

## **Our Lenten Theme for 2019... “You’re Invited to...” Really????**

Meeting with our Liturgy Committee this past Wednesday night, we discussed the possibilities of a particular ‘Lenten Theme’. The one we came up with was, **“You’re Invited to...”** Look how good it feels to be ‘invited’ to be part of something good...be it a birthday, a wedding, retirement party or to gather with friends. An invitation tells us that we are ‘important’ or ‘loved’ by the one(s) inviting us. Each week, we are ‘invited’ to come and celebrate our faith. We are ‘invited’ to be nourished by the ‘Word of God’ and ‘Sacrament.’ We are ‘invited’ to be nourished by the presence of others...those gathered around us. Each week, we are ‘invited’ to draw deeper in our relationship with God.

One of the greatest accomplishments that we have achieved at Holy Spirit Parish has been “Hospitality.” Weekly, we have dedicated parishioners, some with name tags, who are Welcoming Others with bulletin in hand and friendly exchange of words. This sets the tone for our liturgy. Truly, this is wonderful to both experience and see... certainly, a new Spirit has dawned! And so why is this so special and vital? Each and every one of us needs to know that we are ‘important’ or ‘loved’ by God. We need to know that we are always invited by our parish to draw closer to God, to share what we have and to grow stronger and deeper in our faith.

Therefore with Lent 2019 just around the corner, what a perfect season to to accept that invitation and go with God deeper into the heart... to those places that we need to go in order to change those things in us that block us from God’s abundant love. For Lent 2019, we will offer a series... a different invitation each week throughout our Lenten journey. For example: for Ash Wednesday, our theme will be, “You’re invited to... Come Home” The First Sunday of Lent, “You’re invited into the Wilderness...” Second Sunday of Lent, “You’re invited to...” And so on. Each week, a ‘new invitation’ will be extended with a different theme. Even Holy Week will offer different ‘invitation’ for us to ponder. During Lent, you will be ‘invited’ to ‘pray the Creed during Mass,’ Evening Prayer in each worship site. Just as we did last year, ‘you’re invited to daily Mass Monday to Friday each week during Lent (please watch bulletin for Mass times). New to us this year, you will be ‘invited to a Reconciliation Service’ where priests will come and help provide an evening of ‘renewal.’

As well, “You’re invited to... give alms through our Lenten Folders and other projects that will arise. At the same time, “You’re invited to...” fast from the “unnecessary,” such as fasting from ‘chit-chat’ prior to Mass...allowing people some quiet prayer time prior to the Liturgy (this will be a hard one for me!) and fasting from the ‘negative’ and feasting on the ‘positive’ and so on.

My dear friends, this will be our first Lent as a new parish! I believe that our theme, “You’re invited to...” will not only help us to settle our hearts and minds... ‘start over’ or to ‘start again,’ but as well, help us to look with hope and faith appreciating God’s abundant blessings in our midst. Therefore, on behalf of Holy Spirit Parish, I encourage you to ‘invite’ someone to join us each week to share in our celebrations. Finally, I want each of you who are reading this message to know, that truly and always, “you’re invited to...to experience the awesome love of our compassionate God!”

Lenten Blessings everyone!

Fr. David

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES – MARCH 6, 2019**

***ST. ROSE OF LIMA WORSHIP SITE: 12:10PM***

***ST. MATTHEW WORSHIP SITE: 7PM***

**WEEKDAY MASSES DURING LENT**

***MON, THUR & FRI – 12:10PM AT ST. ROSE OF LIMA WORSHIP SITE***

***TUES – 7PM & WED – 9AM AT ST. MATTHEW WORSHIP SITE***

**EVENING PRAYER**

***THURSDAY, MAR 21<sup>ST</sup>, 7PM AT ST. ROSE OF LIMA WORSHIP SITE***

***THURSDAY APR 11, 7PM AT ST. MATTHEW WORSHIP SITE***

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

***WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>, 7PM AT ST ROSE OF LIMA WORSHIP SITE***

***WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>, 7PM AT ST. MATTHEW WORSHIP SITE***