

March 4, 2011

Dear Parishioners:

Each year, in preparation for the solemn feast of Easter, all members of the Christian community are invited to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ and renew their commitment to bear witness to him. The season of Lent, which we are about to begin, is a period of forty days, when we open our hearts once again to the Word of God, calling us to conversion and growth in our relationship with God in Christ Jesus.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has called the season of Lent "an irreplaceable school of faith and Christian life". It can be for each of us a sort of spiritual retreat, a time for serious reflection on our response to God's call, as well as a mini-refresher course for those who long to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

In addition to the tried and true Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and participation in the sacrament of Reconciliation, I would particularly recommend two additional devotional exercises.

Attentive Listening to God's Word

This year, Pope Benedict urges us to rekindle our baptismal faith by paying special attention to the Sunday Gospels of Lent. The Gospel readings we hear this year are those which have been proclaimed from the earliest days of the Church to assist those preparing for Baptism. Our attentive listening to these readings, and prayerful reflection on them, will most certainly lead us to a deeper awareness of the gift of Baptism and a more heartfelt commitment to the Gospel way of life.

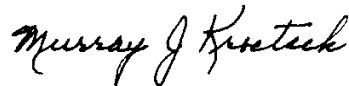
Spiritual Reading

I especially invite you to do some spiritual reading during Lent this year. All parishioners are invited to read a thought-provoking book

by Matthew Kelly, entitled, *Rediscovering Catholicism*. Copies of this book will be made available to parishioners along with a study guide. An opportunity to discuss the contents of this book will be provided on several Sunday mornings during Lent.

I pray that God, who has given us life through the death and resurrection of his Son, may give you both the desire and the determination to make this year's Lenten journey a holy time of renewal and rededication to your faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Monsignor Murray J. Kroetsch, PH
Pastor

OUR LENTEN PROGRAM

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mass will be celebrated and ashes will be distributed on Ash Wednesday in the church at **8:00 am.** and at **7:00 pm.** Celebrations of God's Word will also take place in each of our parish elementary schools. Contact the schools for times.

SUNDAY LITURGY DURING LENT

At the heart of our Lenten journey is our weekly celebration of the Lord's Day Eucharist, when we gather to listen to God's Word and deepen our Communion with Jesus Christ and the members of his body, the Church.

Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday at 9:00 am., 11:00 am.
& 7:00 pm.

ST. PIUS READS

Parishioners are invited to read Matthew Kelly's book, *Rediscovering Catholicism*. For those who wish, an opportunity to discuss the contents of this book will be provided on the following Sunday mornings in the parish hall between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

March 13, 2011

Discussion of Part One:
We Become What We Celebrate

March 27, 2011

Discussion on Part Two: The Authentic Life

April 3, 2011

The Seven Pillars of Catholicism

April 10, 2011

Now Is Our Time

*Special events will take place on the following
Tuesdays of Lent:*

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Guided by Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, we will reflect on the meaning of the cross in our Christian lives. A two-part video presentation will take place on **Tuesdays: March 15 and 22, 2011 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm** in the parish hall. A brief discussion will follow each video presentation.

TAIZE EVENING PRAYER

On **Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at 7:00 pm**, our young people will lead us in an evening of prayer, scripture and song in the style of the Ecumenical Community of Taize in France.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On **Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 7:00 pm** we will celebrate the traditional Stations of the Cross. Father Wayne Lobsinger, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Kitchener, will be the guest preacher. Come and rediscover this ancient form of devotion in which we unite ourselves to Christ's passion and suffering.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

Our Lenten communal celebration of Reconciliation will be on **Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 7:00 pm** in the church. Father Sam Restivo, CR, Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Resurrection, will be the guest preacher. Several priests will be on hand to celebrate the sacrament of God's mercy.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated **every Saturday at 4:00 pm.** during Lent. Also, the sacrament will be celebrated on **Tuesday, April 19, 2011 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.**

SHARE LENT

Our annual Share Lent Collection will be received on **Sunday, April 10, 2011.** We all have a responsibility to provide for the poorest of God's people in developing countries. Consider \$1 or \$2 a day during Lent as a basis for your offering. This annual collection is forwarded to Development and Peace.

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

April 17, 2011

Blessing and Distribution of Palms

Masses: Saturday at 5:00 pm.

Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 am & 7:00 pm.

Our young people will be participating in a Palm Sunday Procession, beginning at St. Basil Church at 4:00 pm with the blessing of palms. The procession will conclude at St. Pius Church with Mass at 7:00 pm.

MASS OF CHRISM

The annual Mass of Chrism will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Hamilton on **Monday, April 18, 2011 at 7:00 pm.** During this Mass the holy oils are blessed for use in our parish during the year. All are welcome.

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY - April 21, 2011

Mass of the Lord's Supper

8:00 pm.

Note: Incense used.

Followed by prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel until 11:00 pm.

GOOD FRIDAY - April 22, 2011

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

11:00 am. & 3:00 pm.

HOLY SATURDAY - April 23, 2011

Blessing of Easter Food

1:00 pm.

Easter Vigil

8:00 p.m.

Sacramental Initiation of new members

Note: Incense used.

There is no 5:00 pm. Mass

EASTER SUNDAY - April 24, 2011

Celebration of the Eucharist and renewal of Baptismal Promises

9:00 am.; 11:00 am.; 12:30 pm.

Note: There is no 7:00 pm Mass on Easter Sunday.

LENT & EASTER 2011



Pastoral Letter and Schedule of Celebrations

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