



Saint Maria Goretti Parish

Lent 2026

HOLY WEEK

HOLY THURSDAY
APRIL 2 7:00 PM MASS

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 3 3:00 PM
PASSION OF THE LORD

EASTER VIGIL
APRIL 4 7:30 PM MASS

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5 8:30 AM OR
10:30 AM MASS



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PALMS

Beginning the weekend of February 7/8, there will be a basket provided in the back of church for you to bring your palms from last year. These palms will be burned and the ashes used on Ash Wednesday.

ASH WEDNESDAY

We invite you to join us in church on February 18 for Mass with the distribution of ashes at 8:30 am or 7:00 pm, or a CFP led prayer service with the distribution of ashes at 5:00 pm.

WEEKDAY MASS

Mass will be celebrated in the chapel at 8:30 am Wednesday and Friday.

EUCARIST ADORATION

Join us after 8:30 am Mass in the chapel on Wednesday February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25, and April 1 for a time of Eucharistic adoration from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We invite you to pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent (February 20, February 27, March 6, March 13, March 20, and March 27 at 7:00 pm in the church.

CONFESION

The sacrament of reconciliation will be celebrated in the chapel on Saturdays in Lent (February 21, February 28, March 7, March 14, March 21, and March 28) from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

We invite you to participate in the communal penance service with the opportunity for individual confession on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 pm. Priests from local parishes will be available for reconciliation.

PALM SUNDAY

Mass with the blessing of palms will be celebrated at 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, March 28 and 8:30 am and 10:30 pm on March 29. Weather permitting, the 10:30 am Mass on March 29 will begin at the rock with the blessing of palms and a procession into church.

ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER

You are invited to join fellow parishioners in Goretti Hall for a soup and salad supper on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Supper will be available from 4:00 pm until the beginning of Mass at 7:00 pm. The menu includes vegetable soup and a salad bar.

Volunteers are needed to set up starting at 3:00 pm, serve, and clean up. Teen volunteers are also needed to help clear tables from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Volunteer and bake sale sign-up sheets will be available in the back of church starting on January 31.

For further information, please contact Bridget Cook at BridgetC@smgdyer.org or 219-865-5482.

Food prepared by The Original Lencioni Catering, caterer for Goretti Hall



PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, March 29 9:30 am to 10:30 am or 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Everyone is welcome at the Palm Sunday Brunch at Goretti Hall after the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Masses.

Please call the parish office at 219-865-8956 if you have any questions.

PARISH LENTEN CELEBRATION/BRUNCH

Come join us for a delicious brunch and fellowship!

Featuring a presentation by award-winning author, James K.A. Smith, professor of philosophy at Calvin University, where he holds the Gary & Henrietta Byker Chair. As a cultural critic and commentator, he explores the tensions of modern life, inviting readers and audiences to more intentional practices of faith and flourishing.

Seeking Rest in a Frantic World: A Lenten Pilgrimage with St. Augustine and Pope Leo

As we begin to journey through Lent, author and philosopher James K.A. Smith will introduce us to key aspects of the Augustinian spirituality that has shaped Pope Leo XIV. We will consider how Augustine's vision of the Christian life is a resource for living faithfully in a volatile time. This is an invitation to find an ancient friend for the pilgrimage to the cross and resurrection hope.



Sunday, February 22, 11:30 - 1:30

Goretti Hall

11:30 - Brunch

12:30-1:30 – Dr. Smith's Presentation

12:30-1:30 - Children's crafts and activities for ages 4 and older

To help us plan for the brunch and children's activities, reservations are required by February 9.

To RSVP, please scan the following QR code or call the parish office at 219-865-8956.



2026
LENTEN



Fish Fry

Join us for an evening of food and fellowship!

February 20, 27 and
March 6, 13, 20 & 27

Goretti Hall

Tickets sold 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Food prepared by
The Original Lencioni Catering

New this year!

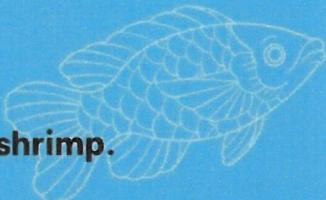
ADULT DINNER \$18.00

Choose between fried or baked white fish OR six jumbo shrimp.

New this year!

ADULT COMBO DINNER \$23.00

Choose between fried or baked white fish AND six jumbo shrimp.



Your meal also includes broasted potatoes, cabbage & noodles, green beans, all you can eat salad bar, coffee, and iced tea.

CHILD DINNER \$8.00 (Ages 6-12/under 6 free)

Chicken nuggets, tater tots, macaroni & cheese, and all you can eat salad bar.

The salad bar selection will vary every week but may include tossed salad, pickled beets, pasta salad, pea salad, potato salad, cole slaw, cottage cheese, kidney bean salad, pudding, bread, and butter.

Carry-out dinners, cash bar and bake sale goods available.

Cash, check or credit/debit card payments are accepted.

A service fee is added to all credit/debit card payments.

We gladly accept donations of home-baked goods for the bake sale. Please consider avoiding common food allergies such as peanuts and tree nuts. Donations can be dropped off at Goretti Hall between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm on the day of the Fish Fry.

Adult volunteer and bake sale sign-up sheets will be available at the back of church starting on January 31. Please call 219-865-8956 if you have any questions.

As with every function at Goretti Hall, proceeds benefit our parish ministries at Saint Maria Goretti Church.

2026 Lenten Requests



St. Maria Goretti Food Pantry

Thank you for your generous support.

Because of you, we provide **monthly** assistance to approximately 125 families in our community.

During Lent, please consider **donating specific items each weekend:**

February 21-22

Beverages & Snacks

Coffee, tea, juice, Propel, chips, candy, cookies



February 28 – March 1

Toiletries

Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, lotion



March 7-8

Cleaning & Household Supplies

All-purpose cleaners, toilet cleaner, bleach, laundry detergent



March 21-22

Kitchen Staples

Dish soap, sponges, foil, Ziplocs, paper products



March 14-15

Breakfast Foods

Cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, syrup, breakfast bars



March 28-29

Canned Fruits & Vegetables

Applesauce, mandarin oranges, pineapple, pears, peaches, green beans, corn, peas, carrots, diced tomatoes, mushrooms



Please Remember:

All items must be unexpired.

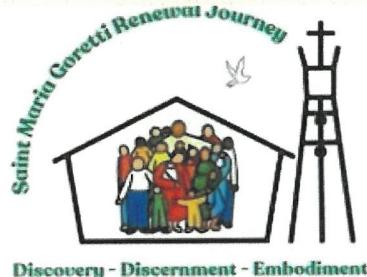


Drop-Off Information:

Donations can be placed in the church vestibule before or after Mass on Saturdays or Sundays during Lent.

Questions or need to schedule a drop off?
Bridget Cook | 219-865-5482

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS



Explore "Encounter" with Pope Francis & Pope Leo

Join fellow parishioners on a five-week journey of reflection and conversation!

This Lent, we will be reflecting on the apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi te* ("I have loved you").

Begun by Pope Francis and completed by Pope Leo XIV, this brief document invites us to reflect on the implication of God's love for us in how we encounter and respond to the needs of others in our world, particularly those facing material and spiritual poverty.

Why is it right for Lent? *Dilexi te* will help us place our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in the context of recognizing the suffering Christ amid the challenges, griefs and anguishes faced by others and our society.

Why is it right for our parish renewal journey? This series comes at an opportune time in the life of our parish. As we move forward in our renewal journey and await Bishop McClory's guidance through the pastoral planning process for our diocese, How do we look beyond ourselves to discover the presence of Christ in others? How do we respond to God's call for all of us to move toward the common good?

Come join us, as we listen together to Pope Francis and Pope Leo's words, work together to strengthen our spiritual resolve, and pray together to hear and follow God's call into the future.

Please use the following QR code to register or check the parish bulletin and website for small group meeting times.



EASTER BASKET BLESSING

Saturday, April 4 11:30 am in the church

The tradition of having an Easter basket blessing goes back to Europe in the Middle Ages, when Christians began to fast leading to Christ's Passion. As the church evolved, the people began to celebrate the end of the rigors of fasting by eating a special meal on Easter Sunday that included many of the foods that were avoided during Lent. Around the 15th century, parishioners began asking their pastor to bless this Easter food which was often brought to church in a basket.

Today the food in the basket is brought to church on Holy Saturday and placed before the altar for a blessing. The blessing reminds the faithful that the sadness of Lent will soon give way to the joy of Easter Sunday.



CHILDREN'S BUNNY TRAIL

Saturday, April 4 11:45 am

Children eight and under are invited to join us for snacks, crafts, and of course an Easter Egg Hunt right after the basket blessing. The Bunny Trail, in the garden outside of the chapel, will be open until 1:00 pm. Children will visit Easter themed stations and play games. We encourage children to bring a basket or bag to collect their treats. We are looking for volunteers to help plan, set-up/clean-up, and run the stations. Call the CFP office at 219-322-6124 or email KathyH@smgdyer.org for more information.

The registration form is available at the back of the church, the parish office, or the CFP office. You may also use the QR code below to register through JotForm. Please register before March 30.





Contact Us

Saint Maria Goretti Church
500 Northgate Drive
Dyer, IN 46311
219.865.8956
info@smgdyer.org
www.smgdyer.org

**PLEASE HELP OUR PARISH OFFICE
UPDATE OUR RECORDS.**

To ensure we have your up-to-date contact information for parish communications, please provide your current phone number(s) and email address using the QR code below, email info@smgdyer.org or call the parish office at 219-865-8956. Thank you.

