



Dear friends,

As we continue to journey through the sacred season of Lent, I am filled with gratitude for this time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. The season of Lent annually invites us to embrace prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as pathways to deepen our relationship with God - and one another. It is a time of spiritual growth and transformation.

The author Leo Tolstoy is credited with saying: "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." Changing ourselves starts with a simple, yet powerful "a-ha" moment: "I just can't continue down this same road any longer." Lent provides the opportunity to turn around and even change the road we are on.

Having courage is essential. Changing ourselves means the willingness to acknowledge and confront aspects of ourselves that we may not know about or like. We need not be afraid. Ultimately, it is by God's grace that our hearts are changed. Yes, change is difficult, and we naturally resist it, but conversion is what Christ invites us to do each new day. Saint Paul reminds us, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil 4:13)

In the spirit of the season, the Catholic Information Center is hosting programs and events designed to support your Lenten journey. Here's a glimpse of what we have in store this month:

1. On Tuesday, March 5, Rev. Kyle Meyaard-Schaap will offer a theological and scriptural exploration - and practical advice - to offer hope in the face of the climate crisis and turn it into action.
2. Paulist Father Bill Edens will facilitate a soul-nourishing Lenten retreat on Thursday, March 14 where we will come together as a community to reflect on the themes of being forgiven and forgiving others.
3. Paulist Father Joachim Lally and Fred Johnson will offer a reflection on Tuesday, March 19 on living beyond guilt to discover new pathways to deepening our relationship with God.

We invite you to mark your calendars and join us as we embrace the season of Lent with open hearts and minds.

Grateful for your continued partnership in the mission of the Catholic Information Center, may this holy season be a time of grace and spiritual renewal for each of us.

In gratitude and hope,

fr. Dat

Very Rev. Dat Tran, CSP
Executive Director of the Catholic Information Center
and Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew

Pray for:

+Charles Brunick, CSP

Bill Close

Jim Donnley

+Paulette Litton

Evelyn Mitchell

Brijida White

**March Mass for CIC
Intentions:
Sunday, March 17
5:30 p.m. at the
Cathedral**

Please include your prayer intentions with your green envelope or email them to cicoffice@catholicinformationcenter.org

Upcoming Programs

Following Jesus in a Warming World
Tuesday, March 5
7-8:30 p.m. ET



Using stories from the field, **Rev. Kyle Meyaard-Schaap** will offer a theological and scriptural exploration - and practical advice - to offer hope to Christians paralyzed by the scale of the climate crisis and turn it into action.

Beyond Guilt: The Path to Freedom and Divine Connection
Tuesday, March 19
7-8:30 p.m. ET



Does what we were taught as children about God work for us today? Moving from knowledge about God to deepening our relationship with God. Presented by **Rev. Joachim Lally, CSP** and **Fred Johnson**.

Lenten Mini-Retreat: Forgiven and Forgiving
Thursday, March 14
10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Explore the power of being forgiven and forgiving others, fostering inner peace, freedom, and spiritual renewal with **Fr. Bill Edens, CSP**.

This program is part of the 55 Plus Series, exploring spirituality and vitality in the second half of life.

God's Mercy Awaits You
Thursday, March 14
5-8 p.m.



Are you wondering how to best prepare yourself for Easter? Why not set aside some time to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation? Join the Diocese of Grand Rapids for **"The Light is ON for You: An Evening of Penance."** Visit GRdiocese.org/penance for locations and details

Your generous and regular contributions help ensure a vibrant and enduring future for the Paulist ministry at the CIC. All donations, no matter the size, make a significant impact.

Become a monthly contributor through online giving by scanning the QR code below or by visiting our website.



Follow us on Social Media for the latest updates and news.

For information about upcoming programs, visit catholicinformationcenter.org or call 616-459-7267

Friendship Corner

Leadership Formation Institute for Biblical Studies Team member — Elyse Underhill



When and where did you first encounter the CIC and Paulist Fathers? In the fall of 1990 Carl (my husband) had just retired from the military, and we moved to the Grand Rapids area. I was looking for a Catholic bible study and the CIC was the only 'game in town' that offered one, so I came...and kept coming back for more!

How has the ministry of the CIC impacted your spiritual journey? The Holy Spirit and St. Paul have been influential in my spiritual journey for a very long time. The programs offered at the CIC have challenged my growth in areas that I might not have explored previously. I find that I am more spiritually fed through and with the CIC and the Paulist Fathers than any other place I've been. The warmth and hospitality that is extended to all who walk into the CIC plays an important role in developing spirituality.

Why is the CIC important to you? I feel at home, I am made to feel like I'm part of a large family and accepted for who I am. From that feeling of belonging, the desire to help as much as I can flows. Because of the many charisms of the Paulist Fathers, I have found that the opportunities at the CIC follow suit: there is something for everyone.