



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As we begin this last full week of Lent, I want to express my gratitude to all who have made this Season so meaningful here at St. Patrick's. I make particular mention of:

- 1) **Our Small Groups**: Throughout this Season, many of you have been meeting in small groups during the week and the fruit of your time spent with others, with the Lord is in fact manifest in many ways. It has made not just our parish stronger but our parishioners. I'm grateful for all who have prayed and worked together with the Word of God in our Small groups.
- 2) **Our Parish Mission**: Fr. Emmerich's time with us in the Season of Lent was a great blessing. A reminder indeed that Love is Lord of Heaven and Earth! In many ways, his talks helped us to welcome LOVE. He exposed many of the False, Disordered Loves that enslave and play games with our hearts and minds; and reminded us of REAL LOVE which is genuine and so freeing.
- 3) **Our Food Drive**: This year's Lenten food drive with our area churches was a great success. The food gathered in bags in our small vestibule was a concrete reminder of Love's Call. "You Did It To Me." A blessing not only to those who receive but to all who gave.

This week, I invite you to a morning retreat on Saturday. We'll begin with the 8AM Mass and conclude at 11AM. This will offer an opportunity to Walk thru Holy Week in Jerusalem and in the Liturgy. Please call the parish office by Wednesday, March 30 to sign up for this morning retreat as we will need a headcount for food.

Monday PM thru Wednesday PM, I will be with the Archbishop and my brother priests for our Spring Workshop. Keep us in prayer as we ready for Holy Week!

I close with a brief word about these last days of Lent.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

The last two weeks in the season of Lent are called Passiontide which begins on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. This is when the Church shifts her focus from Christ in the desert (the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent) to Christ during His Passion.

During this period of Passiontide, some churches veil the crucifix and other statues and images around the church. The practice of veiling images alerts us that something is different, it can be startling at first, but the last two weeks of Lent are a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. The veils are hard to miss and they serve as a reminder to get ready! The veiled images build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. The veils seem out of place, and even counterintuitive. It can seem strange that the crucifix is covered up during Passiontide. Through this absence of images, our senses are heightened and we become more aware of what is missing, how we live in a veiled world! How Christ lifts the veil through His Resurrection.

Good Friday 2023

Join area churches this Good Friday for the Stations of the Cross on April 7.

Service begins at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick's and processes through Kennett Square to First Baptist, stopping along the route to remember the story as told in Scripture, reflect on the walk that Jesus made to His crucifixion, and pray for the healing of our local and wider communities.

The Sanctuary Candle will burn the week of March 26 for Deacon Jim Elliott requested by the Elliott Family.

AREA PENANCE SERVICES

St. Cornelius, Tuesday, March 28 at 11AM & 7PM
St. Patrick, Tuesday, April 4 at 7PM
NO CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAY, APRIL 8 AT ST. PATRICK

What a gift it is to receive Jesus in the Eucharist!
While many of us receive this gift each Sunday, there are many others who are unable to attend Mass and receive. Here at St. Patrick's, our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion currently bring the Eucharist to approximately 10-20 homebound parishioners on a weekly and/or monthly basis. Do you have an elderly, sick or homebound family member or friend who lives in the parish and is unable to attend Mass but would like to receive the Eucharist? If so, please let us know so that arrangements can be made to visit with him/her. Please contact the Parish office at (610) 444-4364 or Kathy Reinhardt at kmreinhardt@comcast.net with any questions.

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