

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH



A SEASON WITHOUT “BREAD AND CIRCUSES?”

If you could wiretap the secret of clergy hearts—and those other church types who plan worship and make it happen—you might hear some reservations about lent. You’d have to tap, because these are not the normal stuff of backroom professional conversations.

Don’t get me wrong. I hope that after a few more paragraphs to leave you with a real and positive invitation to this powerful season. Lent has made a powerful difference to me and lots of people I know, and it can make a difference to you, too.

But first, the reservations. In the back room we like to think that we try to offer God, and our congregations, worship that is faithful and effective. As they say on the airlines, we know you have a choice when booking your time, and you should feel that our time in prayer, song and action is edifying, not mortifying.

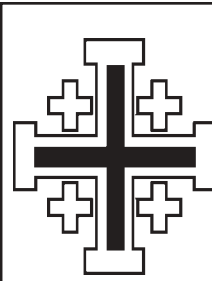
I say a little prayer every week that somehow, at some moment, our worship will leave each of you with a sense of uplift, a refreshing boost before you re-engage in the daily battle. I hope we can take ourselves to a place of listening deeper, and seeing higher and broader, than when we came over the threshold.

Lent runs the risk of taking is all down a notch or two. Lent is a concentrate, designed to put some of the inescapable questions before us by taking us through some of the tougher episodes of the Jesus story. The tone is set on Ash Wednesday, with the astringent invitation to “prayer, fasting, and self-denial,” and by the ashes as “a sign of our mortality and penitence.”

In the backroom there are a few wincers. Don’t we need to proverbial bread and circuses to keep us all entertained? Don’t people face plenty of mortality in the daily news, and more than enough self-generated breast-beating and penitence? Do we really want to represent God as needing to make us “uncomfortable in some fiddling but irritating way”—to use Father Harry Williams’ indictment of Lent itself.

In fact, there’s a good side to Lent as a “concentrate.” Six compact weeks when we change the pace and the focus of the spiritual journey. The simple and sober style is an effort at clarifying, setting the focal length so that we can see the journey against which we measure our own. That journey is the purposeful time Jesus spent in the wilderness. Going there helps us follow the way to the cross. And experience shows that the bright lights and festive tunes of Easter fall flat without the wilderness and the cross first.

The backroom can let go of its fear that we all need a circus each week. We need food, company and some time with God. Let’s give that to one another this Lent. (Rev. William Tully)



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 28

12noon — Solemn Mass

Celebrating

The 15th Anniversary of the Founding of the Parish

The 35th Ordination Anniversary of Father Merold

The Completion of Father Merold’s Pastorate

Reception and Dinner will follow the Mass.

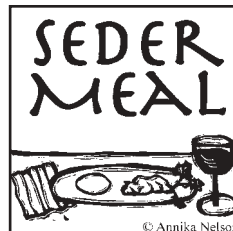
A TEACHING MASS

Ever wondered why we do what we do in Mass? Celebrate a real Mass with Father Merold as he explains The Various “Whys” of what we do when we celebrate Mass together. This Teaching Mass will take place on Monday, March 27 at 7pm, in the Church. Our RCIA candidates will attend this Mass as part of their instruction in the Catholic faith. You are most welcome to attend and participate.

A TIME FOR FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

A Lenten Penitential Service will be held on Saturday, April 8 at 10am in the Church. This service will prepare you spiritually to enter the Great Events of Holy Week - which begins on Palm Sunday, April 9.

CELEBRATE HOLY THURSDAY AS JESUS DID



On Maundy (Holy) Thursday, April 13 we enter the TRIDUUM - the great three days which celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord. You are cordially invited to celebrate the events of Holy Thursday which also remembers the feast of Passover.

Our worship that evening begins at 6pm and includes a celebration of the Passover and the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. The celebration will be held in the Parish Center and will include dinner. Afterwards, we will go in procession to the Church to bring the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose.

To adequately prepare for this special service, we must know exactly how many people will attend. There is a sign-up sheet near the entrance to the Church. Please sign your name and the number of people who will attend.

NOT ENOUGH

It is not enough for me to love God, if my neighbor does not love God. —St. Vincent de Paul

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.queenofpeacecatholicchurch.org