

LENT 2026
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
and Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The holy season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Thursday with the celebration of the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter. The Lenten liturgy disposes both catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the Paschal Mystery, the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, with the Sacred Paschal Triduum. For catechumens, this takes place through the several stages of Christian initiation. For the faithful, this takes place through reminders of their own baptism and through penitential practices. Please check the parish bulletin and the parish website (<https://cathedralphila.org/>) for additional information for our Cathedral Parish observance of Lent.

ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT AND FASTING DURING LENT

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, *as a minimal obligation*, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light. Keeping a voluntary fast throughout Lent is encouraged on the part of all.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The description and schedule of the Lenten Rites for the Elect (catechumens) and Candidates for the Easter Sacraments will be announced in the parish bulletin all throughout Lent. These rites will take place typically at the Saturday 5:15 PM Anticipated Mass for Sunday and at the Sunday 11:00 AM Solemn Mass.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Blessed Ashes will be distributed at all the Masses. Mass will be celebrated on Ash Wednesday at 7:15 AM (Chapel), 12:05 PM (Basilica), 5:15 PM (Basilica) and 7:00 PM in Spanish (Chapel). In addition to the celebration of Mass with the distribution of Ashes, there will be Celebrations of the Word of God and the distribution of Ashes for the residents in the medical and nursing facilities served by the Cathedral Parish on Ash Wednesday.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

This Sacrament will be available on Sundays at 9:00 AM (Basilica), 12:00 Noon in Spanish (Chapel) and 5:30 PM (Basilica), and on weekdays at 11:30 AM (Basilica) and on Saturdays at 4:15 PM (Basilica).

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD,

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 AND SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

During these two days there will be additional times for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, as well as Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Please check the parish bulletin and parish website for additional details once Lent begins.

EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

The Most Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration and prayer every Sunday in Lent from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

The Way of the Cross (Stations of the Cross) will take place each Friday in Lent in the Cathedral Chapel immediately following the 12:05 PM Mass.

El Vía Crucis, the Way of the Cross in Spanish, will also take place each Sunday of Lent in the Basilica following the 12:30 PM Mass.

LENTEN DAY OF RETREAT. SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

This retreat day takes place in Drexel Hall from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Please check the parish bulletin and parish website for additional details once Lent begins.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

By eating one simple meal weekly and placing your savings into the *Rice Bowl*, you will be joining in solidarity with all who have so little to live on and helping to reach out to assist them throughout the world and here in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. *Rice bowls* are available in the vestibules. Your donations can be dropped off during Holy Week and the first weeks of Easter in the collection basket at Mass or to the Parish Office.

NOVENA TO SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL AND FEAST DAY

The Solemn Novena to Saint Katharine Drexel begins on February 22 and concludes on March 2. The Novena is prayed before each Sunday Mass and following each weekday Mass. The Feast of Saint Katharine Drexel is March 3. A Solemn Mass for the Feast will take place at 12:05 PM in the Cathedral Basilica.