7 am, 12:05 pm* & 6:30 pm

*The one where you fast and they put ashes on your forehead***

**EXCEPT during a pandemic.

The Season opener of Lent will look and feel a little different this year.

MASS - Although Mass attendance is not required, Ash Wednesday services often attract some of the largest crowds outside of Christmas and Easter. Even non-Catholics attend to receive ashes.

ASHES - The way we receive ashes this year will change significantly. Instead of marking the sign of the cross on each person's forehead, the distributor will sprinkle ashes on the top of the head. Meant to be an outward reminder of our need to assess our lives and turn away from bad habits, ashes are not essential to get Lent off to a good start. But, unlike sacraments, which are available only to baptized Catholics, anyone can receive ashes.

FASTING - For those aged 18 to 59, Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (by definition eating one full meal plus two smaller meals that equal one regular one). Those 14 and older should also abstain from meat. Fasting and meat abstinence also apply to every Friday of Lent.

#DirtyHairDontCare #SoHungry
#IAmJustDust

WATCH MASS

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CONFESSION (A.K.A. RECONCILIATION)

In the Chapel
Saturdays 9-10 am
Tuesdays 6:15-7:15 pm
Tuesday of Holy Week Fr. Bill
Keeping the Lights on for You -
hours extended to 9:15pm

Please gather in the
Marian Way.

*The one where you float out
the door*

In Confession, you give meaning to your story through sharing it with another person, in this case, the priest. Don't worry about reciting a laundry list of "infractions" Think instead of what's happening in your life. What is going well? What is giving you trouble? Where do you feel separated from God? There's no script you have to follow - just enter, settle in, and begin.

#TellYourStory #Forgiveness
#CleanHeart #Freedom

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

[www.americamagazine.org/
content/good-word/
confession-sacrament-story](http://www.americamagazine.org/content/good-word/confession-sacrament-story)

FAQS

DO YOU THINK I WILL TELL THE PRIEST SOMETHING HE HASN'T HEARD BEFORE?

No.

OKAY, BUT WHY GO? CAN'T I JUST APOLOGIZE TO GOD MYSELF? OR (TO PARAPHRASE REV. TERRANCE W. KLEIN) IF CONFESSION IS SOME SORT OF CELESTIAL CAR WASH FOR SOULS, WHY CAN'T I JUST HOSE DOWN THE CHEVY MYSELF?

The emphasis is not on reporting a list of sins to a priest. Think of it as telling your story—your weaknesses, frustrations and hurts—to Jesus, who is present through the priest.

Did You Know?

THE OFFICIAL COLOR OF LENT IS VIOLET

It represents mourning for Jesus dying on the cross while also celebrating his resurrection with the color of royalty.

ADORATION

In Church every Friday 9 am to 9 pm,
Feb. 19 – March 26;
every Saturday from 8 am to 12 Noon,
Feb. 20 – March 27

*The one where you sit with Jesus, find
peace and escape the noise*

A beautiful Catholic tradition, adoration is one-on-one quiet time with our best friend, Jesus. To know someone and develop true friendship, we need to spend quality time with them. In the Eucharist, Jesus, miraculously alive and physically near in the form of consecrated bread, rests on the altar in the monstrance. Whether we sit or kneel, spend 15 minutes or an hour, read, pray or just bask in His gaze, Jesus invites us to breathe in His peace and unconditional love. Try it once or spend an hour every week this Lenten season. SIGN-UP and details on the [LENT 2021 page at stmaryparish.org](http://stmaryparish.org)

#JesusIsMyBFF #NotJustBread
#SayNoToNoise #HangWithGod

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

IN-PERSON: Thursdays, alternating locations between St. Mary Church, dates February 25, March 11 & 25, and St. Joseph Church, dates March 4, 18

ON-LINE: Look for the [LENT 2021 page at stmaryparish.org](http://stmaryparish.org) for resources

The one where you reflect on 14 key events from the day Jesus died

Everyone, young and old, Catholic and non-Catholic, can take part in this prayerful and popular Lenten tradition. Each of the 14 Stations of the Cross is a significant event in what is known as the Passion of Christ. At St. Mary, you'll notice images on the sides of the church walls – these are the stations. As the presider moves to each station, a story is told about the event and prayers are offered by those gathered.

#InHisShoes #WereYouThere
#WeightOfTheCross

