

**5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 14, 2010**

**PASTOR'S CORNER
WHAT ABOUT LENT THIS YEAR?**

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, and the season of Lent is upon us. What will it mean for you this year? I'm writing about Lent before it comes to encourage us all to answer that question for ourselves.

For us as a parish it means the offering of many fine opportunities for you to make something of Lent for yourself.

* Come to one of the Masses this Wednesday to hear the call to repentance, and accept it ritually with the imposition of ashes. Masses are at 7 and 8:15 AM, noon, and 7 PM.

* Pray the Stations of the Cross each Friday of Lent at 6:30 PM in Church. On Friday, March 12, they will take on the note of a celebration for families.

* Attend a weekday Mass at 7 AM or at 8 AM on Saturdays.

* Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This year we will join the other parishes of District 4 and Archbishop ListECKI for a communal penance service at St. Dominic Parish on Monday, March 15. Of course we always have confessions on Saturday morning at 8:30 or by appointment.

* Join in a Lenten Soup Supper on three Wednesdays, February 24, March 3, and March 10 at 6 PM, which includes a simple supper and a reflective presentation concluding with Evening Prayer.

* Participate in our new parish —retreatll called —Pilgrimage in Place.ll It's a new model for a retreat that's very exciting and easy to fit into a busy schedule. It includes a culminating day of prayer and reflection.

* As part of the Archdiocesan celebration of —A Season of Mercy, participate in a small renew group discussion and prayer on the theme of —Reconciliation: The Unfolding Mystery of God's Mercy and Love.

* Plan ahead and mark your calendar to attend the liturgies of the Triduum. Holy Thursday at 7 PM, Good Friday at 3 PM, and the Easter Vigil at 8 PM. Start the family's Easter break in church instead of on vacation.

* Attend a life long faith formation session of some kind. One I would suggest is Fr. Bryan Massingale's talk at St. Margaret Mary at 7 PM on Thursday, February 18, entitled, —Breaking the Yoke of Poverty and Racism: A Reflection of in the

Light of God's Mercy. There are many such presentations available at this time of year.

* Participate in some work of mercy at a food pantry, meal program, or other outreach effort. Our parish sponsors many each month.

* We are also promoting —Operation Rice Bowl again this year.

* Join Firm Believers or get to the gym and honor the body God has given you with some exercise.

These are just a few suggestions and reminders as Lent comes our way. Be as creative as you want. (Bishop Sklba has repeatedly simply cleaned out one drawer or closet each week of Lent to let go of things he really doesn't need.)

Whatever you do, don't let the 46 days from Wednesday to Easter slip away unwittingly.

Blessings,
Fr. Ken Knippel