

From the Pastor's Office

1st Sunday of Lent

Christmas is far behind. Now we enter the somber season of Lent. We know the drill by now. At the beginning of Lent, we are invited to enter into a season of preparation and reflection about the impending condemnation of Jesus. They are going to kill Him because they don't like Him. How many people do I know that I want dead because I don't like them. I have heard that statement from very devout Catholic people about some of our political leaders. The general instructions for entering Lent are these: Be repentant for your sins and give alms to the poor. I constantly remind people at Mass that nearly all the second collections are opportunities to give alms to the poor. We are familiar with the work of the St. Vincent de Paul society. Kind people make connections with people in the parish who are struggling economically, there are people who live alone, there are people who need real help. Our volunteers go out regularly to connect with these people. They try to help. The St. Vincent de Paul collection provides them with a pot of money that we can use to offer financial help to those who are struggling, if that is what they need. Throughout the Church's year you will hear us announce that the second collection is for Gaza, Ukraine, and various Catholic social services. The Catholic bishops of America have this to say about it, "Each parish is part of the Church Universal. It is the Catholic Church in a particular place. The Bishops have created various national collections so that by combining resources, we can more effectively carry out our mission as Catholics." One of the games we love to play with Lent is that we spend the next few weeks trying to figure out what we are going to give up for Lent. That was cute when I was ten, but it don't fly anymore. You are a mature adult person, you are a mature member of the Church, decide what you are going to do. I am tired of people telling me they are giving up sweets. O, the hardship! Be real. Do something real. Stop playing games with your Church. Stop playing games with God. He deserves better from you.



With love,
Fr. Pat