

STEWARDSHIP

February 14th.....	\$297	World & Home Missions.....	\$261
February 18th.....	\$1,497	St. Vincent De Paul.....	\$765

Bobcat Catholics like you provide more than half the resources necessary to bring students of Texas State closer to Christ. Contact a staff member anytime to join our mission at 512-392-5925 or [giving@txstatecatholic.org](mailto:giving@txstatecatholic.org)

**LENTEN FASTING**

In the early Church fasts preceded all major feasts or sacramental events. They were a means of watching and waiting -- *for something*. *These initial observations teach us that the Eucharist is always the end of a preparation, the fulfillment of an expectation. Fasting is always preparatory.*

But how is fasting such an important means of preparing for the Eucharist and of learning virtue through self-discipline? Christian fasting is revealed in an interdependence between two events in the Bible: the "breaking of the fast" by Adam and Eve; and the "keeping of the fast" by Christ. Humanity's "Fall" away from God and into sin began with eating. God had proclaimed a fast from the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and Adam and Eve broke it. Humanity, in Adam and Eve, rejected a life dependent on God alone. The tragedy is not that Adam ate food, but that he ate the food for its own sake, "apart"

from God and to be independent of Him. Christ, however, is the new Adam. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read, "When He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, He became hungry." Hunger is that state in which we realize our dependence on something else—when we face the ultimate question: "on what does my life depend?" Satan tempted both Adam and Christ, saying: Eat, for your hunger is proof that your life is in food. Adam believed and ate. Christ said, "Man does NOT live by bread alone." For the Christian, fasting is the means by which man recovers his true spiritual nature. In order for fasting to be effective, the spirit must be a part of it. And because of that, because it is truly a place of the spirit, true fasting may well lead to temptation, and weakness and doubt and irritation. It will be a real fight between good and evil, and very likely we shall fail many times in these battles. But the very discovery of the

Christian life as "fight" and "effort" is an essential aspect of fasting. Christian tradition can name at least seven reasons for fasting:  
 -- From the beginning, God commanded some fasting, and sin entered into the world because Adam and Eve broke the fast.  
 -- For the Christian, fasting is ultimately about fasting from sin.  
 -- Fasting reveals our dependence on God and not the resources of this world.  
 -- Fasting is an ancient way of preparing for the Eucharist—the truest of foods.  
 -- Fasting is preparation for all the sacraments for the reception of grace.  
 -- Fasting is a means of saving resources to give to the poor.  
 -- Fasting is a means of self-discipline, chastity, and the restraining of the appetites.

*from Fr. Daniel Mertz, USCCB*

**YOUR WEEKLY BULLETIN IS BACK!**

Please send content to [bulletin@txstatecatholic.org](mailto:bulletin@txstatecatholic.org) Wednesdays by 5pm.

**BOBCAT AWAKENING #51**

Thank you for your prayers for this important step in our students' spiritual journey this weekend.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TRUCK,**

St. John's back parking lot, Saturday, March 10th from 10am - 1pm.

**FRIDAYS DURING LENT**

Each Friday during Lent we abstain from meat together. This is intended to be a religious experience and so we need to explore it and prepare for it. How meaningful and powerful the experience is, depends upon how reflective we are about it, and the kind of choices we make, to ensure that there is some sacrifice and some experience of solidarity in our Lenten Fridays.

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu>

**ASHES TO EASTER BOXES**

are still available in the lobby. This annual Lenten project affirms and encourages local missionary groups and other activities of the Diocese of Austin. The funds collected are used to provide grants to groups and organizations to aid in their mission efforts.

**DACA "Call-in-Day"**

The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) has issued a request to all dioceses in the United States to participate in a national Catholic "call-in-day" to Congress next **Monday, Feb. 26, 2018**, to express support for DACA (*Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*). The USCCB flyer announcing the initiative is included here. More information at the USCCB website <http://www.usccb.org/news/2018/18-038.cfm>

**OVERVIEW OF THE LENTEN SEASON**

explaining practices, rituals and lots of other good stuff about this holy time is available on the Austin Diocese website. [www.austindiocese.org/lenten-resources](http://www.austindiocese.org/lenten-resources)

**LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION**

Fr. Craig will host an evening of reflection on the *Seven Last Words of Christ* on Friday March 23rd from 5-7pm in the Chapel. All parishioners and students are invited to attend!



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Fridays during Lent after our 12:30pm Mass in the Chapel led by Fr. Craig or Deacon Cris and ending with Benediction. (Spring Break week March 16th there will be no Stations or Benediction)

**LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES**

Be spiritually prepared for Easter!

Penance Service here at Our Lady of Wisdom is

**Wednesday, February 28th**

In addition, there are services at Santa Cruz in Buda on Thurs. March 1st

St. John's in San Marcos on Wed., March 14th

St. Anthony's in Kyle on Tue. March 20th

All Penance Services begin at 7pm.