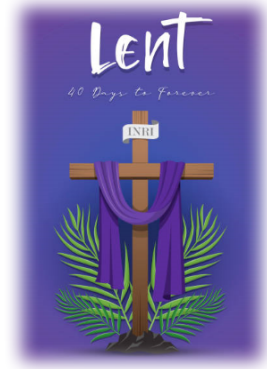


Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ as we enter this sacred season of Lent. These forty days invite us to walk more intentionally with the Lord, journeying with Him from the wilderness to the Cross and toward the hope of the Resurrection.



Lent is a sacred time of renewal and grace. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we open our hearts to God's transforming love. In prayer, we learn to listen more attentively to the Father's voice. In fasting, we detach from distractions that distance us from Christ. In almsgiving, we encounter the Lord in those who suffer and in those in need of compassion and care.

The prophet calls us, "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). This is not a call to fear, but a loving invitation to conversion and deeper trust. In a world marked by division and anxiety, may we become instruments of reconciliation and peace, reflecting Christ's mercy and bearing witness to the hope that does not disappoint.

I warmly encourage everyone to enrich this holy season by attending Mass more frequently—perhaps adding one weekday Mass to your Sunday obligation. Please also make time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, allowing the Lord to renew and strengthen your heart.

I invite every family to dedicate time to:

- Reading the daily Gospel,
- Praying and fasting for those who suffer or are in need of conversion, and
- Keeping Sunday centered on Christ and the Holy Eucharist.

Please note our Lenten schedule: **On Tuesdays during Lent**, there will be an Evening Mass at **5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's**. On Fridays at 3:00 p.m., we will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, followed by Adoration until 6:00 p.m. I encourage you to spend time in silent adoration, especially if you are unable to attend the Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. **The Way of the Cross remains a cherished Lenten devotion; please make every effort to participate on Fridays.**

As we journey toward Easter, may the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you. Entrusting you to the loving care of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I assure you of my prayers and blessing.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Fr George C