



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

February 11, 2024

With our celebration of Ash Wednesday on February 14th, we officially begin the *Sacred Season of Lent*. *Lent* is a very meaningful & important time in the liturgical calendar. Each year in the liturgy for *Ash Wednesday*, the Church places before us Jesus' teaching on the three disciplines of *prayer, fasting, & almsgiving*. (See Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18) As we hear this teaching at the beginning of our *Lenten* journey, the Church invites us to consider how we will further incorporate them into our lives as followers of Jesus. *Prayer, fasting & almsgiving* will help renew our faith and prepare for us our solemn celebration of Holy Week & Easter.

This year, before we commence the *Lenten Season* as a parish, we are going to have a Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday, February 13th. This Tuesday before Ash Wednesday is traditionally known as *Shrove or Fat Tuesday*. Essentially, it is a day of feasting and celebrating before the penitential days of *Lent*. We invite you to join us for dinner in the Faith Formation Center and the burning of old palms to be used for our ashes on Ash Wednesday. Proceeds from this event will go to support our Legacy of Father Mick: Mortgage Fund. See the flier for all of the details.

Also, on Tuesday, March 5th we will host a Penance Service at 6pm in the Church. After a brief prayer service, there will be about 10 priests available to assist with individual Confessions. Participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important way to enter into the *Lenten Season* and experience the forgiveness and mercy of our loving God. I hope that you can join us for our Mardi Gras celebration, one of our Ash Wednesday services and our Parish Penance Service.

Peace & Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. John Large". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Father John Large  
Pastor