

February 7, 2018

Dear Parents,



The liturgical season of Lent is quickly approaching; it is a time to prepare in a special way for Easter, the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. More than anything else, the Church calls us to pray, fast and help those in need. To prepare for His death on the cross, Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the desert praying and fasting.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is next Wednesday, February 14. We join the pastor of St. Stan's Church, Rev. Mark Sobczak, CM. by encouraging families to begin Lent in a spirit of prayer by attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Ash Wednesday, either at 6:30 PM (English) or 8:00 PM (Polish). Ashes will be distributed at both Masses. As Fr. Mark reminds us, "Ashes are only a small part of the Holy Season of Lent." More important are the following practices:

Prayer: going to Mass more frequently, especially on Sundays (Mass is the best prayer of all because it commemorates Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection), praying the rosary or the Divine Mercy chaplet, saying grace before and after meals, reading passages from the Bible and thinking about what they mean for us, etc.

Fasting: for love of Jesus and to share in His suffering, fast from certain foods that you like, go without dessert at dinner, fast from arguing or having the last word with a neighbor, classmate or colleague, fast from watching a favorite TV program, fast from texting, etc.

Helping those in need: give your allowance to a charitable organization like the Missionary Childhood Association, Wounded Veterans of America or Food for the Poor, donate imperishable foods to a Food Pantry, volunteering to help in your parish church, visiting the homebound, etc.

We are inviting all our students to join their parents and families and go to the English Mass on Ash Wednesday, February 14, at 6:30 PM. Ashes will be distributed at this Mass. **Seats in the front of the church on the left and the right will be reserved especially for you. You will also see there, waiting for you, some of your teachers.** Why not respond to this invitation of Jesus to be with Him, to pray with Him, but especially to show how much you love Him for suffering and dying for you.

We are sure that Jesus has some very special graces to give you at Mass. Why not find out what He has prepared for you!

See you at Mass on Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, on February 14. God bless you.

Sincerely,

Sister Brothera and Catechists