

February 22, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of St. Joseph Church,

May the blessings and grace of God sustain you through this Lenten Season. Lent is the time of preparation for those who will be baptized, confirmed and admitted to the Eucharist during the Easter Vigil on March 31, 2018. For the rest of us, Lent is the time to increase our prayer, fasting and works of charity as a way of modeling our faith.

To help prepare for the 50-Day celebration of Easter we will continue to study the Sunday Readings for Lent on Tuesday, March 6, Thursday, 15th, Tuesday, the 20th and 27th. The sessions begin at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

The Rite of Penance is available on Saturdays at 3:30 pm. The Communal Penance Services, beginning at 7:00 pm., are at St. Christine on March 12, at Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 13, and here at St. Joseph on March 14. Thursday, the 22nd, at 7:00 pm, there will be a Penance Service at St. James Church in North Jackson.

The Stations of the Cross are prayed on Fridays at 7:00 pm.

The season of Lent calls us back to the basic religious actions of prayer, fasting and giving alms. These actions, when performed in a grace-filled way, help us grow in faith, hope, and love. Self-denial helps us to be emptied so that God may fill us with the Holy Spirit. Catholics in good health from the age of 18 to 59 are obliged to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. They are to abstain from meat on all other Fridays of Lent. Youth, age 13 and older, are to abstain from meat on those days. "Fasting" means no more than one main meal is eaten that day, while in the same day no more than two partial meals are eaten which together do not equal the one main meal.

The Month of March has a number of activities I will highlight:

- Thursday, the 8th, The Sisters of St. Elizabeth Convent (Belarus) will be present after the 9:00 am Mass to sell devotional items.
- Friday, the 9th, Celebrate Weekend Begins.
- Sunday, the 18th, The St. Joseph Feast Day Dinner will begin at Noon.
- Wednesday, the 21st, the Parish Council meeting begins at 6:30 pm in the Blue Room.
- Palm Sunday, the 25th, The Easter Egg Hunt is at 10:15 am. The Annual Spaghetti Dinner begins at Noon. The organizations providing food and fellowship are the Ladies Guild and the Scouts.
- Holy Thursday, the 29th, The Mass of the Lord's Supper begins at 6:00 pm.
- Good Friday, the 30th, Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 3:00 pm and the Good Friday Service is at 6:00 pm.
- Holy Saturday, the 31st, the Blessing of Easter Baskets is at Noon and the Easter Vigil is at 8:00 pm.

We are richly blessed in our parish by the grace of God. We have many active and generous parishioners who share their time, talent and treasure. We enjoy activities and events that enable us to experience Christian fellowship and support.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Gregory F. Fedor