

March 3, 2019

From Fr. Jim . . .

Lent is coming. This Wednesday, March 1 is Ash Wednesday. With the markings of an ashen cross on our foreheads and the words, “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel,” the holy season of Lent begins. Please join us for the celebration of the Eucharist with reception of ashes at 7pm.



Lent is a time for renewal and conversion. The Scripture for Ash Wednesday reminds us that traditionally it is through prayer, fasting and almsgiving or acts of charity that renewal and conversion can happen. With this in mind, Catholic Christians usually ask themselves this question, “What will I do for Lent this year specifically through acts of charity, prayer and fasting that will allow me to live my faith more fully and closer in union with God’s life, love and grace? This happens individually and communally.

Lent is also a time to journey with the Elect – those who have not been baptized and who are seeking baptism at the Easter Vigil. It is a time to journey with those who have been baptized in other Christian faiths and who want full communion with the Catholic faith through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. At St. Leo, our Lenten prayer especially includes these two groups of people from our partner parishes. Also we will keep praying for the candidates for Confirmation from St. Leo who will receive this Sacrament May 5 at the cathedral with people from parishes in our Deanery. Please check this bulletin for additional prayer times during Lent and suggestions for fasting and almsgiving. Whatever we choose to do during this holy season, may we grow closer to the Lord and to each other and learn to live more fully in his image and likeness.

The Light is On for You

Also, again this year, St. Leo will participate with all the parishes in our Archdiocese and our two Bishops in “The light is on for you.” Each Catholic parish in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will provide the opportunity for private confession on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Other opportunities for celebration of the Sacrament will also be available during Lent. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament, have been away for some time, or just find it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time or communal penance service, March 12 will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with Christ and his Church. Learn more at: www.lightison4u.com .

Also, I will be hearing confessions after Mass today, Sunday March 3, for the children who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in May and for anyone who wants to receive it.