

Worship Commission

- Liz Annandono
- Darlene Bednarz
- Anne Curry-Smith
- Dot Heister
- Tim Spahlinger
- Kathy Sull
- Matthew Thornicroft
- Mary Ellen Toomey
- Ron Vysnionis
- Fr. John Singler
- Diane Mayer
- Susanne Sande

Liturgy & Music Director

- Darlene Bednarz x 6015

Liturgy Coordinators

4:30

- Nada Manieri
- Tim Spahlinger

6:30

- Sue Znidarsic
- Toni Antonelli
- John & Helen Kozlevchar

7:30

- Ray Schabroni
- Terry Bindokas

9:30

- Judy Zook
- Lori Vayo
- Diane Mayer

11:30

- Kathy Sull
- Diane Kruger

Eucharistic Ministers

- Mary Jane Meyers - 4:30
- Fran Buble - 6:30
- Terry Bindokas - 7:30
- Judy Zook - 9:30
- Dot Spagnola - 11:30

Lectors

- Anne Curry-Smith

Servers

- Trish Booher

Ushers

- Bill Manieri - 4:30
- Ray Wydra - 6:30
- Ray Schabroni - 7:30
- Joe Vayo - 9:30
- Bill Woodside - 11:30

Greeters

- Tim & Sandi Shell

Word with Children

- Terrie Baldwin

Dance Ministry

- Kelly Rice

Art & Environment

- Fr. John Singler x 6013

Celebrating

How we celebrate Lent

"Remember that you are dust"

Each Lent we hear the same phrases: *"Remember that you are dust."* *"Create in me a clean heart."* *"Return to God with all your heart."* Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. The three days of the Triduum loom so large in our liturgical lives that we need 40 days to prepare for them. It is also a time to create in each of us a desire for change.

The verbs we use – **remember, create, return** – suggest a time of focus, of reflection, of concentration and of single-minded purpose. The long readings and the long rituals for those preparing for baptism and full initiation are opportunities for growth and change in us.

Remember: The story of the Samaritan women at the well and the image of water gives us the opportunity to remember for what we thirst. When we hear the story of the man born blind, we remember our own blindness that blocks God's gift of light. When we hear the story of the raising of Lazarus, we remember our own life and those sins that keeps us entombed. Lent invites us to go beyond a surface recognition of the need to change. We are invited to strip away everything that blinds us and binds us. We remember our habits of sin and failures to love.

Create: Lent is a time to create prayer time. This might mean putting prayer time as a priority, shutting out the distractions of our busy lives. Perhaps it means attending Friday Stations of the Cross, Taize Evening Prayer, or daily mass here or at one of the area churches. Taking even a few minutes to read and reflect on the Sunday Gospel Reading creates the opportunity for God to speak directly to us.

Our liturgies create simplicity both in the environment and in musical settings. With no musical preludes, closing hymns and music only as needed to accompany the voices is an aid to focusing on the essentials of Lent. The gathering song of *"Shepherd Me, O God"*, a refrain we can sing without the use of a worship aid, allows us to focus on the unfolding worship experience. The seasonal Psalm can seep into the collective soul and you may find yourself humming the melody as a form of "subconscious" prayer.

Return: Finally, Lent is a time for conversion for us all. It is a time for us to return to the light of Christ, the light that leads but also brings us to see that which we'd rather remain hidden. What we "give up" should be those things that make our lives less complete. The things that keep us from complete union with God and with one another are the things that need to be removed permanently from our lives. As our elect prepare for Baptism or the Rite of Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church, we give them our support. These elect can inspire us with the intensity of their final preparations. Their intensity reminds us to seek purification and enlightenment through our own spiritual renewal.

God may be asking you to go, to leave some place of comfort as you face these 40 days of self reflection, to struggle, as you face your own sinfulness so that during the Triduum you may walk with Jesus and realize what we go through, He went through. On Easter morning, we too celebrate Jesus' resurrection as our strength that we too are victorious over that which brings death to our lives, the challenges and temptations, even if just for a short while and to believe that greater promises lie beyond. God needs only some sign of faith and trust.

