



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are about to enter the wonderful journey of Lent. From ancient times and over the span of history, the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, has always been considered the jewel of the Church year. The setting upon which this jewel is placed is Lent--the time of preparation. Every significant event in our lives is more often than not preceded by a time of preparation. The more significant the occurrence is, the more serious the preparation. Lent is likened to a pilgrimage. As a pilgrimage, the journey itself provides the preparation for the arrival. You could say the same about our earthly life: the journey is the preparation for the arrival--Eternity. Remember that the pillars of this journey are Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Some of the offerings at Sacred Heart to help you in your Lenten journey include:

- Homilies that discuss Matthew Kelly's book *Holy Moments*. Homilies about bringing holy moments into our lives
- A talk on Understanding Difficult Passages in the Bible led by Fr. Bruce as part of the Vatican Lecture Series on February 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Monday evening prayer & adoration led by Deacon Kevin Nestor from 6:00-7:00 PM.
- Our traditional Wednesday evening Lenten Mass at 5:30 PM, followed by our Soup Supper and confessions at 6:00 PM, and Stations of the Cross at 6:30 PM, beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- A talk on why the Catholic and Orthodox Churches separated led by Fr. Bruce as part of the Vatican Lecture Series on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
- A two-day parish mission on March 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> led by Deacon Jason Stewart. Deacon Stewart is a former protestant minister who converted to Catholicism, and he will speak on his amazing journey to the Catholic faith.
- A four-part video series on Eternal Life led by Gonzo Reyes on Thursday evenings in Lent.
- An opportunity to support the Blue Nuns in Freeport!

**We hope you will join us for one or all of our Lent activities. Please see the back of this sheet for dates & times.**

Lastly, please pray for one another. Pray for me, for all your fellow workers and members of the Faith community, and for the world which so desperately needs the Gospel of Christ and for whom Jesus gave his life.

I pray that the spiritual discipline of a good Lent may lead you to a deeper faith and a renewed sense of hope for your life and our beloved Church.

In Christ,

Father Bruce Ludeke