

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

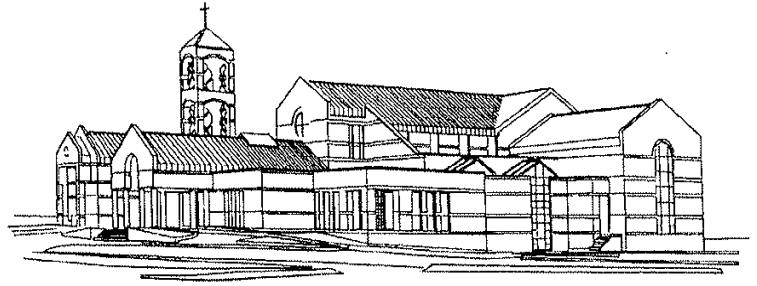
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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT February 18, 2018

Lenten Message from the Pastor

Dear parishioners,

On Ash Wednesday, which marked the beginning of our Lenten journey, Jesus invited us to follow him into the wilderness to experience what he experienced for forty days and forty nights. As the scriptures say, shortly after his baptism, the Spirit led Jesus into the desert, where he prayed and fasted for forty days (*Matt 4:1*) before launching his public ministry. The Church offers us this powerful season to help us examine our lives, acknowledge our sins and seek repentance through prayer, fasting and almsgiving and to prepare for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. That is, the passion, death and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Cari parrocchiani,

La settimana scorsa abbiamo celebrato Mercoledì delle Ceneri, segnando l'inizio della Quaresima. Gesù ci ha invitati a seguirlo nel deserto per fare esperienza di ciò che lui ha vissuto per quaranta giorni e quaranta notti. Come troviamo nella scrittura, poco dopo il suo battesimo, Gesù fu condotto dallo Spirito nel deserto dove ha pregato e digiunato per quaranta giorni (Matteo 4:1) prima di iniziare il suo ministero pubblico. La Chiesa ci offre questo periodo per aiutarci ad esaminare le nostre vite, per riconoscere i nostri peccati, e cercare il pentimento attraverso la preghiera, il digiuno e fare l'elemosina per aiutarci a celebrare il Mistero Pasquale, cioè la passione, morte e risurrezione di Gesù Cristo.

Pope Francis contends that, "by devoting more time to prayer, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception. Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbour as a brother or sister. And fasting allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure and expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbor" (2018 Lenten Message).

Papa Francesco afferma che, "Dedicando più tempo alla preghiera, permettiamo al nostro cuore di scoprire le menzogne segrete con le quali inganniamo noi stessi. L'esercizio dell'elemosina ci libera dall'avidità e ci aiuta a scoprire che l'altro è mio fratello. Il digiuno ci permette di sperimentare ciò che provano quanti mancano anche dello stretto necessario e conoscono i morsi quotidiani dalla fame; dall'altra, esprime la condizione del nostro spirito, affamato di bontà e assetato della vita di Dio. Ci fa più attenti a Dio e al prossimo" (Messaggio per la Quaresima 2018).

Besides fasting from food and drinks, we need to:
Fast from hatred, feast on love
Fast from conflicts and family feuds, feast on peace
Fast from being nosy, feast on minding your own business
Fast from complaining, feast on accepting the things you cannot change
Children, fast from video games and feast on doing your homework

*Oltre a digiunare da cibi e bevande, dobbiamo:
Digiunare dall'odio, riempirci di amore
Digiunare dai conflitti e le liti in famiglia, riempirci di pace
Digiunarci dall'essere invadenti, e farci gli affair nostri
Digiunare dal lamentarci, accettare le cose che non possiamo cambiare
Bambini: digiunate dal giocare ai video giochi e fate i compiti*

May the Lord help us to have a fruitful and enriching Lenten season.

Possa il Signore aiutarci durante questa Quaresima a vivere un'esperienza di viva fede.

Fr. Eugene Chianain
Pastor

P. Eugene Chianain
Pastor

**Let us welcome the following children
to our community through the
Sacrament of Baptism**



*Ava Elizabeth Del Favero
Alessandra Raffaella Manzella*

**Sunday February 25, 2018:
Final Parent/Child Workshop for
First Holy Communion Candidates**

The workshop will be held from **1:45-4pm** in the Hall and Church. Please bring the *We Share in the Eucharist* Book. Only parents and First Communion candidates should attend. Please make alternate arrangements for all other siblings.

**2018 First Reconciliation Dates
for First Holy Communion Candidates**

- * Monday February 26, 2018 at 7:30pm:
St. Catherine, St. Gabriel & Other Schools
- * Tuesday February 27, 2018 at 7:30pm:
St. John Bosco, Immaculate Conception

2018 First Holy Communion Dates

- * Sunday April 29, 2018 at 12:30pm:
St. Catherine & Other Schools
- * Sunday May 6, 2018 at 12:30pm: *St. Gabriel*
- * Sunday May 27, 2018 at 12:30pm: *St. John Bosco*
- * Sunday June 3, 2018 at 12:30pm:
Immaculate Conception

Income Tax Receipts

Income tax receipts for the 2017 taxation year may be picked up from the parish office during office hours.

Le ricevute delle tasse per l'anno 2017 sono pronte. possono essere ritirate in ufficio parrocchiale durante gli orari d'apertura.

Parish Office Closure

The parish office will be closed on **Monday February 19, 2018** for the Family Day Holiday.

L'ufficio parrocchiale rimarrà chiuso lunedì 19 febbraio, 2018 per la ricorrenza del Family Day.

2018 Confirmation Dates

- * Friday April 13, 2018 at 7pm: *St. Gabriel*
- * Friday April 20, 2018 at 7pm:
Immaculate Conception, St. Catherine
- * Friday April 27, 2018 at 7pm:
St. John Bosco & Other Schools

**Confirmation Retreat and
Gown Measurements**

All Confirmation candidates must attend a retreat in the Church Hall from **1-4pm** on the following dates:

- * Saturday February 24, 2018:
St. Gabriel, St. Catherine
- * Saturday March 3, 2018: *Immaculate Conception,
St. John Bosco, Other School*

**Missed Class Schedule for
Confirmation Candidates**

Confirmation candidates are reminded of the following missed class schedule. All classes will be held from **7pm-8:30pm** at Immaculate Conception Parish.

- *Lesson 1:* Tuesday February 20, 2018
- *Lesson 2:* Wednesday February 21, 2018
- *Lesson 3:* Thursday February 22, 2018
- *Lesson 4:* Friday February 23, 2018
- *Lesson 5:* Monday February 26, 2018

**Celebration of Memory and New Life
for all Deceased in 2017**

A bilingual Mass with a Candlelight Service in memory of all parishioners who passed away in 2017 will be held on: **Wednesday February 21, 2018 at 8:00pm.**

Mercoledì 21 febbraio, 2018 alle ore 8:00pm ci sarà una S. Messa bilingue con l'accensione dei lumini per ricordare tutti i parrocchiani defunti nell'anno 2017.

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at 7:30 pm in English and at 8:00 pm in Italian.

Tutti i Venerdì di Quaresima alle ore 19,30 di sera in inglese e alle 20,00 in italiano.