

2017 Celebration of Lent

Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving! We know the meaning of Lenten discipleship in terms of these three traditional practices. **Life is a journey.** Through our baptism, we were called, asked to become disciples. Our faith journey began, but we get distracted and take a different path from discipleship. Sometimes we find ourselves in a desert of confusion and temptations. Sometimes in our journey, we are on “cloud 9.” Like the Samaritan woman, we may thirst for living water. Or, like the blind man, we may seek more than physical sight. With Lazarus’ sisters we may rejoice when we experience new life. So each year, the 40 day retreat of Lenten discipleship invites us to return, making our way back to Christ. This Lent let the prayer and activities of our parish help us be disciples, one with Jesus in his journey to Jerusalem.

ASH WEDNESDAY:

- A simple meal of soup and bread on Wednesday, March 1, at 6:15. Call the parish office by **noon on Monday, February 27, 2017**, to register your family.
- The burning of the palms will happen at **6:50 p.m. on Ash Wednesday at the west side of the church**; Mass Liturgy with Distribution of Ashes begins at 7:00 p.m.
- **Ashes and Communion to the Homebound** will be brought by home visitors (part of the Pastoral Care ministry) to those who are homebound and unable to participate in the Ash Wednesday liturgy. If you have a family member or know of a Good Shepherd parishioner who would like a visit, **please call the office.**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

- **Cluster Communal Penance Services:** 1 – Good Shepherd: Saturday, April 1, 9:00 a.m.
2 – St. James: Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.
- Individual Penance (in the reconciliation room in the Mary of Magdala Chapel, south entrance, every Saturday, 3:30 p.m.)

ALMSGIVING:

Our Lenten Almsgiving focus this year will be to support Liberian child and youth education in Cape Palmas, Liberia. This is the same community that Fr. Patrick Kroteh spoke about when he was here last Fall on Mission Sunday. For 16 years, because of the threat of violence on the streets from civil war, and then the fear of spreading the Ebola virus, all schools were closed. The time has come to rebuild their education programs. **Be sure to stop in the lobbies after Mass to pick up a schoolhouse and information flyer so that we can support the missions and children of Liberia.**

PRAYER/MEDITATION AID:

- Cluster calendar of prayer events – bulletin insert, Feb. 25/26. Pull this insert; put in a prominent place.
- **One% Challenge** – to help you get to know Jesus by taking **1% of your day (15 minutes) to pray with scripture for 30 days.**

SPECIAL LENTEN ACTIVITIES:

- **Evening Prayer:** Sundays – 6:00 p.m. March 5, 12, 26, April 2
- **Stations of the Cross:** Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5 at 6:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd
- **4 Saints and a Good Shepherd clustering churches – Lenten Days of Renewal: “DISCIPLESHIP TODAY” – Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus:** March 19-21, 2017
- **Spotlight – Adult Faith Formation Series** – 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the church hall presents: **March 5 “Compassionate Conversations” with Debra Schneider**
- **Reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings.** See videos from the TheFiveLoaves on the Good Shepherd website.
- **Generations of Faith (GOF):** Sat/Sun., March 11/12