

Lent, Holy Week and Easter at Saint Matthew Catholic Church 2026

The Season of Lent is a time for penance, conversion and spiritual renewal. Through the traditional penitential practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we express to God our sorrow for our sins and our dependence upon His mercy and salvation. The 40 days of Lent give us the opportunity to deepen our spiritual friendship with Jesus Christ, Who fasted for 40 days in the desert; this holy time helps us to prepare for the mysteries of Holy Week and Easter, by which we enter into the suffering, death and resurrection of our Savior.

Please take advantage of the opportunities in our own parish for growth in grace during Lent. Making a good sacramental confession and attending the Stations of the Cross are especially effective ways of calling to mind our baptismal promises to renounce sin and place our faith in Jesus Christ.

Please note the special schedule of Lenten activities on Friday evenings: Lenten Suppers at 5:45 p.m. in the Parish Center. Confessions at 6:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. and Mass at 7:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday: Ashes will be distributed at Mass (11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.) and at a Prayer Service (4:30 p.m.)

Confessions: At the normal times indicated in the parish bulletin.

Additional Confession times for Lent:

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

(excluding Ash Wednesday)

Friday: 6:30 p.m.

Please see the reverse side of this sheet for extra confession times on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (except Good Friday – see other side).

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fast & Abstinence: health permitting, all Catholics age 18-59 are to limit themselves to 1 full meal and 2 smaller meals during the day (no snacks). No meat is to be eaten on Ash Wednesday or Fridays throughout Lent by Catholics age 14 and above.

Schedule of Masses and Services for Holy Week and Easter 2026

Palm Sunday (March 29 th)	Regular weekend Mass schedule; blessing of palms at all Masses
Mon.-Wed. (March 30 th – April 1 st)	Masses and confessions at the normal times
Holy Thursday (April 2 nd)	NO MORNING MASS OR CONFESSIONS Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m. followed by procession with the Eucharist and Adoration in the Parish Center (Altar of Repose) until midnight
Good Friday (April 3 rd)	The Seven Last Words of Christ from noon until 3:00 p.m. Confessions noon – 3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 7:30 p.m.
Holy Saturday (April 4 th)	Blessing of Food at 10:00 a.m. Confessions at 11:00 a.m. NO 3:00 p.m. CONFESSIONS NO 5:30 p.m. MASS Easter Vigil Mass at 8:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday (April 5 th)	Normal Sunday schedule
Easter Week (April 6 th - 11 th)	Normal Mass and confession schedule No Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Easter Monday
Divine Mercy Sunday (April 12 th)	Normal Mass schedule Eucharistic Holy Hour with the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy after the 11:00 a.m. Mass

PLEASE NOTE:

**The Parish Office will be closed
from noon Holy Thursday (April 2nd) until 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 13th.
If you have an emergency, or an urgent need to speak with a priest,
please call 540-498-3170**