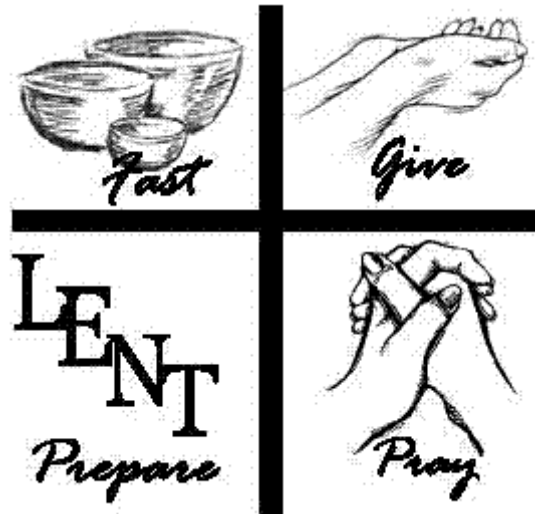


FIRST PART OF LENT



*Through the Discipline of Lent, help us to grow
in our desire for YOU!!*

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we have done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need. For centuries, the Liturgy of the Hours and the Eucharist have guided our Lenten reflection. May Our Lord grant us all the graces we need and desire.



It is wonderful to see the early weeks of Lent as a catechism for those who are on a journey toward Baptism at the Easter Vigil. Each liturgy offers a new "lesson in the faith" for these new believers. Viewed this way, Lent can be a journey of renewal in faith for us all. We listen, with the hearts of children, learning old lessons, as though for the first time.

Each day, we pray these special prayers that simply help us keep turning to God for the graces we need for the day.

Throughout the day, we find moments, perhaps "in the background" while we are doing other things, that help us remember what we are asking for. Our desire grows as we make changes to our daily patterns. As we make sacrifices, in order to experience freedom from self-directed wants, we also experience a freedom for other-directed love and generosity.

