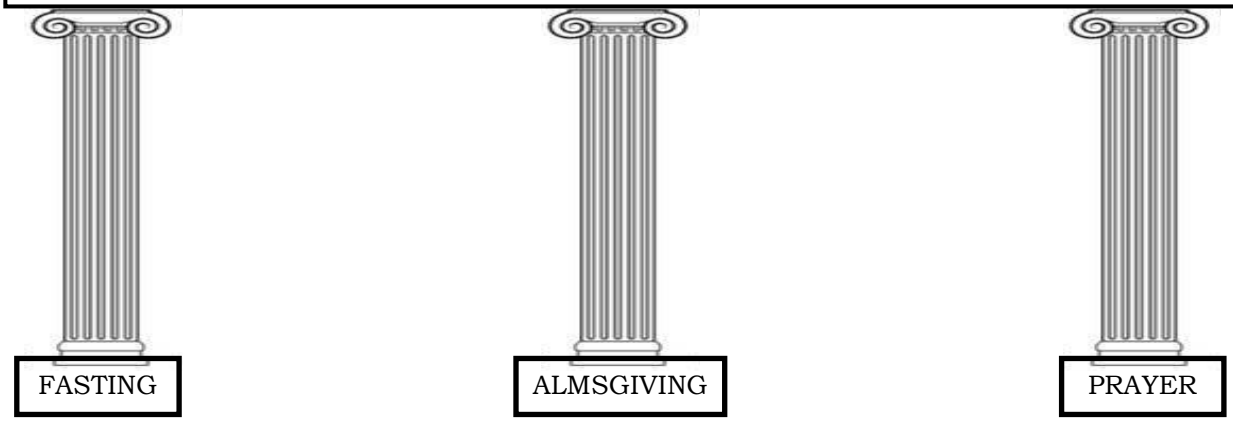
The Three Pillars of Lent



COIN COLLECTION

FAITH FORMATION LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECT

Faith Formation Students in Grades 1 - 8 are collecting coins to help expand a church in former Yugoslavia.

Donations accepted until Wednesday, April 19, 2017

The class that raises the most money will win a pizza party!

This past August, St. Benedict the Abbot Church hosted a newly ordained priest from Croatia, Fr. Joseph Tomic. This young priest has been "on fire with his faith" for years as is evident by his commitment to his local parish in Lic, Croatia. Raised in a formerly communist country which restricted religious worship, he spent his early years as an altar server and lector. As a young man, he brought many youth into church programs and helped sustain the Catholic faith in his small village. He and his friends, in fact, were a strong force when rebuilding the church of Our Lady of Snow. (Read the turbulent history and interesting story of this church on the reverse side.)

BE AN EVANGALIST THIS LENT . . .

HELP FR. JOE EXPAND

the Church of Our Lady of the Snow in Croatia

The Shrine of Our Lady of the Snow …

Legend, Legacy and Tradition

1603 – Inhabitants of this small town, Lic, in Croatia tried to rebuild the decrepit wooden church of St. John the Baptist. It kept collapsing until Aug 5th when a chapel of snow appeared like the one in Rome, with the image of Mary, The Blessed Mother looking down.

1609 – The church of Blessed Virgin Mary of the Snows was erected in the field on that site (Historical documents first officially mention this church in 1733). The church building did not survive through the ages.

1900 – Anniversary Procession from town to the field and Evening Prayer on the site.

1902 – Fr. Grga Starcevic served his first mass at the site of the church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Snows, he was the first native son to become a priest from this parish in the town of Lic.

1914 – Local parish priest blessed the cornerstone for a chapel to be built on the site.

1929 – The church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Snows was completed.

1943 – The church was destroyed by German troops because weapons were stored there by the partisan resistance. The man who planted the explosives later testified that he saw a vision of the Blessed Mother ascending to heaven as the church exploded, causing him to regret his action. People continued to process in pilgrimage to the site of the church.

1969 – First post-war procession with candles was organized and held. Now under communist rule the parishioners in the town of Lic attempted to rebuild but were forbidden.

1970, 80, 90 – Parishioners continue to make pilgrimage to the site of the church.

2006 – Chapel Shrine of Our Lady of the Snow was completed in the field in the town of Lic. Now independent, Croatia claims Catholicism as their National Religion. The shrine was built by local volunteers using funds donated by Croatian Catholics and people from around the world. The Catholic faith has found a new resurgence in independent Croatia as people are allowed to freely worship.

2016 – Newly ordained Fr. Joseph Tomic celebrates his first mass outside the chapel of Our Lady of the Snow with 600 townspeople, along with friends and relative who returned to the village for this special occasion… He is the native son ordained priest since 1902!

2017 – Fundraising is ongoing to expand the church building in this small town of vibrant Catholics.

Won't you please help with a donation so that the history of this parish may last for another couple hundred years !!

For more information about Fr. Joseph Tomic and his mission to expand the church you may speak with Fr. Bob Miller or to make a donation contact: cathym@sbapeters.org