

# Diocese of El Paso

## Office of Worship

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*In Christian practice Lent is the season of the liturgical year when social acceptance of and accounting for sickness and sin, disappointment and failure, is shared, even celebrated when considered next to God's perfection....*

*For Christians of a liturgically traditional church in a culture of consumption, social accountability to others is not easy. Yet, without the community, there can be no accounting for life's limitations and for one's failure to live up to one's obligation to sustain it and participate in it fully.*

*Lent counters individualism with the communalism of the church's society.... During Lent penance should be not only inward and individual but also outward and social, and should be directed toward works of mercy on behalf of our brothers and sisters. So in the Forty Days church members, as individuals and as a whole body, examine themselves in order to see how they have been instruments of God's love and how they have impeded it. [Martin Connell, *Eternity Today: On the Liturgical Year*, Vol 2, pp 53 – 55.]*

### Lent 2009

**Ash Wednesday** is February 25. Please remember that ashes are to be distributed during liturgy. The *Book of Blessings* has the rite for the distribution of ashes outside Mass.

**Holy Water** is to be made available for the faithful during the Lenten season. In a letter dated 14 March 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments declared that the practice of removing holy water was "not permitted" because Lent is a season rich in symbolism of water and baptisms and because the sacramentals should be available to the faithful year round.

The **Rite of Election** will be held the First Sunday of Lent, 3:00 p.m., Saint Stephen Deacon & Martyr Parish, 1700 George Dieter. Children of catechetical age (7-16) who are to be baptized at the Easter vigil are to be included.

Monday, April 6, priests will gather at St. Charles Seminary for a morning of reflection with Bishop Patrick Zurek of Amarillo. The **Chrism Mass** will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. All clergy wishing to concelebrate are to bring albs and are asked to arrive early.

### Triduum 2009

**Funeral Masses** are not permitted these days. If such a need were to arise, the Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass may be used at the cemetery (graveside) or at the funeral home.

The **Easter Vigil**, April 11, may not begin until after sunset. At this time of the year, 8:00 p.m. is usually the earliest the Vigil may be celebrated in the El Paso area.

The liturgical norms state that a new **Paschal Candle** is to be blessed at the Vigil and used throughout the year. In regard to what is to be done with the former candle and the old holy oils, when preparing for the Easter fire, the old candle may be placed under the wood used for the fire and the previous year's holy oils may be poured over the wood – all to be burned at the lighting and blessing of the new fire. The old candle should never be thrown into the trash and the holy oils never poured down the sink.