



From: Rev. James DeViese in the Vatican

When was the rule of not eating meat on Fridays officially promulgated for the universal Church?

Ask The Pastor

The more ancient traditions of the Church, as you can imagine, can be a bit obscure in terms of their origins. And the tradition of abstinence on Fridays (especially during Lent) is no exception. Concerning abstinence during Lent, this practice dates back at least to time of Pope Leo the Great (+ 461), who made not a short reference to what was undoubtedly an already well-established custom throughout the Western Church. It was not uncommon in those days for people not only to abstain from meat, but also from all dairy products--a practice which is still held in many places in the Eastern Church, especially the Ukraine and Russia. The degree to which Leo "canonized" this practice as law was presumed--at least until the 12th century when a Camaldolese monk named Gratian took it upon himself to compile the very first unified collection of canon law in 1150, which took his name (Decretum Gratiani). At this point, we have no doubt of the canonical nature of the practice; however, it can be surmised that had this practice fallen out of use, been contradictory to another law, or had not been relatively universal at the time of Gratian, it would not have been included, as we know that Gratian took great pains to be exceptionally thorough in his work--a fact which is attested to by our modern Code of Canon Law, some canons of which are still direct quotes from Gratian!

Outside of Lent, the practice of abstinence from meat on Fridays is older, and is not confined to Fridays. Originally, the week had two penitential days: Friday and Saturday, as attested to at the Council of Toledo (AD 400). Friday was penitential because it is the day of the death of Our Lord. Saturday, on the other hand, was the more important of the two penitential days because the Church retained the ancient Jewish custom that the day before major solemnities (we would call them Vigils) were days of abstinence and fasting. This tradition of penitential days preceding major feasts was most evident in the Sacred Liturgy up until the revisions of the Roman Calendar by Pius XII (1955), John XXIII (1962), and Paul VI (1969). As Sunday is the day of Our Lord's Resurrection, Saturday had always been a day of penance and fasting that the Faithful could properly prepare themselves for the joy and celebration of Sunday. The Saturday fast was suppressed in 1745 under Benedict XIV, though days of penance before feasts endured for the most part until the reform of the Liturgy in 1969. This left Friday as the one day of abstinence during the week, which was written into the 1917 and 1983 Codes of Canon Law.

Still to this day, there exist many options for establishing days of penance and prayer as part of the common practice of the Church. In the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite this past week, the Lenten Ember Days were observed. These are a series of Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday in a given week when extra penitential practices are observed. In the former calendars of the Liturgy, Ember Days were observed each quarter, normally in sync with the various stages of the harvest: during the second week of Advent, the first full week of Lent, the week after Pentecost, and the second full week of September. The Ember Days still constitute a valid option for penance throughout the year, and the current Ceremonial of Bishops even encourages local bishops to establish them "to devote the liturgy of these days to the ministry of charity" and "to offer prayers to the Lord for the needs of all people, especially for the productivity of the earth and for human labor, and to give the Lord public thanks." Of course, the current books do not mandate that they be held on Fridays, nor in a series of three days as past practice has been.

The law, as it currently exists, states: "Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Bishops' Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday" (c. 1251). "The Bishops' Conference can determine more particular ways in which fasting and abstinence are to be observed. In place of abstinence or fasting it can substitute, in whole or in part, other forms of penance, especially works of charity and exercises of piety" (c. 1253). The US Conference of Bishops has not established guidelines regarding proper substitutes for abstinence and fasting. Thus it is to be expected that all Catholics between the ages of 14 and 60 observe abstinence on Fridays throughout the year.

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Parish

BRINGING THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST TO OTHERS FOR OVER 100 YEARS



March 7, 2010

The Third Sunday of Lent

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The Third Sunday of Lent

The just may suffer. The fruitless may get a second chance.

Today on our Lenten journey we are drawn more deeply into the mystery of God, the "I AM" who speaks to Moses from the burning bush yet nevertheless tirelessly tends and cares for us who sometimes take so long to bear fruit in our lives. Let us pray today for a spirit of repentance, that we may be more receptive to the nourishment that God gives us in this Eucharist and every day of our lives.

Mass Intentions

Sat.	3/6	5:30p.m.	For All Parishioners
Sun.	3/7	8:00a.m.	Alice Criss by Emma Davis
		10:30a.m.	Ernesto Sangalang by Sangalang Family
Mon.	3/8	6:30p.m.	Carmella Mullins by M.M. Darnell Cook
Tues.	3/9	8:30a.m.	Margaret Lucas by Bruce & Toni Webb
Wed.	3/10	6:30p.m.	Michael Dodd by Reggie & Terri Dodd
Thurs.	3/11	8:30a.m.	H. Elwood Winfrey by Bill, Michelle, Rebecca & Sarah Klenk
Fri.	3/12	8:30a.m.	Mary Elkins by Glenn & Dianne Murphy & Family
Sat.	3/13	5:30p.m.	Mary & Fred Kennedy & Camden Susi by Bonnie & Gary Starcher
Sun.	3/14	8:00a.m.	Lisa Berry by Mary Rosenecker
		10:30a.m.	For All Parishioners

WHOEVER THINKS HE IS STANDING SECURE SHOULD TAKE CARE NOT TO FALL.

Altar Server Schedule:

Wed. 3/10: 5:30p.m.: A. & R. White
Fri. 3/12: (Stations) 6:30p.m.:
I. Rosiek/S. Coleman
Sat. 3/13 (vigil): A. & R. White
Sun. 3/14 8a.m.: H. Kania/S. Coleman
10:30a.m.: M.K. & J. Rosiek/N. Craddock

Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (March)

Fri. (3/12) (Stations) 6:30p.m.:
B. Hundley/H. Hundley/M. Malay
(vigil) Sat. : J. Angius/J. DeViese/M. Malay
Sun. 8a.m.: Pat Beverley/Debbie Garvin
10:30a.m.: D. Hatcher/G. Lively/L. Lively

Lectors:

(Vigil) Sat. 3/13: Jimmy Lively
Sun. 3/14: 8a.m. Nancy Sanger
10:30a.m. Mike Kemlock

Offerings: Feb. 27/28:
Envelopes/Loose: \$4,398.00
Parish Maintenance: \$105
School Env.: \$158

Bulletin Deadline: Any requested announcements for the bulletin must be turned into the Parish Office by **11a.m. on Wednesdays.**

New in the parish, not registered, or, an employed adult member not receiving envelopes?
Call or come to the Parish Office to register. Registration forms are also in the church vestibule.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):
Saturdays 4:45p.m. or by appointment.

This Week...

- Mon. 3:15p.m. Junior/Cadet Brownies
6p.m. Cub/Boy Scouts
- Tues. 5:45p.m. School Development Board
7p.m. Home & School Association
- Wed. 4:15-5:15p.m. Youth Choir Practice
6:30p.m. R.C.I.A.
- Sat. 8a.m. Scripture Sharing @ Bob Evan's

Choir Practice

Sat. Choir: Wed. @ 7p.m.
Sun. Choir: Thurs. @ 6:30p.m.

If you are an adult and have not been confirmed, but would like to receive Confirmation in the Fall along with the confirmation class, please contact Fr. Paul at the parish office, so arrangements can be made to prepare you for the sacrament.

Support Group...

The first meeting of the Healing Hearts Bereavement Support Group for those who have lost loved ones will be on Monday, March 15th at 5:30p.m. at the Lewis Community Center in Oak Hill. There is no fee to join the group; all are welcome. The group will meet every Monday for six weeks through April 19, 2010. Meeting will be facilitated by Pastor Ron George of Fayetteville Baptist Church. Please call 304-574-1074 or e-mail pastor@fayettevillebaptist.org for more information.

The Jusiel-Smith Duo
Perform Flute & Piano pieces by
F. Liszt, S. Prokofiev, R. Schultz
& T. Mainland

March 29, 5p.m. Concord University
April 4th, 2m. Tamarack

(These performances are by Maggie Jusiel and her husband; the couple who come on Christmas to our parish to accompany at the Midnight Mass.)

Thank you...to Girl Scout Troop #2362 for donating Girl Scout cookies to our parish food pantry.

Daylight Savings.....Remember to turn your clocks ahead next Saturday before you go to bed. Daylight Savings begins March 14th. (Spring Ahead!!)

February 50/50 Winner:
Leon Jarosz; \$27.50

In our parish during Lent:....

Wednesdays:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction:

Wednesdays: 5:30p.m.— 6:30p.m.
Followed by Mass @ 6:30p.m.

Fridays: Stations of the Cross: @ 6:30p.m.

Lenten Retreat and Penance Service:

- **Sunday, March 7th @ 2 p.m.** - God's Forgiveness; Msg. Sam Sacus 3p.m. Penance Service—4 priests
- **Monday, March 8th 6:30p.m.** Mass St. Luke's Gospel; Msgr. Sam Sacus

School Lenten Schedule:

Stations of the Cross:
March 12, 26, 31 @ 2:30p.m.



Next week, our parish will take up the **Catholic Relief Services Collection.**

This Collection helps to fund six Catholic organizations that improve

the quality of life and protect human dignity. Your gift will support agricultural development to strengthen economies and create food sustainability, provide outreach services to survivors of human trafficking, and supply pastoral care and advocacy for immigrants and refugees. By helping the marginalized and impoverished, you **give hope to Jesus in disguise.** Please be charitable in next week's Catholic Relief Services Collection. Please use the envelopes provided for this appeal

To Parishioners of Sts. Peter & Paul:
I want to extend my sincerest gratitude for assisting Catholic Charities WV "**help the Least of My People**" in WV.

Your assistance (\$894) for the 2009 Christmas Appeal helps provide much needed services to thousands of families in our Diocese who are experiencing painful situations in their lives. Again thank you for your continued support of Catholic Charities WV.

Mary Louise Lisowski SC ACSW
Executive Director
Catholic Charities WV