

From the Desk of Father Maddaloni

Well, here we are again – at the beginning of Lent. We know the drill: no meat on Fridays, *maybe* give something up. We do Lent every year, so we know how it goes.

Aaah, but let's pause there for a moment. How *does* it go? Do we really do Lent? What is it, anyway?

Let's start with what Lent is not. It is not merely a secular self-help period in which we give up something like sweets or cigarettes to improve our lives (although that's important!). Nor is it, as some may think, a sad time in the Church calendar even though vestments are purple and we refrain from saying "alleluia."

Lent is a time of reflection. It is a time to evaluate our relationship with God. Where are we in that relationship? Can that relationship be better? Stronger? Deeper? What specifically can be done to improve it?

Lent is a time for looking back on how we've been living. Have we been living out the Gospel the best we can? Where is there room for improvement in our actions, words, thoughts and attitudes?

Lent is a positive time – serious, but not sad. It is a time to draw closer to God. Lent is, we hope, a life-changing experience. Opening our hearts to God and working with him (this is not a passive experience for us) will lead to change in our hearts – a change that will be made manifest through us in the world.

I have a suggestion. Plan to ask yourself a question at the end of Lent. Prepare to ask yourself how this Lenten season has been for you, how it has mattered. Prepare to give yourself a good answer.

Stations of the Cross

Consider joining us for the Stations of the Cross in the church on Friday evenings during Lent. Stations will be in English at 7 p.m. and in Spanish at 8 p.m.

Faith, Food and Fun

Please consider joining us for dinner and conversation about our faith on Wednesday evenings (February 21, February 28, March 7 and March 14) at 5:30 p.m. at La Cucina Family Style Ristorante in East Quogue. Call the parish center to reserve a spot.

Thanks!!!

Thanks to all who helped make our Mardi Gras celebration a success.

Parish Center closed on February 19

The parish center will be closed on Monday, February 19, for Presidents' Day.

Father Maddaloni