

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



FAST AND ABSTINENCE

We approach a season dedicated to acts of penance. The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as a minimal obligation, that all persons over fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast, limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are light.

All of the faithful are encouraged to attend Mass and to receive the Most Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

8:30 am, 10:30 am (school Mass), 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Saturday, 4 April after the 8:30 am Mass and from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

No confessions will be heard on Holy Saturday, 11 April.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

As part of our faith community's Lenten observance, we will participate in Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program, Operation Rice Bowl. For over 33 years Operation Rice Bowl has inspired Catholics in the United States to pray, fast, learn and give as we increase our understanding of our global community throughout our Lenten journey. We encourage you to participate in Operation Rice Bowl at home with your family and loved ones. Please take a container home with you today. They are available at the doorways of the Church. You are asked to return the rice bowl containers on the weekend of 4 & 5 April, Palm Sunday,

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesdays @ 1:15 pm on 27 February, 6, 13, 27 March and 3 April.

Fridays @ 7:00 pm on 27 February, 6, 13, 20, 27 March and 3 April.

Our parish is privileged to host the **Statue of the Scourged Christ** from 21 February to 11 April. This pilgrim statue is a compelling life-sized statue that has drawn thousands of visitors to gaze upon its graphic representation of the suffering Christ.

To some observers, the statue is somewhat unsettling, but to most, it is a fascinating and deeply moving work of art, an awesome sight to behold. Long before Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" ever hit the movie screens, this statue was bringing the reality of what Christ must have suffered into the consciences of thousands of people who looked upon it.

The statue has been the subject of numerous newspaper articles and TV news reports. It is exposed only a few times each year. You are encouraged to invite others to our church to view the statue.