From the Desk of the Pastor ....

Is it not strange... that many good and even stellar things we human beings are capable of doing, we also have an uncanny ability to reduce anything to ashes?

We can reduce relationships to ashes. We are capable of turning another’s feelings, hopes, dreams and dignity to cinders. Our self-centeredness can scorch the earth, leaving behind nothing but charred ruins for the poor, the abused, the forgotten, and the people who 'apparently' don't matter. Self-absorption, fear, intolerance, racism and injustice make burned rubble of our lives and those we say we love.

The ashes we accepted on our heads last Wednesday, was an acknowledgement of the ashes we have made in and of our lives, the dreams and hopes we have allowed to disintegrate, the love and joy we have stood by and watched, helplessly, vaporize and go up in flames.

The Season of Lent we have just begun, with 40 days is a time to resurrect from those ashes our hope, our love, our compassion, our sense of justice. In the clear light of Christ, we see our wounds for what they are, we recognize the mistakes we have made, we repent, and we seek the grace to rebuild the lives we may have destroyed.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This devotional prayerful exercise will be held in the church on all Fridays during the season of Lent. Everyone is invited.

Complete Lenten Fasting and Abstinence Information for Lent 2019

- Abstinence: Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.
- Fast: Everyone 18 or older, and under 59 years of age, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, so long as together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not obligate.
- It is highly recommended that Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed penitential practices.

2019 SCHEDULE OF LENTEN DEVOTIONS & CELEBRATIONS

March
15th Friday, 1st Week of Lent: 9:30 am Stations of the Cross in English; 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis
22nd Friday, 2nd Week of Lent: 9:30 am Stations of the Cross in English; 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis
29th Friday, 3rd Week of Lent: 9:30 am Stations of the Cross in English; 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis

April
5th First Friday, 4th Week of Lent: 9:30 am: after Mass, Stations of the Cross (English) with the
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction.
- 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis; 7:00 pm Reflexión (en Español)
12th Friday, 5th Week of Lent: 9:00 am mass in English;
- 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross in English and Spanish & "Soup Supper".

Fixing God’s House Raffle

Our Parish Hispanic Community (HPC) thanks you all for the support you have shown to the raffle we have organized for the campaign “Fixing God's House”. We invite you to come next Sunday, March 17th, after 12:30 pm mass, at which we will hold the raffle. We apologize for not carrying out the raffle on the 10th but for circumstances beyond our control we were not able to do so. We hope to see you all on the 17th! Thank you gain for your generous support.

Lent is up and running. The four days since Ash Wednesday grounded us in Lent's three basic disciplines: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This year's Lent challenges us to strengthen our trust in the gospel message while we get those three perspectives deeply enough into our mindset that they show up in the way we live and move and have our being. We'll face discouragement soon enough and often enough, but if we stick with it, Lent will transfigure us. For us to really adjust our mindset and figure out just how we have to allow God to reign and transfigure us, we need to walk with Jesus. Perhaps that's why we have 40 days. Meanwhile, keep walking and never give up no matter how bumpy the road gets.