

+++ *From the Pastor* +++

The Second Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2015

Lenten Regulations for 2015

The following are the Lenten Regulations as outlined by the Most Rev. Liam Cary, Bishop of the Diocese of Baker, in union with the universal Church:

On Abstinence: All Catholics 14 years of age and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on the Fridays of Lent.

On Fasting: All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are to fast on Ash Wednesday (February 18) and Good Friday (April 3). On days of fast one full (meatless) meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each one's needs but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including coffee, milk and fruit juices, are allowed.

Other Matters Related to Lent

During the Season of Lent the faithful are exhorted to attend daily Mass, to receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion often, to take part more frequently in exercises of piety, to give generously to works of religion and charity, to extend special concern towards the sick, the aged and the poor, to practice voluntary self-denial regarding alcoholic drink and worldly amusements and to pray more frequently, particularly for the needs and intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

On the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

God, in his mercy, has instituted the sacrament by which the sins committed after baptism may be remitted. No human being would ever have thought of this sacrament (of reconciliation) for it is something like a resurrection; we rise after we are dead. It is a journey back again to God. It enables us to get rid of infections before they become chronic diseases and epidemics. The sacrament of reconciliation is the inflowing of God's mercy, an opportunity for the increase of the grace of Calvary. It is a medicine for the soul, the healing of our wounds, a homecoming, an undoing of the past; an opportunity to get a fresh start in life, another bath, a kind of secondary baptism.

--Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

