

As we are just starting to get into the groove of things in Ordinary Time, we have reached the end of the first part of this 34 week journey to make our yearly pilgrimage through the desert as we come to Ash Wednesday and our entry into the holy season of Lent.

These days of Lent, are days dedicated to fasting, prayer, and giving alms as a commemoration of Christ's fasting in the desert for 40 days.

They are days that are meant to have a strongly penitential feel to them. We symbolically don our sack-cloth and ashes on Ash Wednesday. We have an ashen cross smudged on our foreheads as a reminder that we are sinners. We came from the earth and we shall return to the earth. We will carry this cross with us all day and people will ask, what is that? And we will kindly explain to them what it is and why we are doing it.

We may even need to remind ourselves why we are doing it and why it does matter.

We will begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, February 14. We will have two Celebrations of the Eucharist that day with distribution of ashes. Mass will be at 8:30 am and 7:00 pm. Father James will NOT be hearing confessions at 5:00 pm this day.

Starting on Friday, February 16 and every Friday of Lent we will have Soup Supper and Stations of the Cross. We will gather in the Parish Center for Soup together with our parish family at 6:00 pm. At 7:00 pm we will have Stations of the Cross in the Church. Please plan to join us for one or all of these evening walks along with Jesus during His final steps as He makes His way up to the cross and His victory over death.

Also, I would like to invite you to join me for daily Mass starting on Ash Wednesday and going through the end of the Easter season which ends on Pentecost Sunday. Mass times will be as follows:

Monday and Tuesday 12:05 pm  
Wednesday 8:30 am School Mass and 6:00 pm  
Thursday to Saturday 8:30 am

Confessions are held Wednesdays from 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm, Saturday 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm and by appointment.

Please keep an eye on the bulletin and the parish website for more activities during Lent 2018 here at St. Francis and in some of our surrounding communities.

Let us enter this season of Lent with full resolve to make this the best Lent possible, so that we can come to Easter Sunday rejoicing joyfully as we cry out Alleluia to our Victor King!!