

**God** is the parent of the Prodigal child,  
waiting faithfully, eagerly on the road for our return, night after night.  
There are no folded arms and stern judging stares, only the straining eyes of a parent  
eager for our return, longing to embrace us and rejoice in us.  
Yet we spend so much time trying to think of how to return  
and what to say.....how to begin the conversation.  
It's only when we finally appear after so much time away,  
sometimes embarrassed and confused,  
that we understand we don't have to say anything. We only have to show up.

## **Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 17.**

Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 PM.

**Come, live the story of the Ragman!**

### **EVENING MASS**

Mass will be celebrated Tuesday - Friday at 7:00pm  
from February 18, to March 31.

### **LENTEN ROSARY**

You are invited to come pray the Rosary before evening Mass at 6:30pm  
on Tuesdays and Fridays from February 19 – March 31.

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Please join us for the the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings after Mass  
from February 19 to March 31.

### **LENTEN MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	March 27,28	Sat. 5:00pm, Sun. 9:00am & 11:00am	<b>Passion Sunday</b>
<b>Holy Thursday</b>	April 1	7:00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
<b>Good Friday</b>	April 2	10:00 am	Stations of the Cross
<b>Good Friday</b>	April 2	3:00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
<b>Easter Vigil</b>	April 3	9:30pm	Resurrection of the Lord
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	April 4	9:00am & 11:00am	Easter Sunday Mass

**Take this opportunity to share the Lord's Passion with your family.**

The Passion Play this year will be presented by the youth on:

**Palm Sunday, March 28 at 8:00 PM**

&

**Good Friday, April 2 at 8:00 PM**

**“With creativity and enthusiasm, may you find new ways to lead the young people of the world..... to a renewed encounter with Jesus Christ.”**

*Pope John Paul II (World Youth Day Toronto 2001)*

This Lenten season, are you giving up a favorite food, a favorite pastime or anything else you really love but isn't essential to your life? Giving up something for Lent fosters self-discipline and tempers our desires.

***It is a form of fasting. It is a form of penance and 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. Look for ways that you can increase your knowledge of your own faith, and strengthen your spiritual life as well as encourage that of your family's.

***Children under the age of 14 are not required to uphold Lenten fasting and abstinence practices, but encouraging small sacrifices may help build a foundation for a faith-filled adulthood.***

***Here are a few ideas:***

- ✠ Observe Ash Wednesday. Attend Mass on Ash Wednesday, and receive the ashes on your forehead. Do not eat any meat, and have only a main meal and two smaller meals with no snacking in between.
- ✠ Give something up for Lent. You can choose to avoid sweets, stop listening to your favorite music, give up lengthy showers or some other pleasure in favor of sacrifice. Unite yourself with Jesus' sufferings on the cross during your Lenten sacrifices.
- ✠ Take some time, as a family or on your own, to pray or read the Bible, especially the Gospel of Mark.
- ✠ Grow in virtue as you observe lent as a Catholic. Decide to work on one virtue, such as charity, chastity or honesty as part of your Lenten journey.
- ✠ Observe the Church's rules for fasting and abstaining from meat during Lent. The Church requires that you abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- ✠ Make a humble meal (basic soup and bread) once a week and donate the money you would have spent on meat and dessert to charity. Make it a family activity to buy some food items with this saved money and bring them to the St. Vincent de Paul food hamper donation box.
- ✠ Attend Mass each Sunday and as often as possible during the week. Weekday evening Mass at church at 7:00pm (excluding Monday).

**Weekday morning Mass before school:**

***Tuesday 7:45 am – St. Albert the Great***

***Wednesday 7:45 am – Monsignor Smith***

***Thursday 7:45 am – Cardinal Newman***

***May this Lent be a time of spiritual growth for your family.***

***As you come to understand all that God has done for us,  
may your love for Him, the members of your family,  
and all the members of God's family grow stronger with each and every day.***

***God Bless***

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