



February 11, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

The season of Lent will begin on Wednesday, February 17, Ash Wednesday. Lent is the 40-day season of penance and preparation for Easter. Easter will fall on Sunday, April 4 this year. I want to remind you that Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat, and Good Friday (April 2) is a day of fast and abstinence. However, neither Ash Wednesday nor Good Friday are holy days of obligation. I hope that you will use the season of Lent as the Church intends — as a time of repentance, personal renewal, and growth in holiness. I hope you will embrace the traditional practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in this season. I hope that you will use the days of Lent to discipline yourself, to correct your faults, to give up your sins, to grow in virtue, and to be reconciled to God. I don't think it is necessary to undertake self-imposed artificial penances this year. I believe that the cheerful acceptance of all the hardships, deprivations, disappointments, losses, and sacrifices of the on-going coronavirus crisis is sufficient penance. I would note that our safety practices and precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 remain in place and with no change in the foreseeable future. The obligation of attending Mass continues to be dispensed, masks must still be worn, hands must still be sanitized, and distance must still be kept. I do not foresee any changes in this for several more months at least. Remember, your cheerful acceptance of all of this is your penance!

I was recently informed that there is a new translation of the formula used to conclude the prayers of the Missal, and the new translation is to be implemented starting on Ash Wednesday. The familiar formula, "...through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever..." is modified by the elimination of the word "one." This is reflecting a more precise translation of the original Latin text. Now, the mass prayers will conclude: "...through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen." I mention this so you will not be surprised if you hear the celebrant at Mass use this formula, and think he made a mistake or changed the wording on his own. And, don't be surprised if the priests forget and use the old formula. It will take some getting used to!

I hope you have a holy and blessed Lent!

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney