

Welcome to the Church of Saint Richard of Chichester

Rev. Eric N. Tolentino, Pastoral Administrator
Rev. Joseph T. Whalen, Pastor Emeritus
Deacon John A. Setlock

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March 1, 2020 First Sunday of Lent

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday, March 2nd & Wednesday, March 3rd ~ No Mass

Wednesday 8:00 am, March 4th—Lenten Weekday;

(opt) St. Casimir

Intention: Cathey Schimpf

Thursday 6:00 pm, March 5th—Lenten Weekday

Intention: Robert T. Eye Jr. by Frank & Maryann Yeneskie

Friday 8:00 am, March 6th—Lenten Weekday

Intention: Deceased diocesan priests

Sacrament of Baptism:

Baptisms are celebrated after the 10:30am Sunday Mass. Parents need to be registered parishioners and attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic for a valid reception of Baptism and also obtain a certificate of eligibility from their parish.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays @ 3:30pm or call the Rectory to schedule an appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should be made at least one year prior to the proposed wedding date to begin pre-nuptial instructions. Please call the parish office for more information and schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

Sponsor Eligibility:

Certificates of Eligibility for Baptism and Confirmation require the sponsor to be an active & registered member of the parish. Please call the parish office to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:
Ms. Wendy S. Krisak (800) 791-9209
victimassistance@allentowndioocese.org

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sister Meg Cole (610) 332-0442 Ext. 2019
mcole@allentowndioocese.org

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse are invited & encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more info about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church. To learn more about the Diocese of Allentown's Youth Protection Programs, Sexual Abuse Policy, & Code of Conduct, please visit www.allentowndioocese.org & click on "Youth Protection" in the upper right hand corner of the page.

Saturday 3:30 pm, March 7th Confessions

Saturday 4:00 pm, March 7th Vigil Mass

Intention: People of the Parish

Lector: Tim Demko

EM: Megan Demko, Peg Schaediger, Steve Souchak

Altar Servers: Ignatius Neifert, Isidora Neifert

Sunday 8:30 am, March 8th, 2nd Sunday of Lent

Intention: Rose Marie Hricisak by Roy & Anne Paisley

Lector: Bruce Rang

EM: Paul Babinsky, Cathy Riotto, Frank Riotto,

Altar Servers: Andrew Mummey, Jakob Mummey

Sunday 10:30 am, March 8th

Intention: Jean Sleva by Sleva Family

Lector: Beth Bialek

EM: Beth Bialek, Dave Evancho, Jim Kane

Altar Servers: Lily Dudash, Nicole Yost

Psalm Response:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Readings for Sunday Mass, March 1st:

GN 12:1-4A; PS 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 TM 1:8B-10; MT 17:1-9

Sunday Collection:

Regular: \$2,493~ Candles: \$189 ~ Parish Utilities: \$123

Second Collections:

March 1st & March 2nd ~ Operation Rice Bowl

March 8th & March 9th ~ Operation Rice Bowl

Extra Contribution Envelopes: This weekend, March 1st & 2nd, there will be two extra collections (Black/Indian Home Missions and the Monthly Supplement). Please place them in the **first** collection. Thank you.

Mass Attendance:

(February 22nd & February 23rd):

Saturday, 4:00 pm - 127 Sunday, 8:30 am - 107 Sunday, 10:30 am - 96

Please Lift Up in Prayer those in need of Healing and Encouragement: Ann Balas, William Bednar, Bob Blue, Joe Bones, Steve Chakan, Marge Coassolo, Paul Curley, Nina Day, Eddy Freer, William Godanis, Jr., Joe Goodrich, Mike Grigalonis, Peg Grigalonis, Bob Harvan, Dee Harvan, Dr. Francis Kane, Kenny Karlavage, Francis Keiser, Joseph Klatka, George Koval, George Kufrovich, Joe Kufrovich, Linda Light, Theresa (Tess) McManus, Dan Metzger, Bonnie Morgan, Bobby Moucheron, Joel Rivera, Dorothe Schmerfeld, Gene Sault, Dominic Streisel, Elaine Sweeney, Veronica Thorick-Coleman, Marilyn Tolan, and Celia Zukoski.

Bulletins for Children: Available in the vestibule.

Religious Education:

Grades 1st through 4th ~ Sunday, March 1st @ 9:30 am in the hall

Grades 5th through 7th ~ Sunday, March 1st @ 6:00 pm in the hall

Grades 1st through 4th ~ Sunday, March 8th @ 9:30 am in the hall

From the Office of the Bishop: In light of the heightened cases of Influenza being reported in our five-county areas and the Pennsylvania Department of Health Influenza Status of “widespread,” His Excellency, Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, directs that the Exchange of the Sign of Peace and the Reception of Holy Communion from the Chalice. The suspension will be in effect until further notice is given when the incidence of influenza subsides in our region.

Ember Days: As the Season of Lent approaches, Bishop Alfred A. Schlert asks the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Allentown to celebrate the Ember Days for the Season as a sign of reparation and healing for the Church. Ember Days are quarterly observances with three days set aside to pray in gratitude for the blessings of the season and human labor, to thank God publicly. There are twelve Ember Days in all. The Lenten Ember Days blend with the season of Lent, providing reminders to continue and persevere in the spirit of conversion and penance. The fasting and abstinence would follow the current laws of the Church, with abstaining being from all meat, and fasting would be one full meal a day.

The Lenten Ember Days for 2020 are as follows: Wednesday, March 4th; Friday, March 6th; and Saturday, March 7th.

Operation Rice Bowl: Millions of Catholics join together through Operation Rice Bowl and reach out in solidarity with those who suffer from hunger and poverty through prayer, fasting, learning and giving during the Lenten season. Your prayers, sacrifices, and generous donations support Catholic Relief Services’ food security projects overseas as well as local hunger and poverty efforts in our diocese. Operation Rice Bowl provides a tangible opportunity to put our faith into action and help people around the world and here in the United States. Each Sunday during Lent, the second collection will ONLY be for Operation Rice Bowl.

Lenten / Easter Mailing: The mailing for parishioners is currently in the vestibule. Please take the time to pick them up. The mailing contains a letter from Father Tolentino as well as the Lent & Easter liturgical schedules. Thank you.

Earthquake Relief: We are all aware of the plight of the residents of Puerto Rico after recently experiencing a serious earthquake followed by numerous aftershocks. This new round of destruction comes upon the heels of the catastrophic damage caused by Hurricane Maria that has still not been totally repaired and has only intensified the condition created by the hurricane. In response to this disaster, His Excellency, Bishop Schlert, has asked that each parish provide relief for Puerto Rico. This collection will be taken up next weekend, March 7th & 8th. Please make sure to mark your envelope “Earthquake Relief”. Thank you.

CCD/PREP Project: The CCD/Prep children and families are doing a Spring non-perishable food donation collection to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society. All donations go to our local food pantry located in Mahanoy City. Please consider leaving a can of soup or box of cereal. It is truly appreciated! There is a tote located on the landing of the vestibule for your convenience.

Infant Grace Support Group: Tuesday, March 3rd @ 6:00 pm in the meeting room.

Choir Practice: Begins this Wednesday, March 4th @ 4:00 pm in the choir loft. All are welcome!

Cub Scouts: Wednesday, March 4th @ 6:30 pm in the hall.

Adult Bible Study: Thursday, March 5th @ 6:30 pm in the meeting room.

Boy Scouts: Thursday, March 5th @ 7:00 pm in the hall.

Annual Cub Scout Derby: St. Richard’s Cub Scouts #725 will be hosting their annual derby this Friday, March 6th from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm in the hall. We invite the parish to join in on the fun!

Our Lenten Obligation

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting. The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

What does fasting mean?

The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

Who must fast?

All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60th year on his/her 59th birthday.

What does abstinence mean?

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

Who must abstain?

All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence?

Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care. Those who are ill or have a similar serious reason are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

Are there other obligations which we should fulfill?

Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their "Easter Duty." They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (1 March until 7 June 2020). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time.

Catholics also are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity. Parishes are encouraged to continue participation in Rice Bowl."

Intercessory Candles

Special Intention by Sue & Jay
Rest in God's Peace Jer ~ Love, Wife Pat
In Loving Memory of my Al ~ Love, Fran
Special Intentions by the Higgins Family

Safe Delivery & healthy baby for Emily
by Donna Kamenus
Safe trip and great check-up
Special Prayers for Marge C. by Frank & MaryAnn Y.
Prayers for good test results