

# 2018 Lenten Mission

## March 18 - March 22, 2018



**Fr. Mark what is a Mission?** A Mission is a time of great grace for individuals and the community as a whole. It's an experience of the Word made flesh among us and an occasion of healing, conversion, and reconciliation for a parish and its people. This year the Redemptorist Mission Team will be at our Parish in March.

**Fr. Mark who are the Redemptorists?** The Redemptorist are an international religious order of Priest, Brothers and Nuns. The official name of the Order is "The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer" established by St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori in 1732. The charism of the Order is to preach the Good News to all people, especially those most poor and abandon. Alphonsus learned quickly what the poor and abandon really was, that is economically, mentally and spiritually. What is unique to the Order is half of the Community observes the Roman Rite and half observe the Ukrainian Eastern Rite, yet answering to one Superior in Rome. The Redemptorists have been known for their dynamic Missions for Centuries and we are grateful they are able to come to St. Nicholas Church in Gig Harbor Washington.

The goal of the Mission is to provide a positive experience of God, leading to personal and ongoing conversion in a community setting. Essential elements of the Mission are preaching, reconciliation, fellowship, prayer, sacred and sacramental ritual, Scripture, and healing of relationships.

**Fr. Mark why the Redemptorist?** Redemptorists love to talk about redemption, about what Christ has done to set us free from the evils of sin and so has made it possible for us to be fully human and alive in Him, about a God who loves to forgive, and goes so far as to be willing to die to forgive.

A unique preaching style Redemptorists, having inherited a rich legacy of preaching redemption from their spiritual father, St. Alphonsus, see a Mission as an opportunity for healing, renewal, and reconciliation. Although some Missions concentrate on adult catechesis, Scripture study, and a variety of devotions, Redemptorists preach a Gospel of unconditional love in order to move hearts and change lives.

Preaching continual conversion means that the Mission is not merely a temporary spiritual boost but rather the beginning of a renewed relationship with the Holy Redeemer. The emphasis is on love and mercy, coupled with the availability for reconciliation and down-to-earth preaching. Laypeople are an important part of a Redemptorist Mission. They may be found signing fellow parishioners with holy water or processing into the sanctuary with a Bible to be enthroned. They may be seen distributing Holy Communion.

### Mission Prayer

Breathe into me,  
Holy Spirit, that my  
thoughts may all be holy.

Move in me,  
Holy Spirit, that my work,  
too, may be holy.

Attract my heart,  
Holy Spirit, that I may love  
only what is holy.

Strengthen me,  
Holy Spirit, that I may  
defend all that is holy.

Protect me,  
Holy Spirit, that I may  
always be holy.

Amen

*Saint Augustine*

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Some Missions involve children in skits depicting the Gospel; others organize processions with the Blessed Sacrament while a lay minister reads a healing prayer. Some larger Missions have engaged as many as 200 parishioners. Redemptorists believe laypeople are indispensable for the vitality of a present-day Mission. No matter what form they take, the message is consistent: *“in Jesus Christ there is plentiful redemption for all.”*

The Mission will take place in the church. It will start on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> and concludes with Mass the following Thursday night. Weeknight services may include preaching, benediction, meditation, the rosary, a Marian service, a Bible service, and a healing service. Redemptorists have a special care for un-churched Catholics and they especially welcome people who have been away from the Church. The parish Mission team calls and invites each parishioner personally and also calls those whom parishioners hope will return to the Church. All are invited and welcomed no matter how long they may have been away.

At every Mission, people return to the practice of their faith because a friend manages to persuade them to come and try it for one evening. What they find amazes them. They say they cannot believe the laughing, crying, and joy they experience during the Mission.

The Mission has morning sessions and evening sessions, please plan to attend as many as you can. You do not have to attend all of the sessions, you will be filled with God's Grace if you can attend one session or all of the sessions!

## ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

Invite you neighbors, friends and relatives.

They do not need to be Catholic to attend!

Let the Holy Spirit convert your heart and the hearts of community!

### *A short bio of Fr. Peter Shavitz, C.Ss.R.*



*Hometown: Chicago, IL*

*Professed as a Redemptorist: 1970*

*Ordained to the Priesthood: 1976*

*Father Pete has wide and varied apostolic experiences: youth, adult, couple, divorced, and nuns' retreats; seminary professor; vocation ministry; parish ministry; provincial administration; and, involvement in several radio and video projects.*

*Father Pete is a seasoned parish mission preacher whose faith, stories, humor, and words continue to spiritually impact thousands. Fr. Pete has been preaching Mission for over 25 years and over 350 Parish Missions, St. Nicholas will be his 367<sup>th</sup>.*

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**The Mission kicks off Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Church.  
Following Sunday's Session there will be a social in the Parish Center,  
All are Welcome!**

### *Weekday Sessions*

- Mon 9 AM begin with Mass, social in the Parish Center following.  
6 PM Session, social in the Parish Center following.*
- Tue 9 AM begin with Mass, social in the Parish Center following.  
6 PM Session, social in the Parish Center following.*
- Wed 9 AM begin with Mass, social in the Parish Center following.  
6 PM Session, social in the Parish Center following.*
- Thurs 6 PM Closing Mass and Session,  
Social in the Parish Center following.*