

Dear Parishioners, Alumni, Friends and Religious Education Families,

In less than 36 hours it will be Ash Wednesday, and we will begin the great Season of Lent. Called Quaresima here in Italy, Lent is a period of penance, but it is also a time of spiritual growth and opportunity as we prepare for Easter. Ash Wednesday is a day of obligatory fast, that is, two small meals and one regular meal, with no eating in between. It is also a day of abstinence from meat. This fast, which is for Catholics aged 18 to 59, reappears after Lent on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Abstinence from meat is also practiced by Catholics over 14 year of age on the Fridays of Lent.

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, our Masses in English are at 12 Noon and at 6 PM. The distribution of ashes will be at both Masses. Come and let us begin Lent together. Stations of the Cross will be on Fridays during Lent at 5.30 PM with Lenten Evening Prayer before our daily Masses, Monday through Thursday at 5:45 PM. Daily Mass is at 6:00 PM Monday through Friday

This weekend we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent with its focus on the Temptation of the Lord in the desert. We will go back to our Santa Susanna tradition of beginning this Mass with the Litany of Saints as a counterpoint to our asking all the saints to pray for us and the catechumens at the Easter Vigil. Our special guest celebrant at the 10:30 AM Mass will be His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins, the Archbishop of Toronto and the Titular Cardinal of St. Patrick's Church. Fr. Ken Thesing presides at the Saturday 6 PM Mass and Fr. Brad Schoeberle celebrates the Sunday 9 AM Mass. There is no 11 AM Mass in the Marymount Chapel this Sunday!

This year our Ecumenical Lenten fund raising effort, Rice Bowl 2018, will direct its funds to support the Sri Lanka School Meals Programme. In northern Sri Lanka, World Food Programme (WFP) School Meals Programme is feeding at school 160,000 conflict-affected children in 963 schools, helping them to survive and achieve their dreams. Your money will be transformed in food distributed every day at school to the Sri Lankan boys and girls. Rice Bowl collection envelopes are now available.

On Thursday, February 15, we will visit the We will tour the Church of the Gesu, where Jesuit founder St. Ignatius of Loyola is buried, and the Churches of San Marco, Santa Maria in Campitelli, Sant' Ambrogio and the Turtle Fountain at the Piazza Mattei. Meet in the Piazza della Repubblica at the Farmacia at 9:30. And join us for our weekly Bible Course: "Jesus the Bridegroom: The Greatest Love Story Ever Told" or Love In Scripture! Tuesdays at 6:30 PM (following the 6:00 PM Mass) in Tara Hall. The meetings are: February 13, 20, 27, March 6 & 20, April 17 & 24, May 1, 8, 15 and 22. An hour in length, it is taught by Deacon Mitchell Brown and Deacon Carter Zielinski and you can join in at any time.

St. Patrick's English-Language Library is located below the Church – (entrance through Tara Hall). Our hours are: Sundays 10 AM to 12:30 PM, Tuesdays 11 AM -2 PM, Wednesdays 3-6 PM, and Thursdays 11 AM -3.30 PM. Our Winter Used Book Sale continues until February 28. If you would like to be a Library Volunteer, please contact Sally Richards at [pcvschicker@yahoo.com](mailto:pcvschicker@yahoo.com). If you missed receiving the Lent at St. Patrick's Bulletin Insert on Sunday, please let me know and I will send it to you by email. Please enjoy the last remaining hours of Carnevale or Mardi Gras or

Martedi Grasso wherever you are. I look forward to seeing all of you soon. Ciao for now, Father Greg