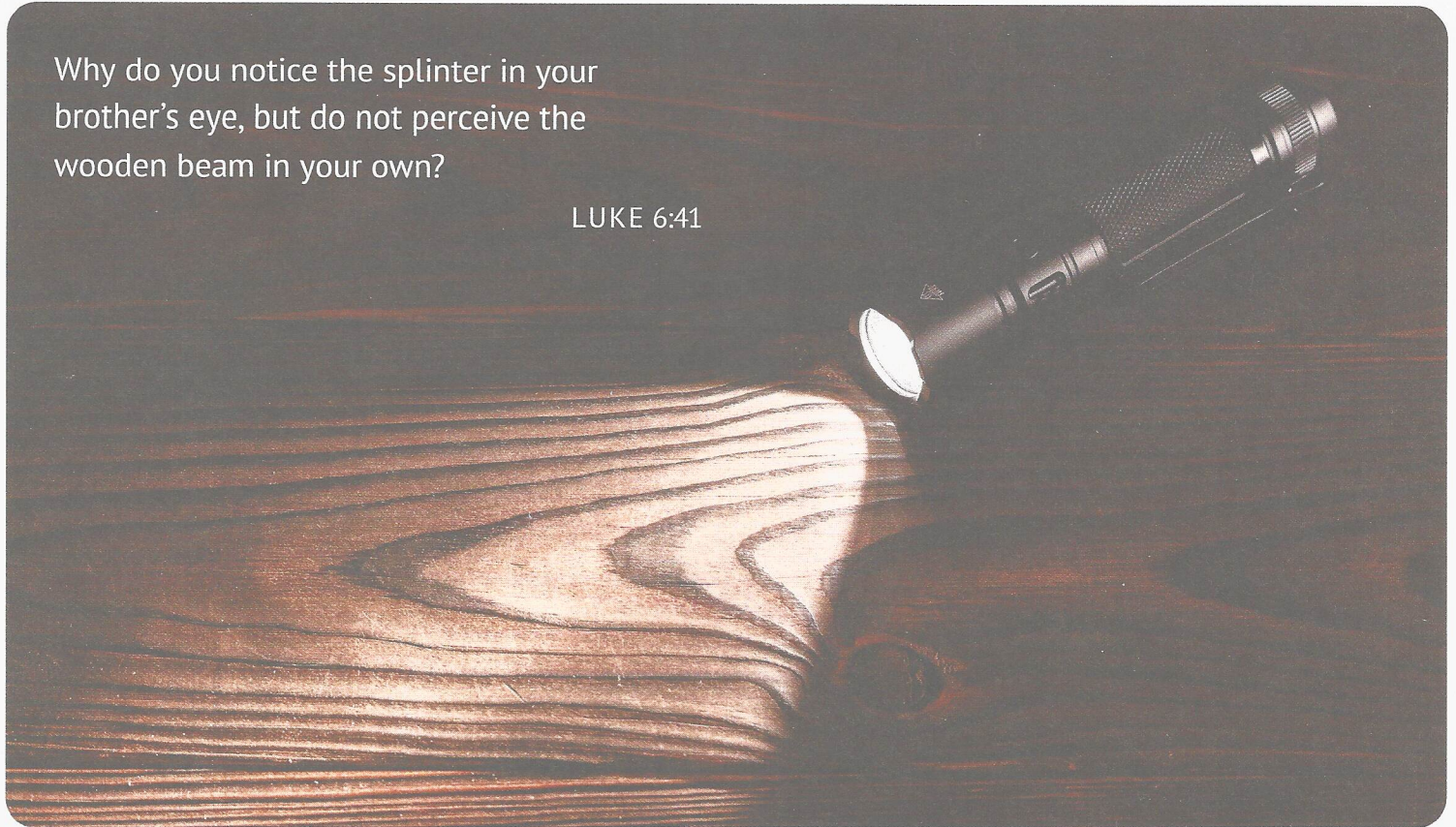




Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?

LUKE 6:41



Blindsided

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

T here are days when the darker side of who we are rises up and slaps us in the face. One evening, I decided to go to see a film. I bought a ticket, made my way into the theater, and found a seat that would give me an unobstructed view of the screen, one that had patrons on either side of the open seat in front of me. Fairly sure that no one would sit in front of me, I felt good about my maneuver. A few minutes before the film began, a group of four walked down the aisle, looking for a string of open seats in the crowded theater. One of them stopped at my row and asked if I would move down a seat. Immediately, I realized my predicament. If I moved, I'd be behind someone tall, with my vision of the screen blocked.

I'd spend the film gazing through someone's head. I said no. The woman who had asked was taken aback, said so, and then moved on. Just as quickly, I found myself shocked by my own selfishness. Where had that come from? Was I really not who I thought I was? I discovered that there are hidden pieces of who we are that seldom come to light, and when they do, we cringe. If we are fortunate, the Lenten journey we begin on Ash Wednesday might reveal to us what it is that lives in our hearts. ●

Reflect

What can I do for Lent that may help me see myself more clearly?

Saint Francis Village Catholic Chapel

4125 St. Francis Village Rd., Crowley, TX 76036

<https://stfrancisvillagecatholicchapel.com>

(817) 292-3274

Father Ken Robinson, Chaplain

REFLECTIONS

Ash Wednesday

Recent surveys indicate that only about 50 % of Catholics attend Mass on a regular basis. Quite a few more attend at least occasionally, perhaps once a month. Many attend only for special occasions, weddings and funerals and especially Christmas and Easter. Those Christians who attend only at those times are often designated: "C & E" Christians (Christmas/Easter) or "P & L" Christians (Poinsettias/Lilies) Christians.

We are used to large crowds for Christmas and Easter, but actually it is not at those celebrations when the largest crowds attend Mass. Rather, it is Ash Wednesday, which is not even a holy day of obligation. Why is that? Ash Wednesday is, after all, the beginning of the rigors of the Lenten season, a time of deprivation and sacrifice. Some, tongue in cheek, suggest that it is because the Church gives away something – ashes. And it is certainly true that many Catholics come on Ash Wednesday to receive ashes but do not receive the Eucharist at that Mass. And it is true, as often, that we don't see them at Mass again until the next special occasion.

Perhaps it is true that some come for the 'freebie' of ashes, but perhaps there is a different, more spiritually-focused reason. I would like to think that Christians who attend Mass infrequently or only at Christmas and Easter come because they retain some link to the meaning of their faith even if not actively practiced. Catholics who attend Ash Wednesday for ashes are demonstrating, at some level, their realization of a need for repentance

and reformation, no matter how rudimentary or misinterpreted. It has been said that we are created with a 'God-hole' within us, a longing that can only be filled by God. Even in our errant and sinful wayfaring through life, we retain some sense that only in God can we find true peace and fulfillment.

Perhaps Ash Wednesday fills that need. Perhaps we understand, however imperfectly, our need to be forgiven, reform our lives and return to relationship with God, to come home. This Ash Wednesday if you see those Sunday 'no-shows', don't criticize or wag your head in disbelief. Instead, conscious of your own sinfulness and need to reform, simply welcome them home!

From Father Ken



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have entered the last week in Ordinary Time. The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday March 5th. This is also the last Sunday on which we sing Alleluia until the Easter Vigil. Ash Wednesday is a day of Universal Fast and Abstinence in the Church. Lent will extend for 46 days concluding on Easter Sunday April 20, 2025. Catholics celebrate Ash Wednesday with Ashes on their forehead and a day of fasting. This practice reminds Catholic of our human mortality and the importance of reconciling our life with God. Ashes represent both death and repentance.



Ashes will be distributed during the 9:00 AM Mass on Wednesday March 5th.



The United States Catholic Bishops have determined that the following practices shall prevail in the United States: Fast and Abstinence are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all those who have celebrated their 18th birthday until one has celebrated his or her 59th Birthday. Abstinence from meat is to be observed on Fridays of Lent by all who have celebrated their 14th Birthday.

Father Ken's Lenten Day of Reflection entitled The Sacrament of Reconciliation; Rediscover God and Self will be on March 3rd in the Chapel after the 9:00 AM Mass. Please join us for two sessions of reflections.



Stations of the Cross will be prayed after the 9:00 AM Mass on Fridays during Lent, except Good Friday when they will be prayed at 3:00 PM.

Anointing of the Sick will be on Thursday March 6th during the 9:00 AM Mass.



This year we will continue with our tradition of collecting 40 cans for 40 days of Lent. We ask that you bring canned food items for our SFV Food Pantry.

Fish Fry meals, sponsored by the SFV Board of Directors, during Lent will be served every Friday (except Good Friday) from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM in the PAX Center. Remember to register at the Residents Business office a week prior to each event. The cost is \$5.00 for SFV residents and \$15.00 for guests.

Friday Lenten Fish Fry Dates		
March 7	March 14	March 21
March 28	April 4	April 11

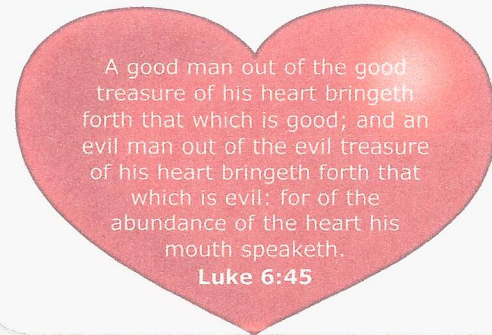
The annual SFV Health Fair is on March 6th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the PAX Center. More than 20 Vendors will be present. Mission Burgers food truck will also be on site. The Fair is free and open to the public.

In closing this week's Reflections I am providing the ways to receive an Indulgence during the Jubilee year of Hope.

- *Have an interior disposition of complete detachment from sin.
- *Receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist within 20 days before or after receiving the Indulgence.
- *Pray for the Pope's Intention.
- *Make a Pilgrimage to attend a Liturgy or Eucharistic Adoration at a Sacred Site or participate in works of mercy and Penance.
- *For those who cannot participate due to illness, imprisonment, or advance age you can obtain the Indulgence through prayer and in offering up the hardships of life.

May Christ's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*God Give You Peace.
Mike Pierson*



Mass Intentions	
Mar. 2, 2025	SFV Catholic Chapel Community
Mar. 3, 2025	Repose of the Souls of George & Therese Daley By Bill & Judy Daley
Mar. 4, 2025	Father Bob Strittmatter
Mar. 5, 2025	Ash Wednesday SFV Catholic Chapel Community
Mar. 6, 2025	Repose of the Soul of Fr. Paul Juniet By Deacon Howard Herring
Mar. 7, 2025	Special Intention of the Burke Family By Deacon Howard Herring
Mar. 8, 2025	Repose of the Soul of Ida Hesse By Suzanne Williams (5:00 PM Vigil Mass)

Dear Padre,

Does pregnancy qualify as an exemption from abstinence and fasting in Lent?

Yes, it does. Just to be clear, abstinence is not eating meat on the Fridays of Lent and applies to Catholics over the age of fourteen. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine are obligated to fast, that is, eat only one full meal and two smaller meals that do not add up to a full meal. In addition to children and elders, exemptions from these disciplines include pregnant or nursing women and the physically or mentally ill, including those with chronic illnesses, like diabetes.

It is presumed that mature Catholics will seek balance and integration in the practice of the faith and will routinely make careful, informed decisions and apply them to spiritual practice. Obviously, being informed and aware of what the Church teaches, why the Church teaches something, and how it is to be applied and understood will only enhance a person's discernment.

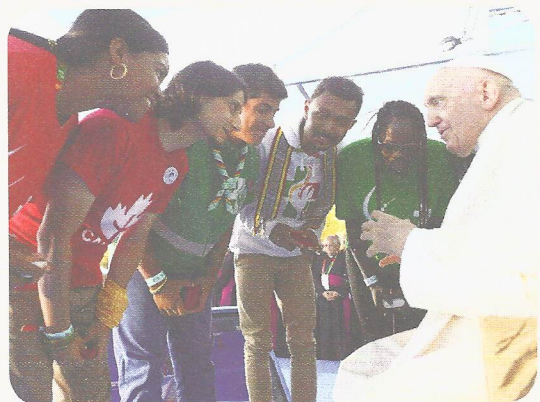
The health of an unborn baby is a clear responsibility and of the utmost importance. Maintaining a healthy and balanced diet during pregnancy and adjusting any habitual practices that may endanger the health of the baby should be a primary concern. While exempt from fasting and abstinence, a pregnant woman may want to observe Lent by adopting another penitential discipline, something that would do no harm to the baby but would still be in the spirit of Lent. ●



SHVETS PRODUCTION / PEXELS

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
March 3	March 4	March 5	March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9
<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday after Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Friday after Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Saturday after Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>
Sir 17:20–24	Sir 35:1–12	Jl 2:12–18	Dt 30:15–20	Is 58:1–9a	Is 58:9b–14	Dt 26:4–10
Mk 10:17–27	Mk 10:28–31	2 Cor 5:20–6:2	Lk 9:22–25	Mt 9:14–15	Lk 5:27–32	Rom 10:8–13
		Mt 6:1–6, 16–18				Lk 4:1–13



VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

What Jesus says is true: we always find reasons for blaming others and justifying ourselves. And very often we complain about things that are wrong in society, in the Church, in the world, without first questioning ourselves and without making an effort to change.... Every fruitful, positive change must begin from ourselves. Otherwise, there will be no change.

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 27, 2022



LENTEN CALENDAR

Lenten Day of Reflection	Monday March 3rd	Following 9:00 AM Mass
Ash Wednesday (Fast Day) Distribution of Ashes	Wednesday March 5th	Mass 9:00 AM
Anointing of the Sick	Thursday March 6th	Mass 9:00 AM
First Friday	Friday March 7th	Mass 9:00 AM Followed by Stations of the Cross & Exposition /Adoration Confessions: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Stations of the Cross, Exposition / Adoration & Confessions	Fridays: March 7, 14, 21 & 28 AND Fridays: April 4 & 11	Following 9:00 AM Mass
Anointing of the Sick	Thursday April 3rd	Mass 9:00AM
First Friday	Friday April 4th	Mass 9:00 AM Stations of the Cross Adoration Confessions: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Vigil Mass including distribution of Palms	Saturday April 11th	Mass 5:00 PM
Palm Sunday Of The Passion of the Lord	Sunday April 12th	Mass 10:00 AM
Holy Thursday Exposition / Adoration in Lounge	Thursday April 17th	Mass 5:00 PM Adoration following Mass
Good Friday of The Passion of the Lord Stations of the Cross, Service & Confessions	Friday March 18th	Stations of the Cross 3:00 PM Service 3:30 PM Confessions: 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil	Saturday April 19th	Vigil Mass 7:00 PM
Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord	Sunday April 20th	Mass 10:00 AM

I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN

40 CANS FOR
LENT



During Lent we are continuing the tradition of collecting 40 cans for 40 days. Please bring canned food items for donation to the St. Francis Village Food Pantry.



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