



NEWSLETTER



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APRIL 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 PALM SUNDAY	14 MEETING ROCKDALE 7:00 PM	15	16	17	18 GOOD FRIDAY FAST & ABSTAINANCE	19 HOLY SATURDAY
20 EASTER SUNDAY	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 DEVINE MERCY SUNDAY	28	29	30			

NEWS

We wish to congratulate Steve Wooten, who attained his 4th degree, at the Exemplification held on March 22. We welcome him to our Assembly, as well as Frank Vega, who transferred to our Assembly in January of 2014.

We will meet again in Rockdale on Monday, April 14. The meal begins at 7:00 pm, with the meeting shortly thereafter.

St. Joseph's Church will be having their "St. Joseph Mayfest" on May 4, 2014. It is sponsored by the Parish Council, and will be at the KC Hall. They will have a BBQ or Fajita lunch, raffle, kids games, live auction, and music for your listening pleasure.

St. Ann's Church will be having their Festival on May 25. There will be plenty of food, music, and items to buy at their auctions, plus a raffle with the 1st prize of a \$3500.00 gift card.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We will be heading out for Centreville Va. on Holy Thursday to spend Easter weekend with our son Chris, daughter in law Amy, and their 4 children: Benjamin, Anna, Abigail, and Lucy. This will be the first time that Tina and our boys will see Lucy, who came into the world this January. Thank God for Southwest Airline's low fares, so that we are able to make this trip.

**May the angels protect you,
May sadness forget you
May goodness surround you
May Jesus always bless you.
Happy Easter**



Give Up, Take Up, Lift Up!

In his Lenten message for 2014, Pope Francis takes inspiration from the words of St. Paul (**Cor 8:9**), and asks us to contemplate Paul's invitation to live "a life of evangelical poverty." We can begin to embrace this call by fasting from or "**giving up**" material things, including foods, that are superfluous to our basic needs; "**taking up**" charitable habits that are directed to helping and caring for others; and "**lifting up**" our brothers and sisters who are in need through giving alms, praying and participating in devotional practices.

By taking an active approach to the three traditional pillars of Lenten observance, **prayer**, **fasting** and **almsgiving**, we recognize that to be evangelists, we must first be evangelized ourselves. Spiritual suggestions, along with inspirational words from Pope Francis and some of the saints who are remembered during the season on our **downloadable Lenten calendar** provide a daily reminder of your evangelical call.

"In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ." —*Pope Francis, Message for Lent 2014*

This Lent, we also have urgent reason to **focus prayer and attention on peace in the Holy Land**, as our leaders work to resolve the longstanding Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Church asks us to surrender ourselves to prayer and to the reading of Scripture, to fasting and to giving alms. The fasting that all do together on Fridays is but a sign of the daily Lenten discipline of individuals and households: fasting for certain periods of time, fasting from certain foods, but also fasting from other things and activities. Likewise, the giving of alms is some effort to share this world equally—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this **reflection**.

In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics.

The key to fruitful observance of these practices is to recognize their link to baptismal renewal. We are called not just to abstain from sin during Lent, but to true conversion of our hearts and minds as followers of Christ. We recall those waters in which we were baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

On these pages, you will find a variety of suggestions and resources to help you to "give up," "take up," and "lift up" during this Lent and embrace your baptismal commitment.

Catholics are also encouraged to make going to confession a significant part of their spiritual lives during Lent. The U.S. Bishops' statement, "**God's Gift of Forgiveness: The Pastoral Exhortation on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation**" can be distributed and shared in parishes. Dioceses are encouraged to make the sacrament available often during Lent and to use **these resources** to promote participation. We also have **resourcestohelpindividuals** who have not been to confession in a while "rediscover" the sacrament.

Source: www.usccb.org

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