

March 13, 2022
From Fr. Jim. . .

Traditionally, Lent calls us to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In these ways we align ourselves more according to God's ways and we depend more on God's grace and we can become less dependent on the ways of the world and secular attitudes. Also, we become strengthened to say no to sin and temptation. As Ash Wednesday reminds us, and the Gospel from last Sunday: "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Any prayer, fasting and acts of charity that we do should strengthen our faith in the Good News of Jesus Christ and transform our lives and the lives of others.

Today we hear the Gospel of the Transfiguration of the Lord. As the Lord was transfigured before the eyes of the Apostles, so shall we be transfigured and share in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Paschal Mystery of the Lord is definitely about transforming our lives into sharing the glory of the Lord. The church, in the image of Christ, is likewise about transforming lives and helping all God's people move in the direction of the kingdom of heaven.

The CMA is about transforming lives. Our pledges to the CMA put food on the table for hungry families through Catholic Charities and social services. We help others hear the call to priesthood through vocational outreach and support the education of seminarians, deacons, and lay ministers at the Athenaeum/Mt. St. Mary's Seminary. We assure that chaplains will bring God's presence on college campuses, in hospitals, and in prisons. We bring hope to children with communication difficulties, and their families, at St. Rita School for the Deaf, and we provide continuing support for our retired archdiocesan priests who generously serve us all their lives. Our pledges will help fund new initiatives to encourage young Catholics to more fully engage themselves in the life of the Church, and to reach out to those who have drifted away from the Church.

With prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can learn to confront sinful ways in our lives and seek transformation and the glory of the resurrection. Please try to identify a major temptation in your personal life that could be destructive to you and/or to your family. Focus your energy on it this Lent and pray for a change in your attitude to resist the temptation. Stay in and with the Lord in this and share the victory of God's love and presence over sin and death. Can you also name a temptation against the "diversity in unity" that characterizes our parish? Are there any jealousies, judgements, prejudices, fears, concerns that could be destructive to our unity as a parish? How can we, as a parish community, stay together with the Lord and in the Lord to address these concerns and continue to be a place and a home that welcomes all people?

I encourage everyone to participate in some forms of prayer, fasting and works of charity. Let's celebrate the power of God's love over sin and death and grow deeper in our relationship with the Lord and each other. What transforming love we have been given and such transforming love we can share!

2022 CMA- thank you to everyone who has supported the 2022 CMA. If you have not yet made your pledge, please consider doing so online at CatholicAOC.org/CMA. Thank you!

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR- March 23-April 20, 2022- Do you want to experience God's love, power and presence? The Life in the Spirit Seminar is a life-transforming experience where you will discover Christ's personal and unconditional love for

YOU. Listen to dynamic teachings where you can encounter Christ personally and also experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This seminar will take place on 5 consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m. at Saint Ignatius Parish in Loyola Hall, located at 5222 North Bend Road. [For more information or to register call Mary Ann at 513.378.4431 or visit \[www.LRC1.org\]\(http://www.LRC1.org\)](#)

Cincinnati Right to Life is hosting the annual Hearbeats for Life 5K to support life in Greater Cincinnati. This provides an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals and support the incredible work of Cincinnati Right to Life. Please visit CincinnatiRightToLife.org to purchase tickets and find out more!

GARDEN RENOVATION – We are welcoming native plants if anyone has some to divide or donate, as well as shrubs for along the back fence. This spring/summer we are looking to renovate our community garden to a Mary/Mediation Garden to allow the vegetable beds to rest for a year. We are looking for volunteers to help prep the garden, weed, plant flowers, clean, re-structure as well as maintain the area. If this is something that interest you please send an email to akleemanstleo@aol.com

The Pillars of Lent- as we begin our Lenten journey, reflect on how your prayers, fasting and almsgiving can guide you. As Pope Francis explains, these are "elements which, when lived sincerely, can transform life and provide a sure foundation for dignity and fraternity." How can practicing the Lenten pillars transform your life and the lives of our sisters and brothers around the world? Visit csricebowl.org to learn more.

You can **read the Sunday bulletin** at: www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin

You can **read Fr. Jim's letter** at:

www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim

One way to help with Lenten Almsgiving is to Donate!! Our youth is looking for plastic Easter eggs , candy to fill them, and any small trinkets! You can see our latest needs on our [Amazon Wish List Link](#): https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Y6S276N39W08?ref_=wl_share. **Our office is also in need of a new vacuum cleaner. We also have a request for an electric stove. Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.**

