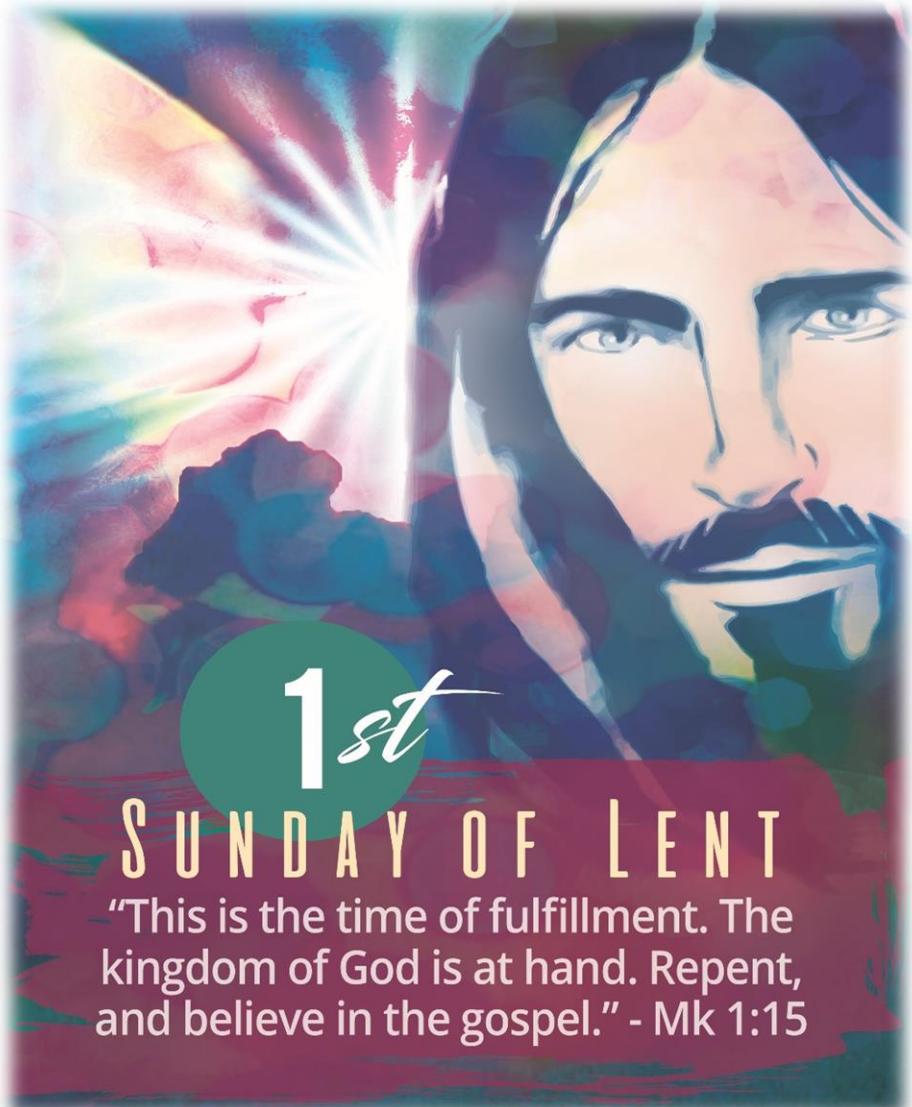


Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



1st

SUNDAY OF LENT

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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**3411 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20032
www.assumptiondc.org**



Rev. Gregory Shaffer, Pastor

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30 pm
Sunday Mass: 10:00 am
Daily Mass: Monday thru Saturday 12:10 pm
Eucharistic Adoration: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 - 12:00 noon
Confessions: Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 pm, Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00 noon
or anytime by appointment

Address: 3401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20032

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Pastor: Father Greg Shaffer
202-561-4178 Cell 240-463-9960

Email: frgreg@assumptiondc.org

Secretary: Mrs. Cheryl Hamlin-Williams

Phone: 202-561-4178 Fax 202-561-0336

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**Pope Francis
Outreach Center :** Food Pantry and Clothing Room

Director: Ms. Mildred Brown

Assistant Director Ms. Brenda Hare

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Phone: 202-561-5941 Fax 202-561-4024

Email outreach@assumptiondc.org



**Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time
February 18, 2018**

Happy Lent!?! It's hard to believe that Lent is upon us already, but it's good to get going with it, in my opinion. As you read the words of Msgr Thomas Wells below, you might think that he wouldn't say the same. But, he did see this as a holy season even if he didn't particularly enjoy it. I don't know how many of us will enjoy this Lent, but I hope that we will experience it as a gift. My prayer is that it will be a season of grace and freedom for all of us.

May you know the freedom of Christ this Lent,

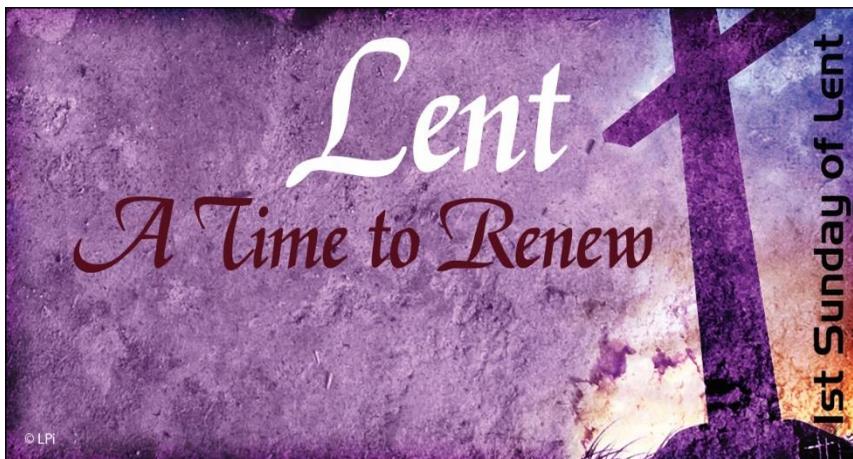
Fr Greg

I know some people who look forward to the coming of Lent with a sense of anticipation - even of joy. They look forward to the Church's invitation to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to give them a spiritual shot in the arm. Not me! I see that Lent begins in ten days, on Ash Wednesday, and I groan within. Not for me the call to penance and self-denial. However, whether received with joy or dread, this great season of grace is upon us. In the days before Vatican II, there were three weeks of preparations for Lent, where Catholics were encouraged to decide how they were going to observe the season. The Church, wisely, wanted to encourage people to take advantage of these six weeks in the desert with the Lord.

...Following Jesus is hard! Picking up a cross and carrying it toward a share in crucifixion goes against the grain. Even the Lord Himself dropped his Cross three times. The crosses we choose for ourselves during Lent should remind us of how weak is our commitment; they should attempt to attack with some vigor areas of weakness in our lives. The person who sees a possible addiction to work that affects family relationships should attack that addiction; the person who is tight with money, using any excuse to avoid giving it away, should dramatically commit to fighting that self-sufficiency that we think money can guarantee. The person who has heard

friends and family make the comment, “You’ve always got to be right,” should begin the painful process of examining pride and a competitive spirit and recognize that it is tough to need God if I am always right.

Finally, we must resolve to take seriously the call to prayer. For many of us, the things of God are not first in our lives. I knew God was important to my parents because they taught me to pray and because they often talked about the things of God. If only an Our Father and a Hail Mary at the time of grace, we must begin to pray as families. Individually, many of us can participate in the only perfect prayer, the Mass. We can take the first ten minutes of our daily commute to say the Rosary. We can open the Bible and meet Jesus in the Gospels. And, most especially, in this season of repentance, we must plan to take advantage of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and go to confession.



Healing Prayers for: George Thomas, Yvonne Lesesne, Juanita Watkins, Deacon Ralph Cyrus, Burdell Thomas, Angella Greene, Frederick McNeil, James Anthony Murphy, Earnest Ingram.Jr., John Howard, Iris Best, Dorothy Hollis, Calvin Best Gisele Best, Lezeal Rorie, Corinne Bachiller, Lillian Taylor, Veronica Brown, Deacon McBurnett Smith, Marsha Carlson-Meyers, Dr. Dee Jones Adams, Barry Robella, Father Dan Vitz, Eleonora Best, Jane Rhyne, Faye Lyon, Abby Fargo, Mildred Selmar, Heather Wooten-Rollins, Brenda Newman, Courtney Barlow, Christine Jones, Benjamin Davis, Ronald Horton, Veronica Harris, Teresa Wilkinson, Pauline Haggins, Dorothy Sylvester, Darlene Jones, Paul Higgins, Audrey Saunders, Pauline Johnson, June Murphy
Our Homebound Parishioners: Mary Cooke, Sybil Depeazer, Louvenia Gray, Fr. Charles Green, Pauline Johnson, Yvonne Samuel, Audrey Saunders, Joan Shields, Viola Walker

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK-February 18, 2018

Repent and believe in the gospel! This is the message that is found on Jesus' lips after forty days in the desert. As the forty days of Lent come before us, we are asked to create a desert experience in our lives so that we can learn anew the ways of God. Our daily cares and concerns can distract us from truth and cause us to become absorbed with the world and secular priorities. Lent is an opportunity to free ourselves from illusion and focus us on what really matters. In doing so, we open up new possibilities for our relationship with God, others, our world, and ourselves.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK - Mk 1:40-45

The story of Noah and the Ark informs us of the covenant God established with Noah never again to allow such a world-wide devastating flood. What does this divine promise tell us about God?

READINGS FOR THEWEEK



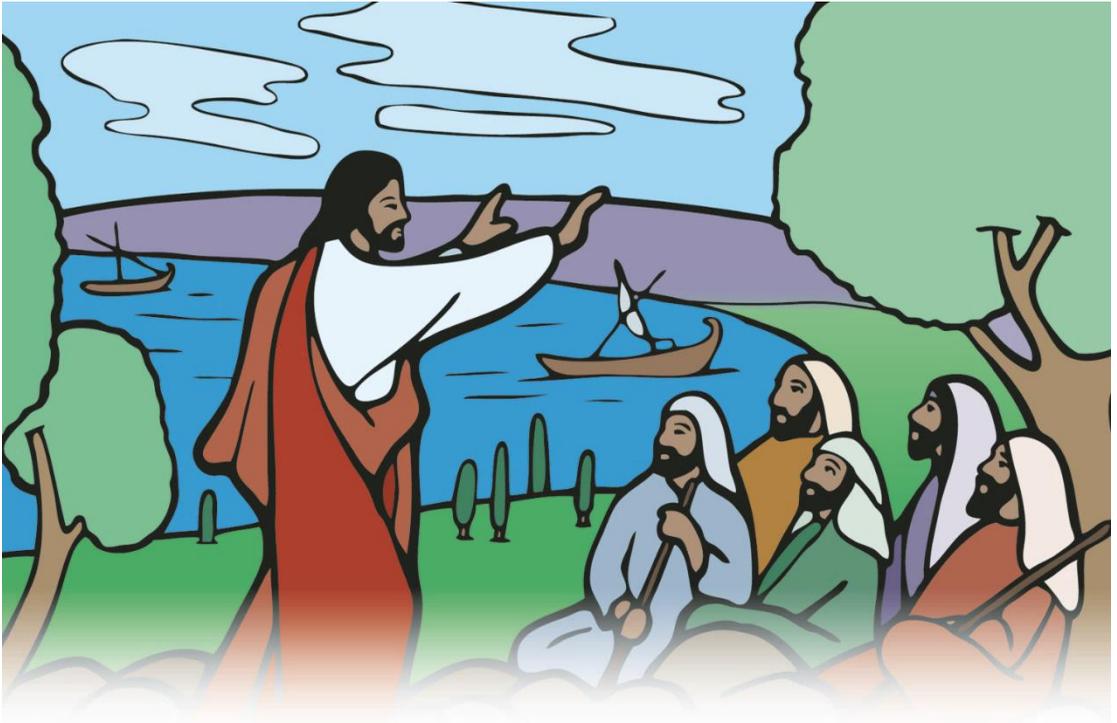
Monday: Gn 9:8-15 Mk 1:12-15
Tuesday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Mt 25:31-46
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4 Mt 16:13-19
Friday: Ez 18:21-28 Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48
**Next Sunday Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 9:2-10**

ONE MONTH MEMEORIAL MASS CELEBRATIONS AND MASS INTENSIONS

Memoral Mass - Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Gwendolyn Gordon

All daily Masses are available for Mass Intensions. Please give the office a call if you would like to have a Mass offered for someone.



1st Sunday of Lent

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15



Announcements

We will have Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent after the 12:10 Mass Encounter Lent

Join our faith community -- and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl located in the back of the church.

Come and Let Us Sing

St. Augustine: "He who sings prays twice"

If you have a desire to praise God in song, please consider joining our music ministry. Rehearsals are on Tuesday at 6:00 pm. In the church. Please see Ms. Denese after Mass.

Monthly Telephone Rosary

Join the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) to pray the Rosary on the 4th of each month at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to pray as a community by calling 605-468-8016 and inserting access code: 357090#. Questions? Contact Carol Monaco, ACCW's Spirituality Chairperson, at csmonaco@verizon.net.

2018 Annual Jubilarian Mass

Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual Jubilarian Celebration of marriage honoring couples marries 25,30,35,40,45,50 and 51 + years will be held on Sunday, June 17, 2018 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please call the church office by Monday, April 16.

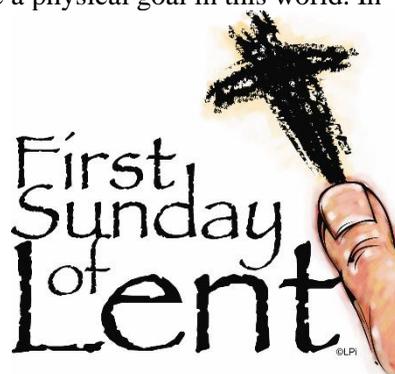
Prayer | Fasting | Almsgiving

Prayer: Throughout Scripture, Jesus goes to pray in deserted place. Lent is our "deserted place." We draw near to God through Mass, confession, and spiritual practices like the Stations of the Cross, but we are also invited to spend time in prayer alone with the Father like Jesus did.

Fasting: Fasting is not a diet! With a diet, we try to achieve a physical goal in this world. In fasting, we try to achieve a spiritual goal in the next.

Fasting helps us to sacrifice our preferences and less-than-healthy impulses to build discipline to choose the good in all areas of life.

Almsgiving: Time and time again, the Bible tells us that to love God we must love others. Our "neighbor" is someone we might not expect. Giving alms is an opportunity to support and care for our neighbor in need.





Ever seen an American dime? If so, you've seen the work of Harlem Renaissance sculptor Selma Hortense Burke. Born and raised in Mooresville, North Carolina, Selma adored playing in wet clay as a child. The joy it sparked followed her all the way through nursing school and her big move to New York in 1924. But quite literally, she couldn't keep her hands to herself. Sculpting as much as she could on the side, Selma developed a particular talent for historical figures and nudes, and by the 1930s, nursing was officially on the back burner. Her honed talent and teaching chops

garnered fellowships, awards and eventually three honorary doctorate degrees.

"My mother was very proud of my achievements -- she felt I had delivered the Burkes from the cotton patch to the White House," Selma said once.

After World War II, in which Selma became one of the first African-American women enlisted in the Navy, she won an ultra-competitive District of Columbia Fine Arts Commission for a bronze plaque of FDR. In 1945, her presidential profile, which Eleanor considered too young-looking, was unveiled in Washington's Recorder of Deeds Building in 1945.

It was FDR, looking exactly like the relief portrait Selma had finessed. Oddly enough, though, she never made any deal with U.S. Mint to mass produce her work on coinage. The U.S. Mint Chief Engraver at the time, John Sinnock, claimed the dime work was all his.

Even though Selma didn't initially receive a dime's-worth of credit where it was due, her body of work spoke louder than any uncreative government engraver ever could. In 1975, the governor of Pennsylvania commemorated July 29 as Selma Burke Day in recognition of her investment in arts education through her eponymous art center in Pittsburgh. Then, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the final sculpture of her career, which finally moonwalked away from in her 80s and kicked it through to 100 years old.

ASH WEDNESDAY



February 18, 2018