

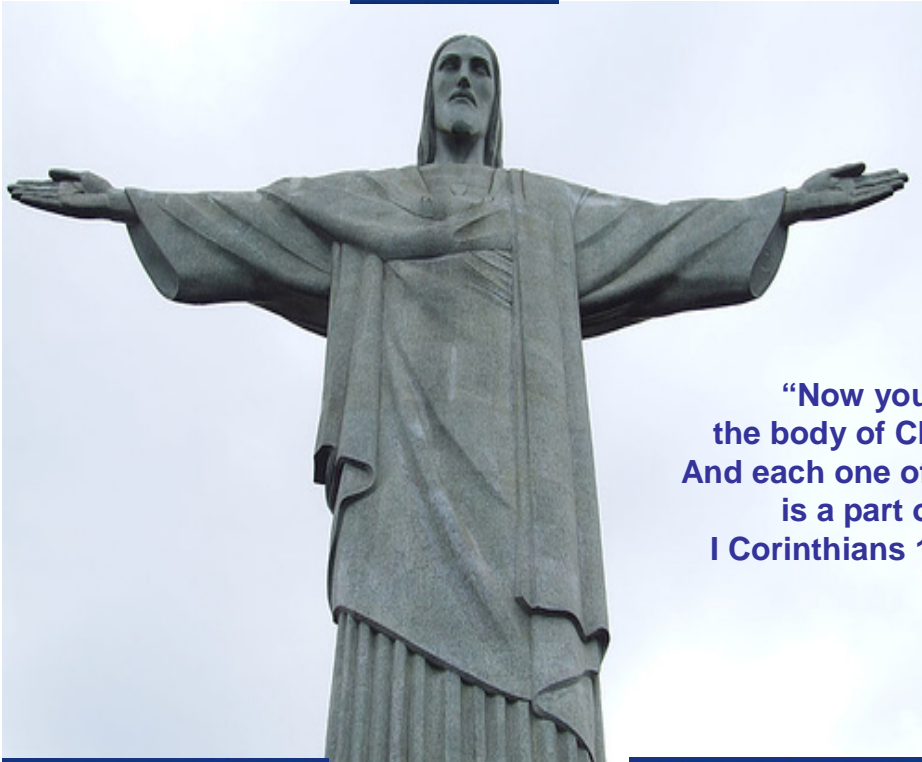
Lent 2009

Activities and Schedule

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Come join us in building the body of Christ!

Spirituality



**“Now you are
the body of Christ,
And each one of you
is a part of it.”
I Corinthians 12:27**

Community Building

Financial Stability

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LENT—A TIME FOR GROWTH

Spirituality, embodied by our devotion and unity in the Eucharist, runs through and holds together everything else we do. Lent is the traditional season in our church to renew our relationship with God, self, and others. In each of our lives the Lord is present, calling us to a deeper sense of discipleship. We seek to open ourselves to His Will for us this Lent.

We are called back to our central focus, Him who is GIFT to us—Jesus Christ. Each of us is called to be on His spiritual path as disciples who listen to and do His word. In addition we are being called to share more freely our faith with others, by the power of our good example, and by the way we are able to say what our faith means to us.

We are all invited to participate this Lent in opportunities which will strengthen our faith and equip us to reach out to others. Please find in these pages just a few opportunities available to all to enrich your Lenten journey.

LENTEN REGULATIONS FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, February 25th, and Good Friday, April 10th, are days of total abstinence from meat and also days of fast. Days of fast require that only one full meal be eaten. At other meal times lighter servings of food may be taken. Catholics over the age of 14 are bound by the regulations of abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. Catholics from the age of 18 until and including their 59th birthday are bound by the laws of fast. NOTE: When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

BAPTISMAL PROMISES

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS AND LENT A CONNECTION

As we begin the spiritual journey of Lent, 2009 it is helpful to look into the history of Christian life and practice. In the early centuries of the Church, adults received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. Before Baptism, catechumens promised to reform their lives and to profess their faith in the Creed of the Church. To prepare for this life-changing event, the catechumens (those preparing to be initiated) prayed and fasted for three days.

After the practice of infant baptism became widespread in the middle Ages, adult Christians began to view the time before Easter as a time to renew their faith. Gradually, over the years, this period of preparation for the Easter Vigil lengthened to all of Holy Week, and eventually to the forty day period of Lent we celebrate now.

The Second Vatican Council renewed the ancient practice of initiating adults at the Easter Vigil. Once again, the catechumens make their final preparation for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the period of Purification and Enlightenment, or, as we know it, Lent. The whole congregation prays for the catechumens and candidates (the already baptized who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church) and, with them, prepares to renew their baptismal promises at all of the Easter Liturgies. With Christians around the World, St. John the Evangelist parish community begins this pilgrimage of faith on Ash Wednesday. We look forward to the celebration of our redemption—Easter 2009.

RITE OF SENDING

This year we welcome our Catechumens and Candidates into our Catholic Faith Community at St. John the Evangelist Parish. On Sunday, March 8th, at the 10:30am Liturgy, Sponsors witness to the Catechumens' and Candidates' readiness to make and/or renew their Baptismal Commitment. Our parish community prays for our Catechumens Peter Kelyman, Adam Kelyman, Kathryn Kelyman, Travis Williams and Mercy Olobo and Candidates Sandra Liebel, Zuzana Kelyman, Joseph Ormsby and Jocelyn Ronald, and sends them forth to the Archbishop to celebrate the Lord's call in the Rite of Election that same afternoon. Pray for these Catechumens and Candidates as they continue their journey to the Easter Vigil.

MASS SCHEDULES

ASH WEDNESDAY: February 25th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Holy

Season of Lent. The schedule of Masses for that day is as follows:

7:00am

9:30am School Liturgy

12:00 noon

7:30pm

All In the Main Church

ALL DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES WILL TAKE PLACE DURING MASS.

On Ash Wednesday, the Word of God heard through the Scripture readings and homily are a call to conversion and repentance. Once we hear God's call we come forward to publicly express our turning more fully to the Lord. We receive ashes as a sign that we are responding to God's call to conversion.

DAILY LENTEN MASS SCHEDULE

Monday through Friday: 7:00am and 9:30am

Saturday: 9:00am

All Masses during Lent will be in the Main Church.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturdays: 5:30pm Historic Church

Sundays: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12 noon Main Church

LONGING FOR SOMETHING? MAYBE IT'S GOD. AN INVITATION TO COME BACK TO THE CHURCH

This Lent, parishes across the Archdiocese of Washington are extending a special invitation to those who may have drifted away from their faith for whatever reason to come back to the Church, for prayer and Mass. If you know a family member, friend, co-worker, and/or neighbor who isn't here with us and should be, consider extending a gentle invitation back. Let them know they are missed and are welcome by giving them an invitation.

This invitation may be just the opportunity they have been waiting for. Quietly tell them you have found a great parish and would like them to come with you. This Lent may be the opportunity you and they have been waiting for! Invitations will be available on the tables at church entrances.

RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Penance will be offered as usual each Saturday from 9:30—10:15am and 4:00—4:45pm. An additional opportunity for experiencing the Sacrament will also be offered. On Monday, March 30th, at 7:30pm there will be a Penance Service. This service is open to all and everyone is welcome to participate. Come join with other parishioners in a Penance Service and individual confessions.

Confessions will also be heard in the Main Church:

Ash Wednesday, February 25th, from 7:30-8:00am, 11:15-11:45am; 6:30-7:15pm;

Holy Saturday, April 11th, from 11:00am—12noon and 4:00—5:00pm.

Come experience the Lord's forgiving love!

RICE & TEA DINNERS

When you think about what to have for dinner, how do you consider your choices? Most of us would think, “meat, starch, vegetable” and go from there. But less than 10% of the world has access to meat on a regular basis. In most parts of the world, the meat serves not as a main course, but rather as a condiment. More than 850 million people in the world suffer from hunger every day.

We will be gathering for a series of dinners on Lenten Thursdays for fellowship, and in honor of our brothers and sisters throughout the world who suffer from hunger. We will dine on rice and broth, and drink tea or water, which is what 60% of the world eats for dinner on a regular basis. Donations of canned goods and/or money will be accepted, and will go directly to the benefit of our parish food bank.

The dinners will be held from 6:30-8:30pm, and each will feature a different speaker. We hope everyone, young and old, will join us and grow in spirit on these evenings. One special dinner will feature a Seder—the roots of our Eucharist.

Please save the date and plan to join us in the school auditorium on the following evenings:

Date	Topic	Speaker
March 5th: Prayer	St. Teresa of Avila	Susan Timoney
March 12th: Prayer/Fasting	Understanding the Seder; the Roots of our Eucharist	Guest Rabbi
March 19th:	Lenten Customs and Practices Fasting/Almsgiving	Fr. Tietjen
March 26th: Prayer	Seder Dinner	Msgr. English
April 2nd: Prayer	“Teaching” Mass	Fr. Tietjen

If you need a ride, please call Carla Haywood at 301-651-0593.

LENTEN CALENDAR

See last page.

**LENTEN PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL
RENEWAL**

God, heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent. By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit.

Without You I can do nothing. By Your Spirit, help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will. Teach me to find new life through penance. Keep me from sin, and help me live by Your commandment of love.

God of love, bring me back to You. Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works. May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with Your Word of life and make me one with You in love and prayer. Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness. Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass.

Father, our source of life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand; let me walk more readily in Your ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy, for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.

Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.
Amen

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in volunteering during Lent, there are many opportunities to help with our Rice and Tea dinner series. Please contact Carla Haywood at 301-651-0593 for more information. Thank you!!!

PERPETUAL ADORATION

We have the opportunity to visit with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in Our Lady's Chapel. As part of your Lenten practices, consider spending a few minutes, a half hour, a whole hour in His Real Presence. Relationships grow when friends spend time together. Consider giving some extra time to this most special relationship we can have!!

The code for entrance to Our Lady's Chapel after 8:00pm is available upon request by calling the rectory. For more information, contact Maria and John Capobianco at 301-593-1066 or john@lifeaftersunday.com.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place in the Main Church, as follows:

Friday, February 27th:	2:15pm Children's Stations 7:30pm
Friday, March 6th:	7:30pm
Friday, March 13th:	7:30pm
Friday, March 20th:	2:15pm Children's Stations 7:30pm
Friday, March 27th:	2:00pm Living Stations 7:30pm
Friday, April 3rd:	7:30pm
Friday, April 10th:	12:00noon

Perhaps no sacramental has more meaning behind it than the prayerful rendition of the Stations of the Cross, either privately or collectively during the Season of Lent. Here we discover an intimate sharing in the suffering and death of our beloved Savior. To pray the Stations is to travel Calvary's road with Jesus, and thus grow to appreciate more fully the depth of His love for each of us. We celebrate our Lord's real presence with us in the Blessed Sacrament, spending a few moments of adoration with Him and then receive His blessing.

PARISH LENTEN TRADITIONS: THE GIVING TREE

For the last few years the Giving Tree has been an important part of the Lenten practices here at St. John the Evangelist. You can see it situated in the shrine section of the North transept of the Church. This bare branched tree, gaunt and lifeless, is intended to be a liturgical symbol of the barren lives that so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ live each and every day. It stands there as a reminder of our Lenten invitation to pray, give alms, and to perform good works.

To fulfill its purpose, this tree must not remain barren. Rather, as each day of Lent passes, it should come alive (in a symbolic sense) bit by bit, as we place upon it tokens of the fulfillment of our Lenten call.

On the table in front of the “Giving Tree” there is a box of envelopes bearing the words “My Lenten Gift for the Poor and Hungry”. These envelopes are placed there so that you may take them and make them tokens of your Lenten sacrifices. To do this, you simply place in an envelope any or all of the following items:

- A list of your Lenten promises (e.g. daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, extra prayers, fasting, etc.)
- A list of Lenten good deeds (mainly good things you do for the benefit of others).
- The money that represents your gift to help the poor and hungry (this money should be a gift that will represent real sacrifice — money you might normally use for extra pleasures for yourself).
- Canned food for the parish food bank.

When you have placed your list and/or gift in the envelope (or basket if it is canned goods), put it in the collection box located near the “Giving Tree”. These envelopes will then be placed on the “Giving Tree” at regular intervals during Lent. As the days go by, our tree, lifeless in itself, should blossom with these simple tokens of heartfelt concern for the true spirit and meaning of Lent. This tree can become a visible sign of the charity we express as a parish community.

THE GIVING TREE

We encourage our people to enter wholeheartedly into this simple project. Parents, young adults, teens, and children of all ages are invited to make some contribution to the blossoming of our “Giving Tree”. The object is to begin at once. You may use as many envelopes as you wish. In fact, we would encourage regular gifts of money for the poor throughout Lent rather than waiting for Lent to come to a close — it’s so easy to lose track or forget “how much”. Most people love to watch things of beauty grow. Here is our chance to watch together as a symbol of sacrifice, prayer, concern and love grow in our midst.

THE THREE TENETS OF LENT

"Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Give it two wings: fasting and almsgiving." — St. Augustine.

Pray — Fast — Give to the Poor

All of the faithful, the candidates, and catechumens should undertake serious practice of these three traditions.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lord, Jesus Christ,
I know that I am yours and you are mine forever.
I thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to me,
That I might have the power to live this new life with you.
Stir up your spirit in me.
Release your Spirit in me.
Baptize me with the fullness of your Spirit
that I may experience your presence
and your power in my life,
that I may find new meaning in your scripture,
that I may find new meaning in your sacraments,
that I may find delight and comfort in prayer,
that I may be able to live in love as you live in love,
that I may be able to forgive as you forgive,
that I may discover and use the gifts you give me
for the benefit of others,
that I may experience the peace
and joy you have promised me.
Fill me with your Spirit, Lord Jesus Christ.
I wish to receive all that you have to give.

TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

The Triduum is the traditional name applied to the ancient Great Three Days that celebrate the heart of our Christian Faith: Jesus' redemptive death and resurrection. The Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, continues through Good Friday and Holy Saturday, and closes with the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening.

Parishioners are invited to set aside special time for prayer during these most sacred days of our faith. All are invited to consider attending one or all of the Triduum Services. Let us pray for one another that all of us may become more aware of God's presence in our everyday lives and the tremendous love God shows us in the gift of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

All services will take place in the Main Church.

HOLY THURSDAY—APRIL 9th

10:00am	Mass of Anticipation
7:30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 10th

12:00noon	Stations of the Cross
7:30pm	The Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY—APRIL 11th

11:00—12:00noon	Confessions
4:00—5:00pm	Confessions
8:00pm	Celebration of the Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY—APRIL 12th

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12 noon Main Church

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

*May the Spirit who led Jesus into the Desert
Lead you through these Forty Holy Lenten Days . . .*

Fall 2008: Building Our Spiritual Community

Winter 2008/2009: Shoring Up Our Financial Foundation

Spring 2009: Strengthening Our Spiritual Community

St. John the Evangelist
Silver Spring, Maryland
301-681-7663

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUES	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LENT 2009	FEBRUARY	24	ASH WEDNESDAY 25 7:00am, 9:30am, 12noon, 7:30pm Masses in Main Church 7:30-8:00am; 11:15-11:45am; 6:30-7:15pm: Confessions MC	26	27 2:15pm: Children's Stations MC 7:30pm: Stations of the Cross MC	28 9:30—10:15am: Confessions MC 4:00—4:45pm: Confessions MC
MARCH 1	2	3	4	5 6:30-8:30pm: AUD Rice & Tea Dinner Topic: St. Teresa of Avila Susan Timoney	6 7:30pm: Stations of the Cross MC	7 9:30—10:15am: Confessions MC 4:00— 4:45pm: Confessions MC
8 10:30am Liturgy MC Rite of Sending	9 7:00pm Main Church Confirmation for Eighth Grade Students	10	11	12 6:30-8:30pm: AUD Rice & Tea Dinner Topic: Instructions for a Seder Guest Rabbi	13 7:30pm: Stations of the Cross MC	14 9:30-10:15am 4:00—4:45pm: Confessions MC
15 10:30am Liturgy MC Scrutiny Prayers for Catechumens	16	17	18	19 6:30-8:30pm: AUD Rice & Tea Dinner Topic: Lenten Practices Father Tietjen	20 2:15pm: Children's Stations 7:30pm: Stations of the Cross MC	21 9:30-10:15am Confessions MC 4:00— 4:45pm: Confessions MC
22 10:30am Liturgy m MC Scrutiny Prayers for Catechumens	23	24	25	26 6:30-8:30pm: AUD Seder Dinner Msgr. English	27 2pm Living Stations MC 7:30pm: Stations of the Cross MC	28 9:30-10:15am 4:00 - 4:45pm: Confessions MC
29 10:30am Liturgy MC Scrutiny Prayers for Catechumens	30 7:00pm Parish Penance Service MC	31	APRIL 1	2 6:30-8:30pm: AUD Rice & Tea Dinner Topic: "Teaching Mass" Father Tietjen	3 7:30pm: Stations of the Cross MC	4 RCIA Retreat
Palm Sunday 5	6	7	8	Holy Thursday 9 10:00am: Mass of Anticipation MC 7:30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper PASSOVER BEGINS	Good Friday 10 12:00pm: Stations of the Cross MC 7:30pm: The Lord's Passion MC	11 Holy Saturday 11:00—12noon: 4:00— 5:00pm: Confessions MC 8:00pm Celebration of Easter Vigil
12 Easter Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12noonMasses in Main Church					KEY: MC—Main Church AUD—School Auditorium	