

February 11, 2010

Dear parishioners and friends,

The season of **Lent** will begin on **Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010**. The Church appeals to us during this season to “pray, fast and give alms”. To support you in your preparation for Easter, the parish is offering many opportunities – both spiritual and social – for your observance of Lent.

We remind you that **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are **fast days** for Roman Catholic Christians. Practically, what this means is that all of us ages 18 through 59 are required on these days to limit ourselves to one full meatless meal, and two sparse meatless ones with no eating in between. **Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent** are also **days of abstinence**. All ages 14 and over are obliged to abstain from eating meat on these days.

I am pleased to report that we have invited **Dr. Joseph Kelly**, professor emeritus of scripture at Nazareth College, to engage us again in a four night series. Those who did his “Journey With Luke” last fall know what a treat he is to listen to! This time, Dr. Kelly will look at the Book of Job and the theme of this Lenten retreat is “**Job and the Problem of Evil**”. We will be meeting on **four Tuesday** evenings from **7:00 to 9:00 pm**, beginning at St. Christopher Church on the first Tuesday of Lent, **February 23rd**, continuing on **March 9th** at St. Mary’s, **March 16th** at St. Columba’s, and completing the series here on **March 23rd**. Please join us for this Lenten pilgrimage. We will also be holding our **Lenten Penance Service** a bit earlier than usual this season. Please join us at **7:00 pm** on **Wednesday, March 3rd** for this time of reconciliation at which we will reflect on the theme, “**Your Words, O Lord, are Spirit and Life**” as we celebrate the Lord’s mercy and forgiveness.

You are invited to join us for a simple **Lenten Soup Supper** on **Saturday, March 6th** at **6:00 pm**, following our vigil Mass. Any offerings you wish to make that evening will go to Catholic Relief Services to help in their work in Haiti in the wake of their devastating earthquakes. Our Social Events Committee will host our **Lenten Fish Fry** on **Friday, March 12th** beginning at **4:00 pm**. Check the parish bulletin for details as the date draws closer (it is also available on our website, www.stvincentdepaulchurch.net). On **Saturday, March 13th**, there will be an elegant **Evening for Patrick Place** at the Genesee Country Museum from **6:30 to 11:00 pm**, featuring live music, various food stations catered by the D&R Depot, and a silent auction – all to benefit Patrick Place, our proposed comfort care home ministry to the dying and their loved ones (to be established at St. Mary’s rectory in Scottsville). Tickets are \$60.00 per person and can be obtained through our parish office until sold out. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, or if you wish to donate an item for the silent auction, please contact Julie Knitter at 370-5518 or info@patrickplace.org.

Because we are a community of faith, we look and yearn for your participation with us in the **Holy Week Liturgies** and devotions. Our common experience of the sufferings and death of the Lord will help us grow together in the understanding of his resurrection. Please join us for the celebration of the **Triduum**, a Latin word which literally means “The Three Days”. This, our most sacred liturgy – and our finest liturgical experience of the entire year – takes place in three parts: on **Holy Thursday** at **7:30 pm**, at the **Mass of the Lord’s Supper** we will wash each other’s feet as we recall what Jesus did at his Last Supper and keep vigil with the Blessed Sacrament until late in the evening; on **Good Friday** at **7:30 pm**, we will venerate the cross of Jesus and pray fervently for the needs of our world; and on **Holy Saturday** at **8:30 pm**, we will celebrate **The Easter Vigil** where we will gather around a bonfire outside the church and light the new Paschal Candle, reflect joyfully on our salvation history and celebrate our baptism into Christ as we witness the baptism of our adult catechumen, **Christine Cruz**, who will also be confirmed and receive her First Holy Communion that beautiful night! **Easter morning Masses** are at **8:30 & 10:30 am**.

Enclosed with this mailing is a special envelope which you may use to “wrap” your Easter gift to the parish. You may return this gift to the parish at any time this season or bring it with you to Mass on Easter Sunday. We thank you in advance for this kindness.

Wishing you a most meaningful Lent and a joyous Easter from all of us at St. Vincent’s,

Charlotte