



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As we enter this last full week before Lent, I'd like to share some points of counsel for the Sacred Season that is upon us. We know from nature that good things don't just happen and the same is true for things of super-nature. Giving thought to our Lent of 2024 is important. SO...A Few thoughts:

- 1: Know the Goal!** The Goal is holiness, growing in your union and likeness to God. Lent a time to make still greater progress in that goal. Consider St. Paul's words: "It is God's will that you grow in holiness: that you abstain from immorality, each of you guarding his member in sanctity and honor, not in passionate desire as do the Gentiles who know not God. God has not called us to immorality but to holiness." (1 Thess 4:3-8)
- 2: Try the 1% Challenge!** Whether it's holiness or weight loss, we know that all or nothing is usually not a good approach. So when it comes to Lent 2024, consider the 1% Prayer Challenge! 1% of your day is 14 minutes and 24 seconds. Might you be willing to give that time to God? Does that seem like a lot of time? For some, perhaps it does! But what a beautiful gift that could be to the Lord! It could be a great blessing for others! Consider this commitment. What might my day look like if I gave 1% of it to prayer? Our Parish is here to help you in this endeavor.
- 3: Do not do it alone!** While our choices this Lent are our choices, we do not operate in a vacuum. In fact, we only grow in relationship, in community with others. Lone Rangers are dangerous strangers! We are called to be Friends on God and one another. This is why the Church is so important; it's why spiritual but not religious is so bogus. Right Religion binds us to the Lord who is Life and Love, Communion and Grace. Allow for Church this Lent!
- 4: Finally, the **traditional Lenten Practices** of PRAYER, FASTING/ABSTINENCE, & ALMSGIVING are the way in which we grow in FAITH, HOPE & LOVE. Prayer grows the soul in union with God; Fasting/abstinence grows our passion for God; and Almsgiving grows the heart in Love.

Give some thought to these thoughts for yourself, for others, for the Lord as Lent approaches!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

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**FATHER CHUCK'S CHALLENGE**-Next weekend Fr. Charles Kennedy will be speaking at all our Masses. He represents Father Chuck's Challenge, an initiative celebrating the memory and ministry of Father Charles Pfeffer, a deceased beloved priest of our archdiocese.

Over the last 17 years, donors to Father Chuck's Challenge have provided over 1,500 homes for desperately poor beneficiaries, previously living virtually homeless, in plastic and plank shelters, in an area frequently ravished by tropical storms-in the Northern Highlands of Nicaragua and in hurricane ravaged Haiti, but hundreds more need help of all kinds. Last year 55 families in Honduras received new homes.

Information is available on our website: [www.fatherchuckschallenge.com](http://www.fatherchuckschallenge.com). This includes a video of a trip to Haiti.

*"Whatever you do for the least of My brothers, you do for Me. (Mt25:40)*

#### The Core Beliefs of our Catholic Faith-The Real Presence

As a result of the recently completed DMI (Disciple Maker Index) survey, the St. Patrick's Pastoral Council established goals for the parish to achieve over the next several years. One goal is to present information to help increase knowledge of the core beliefs of our Catholic faith. Since we are in the midst of a Eucharistic Revival, we will start by examining the Real Presence-the divinely revealed truth that the Blessed Sacrament is the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ. Within a few weeks, links to short videos on the Real Presence will be in Flocknote, the bulletin, and the Parish website. Please take the time to view these videos to learn not just what we believe but WHY we believe.