

1st Sunday of Lent

Dear friends, repentance, prayer, and fasting are hallmarks of the Lenten season. Such are ways to deepen our connection with God and to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Though fasting during lent typically involves abstaining from certain foods or luxuries as a form of self-discipline and solidarity with the sufferings of Christ, let's also consider Pope Francis' 2021 annual Lenten message:

*Fast from hurting words ... and say kind words,
Fast from sadness ... and be filled with gratitude,
Fast from anger ... and be filled with patience,
Fast from pessimism ... and be filled with hope,
Fast from worries ... and have trust in God,
Fast from complaints ... and contemplate simplicity,
Fast from pressures ... and be prayerful,
Fast from bitterness ... and fill your hearts with joy,
Fast from selfishness ... and be compassionate to others,
Fast from grudges ... and be reconciled,
Fast from words ... and be silent so you can listen!*

I want to thank you for your continued generosity to our Parish especially regular parish donations. And in the spirit of Lent, I kindly encourage you to think about raising your donation to our church while we observe fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Not only do these Lenten observances strengthen your faith and yourself, but they also strengthen the Parish and the global Church. Therefore, I cordially invite you, my dear parishioners, to strengthen your faith in Lent 2024 and beyond. Bring your joys and your burdens to Sunday Mass! Furthermore, take into consideration going to Mass every day as it is scheduled in both of our Parishes. In addition, starting on March 2nd, I will celebrate mass every first Saturday of the month at St. Mary's at 9 a.m. Rosary will begin at 8:30 a.m. before that mass. On Fridays, Visit St. Mary's for Adoration at 8 a.m., preceding the mass and plan attending stations of the cross as are scheduled in each of our parishes. Maybe it's time to make peace with God and release a load. Confessions will be heard at least 20 minutes prior to each mass in addition to the schedule for March 19 and 20.

I will be praying for you, your family, and your friends every day. I hope you have a blessed Lenten season.

Fraternally yours,
Fr. Oliver

Sunday Smile

I am confused how a cemetery can raise its funeral prices
and blame it on the cost of living. ☺