

My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Happy Mardi Gras Week! Actually, Mardi Gras is just a day, but it falls in this week which is recognized on both secular and sacred calendars as, the beginning of Lent. As I write this column Pope Francis remains in critical condition and remains in our good prayer.

As we enter Lent, a few words about the Season and some things to consider about living it this year.

The traditional practices of **PRAYER, FASTING & ALMSGIVING** remain perennial ways in which we can grow in Charity. Prayer helps us to grow in our love for God and gives us an opportunity to receive His Love. Fasting helps us to grow in greater love and realization of our Christian Dignity, as creatures made in God’s image and likeness. And Almsgiving helps us to express our love for those in need.

Now a few thoughts on Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving as they relate to Lent 2025 here at St. Patrick:

- 1) **Prayer**: As familiar as we may be with prayer, there are always deeper depths and higher heights to this awesome ability that we have as humans, to communicate with God. Of course, He communicates to us in His Son and His Son is Alive, continuing to share His Word, His Peace, His very Self with us. I strongly encourage all of you this Lent to commit to the gift of prayer, not just saying prayers. But prayer with and in the parish community. Start this week:
 - A) **Friday Evening**: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with prayer led and guided by Irish tenor, Mark Forrest. I promise that this will be a VERY SPECIAL NIGHT OF HEALING and a great way of beginning Lent
 - B) **Week 1 of Lent**: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday our parish 40 Hours. Make an appointment and spend some time with Jesus before the Eucharist. Just being with Him has power to change us. I double-dog dare you to commit to a half hour each day with the Lord!


- 2) **Fasting**: This is a tough discipline. I wake up on Ash Wednesday very hungry! But the gift of fasting is that it can remind us of our Christian Dignity. That we can have self-control when it comes to food, entertainment, etc. We can say “yes”, we can say “no”. And if we can’t say “no”, what does our “yes” mean? Through fasting, “yeses” and “nos” become more powerful.

- 3) **Almsgiving**: We are quite familiar with this discipline and the parishioners of St. Patrick’s are quite generous! Look at all you have done, built and provided for in recent years! For this Lent, I suggest that the charity that you give to be Philadelphia’s own **Catholic Charities Appeal**. Philadelphia’s Catholic Charities Appeal is different from Catholic Charities USA or that which you see in the news. All monies raised from **Philadelphia’s Catholic Charities Appeal** stays in the Archdiocese and helps fund much of the Church’s outreach to the poor. Our Parish goal this year is \$80K and I think we can do it!

Enjoy your Mardi Gras and I’ll see you in Church as we begin Lent!


Peace, Fr. Rogers

ST. PATRICK PARISH 40 HOURS ~ HOPE MARCH 9 – MARCH 11, 2025




Sunday, March 9th

- Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
- 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM – Adoration
- 5:00 PM – Evening Prayer & Reflection with the **Sisters of Life**




Monday, March 10th

- 7:30 AM Mass
- 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM – Adoration
- 7:00 PM – Evening Prayer & Reflection with **Fr. Randy Kraft**



Tuesday, March 11th

- 7:30 AM Mass
- 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM – Adoration
- 7:00 PM – Evening Prayer & Reflection with **Fr. Sean O'Neill**



ST. PATRICK PARISH LENTEN 40 HOURS DEVOTION-SUNDAY, MARCH 9-TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025. THEME: HOPE

Join us for a time of spiritual renewal and Eucharistic Adoration from Sunday, March 9 – Tuesday, March 11, 2025. This is a special opportunity to deepen our appreciation of the Eucharist and to strengthen our relationship with Jesus.

During this time period, you are welcome and encouraged to spend 15 minutes to an hour, or whatever time you can afford, in prayer for the Blessed Sacrament. Each evening there is an opportunity for spiritual growth, renewal, and healing with evening prayer, benediction, and a special speaker.

To help us ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is never left alone, we encourage you to sign up for 30 minutes or 1 hour with our Eucharistic Lord. Please scan the QR code or visit the parish website on more details to sign up.

