



Archdiocese of Newark

OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pastors and Priest Administrators

FROM: Very Reverend John J. Chadwick, S.T.D.
Vicar General

DATE: January 25, 2021

RE: ***2021 LENTEN REGULATIONS***

Lent is the time for the faithful to be “ever more attentive to the word of God and prayer, to prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises” at Easter (cf. *Paschalis Solemnitatis*, 6). The virtue and practice of penance is a necessary part of the preparation for Easter. Penitential practices such as fasting and abstinence are to be encouraged by the Church.

You are asked to publish the attached *2021 Archdiocesan Lenten Regulations* in your parish bulletin the weekend of **February 13-14, 2021** prior to Ash Wednesday, **February 17, 2021**.

The Code of Canon Law (can. 1253) allows the pastor to grant, in individual cases and for a just cause, a commutation of the obligations associated with the Lenten days of penance into pious works. The Code would also allow a pastor in those circumstances to dispense an individual from the specified obligations. Please advise your parishioners to contact you regarding any questions concerning eating meat on a Friday.

Thank you.

Attachment

ARCHDIOCESAN CENTER

171 Clifton Avenue • Post Office Box 9500 • Newark • New Jersey 07104-0500 • (973) 497-4002 • Fax (973) 497-4525

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

2021 LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the “paschal fast” to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, **and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.**

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

5. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence “substantially”, or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
6. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
7. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 21** to **The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 30, 2021.**

**Canon 920, §1. All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

January 25, 2021
Office of the Vicar General