

MIDDAY MASS THROUGHOUT THE LENTEN SEASON AT THE BASILICA CATHEDRAL

(St. John's – February 10, 2010) Father Charlie Kelly, Parish Priest of the Basilica Cathedral Parish, St. John's will be making it a little easier for Catholics to attend mass during the Lenten Season by adding a midday mass to the parish schedule.

During Lent weekday mass at the Basilica will be celebrated at 12:10 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

Father Kelly said that the midday mass is being introduced into the regular schedule to give working people throughout the city an opportunity to attend mass during their lunch period.

The Basilica because of its proximity to downtown St. John's is the church of choice for visitors to the city especially visitors in the city for meetings and conferences.

Traditionally Catholics make a special effort to attend mass during Lent. Lent is the penitential set aside by the Church in order for the faithful to prepare for the celebration of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Lent will start on Ash Wednesday, the **17th of February**.

Jesus withdrew into the wilderness for forty days before beginning His ministry (*Matthew 4:1-11*). Observing *Lent* is the Christian imitation of Christ in preparation for *Easter*.

The word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, or spring, the time of year when the days begin to lengthen.