



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



No. 5 Vol. 7 | March 3, 2025 | Student Edition

Blessed Mary Angela Says: (Foundress of the Felician Sisters)

"I know that your soul is exposed to constant struggle and difficulties, but do not fear because I see that you do not give up but exert constant effort I can advise you nothing more than to continue in those efforts, not to fear their immensity, but trust Him who, exposing you to that struggle, will give you the necessary grace to triumph over it."

CATHOLIC Q&A

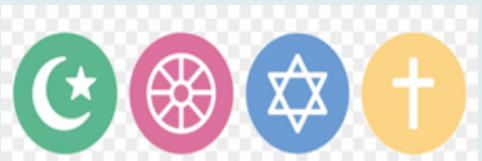
"A History of Lent"

Click [here](#) for the answer

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

- 03/01: First Full Day of Ramadan - *Islam*
- 03/05: Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins - *Christianity*
- 03/14: Holi - *Hinduism*
- 03/14: Hola Mohalla - *Sikhism*
- 03/17: Saint Patrick Day - *Christianity*
- 03/19: Saint Joseph's Day - *Christianity*
- 03/20: Naw-Ruz - *Baha'i*
- 03/31: Eid al-fitr (Ramadan ends) - *Islam*



Lenten Activities 2025

March 5 - Ash Wednesday Mass, 11:15 am in college chapel.

March 7 - Service trip to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, 9-12 pm.

March 10 - Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom 8:45-9:55am (watch emails for invite).

March 17 - Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom 8:45-9:55 am (watch emails for invite).

March 17 - Bible Study, 11:15 am in Campus Ministry Office.

March 21 - Service trip to Little Portion Friary Homeless Shelter, 9=12 pm.

March 24 - Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom 8:45-9:55 am (watch emails for invite).

March 24 - Bible Study, 11:15 am in Campus Ministry office.

March 26 - Lenten Mass with option for sacrament of Reconciliation, 11:15 am in college chapel.

March 31 - Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom 8:45-9:55 am (watch emails for invite).

March 31 - Bible Study, 11:15 am in Campus Ministry Office.

Lenten Season Overview

By Fr. Jason Damon, OFM

Your This next week starts the Christian liturgical season of Lent. Lent is a time of fasting, prayer, and charitable giving in preparation for the Paschal Triduum, the holiest days in the Christian calendar: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting marked by the distinctive distribution of ashes on people's foreheads, and the Easter Triduum. It is a 40-day period based on Jesus' own time of temptation in the desert and encourages a deeper, more intentional renewal of relationship with God, one another, our planet and ourselves. It's a preparatory time when Christians try to turn away from distractions and rededicate themselves to following Christ, even in the intensity of His life and death, through to the promise of the Resurrection.

Lent is traditionally a more solemn time in the Church calendar, and it's encouraged to try and live more simply and intentionally, refraining from luxuries and making prayer and service a more central part of one's life. The Fridays during Lent are days of abstaining from eating meat, and it both starts and ends with days of fasting, when followers eat only one meal and up to two smaller snacks: on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, which commemorates the death of Jesus.

While a more solemn time of the year for Christians, Lent is nevertheless a time of hope and renewal. The very name "Lent" comes from an old English name for spring, "lencten" which refers to the days growing longer. The traditional practices of Lent are not meant to be punitive or punishing, but to encourage self-control and a more giving, generous spirit, and to help us to realize our own dependence on God and on other people.



OUR CORE VALUES

Respect for
Human Dignity



Compassion



**SOLIDARITY WITH
PEOPLE IN NEED**



Transformation



Justice
and Peace

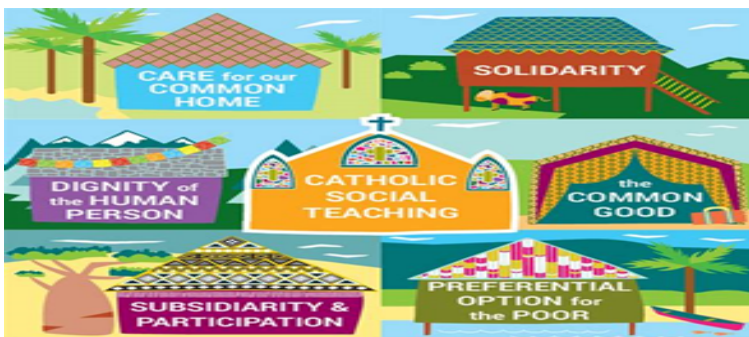
2024-2025 Focus

Solidarity With People in Need Learning About Diversity through Catholic Social Justice teachings

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

Theme #6: Solidarity

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice.¹ The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict. Click [here](#) to learn more. To be continued



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ALL ARE WELCOME!**

<https://www.instagram.com/villamariacampusministry/>

**JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY MARCH 3, 17, 24 & 31
@11:15 AM IN THE CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE.
OPEN TO STUDENTS AND STAFF**



Ramadan 2025 begins March 1st

March 1 marks the first full day of Ramadan. Ramadan is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims. In Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, and fast from food and drink during the sunlit hours as a means of drawing closer to God and cultivating self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate. Ramadan is a month of intense spiritual rejuvenation with a heightened focus on devotion, during which Muslims spend extra time reading the Qur'an and performing special prayers. Those unable to fast, such as pregnant or nursing women, the sick, or elderly people & children, are exempt from fasting.

At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate one of their major holidays called Eid ul-Fitr or the "Festival of the Breaking of the Fast." For the date of the holiday, see our Calendar of Important Islamic Dates. Children traditionally receive new clothes, money, or gifts from parents, relatives, and friends. A special prayer and sermon are held on the morning of Eid day, followed by a community celebration usually in a park or large hall. Food, games, and presents for children are important parts of the festivities, as friends and family spend the day socializing, eating, and reuniting with old acquaintances. The greeting Eid Mubarak means "blessed holiday!" Click [here](#) to learn more.

March is Women's History Month, March 8-14 Catholic Sisters Week, 150th Anniversary of Felician Sisters in North America!



Catholic Sisters Week is celebrated every March 8 to 14 during Women's History Month. Catholic Sisters Week is a celebration that commenced in March 2014 during women's history month to honor religious catholic women and remember Catholic sisters that have passed away.

In 1874, Mother Mary Angela Truszkowska sent five Felician Sisters across the Atlantic to North America. On November 21, they arrived in Polonia, WI, where the pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Fr. Joseph Dabrowski had requested their help educating the children of polish immigrants.

Their hard work, joyfulness and charism had a profound effect on people, and as women joined them, Felician Sisters' ministries continued to grow across the U.S. and Canada, then in Haiti.

Click link to watch video about Sisters arrival to North America:

<https://vimeo.com/639580443?share=copy>



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Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry

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