

As we near Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, February 17, the Catholic Identity and Diversity Committee invite you and your families to discover how our parishes are celebrating this important date in this unusual time. Below please find information for all five parishes. Please note you may need to register to attend mass and receive ashes.

In addition, All Saints Catholic Academy has, for the past several years, offered a daily Chaplet of Mercy in our Chapel. While we cannot meet in the Chapel this year due to Covid restrictions, we invite you to pray the Chaplet of Mercy daily as part of your Lenten journey. There are several very good interactive chaplets, rosaries and podcasts available on the Laudate app (available on the app store). Spend 8-10 minutes daily in prayer (we encourage "car line" Chaplets) as part of a wonderful and meaningful Lenten journey.

Holy Spirit Catholic Community

2003 Hassert Boulevard
Naperville, IL 60564
<https://www.hscc.us>

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb 17

Mass with the Distribution of Ashes 9:00am, 7:00pm

*Both Masses will be live-streamed.

Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Ashes 4:00pm, 5:30pm

[Best Lent Ever 2021](#)

Beginning on Ash Wednesday through all Forty Days of Lent, Dynamic Catholic is offering daily emails with a short video to help you reconnect with God. This year, don't just sign up for The Best Lent Ever, have your best Lent ever!

Our Lady of Mercy

701 South Eola Road
Aurora, IL 60504
<https://olmercy.com>

- The season and gift of Lent is upon us starting Ash Wednesday 2/17/21. Holy Mass and Scripture Services [sign-up is at this link](#). Share the link or [this graphic of the schedule with others](#).
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide, the Vatican and our Diocese have modified how ashes are to be distributed this year. Check out ***"Thoughts on Ashes Being Placed on the Head"*** from the Desk of the Vicar General of the Diocese of Joliet
 - You will not receive ashes on your forehead. The minister distributing ashes will come through the pews (as we do for communion) and sprinkle ashes (like a pinch of salt) on top of your head.
 - The customary formula will be said only once, applying it to all in general.
 - Ashes are blessed and distributed after the homily at either Mass or a Scripture Service.

Walking to Jerusalem starts 2/17/21

- All parishioners are invited to join a parish-wide health initiative to accumulate physical and spiritual miles from all participants during Lent. It is an opportunity to grow closer to Jesus and improve your health! Join as an individual or as a family! It starts Ash Wednesday ending on Holy Saturday, the idea is to accumulate 12,430 miles as a parish to get to Jerusalem and back to Aurora. You will be given information and guides to assist you on your Lenten journey. Register with Jolene LeRoy RN at jolenel@olmercy.com or call 331-707-5380. God bless you on your Lenten journey!

St. Elizabeth Seton
2220 Lisson Road
Naperville, IL 60565
<https://www.sesnaperville.org/>

Ash Wednesday - February 17

8:15 A.M. - Mass
12:00 P.M. - Prayer Service
4:30 P.M. - Prayer Service
7:00 P.M. – Mass

Ashes will be distributed at all Masses and Prayer Services

Following the guidelines from the Congregation of Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments published on January 12, 2021:

- The Priest will say the prayer for blessing the ashes and sprinkle the ashes with holy water, without saying anything.
- He addresses all those present and ONLY ONCE says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal applying it to all in general.
- The Priest/Deacon/Extraordinary Minister takes the ashes and ***sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.***
- Only a small amount of ash is sprinkled by rubbing the thumb and forefinger together over the head of the recipient.

Reservations must be made to attend Masses and Prayer Services. Sign-up Genius can be accessed through the main page of our website - www.sesnaperville.org or by [clicking here](#). It will be open for reservations beginning at 8:00am on Thursday, February 11 until Noon on Tuesday, February 16. We ask that you only reserve the number of seats needed so seating is available for as many as possible. **We will not be able to accommodate walk-ins.**

Lenten Giving Project-2021

This year has been difficult for so many. So, for our Lenten Giving Project this year, we will be donating to various Food Banks in the area. Following is a list of those Food Banks which will receive donations from St. Elizabeth Seton with the funds collected from our Lenten Giving Project.

Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry www.aurorafoodpantry.org
Loaves & Fishes www.loaves-fishes.org
Missionaries of Charity Food Bank at St. Malachy
Quinn Community Center www.quinncenter.org
West Suburban Community Pantry www.wscpantry.org

Normally, we would distribute bags on Ash Wednesday and those bags would be returned on Palm Sunday. Due to the COVID pandemic, we will not be distributing bags for our Lenten Giving Project. Instead, we are asking you to make your contribution through the Sunday Collection basket, by mail or through [WeShare](#).

St. Margaret Mary
1450 Green Trails Drive
Naperville, IL 60540
<https://smmp.com>

Ashes will be distributed during 8:15am & 7:00pm Masses. You may also receive ashes by stopping by the parish between 11:30am – 1:30pm.

Ash Wednesday Mass – Church 7:00pm

Ash Wednesday Prayer Service – Church 12:10pm

St. Thomas the Apostle

1500 Brookdale Road

Naperville, IL 60563

<https://www.stapostle.org/>

To commence our Lenten journey, we Christians are reminded of from where we come through the distribution of ashes. Listed below are several opportunities to worship as community and receive ashes. We will also distribute ashes throughout the day from 7:30 am–7:00 pm in the circle drive whenever there is not a service happening. Please remain in your car and someone will come out to you.

- 7:00 am Communion Service
- 8:30 am Mass
- 12:00 pm Liturgy of the Word
- 4:30 pm Liturgy of the Word *(with a family oriented focus)*
- 7:00 pm Mass

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Due to the COVID-19 crisis, ash distribution will be different this year. To avoid physical contact with recipients, the Vatican has asked that a tiny amount of ashes be sprinkled on the crown of the head, rather than making the cross on the forehead. This is actually an ancient tradition and is the way ashes have continued to be distributed in the Vatican, Italy and much of the world.*

"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: Who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life."

- Pope Benedict XVI