

Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church

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Office phone: 205-352-3741

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Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00AM-11:45PM

Daily Mass: Tuesday-Saturday, 12:00PM

Sunday Masses: Saturday, 4:00PM, Sunday, 8:00AM, 10:30AM & 2:00PM (Spanish)

Confessions: Tuesday-Friday, 1:30PM, Saturday, 1:00PM

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Devotions: Tuesday-Friday, 1:00PM

The Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 30 minutes before each Mass

20 Decade Rosary every Wednesday, 10:30AM

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: FRIDAY, March 5, 6:00PM (Hall)

The Eucharistic Stations with Exposition and Benediction

THIS WEEK!!!!

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH WITH JOHN MARTIGNONI!

John will be presenting a combination Bible/Catechism study, with a healthy dose of apologetics thrown in. Learn the Bible, learn the Catechism, and learn how to explain and defend your faith all at the same time. We'll meet the first 5 Mondays of Lent (Feb 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22), then take 2 weeks off for Easter, and then go another 5 weeks (April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10). John will be covering 1st Peter the first 5 weeks, and 2nd Peter the second five weeks. Meeting time is 6:30 - 8:00 PM each week in the Parish Life Center. No cost. Bring a Bible and a Catechism.

We'll be talking Bible, Catechism, redemption, salvation, Christian prayer, Christian living, grace, faith, the Mass, Sola Fide, Once Saved Always Saved, love, Purgatory, time, the Sacraments, sin, the Pope, and much more! All of that from just those two short books of the Bible! You'll see how the Catechism is inextricably linked to the Bible, how the Old Testament is linked to the New Testament, how the Bible is linked to the Magisterium, and can use both Bible and Catechism to both deepen your faith and share your faith with others.

THE OFFICE IS NOW CLOSED ON MONDAY. THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC MASS ON MONDAYS.

Quote of the week: "My TV is the tabernacle." --St. Mother Theresa

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: Saturday, 4:00 PM: Anita Collins (SI)
Sunday, 8:00 AM: The people of the parish (RIP), Sunday, 10:30 AM: The Maddux (SI)
Tuesday, 12:00 PM: Jimbo Culverhouse (RIP), Wednesday, 12:00 PM: Earl Bean (RIP)
Thursday, 12:00 PM: Carla Stone (SI), Friday, 12:00 PM: Leticia Tomas (RIP)
Saturday, 12:00 PM: Alipio Tomas, Jr. (SI)**

Question: Every year during Lent I'm asked why Catholics fast and abstain. How can I explain our Lenten practice?

Answer: Lent is the 40 days before Easter in which Catholics pray, fast, contemplate, and engage in acts of spiritual self-discipline. Catholics do these things because Easter, which celebrates the Resurrection of Christ, is the greatest holy day of the Christian year (even above Christmas) and Catholics have recognized that it is appropriate to prepare for such a holy day by engaging in such disciplines. Archbishop Fulton Sheen noted that the Protestant attitude is summarized by the line, "First comes the feast, then comes the hangover," while the Catholic attitude is "First comes the fast, then comes the feast."

The reason Lent lasts 40 days is that 40 is the traditional number of judgment and spiritual testing in the Bible (Gn 7:4, Ex 24:18, 34:28, Nm 13:25, 14:33, Jon 3:4). Lent bears particular relationship to the 40 days Christ spent fasting in the desert before entering into his public ministry (Mt 4:1-11). Catholics imitate Christ by spending 40 days in spiritual discipline before the celebration of Christ's triumph over sin and death.

Fasting is a biblical discipline that can be defended from both the Old and the New Testament. Christ expected his disciples to fast (Mt 9:14-15) and issued instructions for how they should do so (Mt 6:16-18). Catholics follow this pattern by holding a partial fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Abstinence from certain foods is also a biblical discipline. In Daniel 10:2-3 we read, "In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks." Catholics use a practice similar to Daniel's when, as a way of commemorating Christ's Crucifixion on a Friday, they abstain from eating meat on that day of the week during Lent. The only kind of flesh they eat on Friday is fish, which is a symbol of Christ.

Even the Ash Wednesday practice of having one's forehead signed with ashes has a biblical parallel. Putting ashes on one's head was a common biblical expression of mourning (1 Sm 13:19, Est 4:1, Is 61:3; see also Est 4:3, Jer 6:26, Ez 27:30, Dn 9:3, Mt 11:21, Lk 10:13). By having the sign of the cross made with ashes on their foreheads, Catholics mourn Christ's suffering on the cross and their own sins, which made that suffering necessary.