



My beloved friends,

Five years ago, the Philippines celebrated 500 years of Christianity with the theme “Gifted to Give”.

In 2015, Bishop Michael Barber, SJ attended the 51st International Eucharist Congress in Cebu, Philippines, joined by hundreds of pilgrims from the Diocese of Oakland, and millions from all over the world.

This year, as members of the Catholic Church in the United States of America, we are blessed to celebrate our 250 years as a nation with the theme “One Nation Under God”.

Inspired by these milestones, here at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, we are launching our 2026 Lenten Challenge by adopting this joint theme: “One Nation Under God ... Gifted to Give!”

To participate, I humbly suggest five ways we can make our Lenten journey fruitful and faithful, on top of what you normally contribute to the Sunday plate:

- 5% tithing based on your net household income for March
- \$50 weekly contribution (\$50 x 5 Sundays of Lent = \$250)
- \$500 one-time gift
- \$5,000 collective ministry offering
- \$50,000 total collective donation

I enjoin all of you to support the ongoing initiatives of the Mother Church not only for the parish cluster, but for the entire Diocese. As we have already started doing, we can together create more opportunities for intentional and deepened engagement in liturgy, formation and fellowship. Our mission will only come to fruition through your generous support and fervent prayers.

We are One Nation Under God ... We are Gifted to Give!

Forever grateful,
Father Erick



2026 LENTEN LITURGY AND EVENTS

Ash Wednesday, February 18	Cathedral: 7AM, 1210PM, 530PM (Bishop), 730PM Vietnamese Saint Leo: 9AM; Saint Patrick: 12PM, 7PM Spanish
Every Friday of Lent, 9AM	Stations of the Cross at Saint Leo the Great
Every Friday of Lent, 5PM	Stations of the Cross
Every Sunday of Lent	Preaching Series at the 11AM Solemn Mass <i>February 22</i> Most Reverend Bishop Michael Barber, SJ <i>March 1</i> Very Reverend Father Moses Brown (Santa Rosa, CA) <i>March 8</i> Very Reverend Father John Melnick (Hartford, CT) <i>March 15</i> Very Reverend Father Fred Klotter (Louisville, KY) <i>March 22</i> Very Reverend Father Erick Villa
February 20-22	Couples in Cana Lenten Retreat
February 21	Crab Feed at Saint Leo the Great School
Lenten Talks	Vietnamese: <i>March 4 & 5, 6PM</i> Very Reverend Father Bao Thai (Orange, CA) Spanish: <i>March 8, after the 130PM Mass</i> Father Roberto Vera (Monterey, CA)
March 5	8AM Holy Hour and 9AM Mass with Anointing of the Sick <i>(every First Thursday of the month)</i> at Saint Leo the Great
March 7, 8:30AM – 7PM	Visita Iglesia / 7 Churches Pilgrimage <i>Saint Raymond's Church, Dublin</i> <i>Saint Felicitas Church, San Leandro</i> <i>Church of the Assumption, San Leandro</i> <i>San Luis Beltran Church, Oakland</i> <i>Saint Patrick Church, Oaklnd</i> <i>Saint Leo the Great Church, Oakland</i> <i>Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland</i>
March 7, 9AM	First Saturday Mass with Anointing of the Sick and Blessing of Sacramental
March 7, 10AM – 3PM	Women's Lenten Retreat
March 13, 12PM & 4PM	Fish Fry at Saint Patrick
March 14, 9AM – 3PM	Men's Lenten Retreat
March 15, 2PM	Praise and Worship (<i>quarterly, on Third Sunday</i>) at Saint Leo the Great
March 15, 5PM	Candlelit Adoration and Talk about Saint Francis
March 19	Solemnity of Saint Joseph: Consecration Mass, 6PM; Saint Joseph's Table, 7PM
March 20, 6PM	Taize with Confessions at Saint Patrick
March 21 – 22	Blessing of Expectant Parents
March 22, 3PM	Soft-Opening of "The Pilgrims' Hub" (<i>formerly The City Lights Café</i>)
March 23, 8PM	Candlelit Compline at Saint Leo the Great
March 24 & 25	8th Grade Days with the Bishop
March 25	Solemnity of the Annunciation: Adoration, 1PM – 5PM; Vietnamese Mass, 5PM
March 26, 9AM	Diocesan Parochial Schools' Choirs Festival
March 26 & 27, 7PM	Lenten Penance Service
March 29, 4PM	Palm Sunday Schola Recital
March 31, 10AM	Chrism Mass (<i>Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Priestly Promises</i>)