



Lent, 2012

Heart of Jesus PNCC

Bayonne, NJ

DON'T FORGET, YOU'RE INVITED

THE LENTEN JOURNEY BEGINS THIS WEEK.

Our journey together through Lent begins with two very small words:
“even now.”

God doesn't merely say, “Return to me.” He says, “Even now, return to me.”

“Even now, after being away for years.
Even now, after everything you've said and done.
Even now, though you have given up hope.”

This is truly an invitation without any conditions, provisos, riders, corollaries, stipulations or hesitations.

This is an invitation to you as in,
“Even now, after the horrible way you treated your spouse.
Even now, after all the drinking and deceit.
Even now, despite the slander and anger and lies and gossip.”
Even now, after [fill in your own story here].

There is no point in waiting to reply to God's invitation. If not now, then when?

God wants you back especially if you are among those who are convinced that no one, especially God, could love such a person as you. God wants you back, even now.

In this very moment as you read these words, God is extending a tender invitation.

Answer him.

Pause.....

.....and gather together all those secret sins that can weigh so heavily on your shoulders.

Bundle then all...

...into you own “even now” like this:

Lord, I do want to return to you, even now.

Ash Wednesday

Remind us, Lord, that we are dust,
and when reminded,
lead us to remember
that most wondrous miracle –
the miracle that in your hands, dust lives!

- Peter Mead

Opening of the Lenten Season
Ash Wednesday, February 22

7:30 PM Holy Mass marking the opening of the Lenten season with the blessing and distribution of ashes to the faithful

From this day forward, and through the next seven weeks, we observe our Lenten traditions including

1. on Wednesday and Friday abstain from meat,
2. attendance at Lenten devotions each Wednesday evening,
3. regular attendance at Sunday Mass each week
4. attendance at the services of the high holy days concluding Lent in Holy Week.

TODAY'S OLD TESTAMENT READING: JOEL 2:12
"YET EVEN NOW," SAYS THE LORD, "RETURN TO ME WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART..."

Lent 1
Sunday, February 26

9:30 AM Holy Mass with intention for all the departed parishioners of Heart of Jesus

11:00 AM annual Congregational Meeting
 - please come to help, to work, to discuss parish needs
 - a light luncheon will be served to all in attendance

TODAY'S NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 PETER 3:21
"[BAPTISM] IS NOT A REMOVAL OF DIRT FROM THE BODY BUT AN APPEAL TO GOD FOR A CLEAR CONSCIENCE"

Wednesday, February 29

7:00 PM The Way of the Cross – brief; different format/text each week

Lent 2

Sunday, March 4

9:30 AM Holy Mass

**TODAY'S NEW TESTAMENT READING: ROMANS 8:33
"IT IS GOD WHO ACQUITS US."**

Wednesday, March 7

7:00 PM The Way of the Cross – brief; different format/text each week

Lent 3

Sunday, March 11

Solemnity – Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church

9:30 AM Holy Mass with intention for all the deceased organizers,
parishioners, priests and bishops of the Polish National Catholic
Church

**TODAY'S GOSPEL READING: JOHN 2:24-25
"BUT JESUS.....DID NOT NEED ANYONE TO TESTIFY ABOUT HUMAN
NATURE. HE HIMSELF UNDERSTOOD IT WELL."**

Daylight savings time begins

Wednesday, March 14

7:00 PM The Way of the Cross – brief; different format/text each week

Lent 4

Sunday, March 18

9:30 AM Holy Mass with intention for Arlene Grodkiewicz offered by
Thomas Grodkiewicz

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING: JOHN 3:17
"FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN
THE WORLD, BUT THAT THE WORLD MIGHT BE SAVED THROUGH
HIM."

Wednesday, March 21

7:00 PM The Way of the Cross – brief; different format/text each week

Lent 5 – Passion Sunday

Sunday, March 25

9:30 AM Holy Mass

4:00 PM annual Agape Gathering of the Women's Society of the
Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, New York – New Jersey
Seniorate at Our Lord's Transfiguration Parish, Wallington, NJ
Parishioners are invited to be present and to participate in this
annual program and light supper afterwards.

Only a free will offering is taken at the conclusion of the event.

TODAY'S OLD TESTAMENT READING: JEREMIAH 31:33
"I WILL PACE MY LAW WITHIN THEM, AND WRITE [MY LAW] UPON
THEIR HEARTS."

Wednesday, March 28

7:00 PM The Way of the Cross – brief; different format/text each week

RESOLVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE THREE PILLARS OF THIS HOLY SEASON

Prayer

Resolve this Lent to pray more. Avoid telling yourself there is no time for prayer. Be inventive. As you get ready for the day, in the shower, on your way to work, during lunch on your way home, while preparing dinner – there are always a few moments for prayer. Lenten devotions every Wednesday evening are meditations extended over 14 reflections on Lenten themes set against the back drop of moments in Jesus’ suffering and death. Your daily meditation booklet will assist in your prayer with brief Lenten meditations for each day in the coming seven weeks.

Fasting

Resolve this Lent to fast. Start your fasting with small things: no meat eaten on Wednesdays and Fridays: no jam on your toast, no soft drink for lunch, no afternoon snack, no dessert with dinner on selected days of your choosing or on everyday of the season of Lent.

Fasting has been called “the prayer of the body.” When we consciously deny ourselves some small pleasure, we almost automatically become more attentive to things that really matter – like our relationship with God.

Almsgiving

Resolve this Lent to remember the needy. We think of fasting as giving something *up*. Think of almsgiving (or charity toward the poor) as giving something *back*. Designate your snack money for a charity that mails a solicitation to your home. Giving of our time is equally valuable. Volunteering at a soup kitchen or a homeless shelter will make us more aware of the needs of the poor and build solidarity with them.

There will be days when our best intentions fall short. But acknowledging our failures and moving on is also a part of this holy season. With God's help, our Lenten resolutions could become life long habits.

Some of the Things We Need and some of the Things that Need to be Attended to later in the season during Lent, during Holy Week and for Easter:

What Can You Do This Year?

How Could You be Helpful?

- lectors for Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday
- lectors for new stations of the cross format
- crucifer(s) for weekly stations of the cross and for procession of Easter Sunday
- palm cutter
- palm trimmers
- readers of the Lord's Passion for Palm Sunday
- audio technician for Good Friday Tenebre service sound effects
(job description: turn on/turn off power button of sound system at appointed time)
- acolytes for our Lenten and Easter observances
- egg colorers for Easter Sunday Swieconka blessed on Holy Saturday with all the traditional Easter foodstuffs: eggs and dye kits will be provided. These supplies can be delivered to you and picked up from you as needed.

- Easter floral memorials:

\$20 per potted lily

A listing of floral pieces and these pots of lilies will be made in the Lamplighter. Please contact the rectory at 201 858 4320 or at HofJPNCC@aol.com or any Committee member with your memorial floral designations. Your offerings for the memorials can be made anytime through the offering plate or through any Committee member.

- more of our parishioners to be regular worshipers at Sunday Mass.

The liturgies are themselves beautiful in their content and we try to reflect that beauty in our weekly presentation of them.

We strive toward dignity and beauty and relevance as we offer the theme for that day in word, song and pulpit message, with each of these three different forms of presentation reflecting the same theme for any given Sunday.

Come and worship more regularly during Lent, and then let your regular attendance during Lent become a holy habit after the season.

Bring a friend or a family member along with you to benefit from the weekly ministrations here at Heart of Jesus. Our liturgical environment is very beautiful in its simplicity, and it's been described as elegant during the high holidays through the Church year.

Surely, your friends and family members would be very glad you gave them the opportunity to be here with us in worship and in prayer.

**LENT -
A season of great sacrifice
and
a time of great blessing**

Catastrophic Plumbing!

A major problem has befallen our plumbing system. The pipes that run through the concrete slab under the church have broken and have caused flooding in the area at the Blessed Virgin altar on the left side.

The problem has been only partially contained as we seek the best solution to it. The plan currently is to reroute the plumbing in such a way as to eliminate the use of the deteriorating pipes under the church within the concrete slab. There are two possibilities to accomplish this goal which avoids the prospect of this problem happening again within that same pipe work system but in another location within the slab.

The flooring in the church will have to be broken into with either plan though the plans differ as to (1) running new lines above the slab in the church or (2) running new lines buried alongside the exterior of the church in order to connect with the rectory plumbing system.

Our water bill for the previous month was \$750. As the problem has been partially contained by a series of valves, the next bill will not be so high. Costs are currently being prepared for both the exterior placement of the lines and the alternate plan for lines running on the floor inside the church worship area.

Please be as generous as you can in assisting with the funding of the repair once costs are fully determined.