

Dear OLP Families,

I hope you are enjoying the winter break.

Today, February 17, 2021, Ash Wednesday, is the beginning of the season of Lent. Forty (40) days (not including Sundays) of fasting and penance in preparation for Easter.

The 40 days remind us of the time of Jesus in the desert, praying and fasting to prepare for his mission. It is a time when we should open our hearts even more to God and work on being more faithful to Christ.

Pope Francis' message for Lent "Love, the highest expression of faith and hope."

***"Love is a leap of the heart," says Pope Francis...
Love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives," he says. Love helps us to see all men and women as our brothers and sisters. Charity is multiplied when given with love..."***

"To experience Lent with love means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned because of the Covid-19 pandemic." He invites us to "speak words of reassurance, and help others to realize that God loves them as sons and daughters."

"The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer, and sharing of our goods helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father."

~ **Vatican News**

[Click here to view Pope Francis' message for Lent in full](#)

Please click on the link below for a calendar of Lenten Activities for families. These activities are a beautiful way to bring your family together for prayer and reflection.
[Lent Calendar- Daily At-Home Lenten Activities for Families](#)

Learn about Ash Wednesday and Lent with Brother Francis
[Let's Learn About Lent- Brother Francis](#)

May God bless you and your families during this Lenten Season.
Ms. Karen Von Braunsberg