

St. Alfred, Taylor
St. Constance, Taylor
Our Lady of the Angels, Taylor
St. Andre Bessette, Ecorse
St. Frances Cabrini, Allen Park
St. Mary Magdalen, Melvindale



February 21, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Perhaps difficult to imagine, but Lent is almost upon us! This forty day *penitential liturgical season*, is intended to be a time of sacrifice, which can lead to a time of spiritual renewal. Lenten penitential practices of fasting, almsgiving and prayer provide an opportunity to better appreciate and understand the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord. This can also lead to a closer realization of the most worthy of goals....that of becoming a bold and joy-filled dynamic Catholic!

“Take inspiration for your Lenten journey from prayer and to the reading of Scripture, to fasting and to giving alms. The fasting on Fridays is but a sign of the daily Lenten discipline of individuals and households: fasting for certain periods of time, fasting from certain foods, but also fasting from other things and activities. Likewise, the giving of alms is some effort to share this world equally—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talent.

In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the (OCIA) *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics.” (usccb.org)

As we continue to move along the road as Quo Vadis Domine Family of Parishes, I know this Lent and Easter will be unlike many others. Our new schedule for the parish offices and Mass times which accompany this letter, in addition to our Lenten/Holy Week and Easter Services schedule, will come with many changes this year. I pray we can use this as a form of Lenten sacrifice and time of increased prayer with the Lord. Within a world desperately in need of a Savior, we have much to pray for, and still more in which to find hope. What won't change is the central mission of the Church, which is to evangelize through Word, Sacrament, and Service. I pray you spend these forty days of Lent through fasting, prayer and almsgiving, so as to prepare for the fifty days of Easter joy and rejoicing!

In Christ,

Fr. Tim Birney, *Moderator In-Solidum*