



# St. Therese Catholic Church

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February 24, 2011

Dear St. Therese Friends,

In the early Church, becoming a Christian was a long process that concluded with the celebration of Baptism at the Easter Vigil Liturgy. St. Augustine became a catechumen as a young man, but took his time, years in fact before he was baptized at the hands of St. Ambrose of Milan.

Today the Church follows the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA as the process is called. As Lent begins this month, I invite our parish to learn more about these rites and to pray for those involved. Let's test your knowledge with a few RCIA terms:

- **Catechumen:** An unbaptized person who begun the process toward Baptism. An interesting fact is that a catechumen, though not a full member of the Catholic Church, has a special relationship with the Body of Christ. One who dies during the catechumenate would receive Christian burial.
- **Candidate:** A person baptized in a Christian community that now seeks to enter into the fullness of the Catholic Church. A candidate is never rebaptized since the Church recognizes the validity of his/her relationship with Christ. At the Easter Vigil, they make a Profession of Faith.
- **Rite of Election:** This liturgy is celebrated at the Cathedral with Bishop Swain. The catechumens sign their names in a special Book in the presence of the Bishop, indicating their desire to live the life of Faith in the Catholic Church.
- **Scrutinies:** These are the short rites of prayer that will take place at several of the Lenten 10:45 AM Masses for the catechumens and candidates. The people of St. Therese have an obligation of prayer and good witness for these brothers and sisters.

I pray that this Lenten season will be a good and holy time for all of us. Take advantage of the times of prayer and devotional practices.



## Ash Wednesday Mass Times

8:00am 5:30pm 7:00pm



## Lenten Regulations on Fast and Abstinence

**Abstinence** from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent by all Catholics 14 years and older.

**Fasting** is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.



## *Listening for the Trumpet Call*



Every Lent as the church invites us to draw closer to the Lord, we are called to "blow the trumpet in Zion" and "proclaim a fast" (Joel 2:12,15).

For the next six weeks the readings from Mass will invite us to fix our eyes on Jesus; on his sacrificial death and on the life that he made possible for us when he rose from the dead. As you are praying and asking the Lord how you can make the gift of your life more pleasing to Him, keep in mind that this is the time of year we also start focusing on how we want to gift our time and talent to our parish. Each weekend at Mass we will be focusing on a different aspect of parish life. Some of our committee chairs will be available after Mass each week to visit with you about our various ministries and to help you find your niche in our parish.

**What you are is God's gift to you. What you become is your gift to God.**

May our Good God bring us to the joys of the Easter life.

  
Fr. David