

February, 2023

We entered into the holy season of Lent with a snowstorm that made our Ash Wednesday observance more challenging. Still, many of us came to the Church and attended the Mass and applied the traditional ashes on our forehead and began the spiritual journey to prepare ourselves to celebrate the paschal mystery of our salvation. It is indeed a great time for restoring and renewing our relationship to God and one another. Let us use all our wonderful Lenten practices to reflect, nourish and rejuvenate our spiritual lives.

I feel it is a great time for our parish to renew ourselves and our faith to share the merciful love of Christ with others. Along with all our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and helping those who are in need, I ask you also to pray for our parish family that we may truly become a community of believers caring for the well-being of one another. I am excited to share that Fr. Tim Kitzke, the Rector of St. John's Cathedral, has agreed to guide us in our Parish Retreat this year on March 20, 21, 22 in the evenings. This will be a great time for us to come together and pray for one another and help our parish to be renewed, healed and strengthened.

Lent is also a time for reflecting about how we live our lives and where we have failed. All our scripture readings during Lent invite us to repent and receive the mercy of God. The Church shares with us the wonderful sacrament of reconciliation to free us from our sins and heal us from all our brokenness. I invite you to avail the various opportunities to make a good confession during this Lent and allow the merciful Lord to free us from the burden of sin. Beside the regular first Saturday Confessions, we have confessions on Wednesdays after Mass, and I would like to introduce confessions after the Mass on Lenten Fridays. We will also have confessions on our Retreat days. Another opportunity will be on March 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Matthias where priests from our area will be available for confessions all day.

I thank you all for the generous support once again for the success of our Love Another Campaign. We reached 62% of our goal and 31% of our parish participated in the campaign. I am so grateful to our co-chairs and the volunteers who worked very hard to make the campaign a success. It was a great opportunity to connect with and discuss the life and future of our parish with you all. I am glad to share with you that our first major capital project has already started with refurbishing our stain glass windows in the church.

Please pray for me to be a good shepherd to guide our parish. It is only with your prayers and support I have the strength to continue my ministry. Thank you for all your love and support. I assure you of my continued prayers even more during this season of Lent and especially at all the Masses I celebrate.

With Blessings and Love,

Fr. Matthew Perumpil, MI  
Pastor