

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Fed up of the Pandemic?

Wondering when things will get back to normal?

The Church has an answer to our deepest concerns and worries.

Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. This year, because of the ongoing pandemic, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, has issued a decree mandating a practice for the Universal Church. Thus, we will receive the ashes in a different way this year. Instead of the ashes being marked on our foreheads, they will be sprinkled on the top of our head.

This may seem unusual to us, but this practice is Biblical. In fact, the placing of ash on the head predates the signing of ash on the forehead. The Pope always receives ashes on his head on Ash Wednesday. In fact, this custom is commonplace in many churches in other parts of the world.

So don't be surprised when you come on Ash Wednesday and don't get the ash on your forehead. And please don't shoot the messenger!!

Lent is a wonderful occasion for us to be renewed spiritually, and to prepare for the Great Easter Feast.

Each Sunday in Lent we will have a (socially distanced) Coffee and Donuts after the 10:30am Mass, and watch a short 20 minute video. We will use Chris Stefanick's video series "The Search." Each short video will help us to reflect and be nourished spiritually. Come for a coffee and a movie.

There is also a wonderful opportunity this Lent for us to listen to the Announcement of Salvation, and to rediscover the immense love which God has for us exactly in the situation we find ourselves. On Ash Wednesday, and at the Masses on the first Sunday of Lent, an invitation will be made for us to Come and Listen.

This invitation is to gather on Mondays and Thursdays in Lent at 8pm in the McCarthy Center, starting Monday February 22nd.

I invite you to Come and Listen. I will be presenting, together with a team, a series of Catecheses during Lent to help us in this time of pandemic. We will meet for one hour each Monday and Thursday evening. I sincerely hope you can come.

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Fr. Sean