

St. Matthew Parish Family



Lent

A Season of Growing Closer to God

February, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

I want to invite you to join me and our Parish community to grow closer in faith as we enter into the Season of Lent. We begin Lent by receiving ashes on our foreheads on *Ash Wednesday, March 2nd*. Here at St. Matthew Parish, we offer ashes throughout the day from 6:00am-8:00pm, whether it is by just walking in, or attending a Mass: 7:00am; 12:10pm; 5:00pm or 7:00pm.

As we all know, Lent is a time of preparation for the coming celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter. During this time, we should set specific spiritual goals we would like to reach before Easter, and decide how we will pursue them. For instance, by going to daily Mass when we can, receiving the Sacrament of Confession more often, volunteering more often, attending Stations of the Cross, adoring the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, or any other practice of the Catholic faith that allows us to enter into a deeper relationship with Christ.

This is an important time for all of us - including priests - to consider how we can grow in our personal relationship with Christ. When we reach the time of Easter, we must ask ourselves, "*Did we grow closer to Jesus during Lent?*" For Lent not only allows us to be a better version of ourselves, but also draws us more closely in a personal relationship with Jesus and others in faith.

Quite simply, Lent is about becoming a better Catholic and a better person by the time Easter arrives, and we can only do that by practicing our faith more, *even if it is in the smallest of ways*. Please know that you are in my prayers as we enter into this opportunity to know Christ together in Faith.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jeff

Father Jeffrey W. Couture

Pastor