

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

Let this season of LENT remind us all that this life we have and the material possessions we hold are just being LENT to us. We are all passersby. We are not immigrants here. We are all pilgrims on the road. We bring nothing when we die. But we can leave behind the love we have shared, the hope we have given and the goodness we have done.



This Wednesday, February 11th, is Ash Wednesday. There will be two Masses you may chose to attend, Wednesday morning at 8:30 with the school children or Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM. **Ashes will be distributed at both Masses.**

Reminder:

- St. Joe's Fish Fry is held on the Fridays of Lent, 5:00 – 7:00 PM in Gaudete Hall.
- On the **Fridays of Lent, (March 16th to March 23rd) Stations of the Cross** will be celebrated at **4:00 PM. NOTE the earlier time.** You are encouraged to take part in this moving and traditional Lenten devotion. **Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament** will also be celebrated on most Fridays. Deacon Gies will conduct the service. Please refer to today's insert for details.

LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES this year will be celebrated on: **Wednesday, March 7th**, 7:00 PM at St. Patrick, Kent, and **Thursday, March 15th**, 7:00 PM at Immaculate Conception, Ravenna. *St. Joseph will also have a Communal Penance Service from 7:00 to 8:00 PM on the Tuesday of Holy Week, March 27th. **The Portage Deanery will again this year hold the event, "Leave the Lights On", Wednesday, February 28th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.*

Individual Reconciliation is always on Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:30 PM, or by appointment.



OPERATION RICE BOWL

The 2018 Bishop's Appeal to support Catholic Charities begins today, Sunday, February 18th. At the same time, Catholic Charities also runs the Lenten Rice Bowl, a way of collecting coins and loose change to address hunger issues among poor people. The Rice Bowl collections are taken up in little boxes especially fitted for coins. As I states in the past, it seems to me that this effort is focused primarily on children as a way of sacrificing during Lent and helping others that are needier than themselves.

St. Joseph Parish will participate in Rice Bowl focused primarily on children. All the money collected will then be counted and added to the Bishop's Appeal since both funds go to Catholic Charities. Rice Bowl then becomes primarily a children's activity to help them participate in Lenten giving.

We therefore have two operations going simultaneously for Catholic Charities. We have the Bishop's Appeal with its adult contribution envelopes and we have the Rice Bowl which is focused on our children and getting them into the spirit of Lent. All the money will go to Catholic Charities through the Bishop's Appeal. Thank you for your involvement in our way of helping men and women throughout our area who are struggling. Rice Bowls are available at the back church.