

From the Pastor's Desk

This week marks the **Third Sunday of Lent** and I am once again encouraging you to make the most of this Lenten Season. **There are so many things that are available to you, and unfortunately, so few people are taking advantage of them.** Allow me to remind you **once again**, for the possibilities are endless. You could attend daily Mass at least once or twice a week, especially if you are retired (and I must say I am shocked that almost no one has accepted this invitation!!!), you could join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday Evenings or Friday Afternoons; maybe you could come and pray the rosary on Tuesday Evenings, you could join us for stations of the cross on Friday afternoons (I am pleased to say that attendance doubled last week.), you could spend 15 minutes more a day in prayer; you could open your bibles and read a passage from Sacred Scripture every day, you could practice one of the corporal works of mercy, or you could plan on attending the presentation on the Shroud of Turin in the coming weeks, just to name a few. Remember, this Lent is to be different from all other Lents that you have celebrated in the past. This is the one time that you have so many opportunities to grow in intimate relationship with Jesus staring you right in the face. Ask yourself, why are you not making the most of these opportunities? You may never have the opportunity again. Ask yourself, is Jesus the center of my life? What role does God really play in your life? Am I truly grateful for the gift of eternal life that came to me by means of his suffering, death, and resurrection? Or do I just punch my card when I come to Mass on Sunday, thinking that that is enough thanks for the greatest gift that has ever been given me. Seriously, what does your faith mean to you? We all have to answer these questions, if not now, at the very least we will when we come before the Lord at the end of our lives!!! And before the Throne of Grace, apathy just won't cut it!

Second to attending to the spiritual life this Lent, I ask that you please consider attending to the financial support of our parish. First, as everyone knows well, we continue to have our fish fry every Friday during Lent with the exception of Good Friday. Second, we are selling tickets for our Easter Gas Card giveaway to help offset some of the losses from not having a current renter for our school building. It is important to remember that the financial support of our parish is the responsibility of every parishioner **INCLUDING** your pastor (I personally support every fundraiser)!! I ask that you also pray that we find a party interested in renting our school building soon. It is a great loss not to have this magnificent building in use.

Visitation Parish Easter Gas Card Giveaway

On Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026, Visitation Parish will be chancing off a ticket for \$500 of Sheetz Gasoline. The Winning number will be taken from the first three (straight) numbers drawn of the 7 PM official Pick 3 daily Pennsylvania Lottery. If the winning ticket is not sold, the winner will be determined by a random drawing. The cost of one ticket is \$5, or 5 tickets may be purchased for \$20. Please support this new fundraiser that is earmarked to assist with the budgetary deficit caused by the present lack of a renter for our school building.

Catholic Ministries Drive - This weekend is the Commitment Weekend for the 2026 Catholic Ministries Drive. Your sacrificial gift of prayer and treasure will make an immediate and lasting impact on our ministries that focus on evangelization, serving those in need and formation of our priests and deacons. During Lent, and throughout the year, we are challenged to renew our spiritual devotions and duties—and one of those holy duties is to support our Church. This year’s theme, Sent to Serve, reminds us that, by virtue of our baptism, each of us has been Sent to Serve, entrusted with gifts that are meant to be shared for the good of others. If you didn’t bring your pledge card to mass this weekend, or sent it in this past week, please prayerfully consider making a donation this coming week or in the future. You may drop it off in the offertory basket or at the rectory.

The Shroud of Turin and Via Dolorosa Presentations – Join us for a powerful presentation on the history, science, and mystery of the Shroud at Visitation Parish on Sunday, March 22nd at 2 PM. The Shroud of Turin is a centuries old linen cloth that bears the image of a crucified man. A man that millions believe to be Jesus of Nazareth. Is it really the cloth that wrapped his crucified body, or is it simply a medieval forgery, a hoax perpetrated by some clever artist? Modern science has completed hundreds of thousands of hours of detailed study and intense research on the Shroud. It is, in fact, the single most studied artifact in human history.

The Via Dolorosa (sometimes called “the Way of Suffering”) is a route located in the Old City of Jerusalem which follows the route that Jesus is believed to have walked on his way to be crucified. The route follows the traditional 14 Stations of the Cross, beginning with a place where Christians have traditionally believed Pilate condemned Jesus to death (the Lion’s Gate near what used to be a Roman fortress), and ending at a spot which is believed to hold the tomb where Jesus was buried (the Church of the Holy Sepulchre). The last location, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, is a large building containing multiple chapels and levels and contains the last five stations (located in different areas). Please join us at Visitation Parish for a presentation on the Via Dolorosa on Friday, March 27th at 6:30 PM.