

March 3, 2019

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

It my delight and joy to write to you today, on this last Sunday before entering the journey through Lent that leads not only to Christ's Passion, death and resurrection, but also to his ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church at Pentecost!

In Baptism, we are anointed "priest, prophet and king." How are you going to intentionally live your Baptismal anointing this Lent? With compassion, what sacrifices will you be offering to the Lord (*priest*)? With love, how will you be proclaiming the Good News of Christ with your life at home and work (*prophet*)? With care, what areas of your life do you need to reclaim dominion over (*king*)?

This Lent: Do come for Soup Suppers and Stations Friday nights. Do participate in times of community prayer, service and fellowship. Do spend intentional time with Jesus in adoration. Do receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Do contribute to the needs (which are many and great!) within our parishes. If you don't know how to connect, please ask! If you've never been before, please come!

This Lent: Join the community, but also foster your relationship with Jesus, who is the center from which all grace and mercy flows. Permit God to take center place in your life and trust him to put everything else in proper alignment. If you think this is hard, you're in good company! This is the story of the People of Israel: our Salvation History. If you've ever wanted to "read the Bible straight through" and became stuck somewhere between Leviticus and Numbers, consider, this Lent, reading 14 designated books of the Bible. This biblical journey, following the outline provided by Jeff Cavins in the *Great Adventure Bible* (RSV) and based off his bible study, happens over the course of 90 days. Provided in this week's bulletin is an adapted outline beginning Ash Wednesday (March 6) through June 7 as we enter preparation for Pentecost (June 9).

This Lent, do what you can when you can. Be intentional though – if you leave it to "the right time," other things will crowd out your time with God. Choose to make this lent a Holy Lent.

God made human beings for and in community. The past 12 months have been difficult ones for our parishes, both together and separately. As the Body of Christ, and especially connected with the same pastoral leadership, what happens to one parish deeply effects the other.

May our compassion, love and care of and with each other continue to grow and flourish, and may we all have a blessed and holy lent.

In the Joy of Christ,

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