



February 10, 2021

Dear Parishioner
of Blessed Trinity + Spirit of Christ:

“A LENT LIKE NO OTHER.”

Covid-19 fears continue to interrupt so much in our life; the divisions and hatred so rampant in our country continue to harm and concern us; separation from family, friends and church haunt us. The darkness can seem overwhelming and the wounds deep and open. Still, even now, the lenten days of “purification and enlightenment” begin on **Ash Wednesday, February 17.**

The past year has been like no other in our memory. Yet we have continued to believe, hope, care and pray, trusting that through it all Christ still abides among us; the Spirit moves through us and God is still seen in the many faces of the whole human family.

The hope and promise of healing is on the horizon, we can see a light to lead us home again. Moved with compassion, Jesus, as we will hear in this Sunday’s Gospel, is stretching out his hand over us, as we prepare to receive the promised vaccine given for our healing and the safety of the whole human family. When available, I urge

you to register to receive this healing gift as soon as possible, confident that God’s grace and love has brought us all to this healing moment. Then, as the year unfolds, we will, as the Gospel tells us, be able “to show ourselves again;” able to be seen as followers of Christ gifted with his compassion and healing mercy. Still we attend to the need for social distancing, facial coverings, hand washings, etc., with a vibrant concern for the care and safety of others—an offering to heal the wounds of the day.

So, Lent 2021 begins, still unlike any other in our memory; still needed, still calling us to renewal of heart and faith. As the Sunday’s of Lent 2021 unfold, we will encounter Jesus calling us to “believe in the Gospel;” leading us to a high mountain where we can see anew; inviting us to renew our zeal for the House of the Lord; pleading with us to live in the light of truth; and trusting that bearing the holy cross, we will live our life for the sake of others.

Ash Wednesday, our beginning, marks us with the challenges and hope of these unique and passing days. **We will celebrate the Mass of Ash Wednesday at 12:10 and 7:00 pm.** As on Sunday all Covid-19 protocols will be followed. Due to pandemic concerns ashes will be

distributed in a “unfamiliar” manner. Instead of placing the ashen cross on the forehead, the ashes will be “sprinkled” over the top of each person’s head. While this is unique to us it is the common practice in most of the world. It was also the manner of “distributing ashes” in the earlier centuries of the Church’s liturgy. So still we begin, still we are marked, waiting to be washed anew in the hopeful, life-giving waters of Easter and bathed in the new light of the Risen Christ.

Still, during our Lenten journey, we must be care-full when we gather, while at the same time caring for those who feel uncomfortable being in church due to the virus. Those who feel unable to gather continue to be with us in spirit; with you we share hope and trust in the healing love of the Christ we follow. We long for the day we are safely together again at the Lord’s Table.

During Lent, **DAILY MASS** will be celebrated on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12:10 (Covid protocols will be followed).

The February 14 **BULLETIN** will provide an overview of Lent at Blessed Trinity + Spirit of Christ.

The parish website, blessedtrinitymissoula.org has numerous resources for prayer, ritual and activities at home—click on the **LENT 2021** tab.*

- ❖ Once again **GIVE US THIS DAY** has provided parishioners with full internet on-line access to the daily Prayer Book for all of Lent and Eastertime. Sign in directions are available on the website. **Parishioner USERNAME is xxxxx****
The Password is xxxxxxxxx*** (both are case sensitive).
- ❖ Guide for **Sunday Lenten Supper at Home**—a Table Prayer for the Sundays of Lent;
- ❖ **Keeping the Seasons:** Prayer and Reflection for each day of Lent;
- ❖ **Operation Rice Bowl**-direct link to the website: Lenten reflections, recipes, video. Remember to pick up your RICE BOWL at church.
- ❖ Various other articles of interest
- ❖ The Booklet, “**WHAT AM I DOING FOR LENT THIS YEAR**” is available at church entrances (*if you would like a copy mailed to your home, call the parish office-721-2405. If you do not have access to the internet and would like the various materials mailed to your home— including the weekly bulletin—please call the parish office).*

Even during these days we still need Lent; we still need to be renewed and restored; we still need to be marked as a faithful people on the way to a promised land of loving care, healing grace and living faith, a promised land where there is room for all, and “plenty good room” at that.

Then, as we will pray, “**light will break forth like the dawn; and our wounds will be quickly healed.**”

May the Lenten journey carry us into a new day filled with light, embraced in hope and certain in holy communion.

Sincerely,



Fr. Ed
Pastor



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**We would like to hear from you if the material on the website or bulletin is helpful to you.
Email the parish office@blessedtrinitymissoula.org
or call: 406-721-2405. Thank you.
** ***For Username and Password contact parish office.
THANK YOU.*