

From the Pastor's Desk:

We are now in the season of Lent. This is a wonderful time to help to change the pace of things, to break the routine a bit and see what we can discover. When we are in the same routine over and over we tend to have things go past us, we get to comfortable and familiar and can miss things. I recently was driving down a road that I had driven down hundreds of times on my way somewhere. I turned and noticed a business that I had never seen before - it didn't look new - I had missed it all these times. I was on "autopilot" going down that stretch of the road. Many times in life we are on "autopilot" just going from one thing to another. Prayer and Mass can also become routine and not as fruitful an experience as it could be. Lent is a time to slow down a little, take a look where we may not have looked, and notice something for the first time that may have been there for years.

I encourage you to look at our list of Lenten activities. These were in the bulletin last week. There should be extra copies of the purple sheets in the back of the church if you missed it. You can also get a PDF copy on your computer or phone by going to the website (annunciationgardner.org). I would like to highlight a few things. The deanery pilgrimage provides a weekly (Wednesday Evening) way to hear a brief talk, attend a devotion, and go to confession. They are held at different churches in our deanery (local group of parishes). In addition to daily Masses Mon - Fri, we also will have evening Masses from 6:00-6:30 on Tuesday (Holy Rosary) and Thursday (Holy Spirit). Weekly Bible study helps to feed the mind, and our weekly Fish Fries help to feed the body. Check also for the penance service on April 7th, and our parish feast day celebration on March 25th.

This past week I have been in much discussion with architects and builders regarding our projects. Handicaps access to our halls remains a top priority. If you would like to make a memorial donation to assist in this project please see Fr. Steve. The scope of the project will be limited by the available funds. We are working to get the best value and most for each dollar spent. We held a confirmation retreat on Saturday, please remember to pray for these young people that they grow in their relationship with Jesus and take their place as positive members of the Church.

We have Pastoral Council this week. I will update you afterwards regarding what we discussed. We will be getting out the parish survey for you to provide your feedback, and the logo design for consideration. Please feel free to contact any Pastoral Council member with ideas, suggestions, criticisms, questions, or other concerns. We do discuss these and ask the Holy Spirit to help continue to chart our course as a parish community. As we begin our Lenten observance, let us all work to see what we have missed, to try out what parish activities we may have felt the gentle tug to try out, and to keep our eyes open for what the Lord wishes to show us.

God Bless You,
Fr. Steve