

Bulletin Evangelization Notices

March, 2017



March 5 ~ First Sunday of Lent

Jesus was like us in all things but sin. He was tempted, sorely tempted, over and over. This first Sunday in Lent might a good time to take account of the things in our lives that tempt us away from God and from the light of Christ. Like New Year's resolutions, Lent is a time to look at what needs improvement in our relationship with God. The three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It's not about fasting to lose 10 pounds, it's fasting to build up strength to resist temptation. A common practice in Lent is to give up something we like – a latte, not Brussel sprouts – and putting that money in a mission box or your St. Vincent de Paul box. Make this Lent a good one. Also, pray, today, for the hundreds of catechumens and candidates in our archdiocese who are entering the next stage of preparation to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist or be received into the Catholic Church.

March 12 ~ Second Sunday of Lent

Transfigure. The dictionary defines this: "to give a new and typically exalted or spiritual appearance to: transform outwardly and usually for the better." At the Transfiguration of the Lord, Peter, James, and John heard the voice of God: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." This message is for us. Listen to Him. Pray that you, too, will be transfigured not just in appearance, but as an authentic, courageous messenger of God's love.

March 19 ~ Third Sunday of Lent

In many parishes those preparing for initiation into the Catholic Church – Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist – at the Easter Vigil, will experience the first of three Scrutinies today. Scrutinies are "... rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose.... meant to uncover, and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good." All of us can benefit from 'self-searching and repentance'. Look at the Samaritan woman in today's Gospel. Her conversation with Jesus put her on the 'fast track' to self-searching and repentance. Her conversation with Jesus transformed her into a great evangelizer: "Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, 'Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?'" This week, share what God has done for you with someone. Invite someone to *Come see....*

March 26 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ Laetare Sunday

Laetare – Rejoice! We are nearing the end of our Lenten journey. How is your Lent? Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians and the Gospel story of the man born blind talk about light and dark. We are two weeks into Daylight Savings Time, days are longer, but is the light of faith growing stronger in you? "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord." It's not too late. Prayer, fasting, almsgiving (charity) are the pillars of Lent. How can you make these pillars pleasing to the Lord during these last weeks of Lent? It's. Not. Too. Late.