

## PASTOR'S CORNER

*Lent, 2021 Coming Soon*



Lent 2021 begins on February 17. Thirty-three years ago, in Lent of 1988, I experienced a major spiritual conversion in my life. I began praying daily, attending daily mass, studying the faith, and serving in church ministries. As my relationship with the Lord grew, I began to experience the peace and joy I longed for. Following Jesus' instruction in Mt. 6, the Church sets three disciplines during Lent to help us grow spiritually: prayer/study, penance/fasting, and almsgiving.

[Prayer/Study](#). Prayer is the bedrock of a relationship with Jesus. The greatest prayer is the Mass – in which Jesus prays to the Father for us. Many have seen their faith life skyrocket by attending daily or frequent Mass during Lent. Adoration is another form of prayer that enriches Lent – as is bible prayer and Stations of the Cross, which we will have twice each Friday in Lent at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm. For study of the faith, we will have an encore presentation of the Video Series, “The Search”; a presentation by Fr. Nile Gross on “The Eucharist in Daily Life”; and two book studies – one on the Eucharist and one on St. Joseph. We will distribute complimentary Magnificat books in Lent for spiritual reflection as well. Ask the Holy Spirit about how best to engage prayer/study in Lent.

[Fasting/Penance](#). On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics fast (one regular meal; two smaller meals; no snacks) and abstain from meat; we abstain from meat on Fridays in Lent; and we engage in a meaningful sacrifice to develop spiritual discipline, e.g., fasting from a specific food or from alcohol or from social media. We also receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation to get right spiritually with God. Pray about a meaningful Lenten penance.

[Almsgiving](#). The Bible says love covers a multitude of sins. Lent calls us to intentional charity. We can donate to our parish Helping Hands or St. Vincent de Paul Ministry or to one of scores of charity causes or lend a hand to someone in need. Reflect about a way to be charitable this Lent.

Even during Covid, Lent is a sacred time to get our spiritual house in order. May we make the most of the transformative opportunities of Lent 2021

God bless,  
Fr. Joe