

**“THAT WE MAY GROW IN UNDERSTANDING:
A LENTEN RETREAT”**

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CENTER

Mattoon, IL

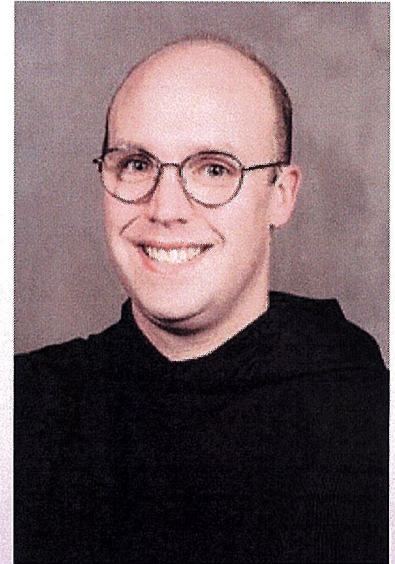
A time of spiritual recollection and preparation.

Exploring the Collects, (the opening

**Prayers of the Mass) for Ash Wednesday and the
Sundays of Lent**

FEBRUARY 28th — MARCH 3rd

Sessions each day at 9:00 AM (on Sunday immediately after Mass) and repeated at 6:00 PM. Refreshments offered at each session with a light meal on Saturday, March 1st after Vigil Mass and before the evening session. “Mardi Gras” Social on Monday evening, March 3rd.

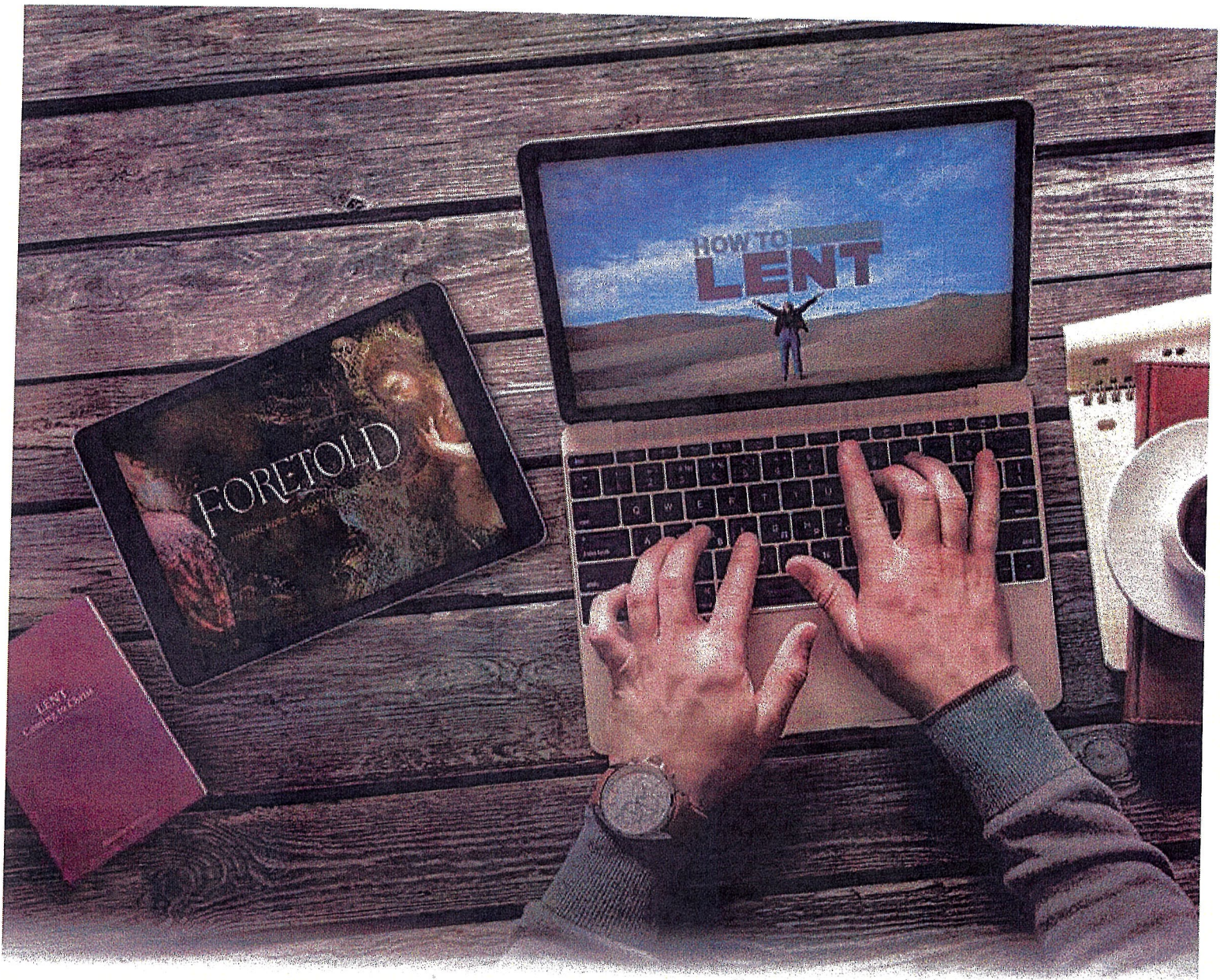


**Brother Stanley Rother
Wagner, OSB**

Retreat Master

St. Meinrad Archabbey

Come, Be Ready for Lent!



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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & ST. COLUMCILLE

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES: PRAYER, FASTING & ALMSGIVING

Immaculate Conception and St. Columcille Lenten Schedule:

Ash Wednesday: March 5th, Mass with distribution of ashes:

7:00 AM, Noon, 7:00 PM at Immaculate Conception, 5:30 PM at St. Columcille

Stations of the Cross Every Friday of Lent at 7:00 PM with Rosary at 6:30 PM at both Churches

March 7 March 14 March 21 March 28 April 4 April 11

Knights of Columbus Friday Lenten Fish Fry's from 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM, IC K of C Hall

March 7 March 14 March 21 March 28 April 4 April 11

St. Columcille parish will be hosting a social event during Lent for the benefit of the Sullivan Area Ministerial Alliance for their good works in our community. Watch the bulletin for further details.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 30 minutes before each weekday Mass at both Churches. Also at Immaculate Conception on Saturdays from 2:30 –3:30 PM and at St. Columcille on Wednesdays before and after the 5:30 PM Mass. Additional opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Columcille: Wednesday, April 16th from 3:30-5:30 PM and 6:45—7:30 PM

Lenten Penance Service: at Immaculate Conception at 2:00 PM on Sunday, April 13th

Holy Triduum Schedule:

Holy Thursday: Mass, April 17th at 5:30 PM at St. C, 7:30 PM at IC

Good Friday Service, April 18th at 3:00 PM at St. C., 7:00 PM at IC

Easter Vigil Mass, April 19th (at St. Columcille, Sullivan) at 8:00 PM

Easter Sunday Mass, April 20th at 6:30 AM at Calvary Cemetery (weather permitting) 8:00 and 10:30 AM at IC

Additional Opportunities for Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving:

FORMED.org

We are pleased to present a path for our parishioners to enrich their prayer lives this Lent. With daily reflections from **FORMED.org** you are brought into the wisdom of the Church as she presents "Foretold" and "How to Lent." Sign up for FREE at FORMED.org or download the App today. **A wealth of additional content can also be found on FORMED.org**

Rice Bowls

Consider saving your change for Catholic Relief Services "Operation Rice Bowl" program helping the neediest in over 100 countries obtain basic life saving food, medicine and shelter. **Rice Bowls available in Church.**

Lenten Parish Retreat: That We May Grow in Understanding

A time of spiritual recollection and preparation. Exploring the Collects (the opening Prayers of the Mass) for Ash Wednesday and the Sundays of Lent by Brother Stanley Rother Wagner, OSB

February 28th, March 1, 2, and 3 sessions at 9:00 AM and repeated at 6:00 PM each evening in the Immaculate Conception Parish Center.

Lenten Bus Pilgrimage Trip in honor of the 2025 Jubilee Year

Gain a plenary indulgence by making a pilgrimage to our Diocesan Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, March 10th. Bus will depart from IC at 8:30 AM & St. C. at 9:00 AM. We will tour the Cathedral and join the Noon Mass there. Lunch will be provided and then tour the beautiful Corpus Christi Priory before departing for home. \$30.00 and a call to the parish office reserves your seat.

Rice Packing Day

Students in grades 2nd and up and their parents are encouraged to join us on **Saturday, March 15th from 10:00 AM-Noon in the Family of Faith Center** (former St. Mary School) as we pack rice meal kits for the missions. We are partnering with Missions International for this Lenten Service Project for our Sister Parish, Saint Joseph the Worker in Venezuela. Pizza served at Noon.

March for Life: Springfield

On **Tuesday, March 25th**, you are invited to join thousands of pro-life advocates, being a joyful witness to life and raising your voice for the voiceless at the Illinois Pro-Life March. The day begins with Mass at 10 a.m. at the Sangamon Auditorium on the campus of the University of Illinois Springfield, celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. After the Mass, there is a rally at the capitol at noon and then a march around the capitol at 1 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also be going on at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from noon to 5 p.m. Confessions at the Cathedral will also be available from 1:30 - 5 p.m. **Please call the parish office to reserve your seat in the parish van. Pickup and drop off at St. Columcille also available.**

Lenten Retreat for Ladies

The Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites all women to attend our annual winter **Lenten Retreat at Villa Maria in Springfield beginning at 8:30 AM on Tuesday March 25th and ending at 3:30 PM on Wed. March 26th**, with Deacon Jeff Beals as retreat master, What a wonderful time for spiritual presentations, reflection, prayer, Holy Mass, Confession, fellowship and much more. All ladies are welcome! Registration forms with cost and further information are available in the parish office.

Venerable Bishop Sheen at the Cross: A dramatization by Dr. Patrick Coulton

Join us on Sunday, March 30th at 6:00 PM in the IC Parish Center. Watch the bulletin for additional details.

St. Joseph Table

St. Joseph Table is a wonderful Sicilian and Italian tradition that combines a love for the Father of the Holy Family, food, and outreach to the poor. Collection is centered around the March 19th Solemnity of St. Joseph. **We will be collecting non-perishables to be distributed to the Mattoon Food Center and Catholic Charities until March 24th.**

Luminaries for Life

Will be placed on **Immaculate Conception Church Plaza and St. Columcille entrances the weekend of March 21-25** as a visible witness to all and a reminder to ourselves of our parishes commitment to Life.

Blessing of the Easter Food and Baskets

Holy Saturday Morning, April 19th we will gather for morning Prayer and Blessing of the food and baskets at **8:30 AM at Immaculate Conception.**

24 Hour Eucharistic Exposition: will occur February 28-March 1 and April 4-5. Exposition begins after Friday 7:00 AM Mass and continues until Saturday 8:30 AM Mass.

LENTEN REGULATIONS:

The season of Lent begins this year on **Ash Wednesday, March 5th and ends just prior to the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 17th**, when the Paschal Triduum begins. Lent is the principal penitential season in the Church year. All the Christian faithful are urged to develop and maintain a voluntary program of self-denial (in addition to the Lenten regulations which follow), serious prayer and the performing of deeds of charity and mercy, including the giving of alms. **LENTEN REGULATIONS:**

ABSTINENCE – Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

FAST – Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed.

To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.