



February 12, 2026

## Preparing for the Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday, this year is on February 18<sup>th</sup>, which marks the beginning of the sacred season of Lent in the Catholic Church, a forty-day period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that prepares the faithful for the celebration of Easter. It is a solemn and reflective day that invites Catholics to turn their hearts back to God through repentance and renewal.

On Ash Wednesday, Catholics receive ashes on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. The priest or minister says either, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” or “Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” The ashes, made from the burned palm branches of the previous year’s Palm Sunday, symbolize human mortality, humility, and sorrow for sin. They are an outward sign of an inward desire for conversion.

From a Catholic perspective, Ash Wednesday signifies several important spiritual realities:



- **Repentance:** It is a call to examine one’s life, acknowledge sin, and seek God’s mercy through sincere contrition and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **Mortality:** The ashes remind believers of the brevity of earthly life and the hope of eternal life in Christ.
- **Conversion:** Lent is a journey of ongoing conversion — turning away from sin and turning toward God more fully.
- **Spiritual Discipline:** Catholics begin practices of fasting and abstinence on this day. Those who are eligible fast (one full meal and two smaller meals that do not equal a full meal) and abstain from meat as a sign of sacrifice and solidarity with Christ’s suffering.

Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation, yet it is one of the most widely attended liturgies of the year because of its powerful symbolism. It sets a tone of quiet reflection and hope. Though penitential, it is ultimately a day rooted in grace — a reminder that God’s mercy is always available and that the journey toward Easter begins with humility and trust in His love.

# Warm Wishes for Sr. Joan McGlinchey, MSC

*Sr. Joan will be missioned from Chicago to Dobbs Ferry, NY*



Left to right (standing): Greg Lane, Steve Ruff, Kayoko Lyons, Sr. Lucy Panettieri, Sr. Joaquina Costa, Steve Schuster, Veronica Calderon, James Kapellas, Sr. Laura Baldini. Kneeling beside Sr. Joan is Fr. Ramil Fajardo.

her support of key Cabrini ministries in the city — including the National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and St. Anthony Hospital — she has helped strengthen and sustain our presence here.

Beyond the Institute of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Sr. Joan also served the wider Catholic Church as Vicar for Religious in the Archdiocese of Chicago and as a founding member and Board Member of AHLMA. In these roles, she accompanied women and men religious with pastoral care and ecclesial responsibility. Her leadership reflected a deep love for religious life and a commitment to communion within the Church.

On February 6, the Chicago community gathered in prayer and gratitude as Sr. Joan McGlinchey, MSC, was missioned to Dobbs Ferry, NY.

The Eucharist that evening was a heartfelt expression of thanksgiving for her many years of faithful presence among us. Sisters, collaborators, and friends came together to honor her steady leadership, wisdom, and deep commitment to the Cabrini mission.

Sr. Joan's life in Chicago spans decades. Through her service in congregational leadership and



Sr. Joan does a reading during Mass.



Sr. Joan is surrounded with the love of her MSC Sisters: Sr. Lucy Panettieri (l.), Sr. Joaquina Costa, (r.) and Sr. Laura Baldini (c.)

~ submitted by Sr. Laura Baldini, MSC

Following Mass, the community continued the celebration with warm fellowship, shared memories, and heartfelt appreciation. A bouquet of roses and a joyful “Thank You” banner expressed what words alone could not.

As Sr. Joan begins this new chapter in Dobbs Ferry, we accompany her with prayer and affection, grateful for her witness and confident that her missionary spirit will continue to bless the congregation.



**With gratitude,**  
The Chicago  
Community

## From the Province Vocation Team...



On Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus joined in a Vocation Fair on the campus of Villanova University hosted by Fr. Jeremy Hiers, OSA, Vocation Director for the Villanova Province of the Augustinian Friars.



Twenty-one congregations of men and women religious who are members of the Delaware Valley Member Area of the National Religious Vocations Conference (NRVC) participated.

It was an event to introduce Villanova students to the many charisms in religious life and to meet religious sisters, brothers and priests and to learn more about religious life as a vocational path. Sr. Roselle Santivasi, MSC and MSC Vocation Team Coordinator Nancy Costello were present to meet and speak with students.

## From the National Spotlight to District Champions, CHS Continues a Tradition of Excellence

Cabrini High School students continue to bring Mother Cabrini's mission to life through bold achievement, joyful faith, and a spirit of excellence that reaches far beyond campus.



What better place than Disney World - "the happiest place on earth" - to showcase the talent of the Cabrini Cheer and Dance teams at the national competition on the ESPN Wide World of Sports. The CHS team earned a Top Ten ranking in the nation!

The Cabrini Cheer and Dance teams recently traveled to Walt Disney World to compete on the national stage at ESPN Wide World of Sports in the National High School Cheerleading and Dance Championship. **Cabrini's teams earned a Top Ten ranking in the nation!** The experience placed Cabrini among the country's strongest programs and highlighted months of disciplined preparation, unity, and resilience. Guided by Coaches Teena and Amanda Costales, '15 and supported by Athletic Director Sarah Heraty Bruzeau'15 and Director of Facilities and Operations Kirk Maronge, the team represented Cabrini with confidence, professionalism, and heart. **To view a recap of the competition: <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/184UtkC9uh>**

In athletics, Cabrini Soccer captured the District Championship title under the leadership of Coach Ryan Hodkinson.

During Catholic Schools Week, Cabrini was also selected to lead the music in the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Week Mass, a celebration uniting Catholic schools from across the New Orleans Archdiocese. In a region rich with Catholic education and tradition, the invitation to serve in this liturgy was a distinct honor. Maiya Tate '18 and the Cabrini liturgical choir led the congregation in music, drawing praise from

archdiocesan leaders and showcasing the vibrant talent that defines the Cabrini High School community.

From national competition stages to archdiocesan liturgies and championship fields, Cabrini students continue to pursue excellence while remaining rooted in faith, community, and service. ~submitted by Anne Argus DiPaola, '96, CHS Director of Communications



Cabrini High School's soccer team celebrated their victory as District Champions for the 2025 - 2026 school year. Congratulations, young ladies!

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## Faithful Philly

*A Philadelphia-based Catholic coalition coming together to bear faithful witness*

**Faithful Philly**, is a Philadelphia-based faith coalition focused on immigration justice. Faithful Philly grows directly out of the national **One Church, One Family** call to action ([1family.us](https://1family.us)) and exists to carry that momentum forward locally supporting coordination, accompaniment, public witness, and rapid response with and for immigrant and mixed-status families.

As we move closer to Lent, many of us are carrying a mix of concern, weariness, and quiet resolve. Scripture reminds us, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9). In this moment, we are invited to remain attentive to the Spirit at work among us and to stay rooted together, even when the road ahead feels uncertain.

To learn more about Faithful Philly: <https://forms.gle/mg84qc5VV4SVEwtb8>

"Faith must be transmitted, it must be offered, above all by witness."

— Pope Francis, daily homily, April 25, 2020

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## Law, ICE, and *Community Power*

### FEATURING:



**Tsehaitu Abye**  
Founder, BDBC Services



**Tammy Murphy**  
Policy Director, Make the Road PA

**Thursday, February 19, 2026**

4:00-5:00 p.m. | Law School Room 202

Please join us for a workshop on ICE enforcement in our communities.

Speakers will provide information on

- Constitutional rights during ICE encounters, and
- Opportunities to support immigrant communities through local advocacy.

### CO-SPONSORED BY:

Latin American Studies Program | Law School Clinical Program |  
UNITAS Office of Community Enrichment | Mother Cabrini Institute  
on Immigration



## Immigration in the News

The following are links to articles/podcasts on immigration that have recently appeared in Catholic publications and websites:

- [More Catholic bishops speak out about immigration tactics](#)
- [Minneapolis bishop speaks on immigration and human dignity](#)

*This year, Ash Wednesday is observed on February 18<sup>th</sup>. As has been our tradition, the Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLM) will be journeying with us through Lent by sharing reflections and meditations each week. The reflection for Ash Wednesday is offered by Patricia Krasnausky, CLM.*

## Ash Wednesday

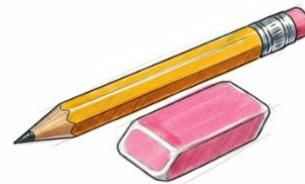
February 18, 2026

As a young child I loved to have nice new pencils with clean erasers when I was drawing or writing. The eraser was especially important because it enabled me to rub away my mistakes before anyone saw them, and to make the needed corrections.



On Ash Wednesday many of us receive ashes in the form of a cross on our foreheads, thereby acknowledging the mistakes we've made, as well as the need to make changes in our lives before the Lord. Later in the day we wash off the ashes with confidence that our Lord wants to remove our distress over past sins. Washing off the ashes doesn't make the needed corrections in our lives however, no matter how hard we rub. Then what?

In today's reading from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, Paul sets a goal for us for Lent: "Become ambassadors for Christ." The recommendations for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us to become better representatives or ambassadors for Christ, but only if we include others in our hearts and lives as recipients of those activities: our prayers, the fruits of our fasting, and the generosity of our almsgiving. It was our overindulgence, self-centeredness and selfishness that were the sinful mistakes of our past that we need to change, not only during Lent but throughout our lives.



Lent provides us with a special time to utilize our erasers to rub out those mistakes we've been making, and to make new and better marks of love on the world for Christ. "Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

~ Patricia Krasnausky, CLM

**"Become ambassadors for Christ."**

# Prayer Requests

## *A. Murphy*

Please keep Ms. Murphy, young woman who has just been diagnosed with breast cancer, in your prayers. Please pray for her long-term good health.

## *Howard Serotta*

Kindly keep Howard Serotta, the husband of former Cabrini University faculty member Carol Serotta, in your prayers. He is currently hospitalized following a nasty fall. Please pray that his recovery will be swift. Carol and her family would be so grateful for the prayers of the Missionary Sisters and especially, the Cabrini College/University community.

## In Loving Memory

### *John Degnan*

John Degnan, a family member of Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC, died unexpectedly on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Please keep the Degnan Family in your prayers at this sad time.

### *Sr. Maura Saibene, MSC*

The Generalate of the Missionary Sisters shares that on the evening of February 4<sup>th</sup>, the Lord called to Himself our dearest **Sr. Maura Saibene, 96 years old**, of the **Sacred Heart Community** in Codogno. Let us pray that the Lord will welcome the soul of our Sister in the splendor of his Light and give her joy and eternal peace in the Assembly of Saints.

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## A Valentine's Day Blessing

**May the God of love bless your heart this Valentine's Day.**

**May you be surrounded by kindness, strengthened by compassion, and filled with a love that is patient and true.**

**May you both give and receive love generously and may peace and joy dwell with you today and always.** 

