

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A 2019-2020

A Message from Fr. Mark

Dear Parishioners,

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, and we will hear that famous reading that tells us how to do our Lenten practices of praying, fasting, and almsgiving. They are the words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew (6:1-18). Whoever wants to “enter the Kingdom of Heaven” must do these things out of love for God and neighbor. Each of us should decide what we will try to do differently during the forty days of Lent.



First, Jesus says that we should show our love for our neighbor by giving alms. We should give to the poor and we should also give to the Lord’s church, which is the Body of Christ continuing his saving mission in the world. This weekend we are asking that everyone give a planned gift to the Bishop’s Ministry Appeal so that our local church can continue to function.

Second, Jesus says that we should pray. Perhaps you can make a resolution to pray the rosary every day during the forty days of Lent, to pray as a family, to go to confession and Communion more often. Beginning in Lent we will be offering Masses and Confession times on weekday evenings here at Presentation Church.

Third, you might decide that during Lent you want to make a commitment to pray fast or to do some act of bodily penance. This means giving up sweets or meats. Or you can fast from alcohol or the internet or from your favorite TV shows during lent. These little sacrifices help us raise our minds to God and we can “offer it up” for the salvation of our loved ones.

Ironically, our Lenten Mission will not be about fasting! We will hear spiritual talks from a famous chef, Father Leo Patalinghug. On the following day, there will be a gourmet dinner at which Fr. Leo will give a cooking demonstration. Bring your appetite!

May God bless us and help us to be holy during these forty days of Lent. In today’s Gospel Jesus tells us to love our enemies and turn the other cheek so that we can “Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:38-48).

Sincerely,
Fr. Mark