



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary *Partners in Faith Newsletter*

3-6 March 2019



WEEKLY PRAYER

One holy and glorious God, we turn to you in praise that we may glorify your holy name! Bless us this week Lord as we begin the season of Lent. Open our eyes to see the areas of our lives that we need to reform. Open our ears to hear your Word in our lives. Open our hearts to ask for the forgiveness that all of us need in our failings. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

LENT

The holy season of Lent is upon us. We invite everyone, whether you are Nativity parishioners or not, to join us for all of our Lenten activities! All are welcome here!

We begin our “festivities” with Ash Wednesday. The church calls all adults (with exceptions for age and health) to observe this day as one of Fasting and Abstinence from meat. This first day of Lent is a day of repentance when the faithful come to church to receive ashes on their forehead. These ashes come from the Palms that were distributed last year at Palm Sunday, creating a continual link from last year to this year. The ashes are a reminder of the biblical times when the faithful were called to put on sackcloth and ashes to show their remorse and willingness to ask forgiveness from God. King David put on sackcloth and ashes to atone for his sins with Bathsheba. We too need to call to mind the many things that we do to offend God and receive ashes as a sign that we are sorry for transgressing and we are willing to ask forgiveness. The Wednesday night classes are all invited to participate in the 7 pm service and parents are invited too!

But Ash Wednesday is only the beginning! Throughout the forty days of Lent (excluding Sundays) we will be contributing to our Rice

Bowls to help the poor and needy of the world. Please be as generous as you can.

We are hosting a Lenten concert by Marty Rotella on 24 March, beginning at 10:45 am. This is a free concert and all are welcome to come and hear this nationally known artist!

As is tradition here at Nativity, we will be observing Stations of the Cross every Friday night at 5:30 in the Church or, weather permitting, in the Stations of the Cross garden to the south of the Pastoral Center. This is our annual observance and remembrance of the passion and death of our Lord at the hands of the Romans. Immediately following the stations at 6 pm will be a simple soup supper in the Parish Hall for all who wish to come and participate in fellowship with other parishioners. Dinner is free!

Finally, we will be offering a Lenten “Journey” program of faith sharing. EVERYONE is invited! We will offer two sessions for adults...at 6 pm on Monday night and at 10 am on Thursday morning. Our confirmation candidates and any other teens who are interested will be meeting at 9 am on Sunday morning. The program runs for the six weeks of Lent and includes prayer discussion and faith sharing. Come join us!

Call Francesca at 340-0421 for information about any of our Lenten programs.

NATIVITY MASSES

Saturday – 5:30 pm / Sunday 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:45 am (Spanish) and 12:30