



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church  
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February 11, 2018

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

As our great city enjoys the annual celebration of Mardi Gras this weekend, we can't help but remember what follows for us as people of faith. On Wednesday, we will begin the holy season of Lent, the time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, the time to turn our hearts back to the Lord.

Now is a good time to begin making plans so that this Lent can be a time of true repentance and spiritual growth. I encourage you to prayerfully consider how the Lord may be calling you to detach yourself from the things of this world so that your heart may be more fully opened to His grace.

As a parish, we will offer many opportunities for deepening our life of prayer:

- **Daily Mass** will continue to be offered at 7am, Monday-Friday. Why not plan to join us in the morning to hear God's Word and receive Christ in Holy Communion?
- **Confessions** are offered four times each week: 3-3:45pm on Saturday, 5:15-5:45pm on Sunday, 6:30-6:50am on Wednesday, 7:40-8:00am on Friday, as well as several special times during Lent. Come and receive the Lord's mercy, especially if it's been a while!
- **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed as a community every Friday evening at 5:00pm. Let this be a way of meditating on the great love that the Lord shows for us in His Passion and Death.
- **Our Parish Mission will be held at 6:00pm on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>.** Fr. Jeffrey Montz, who filled in for me in the month of July, will present on "Prayer: The Heartbeat of the Spiritual Life." Join us for this opportunity to grow in your life of prayer.
- **Bishop Robert Barron's Daily Lenten Reflections** are available for all to pick up a copy in church. These can be a good start to developing the habit of daily meditation on Scripture.
- **Giving alms** to those in need helps us to detach ourselves from the things of this world. We can donate to our own St. Vincent de Paul conference or we can carry snacks or bottles of water for those who are begging on the streets.

However the Lord calls you to enter into this holy season of Lent, respond with generosity. The Lord desires that we should grow in our relationship with Him over these 40 days. May our hearts be open to His call to greater holiness.

To Jesus through Mary,

Fr. Jonathan  
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