



Month: February: Ordinary Time continues until February 18th, Ash Wednesday.

Purple is the color for the Season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday falls on a different date each year, forty-six days before Easter. Why 46? Sundays are not part of Lent, since there are six Sundays that fall in Lent the 40 days of Lent, plus the 6 Sundays in Lent equals 46 days. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. We are marked with ashes to remind us that life passes away on Earth, and through Christ, we can experience eternal life. We wear these ashes all day as a public profession of our faith.

Theme: Love

In Jesus, God revealed divine love for us. See God in your love, where we have love and compassion for one another, God is there. Jesus reminds us that keeping the commandments and loving one's neighbor are what love is all about. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart....You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Sacrament: Marriage

Catholics often think of the Sacrament of Marriage as a one-time blessing given at the wedding, but the sacrament and its power continues even after the wedding is over. Sacramental marriage emphasizes the lifelong graces of marriage and helps to see couples through life. Married couples draw upon and witness the power and presence of Christ in their lives. Spouses are ministers of grace to one another. Parents are the first and most important educators of their children: in faith: and showing them how to be more fully human and Christian.

Family Activity: Operation Rice Bowl

During Lent get involved in Operation Rice Bowl! Each year on Ash Wednesday "Rice Bowls" are distributed at parishes around the nation. These small paper boxes are an opportunity to give alms to the poor. Catholic Relief Services uses these donations to provide support and relief to third world countries. This program is a great way to expose children to the Church's Catholic Social Teachings. Attached to the Rice Bowl is a calendar of daily reflections and activities that your family can do together to learn about social concerns. In addition, each week a different impoverished country is highlighted and a meatless recipe from each is provided. It is a perfect meal for Friday dinners during Lent when we abstain from meat. Another, custom your family can participate in is the Parish and School Family Soup Suppers, held once a week during the Lenten season.

Saint Information : St of the Month: St. Scholastica Feast Day-February 10th.

St. Scholastica, was the twin sister of St. Benedict. She founded a religious community for women near a monastery that Benedict managed.