

Dear Parishioners,

February is short. March comes quickly, which means spring is on the way. Lent begins March 6th this year. Lent is an old English word that means spring. Lent is appropriately named because we should approach Lent as a sort of springtime for our souls, a time of new beginning, growth, and renewal. My mom was very clean and every spring we did a thorough spring cleaning of the entire house - everything got cleaned. Our spring breaks were spent helping with the cleaning. Something similar should happen in our souls. Lent is soul cleaning. When things are clean and uncluttered there is clarity and order.

Ash Wednesday is two and half weeks away. As a parish we try to provide ample opportunities for this Lent soul cleaning to take place. We will pass out a meditation book to help guide you through the days of Lent. Each Friday there will be Stations of the Cross devotions with Rosary and Eucharistic Benediction. Our parish penance service with individual confession will be April 10.

This year I am happy to announce that we will be having a parish mission. A parish mission is sort of like an annual parish wide retreat. Parish missions have been long traditions in some parishes and we have had parish missions here at Holy Rosary in the past. We would like to make the parish mission an annual event during Lent. This year our parish mission will be March 9th -14th.

We have invited Fr. Sebastian Walshe, O. Praem., who is a good friend of mine, to give our parish mission this year. He is a canon of the Abbey of St. Michael in the Diocese of Orange, California. Fr. Sebastian is well educated and holds a Master's in Theology and a Doctorate in Philosophy from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas at Rome. Fr. Sebastian is a gifted and articulate speaker and his topic will be: **Encounter Christ: The Conversations and Parables of Jesus**. Fr. Sebastian will preach at all the Masses on the weekend of March 9/10 and at the Masses from Monday to Thursday, March 11-14. He will give one session a day so you can choose to come either at 9AM or 7PM. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our parish mission - an opportunity to be enriched.