Lent

Lent has a two-fold nature: it prepares us for Easter, when we recall Christ's saving death and resurrection, and it is also a time when we look at ourselves and strive to overcome our personal struggles that we may become the best person we can be.

The Sunday Scripture readings during Lent reflect this two-fold nature of the Season. The Old Testament readings (first reading) are generally taken from the books of Moses and the prophets and point us towards the life-giving Messiah. The New Testament readings (second reading) are selections from the apostles on the different themes of repentance and new life.

The Gospels for the Sundays of Lent might be a helpful guide for spiritual reading during this season – you may wish to read these passages and use them for prayer prior to the Sunday Mass:

1st Sunday of Lent 

2nd Sunday of Lent 

3rd Sunday of Lent 

4th Sunday of Lent 

5th Sunday of Lent 
John 8:1-11

Passion (Palm) Sunday 

Easter Sunday 
Luke 24:1-12

Blessing of Easter Foods

On **Holy Saturday March 26th at 1:00 p.m.**, we will be celebrating an ancient tradition of the Church of blessing the foods that our families will be using for our Easter meal. You are invited to bring breads, meats and other items that will enhance our celebration of this great feast. This celebration will take place at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School.

Celebrations in the Easter Season

Second Sunday of Easter of the Divine Mercy 
**Weekend of April 2nd/3rd**
Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

Good Shepherd Sunday
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Vocation Sunday
**Weekend of April 16th/17th**

On this Sunday we ponder the love that Jesus has for each one of us and we pray for men and women to answer the call to follow the Lord more intimately as a priest, permanent deacon, religious sister, religious brother or consecrated life.

**Solemity of Pentecost** 
**Weekend of May 14th/15th**
Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

**Solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity** 
**Weekend of May 21st/22nd**
Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

**Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ** 
**Corpus Christi** 
**Weekend of May 28th/29th**
Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

**Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** 
**Friday June 3rd**
Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel at Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School.
Dear friends in Christ:

Greetings in the Lord! As the joyful celebration of Easter approaches, the Church invites us to enter the Season of Lent. This penitential Season of the Church’s year is a time of preparing ourselves for the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. At this time we affirm our belief in the love that Jesus had for all of us when He died for our sins. This time helps us reflect on the ways in which we are called to bring the Saviour’s love and life to our world and to make His presence real among us.

This brochure will highlight our parish’s celebration of the Season of Lent and the liturgical celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. If you have any questions about this information please do not hesitate to call our parish office.

I pray that this Season of Lent will be a grace-filled opportunity for you and your family to prepare for the presence of the Risen Lord in our lives.

At Saint Benedict Parish, it is my hope that all Catholics in our parish boundaries will find a place in our parish community. If you have not been in regular practice of Church attendance, know that you are welcome anytime.

Please know that you are remembered weekly in our Sunday celebration of the Eucharist.

Father James S. Petrie
Pastor

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**Penance Celebrations**

The Community Penance Celebration for both Milton Parishes will take place on:

**Thursday March 10th**
7:00 PM
Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School
1145 Bronte Street South
Milton

This is an excellent opportunity to experience the Sacrament of the Lord’s love and forgiveness. There will be a number of priests from the local area. Please take advantage of this wonderful event.

Other Penance Celebrations planned include:

**Saint Paul the Apostle Parish (Burlington)**
Tuesday March 8th – 7:00 pm

**Holy Cross Parish (Georgetown)**
Wednesday March 16th – 7:00 pm

**Saint Matthew Parish (Oakville)**
Wednesday March 23rd – 7:00 pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated each Saturday afternoon from 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School in the Prayer Chapel.

Due to the Easter Season extra opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be provided:

**Saturday March 12th**
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday March 19th**
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Holy Saturday March 26th**
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please do not wait till the last minute to celebrate the Sacrament. Reconciliation is a wonderful way to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter.

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**Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday, February 10th, is the day when the Lenten Season traditionally begins. There will be two Masses on that day. We will have Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School (1145 Bronte Street South in Milton). Liturgical Celebrations will take place throughout the day at each of our parish schools. Please contact your child’s school for more details. Ashes will be distributed at all the Masses and School Liturgies.

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**Schedule of Holy Week Services**

**Saturday March 19th**
Passion (Palm) Sunday
5:00 p.m.

**Sunday March 20th**
Passion (Palm) Sunday
9:00 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 12:00 noon
Palms will be distributed at all Masses

**Monday March 21st**
Mass of Chrism
7:00 p.m.
Cathedral of Christ the King
700 King Street West in Hamilton

**Holy Thursday March 24th**
Mass of the Lord’s Supper
7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday March 25th**
Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion and Death
1:00 p.m.
Liturgical Celebration for Children and Families

**Holy Saturday March 26th**
Easter Vigil
7:00 p.m.
This is the most important liturgical celebration in the Roman Catholic Church. All are invited to be part of this beautiful ceremony.

**Easter Sunday March 27th**
Solemnty of the Resurrection of Our Lord
9:00 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 12 noon
There are no Masses anywhere on Easter Sunday afternoon or evening in the Diocese of Hamilton

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