

Lent 2021

Dear Parishioners of Saint Petronille,

### **Catholic Schools Week**

We celebrate Catholic Schools week this week. Although this will be a little different this year, it is wonderful that we are able to celebrate it with in-person learning safely and effectively. We are grateful to God for His many blessings and the hard work of our students, teachers, parents and staff. Please say a prayer for all of our students, parents and staff.

### **Create in me a Clean Heart**

Create in Me a Clean Heart is a self-guided, 3-part, virtual program offered through the St. Petronille YouTube page, February 15-25. This is an educational opportunity for you to learn about the dangers today's pornography industry poses to you, your loved ones and the world. You will learn how this billion-dollar industry preys on children through a variety of internet portals, propagates addictive behaviors in minors and adults, and fuels human trafficking. You can preview the program at your own pace and receive helpful resources to protect your family from internet pornography that is ruining relationships and hurting children. The pandemic has created a perverse opportunity for the porn industry. This eye-opening program is a first step in helping you protect your family.

### **Lent and Easter just around the corner!**

Although the last 12 months have been tough ones, our Lord walks with us giving us an example of love and faith and hope for the future. I often imagine what it was like for those first disciples, not only the 12 but all the disciples, in the earliest days of the Church. Our Lord cured the sick, raised the dead, rebuked the powerful and raised up the lowly. Times were tough in the first century. Although they lived in the Pax Romana, Roman Emperors could be arbitrary, local governors had absolute power and vaccines and antibiotics did not exist. So many were searching for the light and found it in this man who looked like them and behaved like them, walked with them and spoke with them. Still, they knew this man was different. We know Him to be the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Divine Son of God, who does His work even today.

During Lent we prepare ourselves for the celebration of His passion, death and Resurrection. We take time to look at our lives and ask ourselves what needs to change to allow Christ to take up full residence in our souls. What sacrifices can I make to prepare by heart to allow love Himself to be in control?

### **Lent and Triduum**

Lent is a pilgrimage when we walk the path to heaven with our Lord and the liturgy and sacraments of the Church strengthen, encourage and guide us along this road.

Ash Wednesday

This Ash Wednesday, we will be distributing ashes but only at scheduled Mass times and the USCCB has asked that we distribute ashes by placing them on the head of each worshipper instead of touching their forehead. Although this will be strange for all of us, Americans, this has actually been common practice

in many areas of the world long before the pandemic. In fact, when I lived in Europe for 8 years, this was the common practice...strange for us, but nothing new for the universal Catholic Church.

#### Fasting and Abstaining

“Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.”

#### Palm Sunday and the Triduum

Palm Sunday...this Palm Sunday we will be allowed to distribute Palm at all Masses. We will be adding an additional confession time on Saturday mornings after the 8 am Mass during Lent. Let's take some time to take stock of our lives, clean out the pipes and allow Christ to fill us. We will be offering our regular Triduum services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday with overflow in the PLC; however, we will also be adding an alternate site for Masses at 930 am and 1130 am on Easter Sunday which will allow us to accommodate 400 people at the Abbington at the intersection of Butterfield and Rt. 53. We will still be livestreaming all of our Easter Masses and Triduum Masses, but our total capacity for all of our Easter Masses will exceed 1,440. We are also rethinking the manner of seating in the church to allow us to safely accommodate more worshippers. Please stay tuned for more information.

#### Get our weekly emails

If you would like to be added to our weekly email from the parish, please log onto our parish webpage and sign up to be added to our email list.

Above all, please know of the prayers and sacrifices of our priests, deacons and staff for you during your Lenten pilgrimage and through the Holy Triduum.

Prayers.

In Christ,

Fr. Thomas Milota