

Cathedral of Saint Andrew

LENTEN SEASON

Wednesdays during Lent (Feb. 24 – March 24)
7 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours) in the Chapel
Sacrament of reconciliation available each Wednesday following the liturgy.

Fridays during Lent (Feb. 19 – March 26)
6 p.m. – Soup and Bread Supper
7 p.m. – Stations of the Cross (English, Español and Latin)

HOLY WEEK

Saturday, March 27
4:30 p.m. – Vigil Mass

Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday) – Sunday, March 28
9:45 a.m. - Blessing of the palms on the piazza
10 a.m. – Mass (televised), Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley
Noon – Mass (Español)
6 p.m. – Mass
7:30 p.m. – Contemplative Mass

Chrism Mass – March 30
Blessing of the Oils and Consecration of the Chrism
7 p.m. – Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley
This is a ticketed event.

TRIDUUM THE GREAT THREE DAYS

Holy Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – April 1
7 p.m. – Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley

Good Friday, Celebration of the Lord's Passion – April 2
Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion
1 p.m. – Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley
3 p.m. (Español)
7 p.m. – Tenebrae (An ancient tradition which closes Good Friday with a service of "shadows").
Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil – April 3
8 p.m. – Mass, Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley

SEASON OF EASTER

Easter Sunday – April 4
10 a.m. – Mass (televised), Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley
Noon – Mass (Español)
6 p.m. – Mass
7:30 p.m. – Contemplative Mass

DAILY AND WEEKEND LITURGIES

Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. (Chapel)
Friday 8 p.m. during Lent (Español)
Saturday 12:05 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. (Televised), Noon (Español), 6 p.m.
7:30 p.m. Contemplative Mass
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When the spirit is willing

» Msgr. Gaspar F. Ancona is a senior priest of the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids.

It seems to be our nature to fall into the doldrums from time to time. Maybe, in our hemisphere, it's the hibernating instinct during the intemperate cycle of cold, snow and darkness. It's as good an excuse as any. Can we use it to explain away our spiritual sluggishness, too?

Lest we sink too deeply into self-justifications, the church gifts us with an entire season dedicated to awakening. It's Lent, and with these 40 days we are summoned to recommit ourselves to Christ and the mission he shares with us. We enter more deeply into the mystery of his life, death and resurrection. We refocus our spiritual energies through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It's a time to come alive again to what Christ has made of us.

What is it that we have become because of him? Messengers of good news, bearers of the light, his friends and disciples, commissioned to give the best of ourselves in service to God and neighbor. Not isolated and alone in this mission, we have been made part of a grand community. With them we march with a sharpened purpose during this season of spiritual quickening. We may sense, more than ever, that we are in solidarity with one another.

A helpful reminder in every parish community during this season is the journey in our midst which the candidates and catechumens are making on their way to full participation in the life of Christ and his community. Their open spirit and their evident desire to learn of Jesus and his ways heighten our own sense of appreciation for the beauty of the Gospel. What may have been a too casual and unexamined part of our life in Christ, we now take a fresh look at, because of them. While we pray for them and encourage them, we can sense that they are offering us an example and incentive for our own spiritual renewal.

Yes, the flesh often becomes weighed down in the course of our following of the Lord, but these days of Lent are alive with grace enough to make the spirit genuinely willing.

last word

Let us offer a reminder on the Church's fasting and abstinence teachings: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of universal fast and abstinence. Fasting is obligatory for all who have completed their 18th year and have not yet reached their 60th year. Fasting allows a person to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may be taken, not to equal one full meal. Abstinence (from meat) is obligatory for all who have reached their 14th year.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

Fridays in Lent are obligatory days of complete abstinence (from meat) for all who have completed their 14th year.

Source: USCCB