

Sign up for daily Lenten Reflections and start exploring the wealth of content available to all our parishioners!

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

formed.org/lent
free access to FORMED videos

47
EPISODES

Parishioners and members of our larger parish and school community now have FREE access to thousands of videos, podcasts, and e-books through formed.org. Start by signing up for daily Lenten Reflections delivered right to your inbox and start exploring!

St. Matthew Catholic Parish

1150 Monks Passage, Oakville, ON L6M 1M2

905-825-0219 | stmatthewoakville@hamiltondiocese.com

www.saintmatthew.ca

Lord's Day Mass Time: (Sat. Vigil) 5 PM; 9 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 Noon, 7 PM



2020

LENTEN CONFESSIONS

Tuesdays 6:00 PM – 6:45 PM
Saturdays 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Parish Penance Celebration

Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 PM

All-Day Confessions

Wednesday, April 8, 9:30 AM – 9:30 PM

HOLY WEEK & EASTER LITURGIES

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April 5, 2020

(Sat. Vigil) 5PM; 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 Noon & 7:00 PM

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

April 9, 2020

8:00 PM

Good Friday Celebrations of the Lord's Passion

April 10, 2020

11:00 AM (Family) & 3:00 PM (Solemn)

The Resurrection of the Lord (Easter)

April 11, 2020

8:00 PM (Easter Vigil)

April 12, 2020

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 12:00 Noon

PARISH DEVOTIONS

Stations of the Cross

Fridays 7:00 PM

Forgiven Series (on Reconciliation)

Thursday, March 12, 19 & 26, 7:00 PM

Pivotal Players Series

Wednesday, March 11 & 18, 7:00 PM

Good Friday Taize Prayer

April 10, 2020, 7:00 PM

LENTEN MESSAGE

One of the most common questions heard around the church this time of year is: “What are you giving up for Lent?” It’s good that so many people still find space in their lives for prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. Less common is the (probably more important) question: “Why are you giving something up for Lent?” Maybe we think it’s the sort of thing considered only when first discovering and encountering faith. Maybe we think the answer is so simple it doesn’t need to be asked, but this is exactly what Pope Francis has invited us to consider.

In his homily for Ash Wednesday in 2019, the Holy Father reflected powerfully on the life and experience of the Christian person, simultaneously drawn toward God by faith and necessity, and away from Him by distractions and the cares and concerns of life in this world. At all times, but especially during this annual season of penance and preparation, we are called to listen attentively for the voice of God, which can get drowned out if we’re not careful. Pope Francis reminds us what message that voice is speaking to all people: “Return to me,’ says the Lord—‘to me.’ The Lord is the goal of our journey in this world. The direction must lead to Him.”

God has blessed us with many good things in this life, and we should never forget our duty as his sons and daughters to share in His sense of delight. That’s why it’s so wrong when Christians become negative and turn sour, living as though the world and the enjoyment of it is bad. “God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.” We do, however, need to strike a healthy balance. Our three-part Lenten observance helps us do exactly that: Prayer returns our focus to God; charity reminds us of the obligation to serve the needs of others; and fasting helps us look inside our hearts and take stock, so that we can identify the areas we need to offer more fully to God. “Jesus on the wood of the cross burns with love and calls us to a life that is not lost amid the ashes of the world, [but] burns with charity.”

Lent is the time to free ourselves from the illusion of chasing after dust. Lent is for rediscovering that we are created for the inextinguishable flame, not for ashes that immediately disappear; for God, not for the world; for the eternity of heaven, not for earthly deceit; for the freedom of the children of God, not for slavery to things. We should ask ourselves today: Where do I stand? Do I live for fire or for ash?
(Pope Francis, Ash Wednesday Homily, 2019)

On behalf of our entire parish team: May your Lenten journey and your celebration of Easter be holy and fruitful!