

1st Sunday of Lent
21 February 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The past few days have been very challenging for many of us across central Texas. In addition to the continued difficulties stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been seriously impacted by Winter Storm Uri which has left many – including many in our parish – without power, water, and common necessities. Many homes have experienced significant damage resulting from burst water pipes, severed powerlines, and downed trees and tree limbs. We know that many of you have risen to the occasion and have involved yourselves in providing food, water, shelter, and transportation to those who have been suffering. Thank you for your Christ-like generosity and kindness.

Our parish facilities have likewise fallen prey to the destructive forces of winter weather. On Tuesday and Wednesday, despite our precautionary measures, the parish experienced several water leaks that caused extensive flooding in the Religious Education Building, Benish Center, and Parish Offices. The Church Building has seen minor flooding and a variety of related electrical problems.

We share this information with you for several reasons. First, as we enter the sacred season of Lent, we are aware that this is a time of increased devotion for most of us. Despite the damage sustained to our facilities, Fr. Henry and I remain committed to the full cycle of Lenten devotions and liturgies. While we may have to make small modifications and put up with minor inconveniences during repairs, we will maintain the full Sunday and daily Mass schedule, Lenten confessions, Stations of the Cross, and Fr. Henry's Lenten holy hours.

Second, because of the damage sustained by the Parish Offices, please be patient with us as we try our best to continue to accommodate requests for appointments, respond to phone calls, and schedule baptisms, weddings, and other special events. We remain committed to serving you to the best of our abilities as we strive to move forward from this destructive event.

Finally, as many of you know, in a year that has already proven financially challenging for churches, Winter Storm Uri has already taken and will continue to take a significant financial toll on our parish. Along with the damage to our parish facilities, the weather conditions last Sunday and on Ash Wednesday meant that attendance was very limited which resulted in collections that were far below what they have been on typical Sundays during COVID. As we strive to clean up, repair, and restore our damaged facilities, we invite and encourage you to consider prayerful ways you could support your parish financially. We are extremely grateful for your support and generosity and continue to be committed to be good stewards of your financial gifts.

Assuring you of a continued remembrance in our prayers during this Lenten Season, we remain:

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Luis Alberto Caceres, Pastor

Rev. Henry Carter Finch, Parochial Vicar