

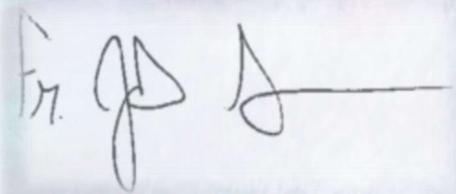
Dear Friends,

We are on the threshold of Lent once more. Our experience this year may have been a sort of continual Lent in the struggle of the pandemic. I am referring to this as a Lenten experience not that it has been drudge or negative, but rather in that it has been a time of struggle. Lent is a time to enter the desert, into the struggle against the enemy, and his deceptions with Jesus. As we hear about the temptation of Jesus in the desert, it is there that He confronts the enemy and his lies with confidence in the Father's plan. With Jesus, we can see how the enemy is working through this situation to distract and tempt us to take things into our own hands and not to trust in God's plan. Jesus knew that the way He was on was leading to the cross, to the complete gift of His life for the salvation of the world. The temptation is to avoid the cross, the suffering that is imminent or perceived.

Jesus is inviting us to the Way that leads to freedom and to true love through sacrifice. "If you wish to be my disciple *deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow me.*" To enter onto the Way, I invite you to daily focus on the cross and let the Lord speak to you in love and invite you onto the Way that leads to Life. In silence, look to the crucifix and you will begin to hear the most eloquent sermon ever spoken as the Lord speaks to your heart of His unfathomable love for *you* that led Him to lay down His life. There is no greater love.

I challenge you to spend at least 10 minutes each day in silence in front of the crucifix. Ponder the depths of God's love and see how He inspires you to participate in this great mystery by laying down your life, giving without counting the cost, selflessly. This will only make sense as we attend the Mass and are united to Jesus in the Eucharist, from which all the grace we need to persevere flows into our hearts. Whether in person or virtually, the Mass is where we are united to the Heart of the One who loves us so much that He gives us His very body and blood so that we might have life. Strengthened by this great gift we enter this holy season to learn about love through the struggle. I pray that Jesus will give us new and deeper insight into this mystery through the experience of our struggle this year.

Together in the battle,



Fr. Jack D. Shrum  
Pastor

#### Masses:

**Monday through Friday:** 8:00 am (also livestream)  
**Wednesday & Friday:** 7:30 pm  
**Thursday:** 7:30 pm (in Spanish – also livestream)  
**Saturday:** 8:00 am (also livestream)  
5:00 pm (Saturday Vigil – also livestream)  
**Sunday:** 7:00 am, 9:00 am (also livestream)  
11:00 am (in Spanish – also livestream),  
1:00 pm (in Spanish – also livestream), 5:30 pm

#### Personal prayer times & Confessions:

**Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday:** 5:00 pm-7:00 pm  
**Saturday:** 2:00 pm-4:00 pm  
**Sunday:** 4:00 pm-7:00 pm

#### Evening Prayer & Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion:

**Thursdays:** 6:00 pm

#### Lenten Regulations

February 17 is **Ash Wednesday**, the first day of Lent, the season of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on **Easter**, April 4. During Lent, Catholics are called to penances and works of charity reflecting a deep desire for conversion of heart. The minimum requirements for Catholics include:

- ◆ **Abstinence:** If you are 14 or older, don't eat meat on Ash Wednesday, **Good Friday** (April 2), and all Fridays of Lent.
- ◆ **Fasting:** If you are 18-59, don't eat more than one full meal and two small meals on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If following these rules would seriously affect your health or ability to work, don't worry about them.