

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

A blessed Lent to all of you! Ash Wednesday has come to us late this year, yet, it still feels like it snuck up on me. Perhaps you feel the same way. With the arrival of Lent we ponder the usual question, what are we going to give up for Lent? I am sure we have thoughts and goals for what we want Lent 2025 to be for us. These are things that usually fall into the categories of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving, the three pillars of Lent. Most of all, Lent is a time of conversion. We convert our hearts away from sin and toward Jesus Christ. A growth in relationship with Him, which necessarily impacts all aspects of our life, is what Lent is all about. I know that sounds plain and simple but sometimes we need to be reminded of the plain and simple. We are not spiritual athletes seeing what challenging practice we can do for forty days. We are sinners in need of daily conversion. We are beloved sons and daughters of God seeking to know and live out of that true identity. The lies of the Evil One are what draw us away from the Truth. Converting, moving away from sin is moving away from the Evil One. Pope Francis said last year at the start of Lent, “[Lent] immerses us in a bath of purification. It means looking within ourselves and acknowledging our real identity, removing the masks we so often wear, slowing the frantic pace of our lives and embracing the truth of who we are.”

As you ponder your Lenten practices I would like to share what the parish has to offer as we journey together. Stations of the Cross will be prayed in Church at 6:30 p.m. on the Fridays of Lent except April 4 and Good Friday. Evening Prayer will be celebrated on the Sundays of Lent at 4 p.m. except Palm Sunday. We will also highlight our Lenten Ministry Partners in our almsgiving efforts.

- March 8-9 Pathfinders – Provides vulnerable youth housing, basic needs, therapeutic services, advocacy, and street outreach
- March 15-16 Repairers of the Breach – Milwaukee daytime shelter and resource center for homeless adults, six days a week
- March 22-23 Women’s Support Center – Catholic Pregnancy Center in Milwaukee that helps and supports women and families in crisis with their pregnancies
- March 29-30 Kinship Community Food Center – Engages volunteers and neighborhood residents to end hunger, isolation, and poverty
- April 5-6 Nia Imani Family – Long-term transitional housing facility and program that provides young, homeless, pregnant or first-time mothers with safe housing, life skills training, and services
- April 12-13 St. Vincent de Paul Society – Offers food, clothing, furniture, and other assistance to people in need.

Representatives will be speaking before all Masses on their respective weekend. Please be sure to arrive early for prayer and to hear about these wonderful ministries.

“Repent and believe in the Gospel” – *Roman Missal, Third Edition*

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Pastor