



Lent all ready!

Pope Francis challenges us... "Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that, we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need."

"The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God. When we close our heart to the gift of God's word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters."

As we start the journey of Lent, with its emphasis on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, we have a chance at a new beginning in our own lives, the Pope noted.

"This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God with all their hearts, to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord," he said, adding that Christ waits for us patiently, ready to forgive us when we fall short.

"Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter."

I was recently reminded of a reflection I gave in a Lenten homily,

"The cross is unending."

Do we shield ourselves from it or do we embrace this reality.

This theme of Lent 2018 will challenge us, because don't we want to avoid hardship and struggle. Lent is a time of preparation, to set our sights on the Easter moments- Last Supper, Denial by

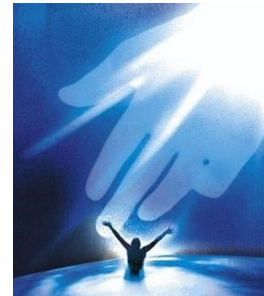
Peter, the betrayal of Judas, the passion and the resurrection.

In our lives today, it is an image of how we treat our unending crosses- denial, betrayal, passion and rising. As we enter our Lent, let us not miss the ways in which we are shown and encouraged to except the ***unending cross- the cross of life, of strength and of courage.***

WHAT CAN WE DO....

DAILY MASS- I know many reasons come to mind not to, but here is one reason to- how else are you going to able to balance that crazy life of yours.

Monday	8:30 am	St. Cecilia's
Tuesday	5:30 pm	St. Cecilia's
Wednesday	8:30 am	St. Cecilia's
Thursday	5:30 pm	St. Cecilia's
Friday	8:30 am	Queen of Heaven



STATIONS OF THE CROSS- walk the way of the Lord. These moments reflected in the Stations, reflect also our unending journey of the cross. As he makes his steps, let us strive to model him.

Every Wednesday 5:30 pm at St. Cecilia's with Soup dinner afterwards

Every Friday 5pm at Queen of Heaven with Holy Hour

Sunday, March 4th after the 11am Mass- Stations with a Holy Hour

Palm Sunday, March 25th the youth will pray for us the Shadow Stations of the Cross

CONFESSION- yep need to do it!

Monday, March 12 6 pm Penance service at St. Cecilia's with other priests to help.

Monday, March 26 6 pm Confessions at Queen of Heaven (me in the room)

Tuesday March 27 6 pm Confessions at St. Cecilia's (me in the room)

Wednesday, March 28 2:30 pm Confessions at Queen of Heaven (me in the room)