

STEWARDSHIP

February 4th.....\$3,109

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

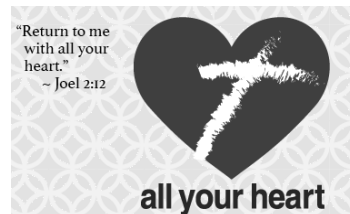
GOD'S INVITATION

Lent is a season of being invited by God in a deeply personal way. "Come back to me, with all of your heart," our Lord beckons. "We will," we respond, but we aren't quite ready yet, our hearts are not prepared. We are not ready for God to love us. Yes, of course we want to have a deeper relationship with God, we tell ourselves earnestly. And we will....Soon. Come back to me, with all of your heart. Ok, ok, I really will. Just a few more things to do at work. Let me spend a little more time in prayer first. Let me get to Reconciliation. Let me clean my oven, tidy my closets. Sell my yoke of oxen. Check a field I have purchased.... Come back to me, with all of your heart. It is an extraordinary invitation to each one of us. To me in a personal, individual way. God invites me to drop the defenses that I hold up between myself and God. God wants me to realize that my standards, my way of judging and loving are so very different from God's way, and so much smaller. God offers an entire Lent

season, an entire lifetime, of loving me unconditionally, no matter what I have done or how much I think I have hidden from God. From the first day of Lent, the Ash Wednesday readings make God's call to us clear: "Return to me with your whole heart," "A clean heart create for me, O God," "Give me back the joy of your salvation." Our God is insistent, loving, gently prodding. God is the parent of the Prodigal Child, waiting faithfully, eagerly, on the road for our return. There are no folded arms and stern judging stares, only the straining eyes of a parent eager for our return, longing to embrace us and rejoice in us. When we finally appear after so much time away, we understand we don't have to say anything. We only have to show up. Look up there on the road ahead of us -- our loving God is jumping up and down for joy! But what stops us from this great reunion, from accepting this invitation to something deeper in our lives with God? It doesn't matter. None of it matters. Only that we have turned to God and God is smothering us with

embraces and joyful cries. Come back to me, with all of your heart. Our acceptance of this call, this appeal to our hearts is simple -- all we have to do is say to our Lord, "I'm here. Where do I start?" Our hearts have been opened and we have taken the first step toward the rejoicing parent on the road. Come back to me, with all of your heart. That is the invitation of each day of Lent. Today is the day to accept it.

from Online Ministry of Creighton University



Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.

[Pope Francis' message for Lent](#)

YOUR WEEKLY BULLETIN IS BACK!

Please send content to bulletin@txstatecatholic.org Wednesdays by 5pm.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

2/11 Catholic Higher Education
2/14 (Ash Wed.) World & Home Missions
2/18 St. Vincent de Paul

PERMANENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL (PCC) Meets Sunday 11:30am in the Library. All parish community members are welcome this Sunday, February 11th



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TRUCK,

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

THE FRIDAYS OF LENT Each of the Fridays of Lent are days 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>



OVERVIEW OF THE LENTEN SEASON

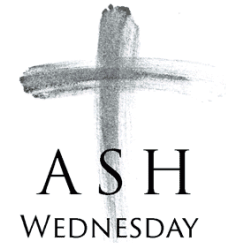
explaining practices, rituals and lots of other good stuff about this holy time is available on the Austin Diocese website. www.austindiocese.org/lenten-resources

LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

Fr. Craig will host an evening of reflection on the *Seven Last Words of Christ* at the end of the Lenten Season 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)



February 14, 2018

ADORATION followed by **BENEDICTION** 8:30am– 11:30am

MASS 12:30pm and 7pm

LITURGY & DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES 4pm– Our Lady of Wisdom 5:30pm- LBJ Teaching Theatre

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 St. Anthony's in Kyle on Wed. Feb. 21st & at St. John's in San Marcos on Wed., March 14th. All Penance Services begin at 7pm.