

February 23, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of St. Joseph Church,

May the blessings and grace of God sustain you through the 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 April 15, 2017. 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 study the Sunday Readings for Lent on Tuesdays February 28, March 7, 14, 21, and Thursday, March 30. The sessions begin at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Ash Wednesday, March 1, marks the beginning of Lent. We will celebrate the Eucharist with the distribution of ashes at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm. At noon on Ash Wednesday there will be a Liturgy of the Word with the Distribution of Ashes (no Communion). The Stations of the Cross will be prayed on the Fridays of Lent at 7:00 pm. On the Sundays of Lent at 6:00 pm will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and praying the Rosary. 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 27, at Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 28, and here at St. Joseph on March 29. There will be a Communal Penance Service at St. Brendan Church on Thursday, March 30.

The season of Lent calls us back to the basic religious actions of prayer, fasting and giving alms. 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.

Please note the following activities during the month of March:

- Wednesday, the 8th, Carol Craven will offer a Lenten Reflection at 9:30 am in the Social Hall. The program will be repeated at 6:30 pm.
- Friday, the 10th, Celebrate Weekend Begins.
- Saturday, the 18th, the Knights of Columbus will have a Hoagies and Sausage Sandwich sale after the 4:30 pm Mass.
- Sunday, the 19th, The Annual St. Joseph Dinner will begin after the 11:00 am Mass.
- Wednesday, the 22nd, The Parish Council meets at 6:30 pm.

We are richly blessed in our parish by the grace of God. God truly works through human hearts and hands. Thank you to all who bless our community by your labors of love. Hoping that you are truly renewed by the Season of Lent, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Gregory Fedor, V.F.
Pastor