

February 22, 2015

## First Sunday of Lent (B)

### From The Desk of



#### Msgr. Corrigan:

Many thanks to Joanne Kunny who has just stepped down as Chairperson of our Parish Council; she has served in this most important job for many years. She has done a great service for our parish.

Our Parish Council meets once a month (except during the summer). Some of its members are chosen or elected by their specific groups e.g. Spanish community, Arabic community. Others are ex officio members e.g. coordinator of our Religious Education program, priests who are assigned to our parish. Others are chosen by me because they reflect the diversity of our parishioners. Our committees include Christian Services, Finance, Religious Education, Arabic Community, and Spanish Community. We have reports from ad hoc committees e.g. Making All Things New.

Members of the current Parish Council are: Julius Rodriguez (Chairperson), Miguel Herrera, Loretta Skrobola, Francisca Fugah, Julio Viegas, Maria Neto, Beverly Barbour, George Russ, Matil Hassou, Joanne Kunny, Isidoro Acevedo, Marisa Rivera, Fr. Felino Reyes, Fr. Fares Hattar and Msgr. Hugh J. Corrigan.

It is with great sadness that I report the sudden death of Danny O'Connor, his funeral Mass was celebrated on last Tuesday. He was the main usher for the 5:00pm Saturday Evening Mass for many years. He was a good and faithful servant of the Lord and our parish. He will be missed.



#### COLLECTION:

The collection for last Sunday, February 15, 2015 was \$2,491.00.

The second collection next Sunday March 1, 2015 will be for the support of the Catholic Relief Services.



#### Monthly Food Collection:

Please remember the needy in our community this week when you go food shopping, our monthly food collection will be next Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>. Once again thank you for your generosity for those in need in our community.

### First Sunday of Lent:

*As we begin this holy season of Lent, we place our trust in our loving, listening, compassionate, and forgiving God. We look at our misgivings, hurts, and sinfulness, asking God to forgive us.*

#### The first reading,

Genesis 9:8-15; **God** comforts a people filled with fear. They have a sure sign that **God** will not forget the covenant.

#### In the second reading,

1 Peter 3:18-22; **Peter** recalls **Christ'** death and resurrection. This was his victory over evil, and we share this victory in Baptism.



#### In the Gospel,

Mark 1:12-15; **Jesus** is tempted by Satan 40 days in the desert. He then went to Galilee to proclaim the gospel of **God**.

Today' Focus: Invitation, Not Condemnation: From the time of **Noah** to the time of **Jesus** through our own times. **God** continues to issue and invitation to return to the faithfulness of the covant.

Praying with the Word: Lord **God** of peace. this Lenten season be for us a time of being shelltered by you in the wilderness, so that we may emerge at Easter into a world made new by the power of **Christ's** resurrection.



#### Question of the Week:

Do I percive **God** as one at war the with the world, or as one who has hung up the bow as a sign of peace?



During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference.



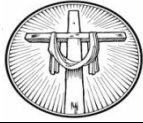
#### Way of the Cross Devotion during Lent:

*On the Fridays of Lent St. Mary's will have the Stations of the Cross:*

In English: after the 12:05 Mass

In Arabic: at 6:45pm

In Spanish: at 8:00pm



**Lent 2015:** If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. -**Luke 9:23**

**Sunday Feb.22-Repent!:** Reconcile yourself to **God**. Seek out the forgiveness he offers us in the Sacrament of Penance. **Mark 1:12-15**

**Monday Feb.23-Judge Not:** Refrain from rash judgments. Our **God** is just, filled with mercy and compassion. **Lv19:1-2, 11-18**

**Tuesday Feb.24- Our Father:** Today, pray the prayer that **Jesus** taught us. Remember to focus on **God's** forgiveness. **Matthew 6:7-15**

**Wednesday Feb. 25-Sackcloth and Ashes:** Even the mighty need to humble themselves to do God's will. **Jonah 3:1-10**

**Thursday Feb.26- Just Ask!:** Prayer is at the heart of our Lenten journey. God wants to hear our prayers. **Matthew 7:7-12**

**Friday Feb. 27-Holding Grudges:** Open your heart to reconciliation, seeking ways to settle old disagreements. **Matthew 5:20-26**

**Saturday Feb.28- Perfection:** Can we attain perfection? God asks nothing less if us. Lent is a good time to try. **Matthew 5:43-48**

#### **Celebration for Fr. Virgilio Competente:**

We will be celebrating Fr. Virgilio's retirement and his 20 years of service to St. Mary's on March 7<sup>th</sup> with a Mass at 12:00 and a reception in the Church Hall following the Mass. All are welcome to join in the festivities.

