



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



No. 4 Vol. 6 | February 9, 2024 | Staff/BOT Edition

### BLESSED MARY ANGELA SAYS: (Foundress of the Felician Sisters)

*"It is important we are there for one another, bearing one another's burdens."*

### CATHOLIC Q&A

What should I give up for Lent?

Click [here](#) for the answer

### INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

- 02/01: Imbolc/Candlemas - Neo-Pagan
- 02/01: St. Brigid of Kildare - Christian
- 02/02: Presentation of the Lord - Catholic
- 02/03: St. Blaise Day - Christian
- 02/03: Setsebun - Shinto
- 02/14: St. Valentine's Day - Christian
- 02/15: Nirvana Day - Buddhist
- 02/24: St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist - Christian



### Lenten Calendar of Events

- 02/14: Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 11:15 am College Chapel.
- 02/19: Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom with Madonna & Felician University from 8:45am to 8:55am on Zoom.
- 02/21: Stations of the Cross at 11:15am in College Chapel.
- 02/23: CORE 101 Day of Service at Every Bottom Covered from 9am-12:30pm.
- 02/26: Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom with Madonna & Felician University from 8:45am to 8:55am on Zoom.
- 02/27: Lenten-themed Bible Study at 11:15am in Campus Ministry Office.
- 02/28: Eucharistic Adoration at 11:15am in College Chapel.
- 03/01: Monthly visit to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy from 8:45am to 12:30pm.
- 03/04: Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom with Madonna & Felician University from 8:45am to 8:55am on Zoom.
- 03/05: Lenten-themed Bible Study at 11:15am in Campus Ministry Office.
- 03/06: Liturgy of the Hours at 11:15am in College Chapel.
- 03/11: Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom with Madonna & Felician University from 8:45am to 8:55am on Zoom.

Continued on next column >



### Ash Wednesday Explained

by Brother Jason Damon, OFM

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. It is a day of fasting (when adherents only eat one complete meal) and of distribution of ashes on the foreheads of Christian.

Ashes have traditionally been signs of repentance in the Bible, and on Ash Wednesday they are applied in the shape of a cross along with the words "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" or "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Both of these sentences are a reminder to the recipient that they are mortal, dependent, finite beings called to reject sinful, relationship-breaking behaviors and turn toward God and others in a loving, open stance.

Click [here](#) to learn more about fasting.



- 03/18: Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom with Madonna & Felician University from 8:45am to 8:55am on Zoom.
- 03/19: Lenten-themed Bible Study at 11:15am in Campus Ministry Office.
- 03/20: Lenten Season Mass with confessions after Liturgy at 11:15am in College Chapel.
- 03/25: Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom with Madonna & Felician University from 8:45am to 8:55am on Zoom.
- 03/26: Lenten-themed Bible Study at 11:15am in Campus Ministry Office.
- 03/27: Rosary at 11:15am in the College Chapel.

## OUR CORE VALUES

Respect for Human Dignity



Compassion



**TRANSFORMATION**



Solidarity with People in Need



Justice and Peace

2023-2024 Focus

## TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY - A VILLA COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILE: Every Bottom Covered

Every Bottom Covered, Inc. is a labor of love started in a living room. As a single mother raising her son in a low-income household, Raziya Hill (an alumna of Villa Maria College) dealt with the many obstacles that families often experience in their hopes to keep their children clean, dry, and healthy. Through those experiences and in response to the lack of government funding for purchasing diapers and recognizing the subsequent stress placed on economically vulnerable families at critical times when creating budgets regarding public assistance, Every Bottom Covered (EBC) was founded in May 2016.

Similar to food banks, diaper banks collect and distribute basic hygiene supplies to low-income families in underserved communities that have diaper need. Every Bottom Covered collects and distributes diapers, wipes, other baby-related items as well as period supplies, and uses financial donations for bulk purchases of diapering supplies which are then distributed directly to families throughout Western New York and through community partnerships as well as community events, pop-up locations, and existing local agencies including shelters, food pantries, daycare, and health facilities.

Since partnering with Delavan Grider Community Center in May 2017, they have provided over 2500 children with over 1,000,000 clean diapering supplies (diapers and pull-ups), created new partnerships across Buffalo and Erie County, expanded our program to address period poverty to ensure that any menstruating person in need has access to clean period supplies and began expanding into other communities across Western New York to address the compounding concerns that plague communities with inadequate and limited transportation options.

The success of Every Bottom Covered is dependent on strong liaisons with community agencies as well as community involvement and participation with a shared commitment to the mission of distributing basic hygiene supplies to low-income, underserved families and the improvement of the quality of life across the counties that make up Western New York.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



## SEASON OF LENT OVERVIEW

by Brother Jason Damon, OFM

This next week starts the Christian liturgical season of Lent. Lent is a time of fasting, prayer, and charitable giving in preparation for the Paschal Triduum, the holiest days in the Christian calendar: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting marked by the distinctive distribution of ashes on people's foreheads, and the Easter Triduum. It is a 40-day period based on Jesus' own time of temptation in the desert and encourages a deeper, more intentional renewal of relationship with God, one another, our planet and ourselves. It's a preparatory time when Christians try to turn away from distractions and rededicate themselves to following Christ, even in the intensity of His life and death, through to the promise of the Resurrection.

Lent is traditionally a more solemn time in the Church calendar, and it's encouraged to try and live more simply and intentionally, refraining from luxuries and making prayer and service a more central part of one's life. The Fridays during Lent are days of abstaining from eating meat, and it both starts and ends with days of fasting, when followers eat only one meal and up to two smaller snacks: on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, which commemorates the death of Jesus.

While a more solemn time of the year for Christians, Lent is nevertheless a time of hope and renewal. The very name "Lent" comes from an old English name for spring, "lencten" which refers to the days growing longer. The traditional practices of Lent are not meant to be punitive or punishing, but to encourage self-control and a more giving, generous spirit, and to help us to realize our own dependence on God and on other people.

One of the distinct Lenten practices is to fast from something for the duration of the season. Some popular things to abstain from include coffee, desserts, alcohol, social media, television, certain foods or acts like gossiping or complaining. The point of fasting from something throughout the season of Lent is not doing something difficult for the sake of doing something difficult, but to exercise self-control, open one's world-view and make some space in one's heart and mind for a deepening of relationships.



### CONNECT WITH MISSION MATTERS:



[www.villa.edu](http://www.villa.edu)

### The Felician Sisters of Our Lady of Hope Province:

Click [here](#) for more  
information

### The Association of Franciscan Colleges & Universities:

Click [here](#) for more  
information and  
resources

### Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry:

*Serving Staff & Students*  
[sjackson@smjosettefoodpantry.org](mailto:sjackson@smjosettefoodpantry.org)

716-361-9404



*Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry*

240 Pine Ridge Road, Buffalo, NY 14225