

From the Heart of Fr. Jim
February 23, 2020
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

- This Wednesday, February 26th, begins our great season of Lent with Ashes. Please see schedule attached for more information.
- Ash Wednesday, as well as Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, are all days of Fasting and Abstinence. This means no eating between meals. Meals are to be simple and all meals should not be complete course meals. In addition, no meat is permitted to be consumed on these days. This applies to everyone between 14 and 59 years of age. Valid health reasons absolve one of following these precepts of the Church.
- In addition, Friday's in Lent, and even during the course of the year, are days of abstaining from red meat.
- One of the great challenges of Lent is to recognize and discern with humility and grace the sinfulness of our lives. Lent is the time of year when we retreat to the desert of our souls to ask for wisdom and guidance in discovering the sinful patterns and behaviors that separate us from God. We are invited during Lent to take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation often. This means examining your heart and your conscience and confessing the guilt of your sins. Every Saturday during Lent there is extra hours available for Confession from 9 until 11 am and from 3:30 – 4:30 (the usual time.) In addition Thursday, March 5th, there will be three priests available to hear Confessions in the Church beginning at 6:15. Making a good confession often helps us to grow in our journey to love God because we have a clean heart and soul. Set your pride aside and come before God seeking His forgiveness. I promise you will be lifted up. See the schedule attached and post it on your refrigerator for future reference.
- This Friday, February 28th, we will begin the Stations of the Cross in the Church. Mass will begin at 6 PM, followed by

Stations of the Cross at 6:30 PM, concluding with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. At 7:30 PM we will have a fish fry in the Hall. A love offering of \$5 per person is requested/suggested with all the money collected going to the building fund. Every Friday in Lent will have a soup supper following the program. What a wonderful way to spend more time reflecting on the Stations and then sharing in a meal with friends.

- This weekend begins our annual Faith and Works campaign for the Diocese. This is an opportunity to be in solidarity with Bishop Konderla as he is charged with the task of evangelization in our Diocese. We support the Church in its role to spread the Good News through the world, and this is our responsibility to be part of the larger Church. Each parishioner is asked to make a sacrificial pledge to support the Bishop. No one person can do all the work, but each of us working together can do great work to save many souls. Immaculate Conception's goal is \$4,420, St. Elizabeth's goal is \$1,281 and St. Joseph is \$1,164. If every family contributes \$20 a month for 10 months, then we will meet our goal to continue to spread God's Good News.
- Beginning next weekend, every parish in the diocese is participating in a survey that will help each parish, and the diocese in its strategic planning for the short term and long term. This will involve all of us offering insights and answers to questions which will set the direction for the future. The key is that all of us participate in this survey. More information will be available next week, but I cannot stress enough that we need everyone to help.
- There are Immaculate Conception Pens available for sale for \$5.00. They are black ink and a great idea for a gift for someone as well as a way to evangelize because they have our name and number on the pen. Please see David. All proceeds go toward our building fund.

- We are collecting used palms to burn for Ash Wednesday. There is a basket in Church to place all Palms to be burned.
- A key to the hall is lost or misplaced. If you have a blue lanyard with a key, please return to the office. Thank you.
- SAVE THE DATE - On Saturday, March 7, 2020, the next Work Day will be held at Clear Creek Abbey. Mark your calendars now and more information will be forthcoming. The website is open for registrations at www.abbeyworkday.com.
- I will be asking families to take home the Vocation Crosses to pray for vocations. Instead of asking at the end of Mass for volunteers. I will individually ask a different family each week to take a cross home, and return it to Church the following week. This way, no one is embarrassed to come forward in the Church.
- Please continue to pray for all our homebound members and all our parishioners who are sick and suffering.
- Catholic Charities needs Jelly, tuna fish, canned meats and personal hygiene products. Plastic bags are also needed.
- Remember that Baptisms, Presentations, Weddings and Quincineras need a minimum of 6 months before they can happen. Please contact Fr. Jim for more information before you schedule your date.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available ½ hour before Mass and from 3:30 – 4:30 in Church on Saturday's and by appointment.
- Fr. Jim has two trips planned this fall: First trip is September 28th through October 7, 2020 to Medjugorje. Cost is \$3000. More information available at jim@trinitypilgrimage.com

- Second trip is to the Holy Land, November 4th through the 14th. Cost is \$3600 per person. If interested, please Fr. Jim for flyer and more information.

God Bless Each of you!

Fr. Jim

Reflections: **Virtue for February: Humility**

Whoever humbles himself, shall be exalted.

Luke 14:11

From February 24th:

In my opinion, we shall never acquire true humility unless we raise our eyes to behold God. Looking upon His greatness, the soul sees better her own littleness; beholding His purity, she is more aware of her own uncleanness; considering His patience; in fine, turning her glance upon the divine perfections, she discovers in herself so many imperfections that she would gladly close her eyes to them. **ST. THERESA**

This was, in truth, one of the principal fountains from which St. Vincent De Paul drew that humble opinion which he had of himself, as well as his great desires for humiliations. That is to say, he derived them from the profound knowledge which he had of the infinite perfections of God, and of the extreme weakness and misery of creatures; so that he thought it a manifest injustice not to humiliate himself always and in all things. In a conference one day with his priests, he spoke thus: "In truth, if each of us will give his attention to knowing himself well before God, he will find it to be the most just and reasonable thing to despise and humble himself. For, if we seriously consider the

natural and continual inclination we have to evil, our natural incapacity for good, and the experience we all have had that even when we think we have succeeded well in something and that our plans are wise, the matter often turns out quite different from our anticipations, and God permits us to be considered wanting, in judgment; and that, finally, in all things, we think, say, or do, both in substance and circumstances, we are always filled and encompassed with motives for humiliation and confusion—how shall we not consider ourselves worthy to be repulsed and despised in reflecting upon such things, and in seeing ourselves so far from the holiness and sublime perfection of God, and from the marvelous operations of His grace, and from the life of Christ our Lord?”

From Jesus Calling by Sarah Young: February 23rd:

Be on guard against the pit of self-pity. When you are weary or unwell, this demonic trap is the greatest danger you face. Don't even go near the edge of the pit. It crumbles easily, and before you know it, you are on the way down. It is ever so much harder to get out of the pit than to keep a safe distance from it. That is why I tell you to be on guard.

There are several ways to protect yourself from self-pity. When you are occupied with praising and thanking Me, it is impossible to feel sorry for yourself. Also, the closer you live to Me, the more distance there is between you and the pit. Live in the Light of My presence by fixing your eyes on Me. Then you will be able to run with endurance the race that is set before you, without stumbling or falling.

(helpful Scripture: Psalm 89:15-16, Hebrews 12:1-2)

LENT 2020 CALENDAR

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR EACH PARISH

Five Keys to freedom from sexual sin:

1. Desire Change -with the help of God
2. Change your habits -be transparent
3. Get accountable: with confessor, with a recovery group
4. Prayer: with the help of Jesus, our Divine Healer: Trust in HIM
5. Learn more

Surrender Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I desire the desire to surrender my heart and my entire being to you, but I cannot do it, for I fear the abandonment of losing control of who I am. I ask that you take what little space I can open to you, use it and invade my heart, take it captive and protect it from all evil I beg for your help in my complete surrender to you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Battle Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ; I cannot fight this battle any more. I am done. I hand you the dragon to slay. I hand you the lizard of lust to slay. I hand you the battle and walk away, it is yours. I'm done. I cannot do this anymore. It's not my battle anymore. Amen.

LENT SCHEDULE FOR 2020

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

February 26th: Ash Wednesday

12 Noon Mass with Ashes at I C
6 PM Mass with Ashes at I C

February 28th:

6 Pm Mass at I C in Church
6:30 Stations and Adoration
7:30 Soup Supper in Hall

February 29th:

9 AM to 11 AM Confession at I C Church

March 5th: 6:15 Lenten Penance Rite at I C Church

March 6th: 6 Pm Mass at I C in Church
6:30 Stations and Adoration
7:30 Soup Supper in Hall

March 7th: 9 AM to 11 AM Confession at I C Church

March 13th: 6 Pm Mass at I C in Church
6:30 Stations and Adoration
7:30 Soup Supper in Hall

March 14th: 9 AM to 11 AM Confession at I C Church

March 20th: 6 Pm Mass at I C in Church
6:30 Stations and Adoration
7:30 Soup Supper in Hall

March 21st: 9 AM to 11 AM Confession at I C Church

March 27th: 6 Pm Mass at I C in Church

6:30 Stations and Adoration
7:30 Soup Supper in Hall

March 28th: 9 AM to 11 AM Confession at I C Church

April 3rd: 6 Pm Mass at I C in Church
6:30 Stations and Adoration
7:30 Soup Supper in Hall

April 4th: 9 AM to 11 AM Confession at I C Church

April 5th: Palm Sunday procession: Mass begins in Hall

April 9th: 7:30 PM Last Supper in Church
Washing of feet
Adoration until 12 Midnight

April 10th: 9 Am – 11 Am Confession at I C
12 Noon Stations at I C
6:30 Passion of our Lord

April 11th: 9 AM – 11 AM Confessions
No 5 PM Mass
8:30 PM Vigil in Church

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

February 26 th :	Ash Wednesday 7:30 Mass with Ashes
March 4 th :	6 Pm Soup Supper 6:45 Stations
March 11 th :	6 Pm Soup Supper 6:45 Stations
March 18 th :	6 Pm Soup Supper 6:45 Stations
March 25 th :	6 Pm Soup Supper 6:45 Stations
April 1 st :	6 Pm Soup Supper 6:45 Stations
April 5 th :	Palm Sunday Procession from Hall
April 8 th :	6 Pm Soup Supper 6:45 Stations
April 9 th :	5 Pm Last Supper at St. Elizabeth Washing of Feet
April 11 th :	1 PM to 2 PM Confession
April 12 th :	Easter Sunday

ST. JOSEPH

- March 1st: Ashes distributed at 5 PM Mass
- March 3rd : 6 Pm Stations
6:45 Pm Soup Supper
- March 10th : 6 Pm Stations
6:45 Pm Soup Supper
- March 17th : 6 Pm Stations
6:45 Pm Soup Supper
- March 24th: 6 Pm Stations
6:45 Pm Soup Supper
- March 31st: 6 Pm Stations
6:45 Pm Soup Supper
- April 5th: Palm Sunday Procession from Hall
- April 7th: 6 Pm Stations
6:45 Pm Soup Supper
- April 10th: 2 PM Confessions
3 PM Passion at St. Joseph
- April 11th: 3 PM to 4 PM Confession
- April 12th: 5 PM Easter Sunday